Program of Civil Society and NGO Development for the Central Asia Region

Period of Activity:	**April 1, 2000 – June 30, 2003**
Grantee:	**Counterpart International**
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COUNTERPART INTERNATIONAL, INC.

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I. Executive Summary

The information contained in this report is presented in the framework of objectives and performance indicators for the Program of NGO and Civil Society Development for the Central Asian Region. Please refer to ***Attachment #1: Final Performance Plans*** for the complete documents that track interim target and final performance numbers for each country. Highlights of Counterpart International and ICNL's achievements include:

- The creation of five country level networks of civil society support centers with Hub centers managing network activities and providing organizational development services to each of the 34 local CSSCs. All 39 offices are providing regular services such as training, grant management, and community mobilization to nearly 1,600 NGO clients – twice the level anticipated under this program.
- Conducted 571 Participatory Community Appraisal and Action Planning (PCAP) exercises generating 373 community action grants. This is one and a half times the anticipated level for community mobilization.
- Contributed to the creation of 61 issues based coalitions and the creation of 87 social partnership projects – three times the anticipated number for each.
- 73 NGOs launched advocacy campaigns, at the local and oblast level, to change legislation or enforce better implementation of existing legislation.
- Created volunteer clearinghouses at the Hub and CSSC levels that mobilized 109 volunteers at each office to work with local organizations and communities to support civil society activities.
- Disbursed $3.08 million in grant funding to CSSCs, Focus NGOs, communities, and smaller NGOs for 667 grants in all. These grants were solicited, reviewed and awarded through country level grant review committees with funds coming through the Hubs.
- Worked with 493 communities to address local concerns. Community projects benefited 631,508 community members.
- Documented 668 community level impacts demonstrating the effect of Counterpart's services offered to Civil Society Support Centers, NGOs and communities.
- Leveraged funding from a diverse donor portfolio including the World Bank, UNHCR, UNICEF, the University of Michigan, the European Union, the Asian Development Bank and, IOM.
- The passage of 20 progressive laws and the prevention of at least 25 restrictive laws, edicts, or decrees by defeat, repeal, or revocation.
- Basic statutory legislation in all CA countries (except Turkmenistan) enabling NGOs to form and operate. Legislation in all countries formally permits NGOs to engage in economic and political activities.
- A proven model for democratic legal reform using public participation, transparency, and local ownership over the process.
- The training of more than 300 government officials and parliamentarians to ensure they understand the value of the NGO sector and support the creation of an improved legal framework governing civil society actors.
- The development of local capacity including core groups of NGO law specialists – recognized by the United Nations, OSCE, and Council of Europe and domestic governments – capable of advocating for better laws and social changes in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan. Nascent groups are emerging in Uzbekistan.

II. Background

Counterpart has been actively engaged in building NGOs and promoting civil society in all five Central Asian Republics since their independence in 1992. With funding from USAID Counterpart implemented the six-year Counterpart Consortium NGO Support Initiative from 1994-2000 that formed the foundation upon which this three-year Program of NGO and Civil Society Development was built. Each of these implementation periods is highlighted below in order to provide some background and context for the successes highlighted in this report of the third phase of Counterpart's regional NGO program.

Phase I. Counterpart's initial program (November 1994 – June 1997) focused on establishing operational and program implementation capacity in a broad range of NGOs. Regional training and networking activities solidified a common identity for NGOs and developed consensus regarding the need to engage government in dialogue about the enabling environment, including NGO legislation. Creation of a regional database containing accurate, well-documented information about NGOs throughout the region facilitated national, regional and international linkages.

Consortium partners Goodwill Industries International, Aid to Artisans (ATA) and Citizens Network for Foreign Affairs (CNFA) reinforced this broad institutional development with sector-specific technical assistance. Partnership linkages were established through NGO participation in USAID-funded Stateside training, organized by Counterpart through the Academy for Educational Development (AED) NIS Exchanges and Training (NET) and Global Training for Development (GTD) Programs.

Phase II. The success of these initial activities resulted in the extension of activities from July 1997 to March 2000. During this period Counterpart created a network of 19 Civil Society Support Centers – five hub centers in the capitals and 14 satellites in more remote urban and rural areas –to provide direct access to the entire package of Counterpart Consortium support services and to those of other donors. Through the Centers, 21 training modules were made available by more than 100 contract trainers from all five Central Asian Republics. Most trainers were from NGO staff and applied their skills to the programs of their own organizations and shared them with others by replicating Counterpart's training of trainers (TOT) approach. Also during the second implementation period, target NGOs were selected based on their potential to deliver democracy impacts and affect democratic change through advocacy and citizen engagement in public policy dialogue. They developed a tailored training and technical assistance plan based on Counterpart's facilitated self-assessment tool. CANGONet, Counterpart's interactive Central Asian NGO web site, provided broad access to the regional NGO database, facilitated information sharing among Central Asian NGOs, and increased international linkages. Partnerships, facilitated and funded with grant support by Counterpart, also fostered international linkages and strengthened NGO credibility and technical skills.

Consortium partners Aid to Artisans (ATA), Citizens Network for Foreign Affairs (CNFA), and International Center for Not-for-Profit Law (ICNL) reinforced this broad institutional development with sector-specific technical assistance. ICNL's inclusion in the Consortium resulted in the passage of improved NGO legislation and the development of a framework for continued multi-sectoral legal reform and policy throughout the region.

Phase III. During this latest period of activity, Counterpart's network hubs located in the

capital cities shifted from direct NGO service delivery to support to the CSSC network members in each country. These network hubs have been evolving into umbrella associations of Support Centers with boards of directors in each country and serve as intermediate support organizations (ISOs) and able to contract directly with USAID and other donors. Counterpart emphasized community outreach activities during this phase, making it a centerpiece of the program. Counterpart's experience defined the role of Civil Society Support Centers as a community leader -- bringing together a broader range of NGO, CBO, media, private sector, local government and international donor stakeholders and making information available to them to discuss and act on local issues. Alongside of the expansion and localization of the network itself, there was a simultaneous expansion in the breadth and depth of services offered to support enhanced skills in advocacy, social partnership, community mobilization, and volunteerism at the CSSC level.

Since 1997 ICNL has carried out its work in the region as a member of USAID's Counterpart Consortium program. Since the inception of its program ICNL has utilized a three-stage model for assessing legal environment development (Stage I being least developed and Stage III being more developed).

At the end of the current project most of the Central Asian countries stand to transition into Stage III from Stage II within one to three years. The exception is Turkmenistan, which has shown little progress since 2000 and remains categorized in Stage I. Although the civil code in Turkmenistan contains provisions for registration of both associations and foundations along a European civil law model, the civil code has yet to be implemented and informal groups looking to register under the old Law on Public Associations (1992) are refused registration.

Tajikistan and Uzbekistan remain in Stage II. This is characterized by legal environments that encompass: a number of good practices relating to the formation and operation of NGOs; a variety of different kinds of NGOs may be formed, including membership and non-membership organizations, by both legal and physical persons; strictly defined powers for the State to terminate an NGO involuntarily. A core group of lawyers specializing in assistance to NGOs has emerged in Tajikistan and demonstrated its effectiveness by quality consultations to NGOs, developing handbooks, educational seminars, training programs, etc. A core group of lawyers is emerging in Uzbekistan demonstrating interest in NGO legal issues and commitment to the sector. Yet, implementation problems remain in place. For example, in Uzbekistan groups are having problems with registering as NGOs. In Tajikistan the implementation of the legislation on taxation is inconsistent, and varies from tax office to tax office. Despite significant progress with adoption of the new progressive legislation, it still requires a lot of changes in order to provide for an enabling environment for NGOs development. Uzbekistan still lacks, for instance, a basic law on registration of legal entities. And, Tajikistan while making great strides forward still suffers from such basic problems as a lack of clear legal delineation of responsibilities under NGO governance structures and a multiplicity of registration types based on geographic location.

Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan are currently in transition from Stage II to Stage III. Within the next couple of years, should conditions remain favorable to NGOs, both countries will be firmly within Stage III development. The framework legislation is considered solid in both countries. For example, the Kyrgyz Law on Non-commercial Organizations is considered the most progressive in the NIS region, and allows for easy and free of charge registration procedure for membership- and non-membership based NGOs. The civil cod e and the Law

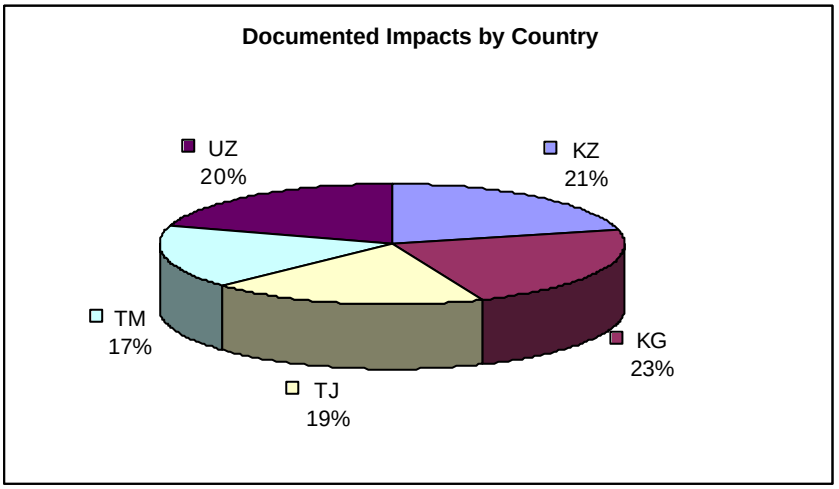
on Non-commercial Organizations in Kazakhstan allow for establishment and operations of a variety of forms of NGOs. The tax legislation has also been improved in both countries. For example, new Tax Code amendments containing more favorable tax privileges for NGOs were recently adopted in Kyrgyzstan. Kazakhstan is the only country in the NIS region where income generated from commercial activities of social organizations, including NGOs is tax exempt, to allow for sustainability of the latter. Both countries keep working on improving implementation practices as well as improving legislation. For example, Kazakhstan is steadily working towards adoption (probably in late 2003) of a law providing for state support of NGO activities. In Kyrgyzstan, tax policies further improving taxation of NGOs are in the drafting process.

III. Program Impacts

During Phase III 668 documented impacts[1] were compiled to illustrate the effect of services offered to Civil Society Support Centers, NGOs and communities through Counterpart International's USAID-funded initiative. Our client achievements speak for themselves as the best reflection of the success of our comprehensive approach to civil society development. Throughout the region, NGOs are increasing citizen participation in the social, political and economic systems that are slowly developing into a democratic civil society.

In order to understand the changes within a community or organization as a result of Counterpart's work, program staff prepare impact statements for submission in program reports. Counterpart compiled these NGO successes in the document affixed hereto as ***Attachment #2: Democracy Impacts for Central Asia.*** This document allows Counterpart to publicize the strength and vibrancy of the third sector in Central Asia. Some of the impacts included focus on successful NGO efforts to advocate for policy changes and engage government in being more responsive to the needs of its constituents. Others highlight the value of community driven activities to affect change without reliance on government intervention. Others still illustrate the increased institutional capacity that is necessary for sustainability of the sector.

Looking at documented impacts as reported by country, it is clear that Counterpart's high standard for reporting yielded parity among country offices in terms of their ability to capture success stories.

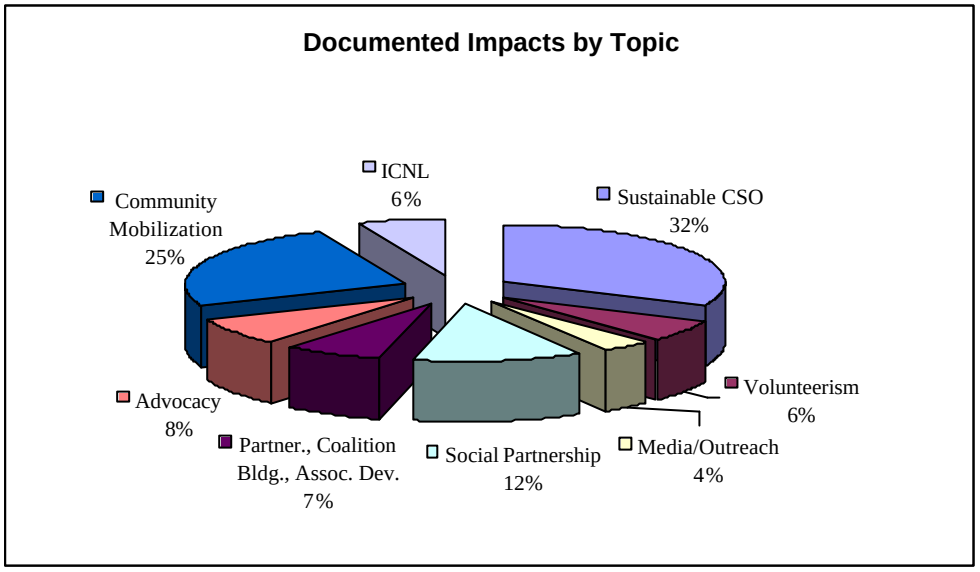


Unfortunately, this does not provide a clear snapshot of what types of changes we are having at the community level as a result of our program. For that we need to review the successes by the eight impact categories of Sustainable Civil Society Organizations[2]; Volunteerism; Media/Outreach; Social Partnership; Partnership, Coalition-Building and Association Development; Advocacy; Community Mobilization; and Legal Environment (in the ICNL section).

[1] This number does not begin to capture the breadth of our successes, rather reflects Counterpart's ability to transfer monitoring capacity to local staff.

[2] For Phase III activities, Counterpart used the term Civil Society Organizations as opposed to Non-Governmental Organizations. This term refers to CSSCs, Hub Centers, Focus and Target NGOs, and Community Based Organizations.

This breakdown reveals the most important changes were in creating sustainable civil society organizations and mobilizing communities (together 57% of all program impacts). Comparing the two major thrusts of our program one can see that organizational development activities including sustainable CSOs, legal environment/ICNL, and association development generated 45% of the total documented impacts while community outreach activities including community mobilization, social partnership, advocacy, volunteerism, and media generated 55% of the impacts.



Country level evaluation tells a similar story, with some notable exceptions. In Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan the results by the two broad program thrusts mirror the region-wide rates with OD rates of 47%, 53% and 50% and community outreach rates of 53%, 47%, and 50% respectively. However, for Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, the community outreach impacts were much higher with 35% OD and 65% community outreach for Tajikistan and 40% OD and 60% community outreach for Uzbekistan.

Summary of Documented Impacts Per Country By Topic

Impact Category	KZ	KG	TJ	TM	UZ
Sustainable CSO	41	60	29	41	40
Volunteerism	3	6	11	12	10
Media/Outreach	2	0	7	3	12
Social Partnership	27	9	18	11	18
Partnership, Coalition Building, Association Development	13	5	8	14	8
Advocacy	15	13	7	8	10
Community Mobilization	29	42	41	23	30
Legal Environment (ICNL)	13	13	9	1	6
Total	***143***	***148***	***130***	***113***	***134***

IV. Program Highlights (by Objective)

The information contained in this section of the report seeks to provide general information about key program activities that supported the various objectives as well as performance highlights by country. The USAID-approved indicators from ***Attachment #1: Performance Plans*** have been included in this section along with an accompanying narrative of actual performance against those indicators.

A. Objective 1: Expand, strengthen and localize a sustainable network of Civil Society Support Centers that provide NGOs and other stakeholders throughout the region with access to a comprehensive range of support services.

A.1. Regional Overview of Activities

To support this objective, Counterpart's regional office engaged in three main areas of activity: 1) Identification and strengthening of network members; 2) implementation of organizational development tools and activities; and 3) capacity building of hub centers.

1. Identification and Strengthening of Network Members

In each country Counterpart engaged in an open and transparent process of identifying CSSC Network members. In some cases Counterpart, with complementary funding from UNHCR and the European Union, created Centers. In most instances, however, there were existing organizations whose missions supported Counterpart's goals. These groups partnered with Counterpart and received intensive organizational assessment to become full network members, supporting civil society-at-large through ongoing service provision.

Once network members were identified and agreements were signed, Counterpart developed a number of organizational development tools to support network visioning; strategic and business planning at the network level; strategic and financial planning at the individual member level; governance/advisory board planning; communications system and mechanisms for the development and implementation of joint projects. The overall process for strengthening both the individual CSSCs and Networks involved:

1. Network Visioning Workshops in each country in April 2001. This effort, although time consuming and labor intensive, proved to be one of the most significant activities to support network development and successful localization.
2. Strategic Planning and Financial Sustainability Workshops and follow-up sessions in all five Central Asian countries conducted by consultant from the Marshak Foundation.
3. Strategic Planning. Development of two-year strategic and financial sustainability plans for each CSSC and the Hub Center.
4. Developing Strategic Action Plans. With assistance from OD program coordinators, Hub and Support Centers developed six-month Strategic Action Plans to support their larger operational goals.
5. Basic Management and Performance Appraisal Training. Topics included: The functions and activities of a manager; essential management skills (human relations, technical and conceptual); leadership styles and what style to use in what situation; time management; delegation; employee performance management cycle; giving performance feedback: how to coach employees; and conducting performance appraisals.
6. Leadership and Management Training, conducted by the Russian agency Leader. Topics

covered included: Efficient management and its importance for organizational effectiveness; similarities and differences between leadership and management; key roles and functions of a manager; the concept of corporate culture; leadership and management skills; the differences between strategic and operational management; the concept of managerial technologies; types of management decisions and the differences among decision-making technologies; and personnel recruitment and hiring systems.

2. Implementation Of Organizational Development Tools And Activities

The following tools and mechanisms were created by the regional OD team to support both the client organizations and the OD program coordinators providing services to these clients:

1. Documents for establishing a branch of Counterpart, including steps for establishing a branch, a job description for Support Center manager and Vacancy Announcement for Support Center Manager
2. Documents for the Process of Assessing Support Center Partners, including a questionnaire and scoring chart (this contributed to the transparency of the network member selection process).
3. Establishment of an e-workgroup for OD Specialists, including postings of OD resources such as books and web sites.
4. Development of the format for the Strategic Action Plan tool (formerly the Action Plan for Capacity-Building), to be used for planning capacity-building interventions and monitoring the progress of CSSCs and Focus NGOs.
5. Performance Appraisal System.
6. Case Management Meetings. These are monthly meetings of the program team to analyze support center program activities and progress toward localization and sustainability, as well as to self-monitor the work of the program team.
7. Assessment Tools for organizational capacity including the "Model of a Sustainable CSSC" and the "Model of a Sustainable NGO". With OD program coordinator assistance, each CSSC and Focus NGO uses these tools to rate itself against achievement factors for organizational capacity.

3. Capacity Building Of Hub Centers

To support the development of sustainable Hub Centers that are the primary service providers to CSSCs and Focus NGOs in both organizational development and community development arenas, Counterpart provided a series of interventions to address financial management, staff development, country staff performance monitoring, advanced client orientation, and other skills as necessary to prepare the Hubs for registration as a local NGO and successful passing of a USAID pre-award audit.

As with the CSSC managers, Hub Center staff received training in Basic Management and Performance Appraisal and Leadership and Management. Additionally they received the following trainings: Organization Development and the Art of Consulting, conducted by the Senior OD Advisor and Stephanie Lahar of Lahar Associates (USA); Budgeting, Internal Controls and Donor Reporting; and Advanced Financial Accountability with the Contract Trainer Svetlana Shamdutdinova, Almaty and Yana Dobronravova, Regional Deputy Financial Director.

A.2. Performance Highlights by Country

Kazakhstan

Indicators	
1.1	A network of at least 7 local Civil Society Support Centers is established with a network structure that helps in coordinating its work and raising finances.
1.2	The network operates successfully on its own during the third year of the Cooperative Agreement.
1.3	By the end of the Cooperative Agreement, each Civil Society Support Center in the network regularly provides support to at least 15 NGOs, CBOs, initiative groups/month and has at least 20 new visitors/month.
1.4	The hub of the network passes a pre-award audit by USAID. The individual Support Centers are able to account for their own finances. The Hub of the network is registered as a possible recipient of USAID direct grants.
1.5	The hub of the network has a systematic capacity for administering grants to local NGOs for donors.

In Kazakhstan Counterpart established a network of the following seven local Civil Society Support Centers and a Hub Center located in Almaty:

1. ZHALGHAS-Counterpart, Almaty Oblast, Almaty
2. Agency for Social Technologies & Development (ASTRa), Aqmola Oblast, Astana
3. Entrepreneurship Development Agency SMEDA, Aqtobe Oblast, Aqtobe
4. Nuclear Test Victims Union IRIS, East-Kazakhstan Oblast, Semey
5. Social Corporate Fund ZUBR, East-Kazakhstan Oblast, Oskemen
6. Association of NGOs of Qostanai oblast, Qostanai
7. Qaraghandy Regional Ecological Center ECOCENTER, Qaraghandy oblast, Qaraghandy

This Network of organizations has developed individual member and network-wide strategic plans and reviews them every six months. They have established a Board and Network members meet on a quarterly basis. They have documented policies and procedures and have discussed issues related to network ethics, standards of service quality, network project development, and the implementation of joint programs. The network is currently implementing the USAID-funded Healthy Communities Program with Counterpart Washington and as well as the project "NGO Web Portal" to promote the website http://www.ngo.kz.

Each of the Network members serves a client base of 51 NGOs for a Network total of 357 local NGOs receiving regular support. In addition, each Network member receives on average 9 new visitors a month for a total of 63 visitors per month network-wide. While the number of new visitors is lower than anticipated, the number of regularly served clients is more than three times the expected level. With regular clients and new visitors combined, the Kazakhstan Network serves 420 clients – over one and a half times the anticipated level of 245 clients.

The Network Hub passed the USAID pre-award audit in April 2003 and maintains an independent financial accounting system. By June 2003 all necessary Network discussions were held and preparations were made for the Hub to be registered as a local organization.

Network members participated in grant management and monitoring and evaluation training workshops in order to handle funds and track projects within their support area. Policies and procedures for grant management have been adopted by all Network members. The Hub has developed a memorandum on cooperation and interaction within the CSSC network and all Network members have signed. This memorandum serves to demonstrate the Network's capacity to administer country-wide grant programs.

Kyrgyzstan

Indicators	
1.1	A network of at least 6 local Civil Society Support Centers is established with a network structure that helps in coordinating its work and raising finances.
1.2	The network operates successfully on its own during the third year of the Cooperative Agreement.
1.3	By the end of the Cooperative Agreement, each Civil Society Support Center in the network regularly provides support to at least 20 NGOs/CBOs, initiative groups/month and has at least 10 new visitors/month..
1.4	The Hub of the network passes a pre-award audit by USAID. The individual Support Centers are able to account for their own finances. The Hub of the network is registered as a possible recipient of USAID direct grants.
1.5	The hub of the network/association has a systematic capacity for administering grants to local NGOs for donors.

In Kyrgyzstan Counterpart established a network of the following eleven local Civil Society Support Centers and a Hub Center located in Bishkek:

1. Batken CSSC
2. Bishkek CSSC
3. Jalalabad CSSC
4. Kara-Balta CSSC
5. Kant CSSC
6. Karakol CSSC
7. Kerben CSSC
8. Naryn CSSC
9. Nookat CSSC
10. Osh CSSCs
11. Talas CSSCs

This Network is comprised of nearly two times the target number of six CSSCs – a result that in large part demonstrates the rural nature of Kyrgyzstan and also reflects considerable complementary funding from UNHCR and European Union funds. This Network of organizations has developed individual member and network-wide strategic plans and reviews them every six months. They have an elected executive body and Network members meet on a quarterly basis. They have documented policies and procedures and have defined their mission, structure, and responsibilities and have outlined a sustainability plan. The network is currently implementing the USAID-funded Healthy Communities Program with Counterpart Washington and received funding from Soros Foundation to provide services to local NGOs.

Each of the Network members serves a client base of 40 NGOs for a Network total of 440

local NGOs receiving regular support. In addition, each Network member receives on average 24 new visitors a month for a total of 120 visitors network-wide. With regular clients and new visitors combined, the Kyrgyzstan Network serves 550 clients monthly – over three times the anticipated level of 180 clients.

The Network Hub conducts regular monitoring of the financial procedures of each of the Network members. All 11 Network CSSCs adhere to local bookkeeping standards and the Hub is prepared for a USAID pre-award audit.

Network members participated in grant management and monitoring and evaluation training workshops in order to handle funds and track projects within their support area. The Hub is active in administering the grant program under Soros funding, including grant solicitations, consultations, and monitoring. Network CSSCs assumed full responsibility of administration of community action grants, including managing the local grant review committees and making full decisions on grant recipients.

Tajikistan

Indicators

1.1 A network of at least 5 local Civil Society Support Centers is established (including mini-centers) with an association structure that accounts for their work and helps in raising finances.

1.2 Each Civil Society Support Center has 75 visitations per month by the end of the Cooperative Agreement.

1.3 If feasible, the Hub of the network passes a pre-award audit by USAID. The individual Support Centers are able to account for their own finances. The Hub of the network is registered as a possible recipient of USAID direct grants.

1.4 If feasible, the hub of the network has a systematic capacity for administering grants to local NGOs for donors.

In Tajikistan Counterpart established a network of the following six local Civil Society Support Centers and a Hub Center located in Dushanbe:

1. Dushanbe CSSC/The Third Sector
2. Khujand CSSC "Consortium of Initiatives"
3. Kurghon-Teppa CSSC/Fidokor
4. Kulob CSSC/Shahrvand
5. Khorog CSSC/Kalam
6. Penjikent CSSC/Association of Eastern Women

This Network of organizations has developed individual member and network-wide strategic plans and reviews them every six months. They have documented policies and procedures and have defined their mission, structure and decision making process. They have signed memorandums of understanding between the Hub Center and the individual Network members. The network is currently implementing the USAID-funded Healthy Communities Program with Counterpart Washington and has received funding from the World Bank for the Community Empowerment Program.

Each of the Network members receives 128 visitations per month – more than one and half

times the anticipated level of clients.

The Network Hub has provided training and technical assistance to five of the six Network members (Penjikent just joined the Network in April 2003) in the required areas per the Control Environment Checklist to ensure that the individual Support Centers are able to account for their own finances.

Two of the Network members are able to manage grant programs independently, while the other three are able to administer grants with minor support from the Hub. The Network has guidelines, policies and procedures in place for grant management that all Network members adhere to.

Turkmenistan

Indicators	
1.1	A network of at least 4 local Civil Society Support Centers is established with a network structure that helps its work and raising finances.
1.2	Each Civil Society Support Center in the network increases its visitation by 30% in the second year and 50% by the end of the Cooperative Agreement.
1.3	If feasible, the hub of the network/association passes a pre-award audit by USAID. The individual Support Centers are able to account for their own finances. The Hub of the network is registered as a possible recipient of USAID direct grants.
1.4	If feasible, the hub of the network has a systematic capacity for administering grants to local NGOs for donors.

In Turkmenistan Counterpart established a three branch offices of the Hub Center in the following cities: Ashgabat, Dashoguz, and Lebap. We encountered numerous administrative hurdles in our attempt to open a Center in Mary. We are providing services to the Mary area through the Lebap Center.

As the three Centers are branch offices of the Hub, they adhere to the policies, procedures, mission, structure, and decision-making processes as defined by the Hub. The Hub and branches have developed a three year strategy and are implementing six month action plans as they relate to the longer term strategy.

Visitation in each of the CSSCs increased by an average of 317% over the baseline from the beginning of the project. This is well above the expected 30% increase in year two and 50% increase in year three, demonstrating the tremendous need for information and support among communities and NGOs in Turkmenistan.

The Hub participated in regional trainings to increase financial management capacity. As a result, the Hub passed USAID's limited financial audit in March 2003.

Network members participated in grant management and monitoring and evaluation training workshops in order to handle funds and track projects within their support area. The Hub is active in administering the grant program under USAID funding, including grant solicitations, consultations, and monitoring.

Uzbekistan

Indicators	
1.1	A network of at least 7 local Civil Society Support Centers is established with a network structure that helps in coordinating its work and raising finances.
1.2	The network operates successfully with partial supervision by Regional office during the third year of the Cooperative Agreement.
1.3	By the end of the Cooperative Agreement, each Civil Society Support Center in the network regularly provides support to at least 25 NGOs, CBOs, initiative groups/month and has at least 5 new visitors.
1.4	The Hub of the network passes a pre-award audit by USAID. The individual Support Centers are able to account for their own finances. The Hub of the network is registered as a possible recipient of USAID direct grants.
1.5	The hub of the network/association has a systematic capacity for administering grants to local NGOs for donors.

In Uzbekistan Counterpart established a network of the following seven local Civil Society Support Centers and a Hub Center located in Tashkent:

1. Tashkent Agency of Social Researches "ITA FACT" (Partner)
2. Kokand Civil Society Development Center (Partner)
3. Nukus Civil Society Development Center (Partner)
4. Bukhara Information and Cultural Center (Partner)
5. International Scientific Society "Al Khorezmi - Vambery", Urgench (Partner)
6. Samarkand Civil Initiative Support Center (Partner)
7. Namangan Civil Society Support Center (Partner)

This Network of organizations has developed individual member and network-wide strategic plans and reviews them every six months. They have defined their governing body and Network members meet on a quarterly basis. They have documented policies and procedures and have defined their mission, structure, and decision-making policies. The network is currently implementing the USAID-funded Healthy Communities Program with Counterpart Washington and is implementing programs for UNHCR and UNICEF.

Each of the Network members serves a client base of 57 NGOs for a Network total of 399 local NGOs receiving regular support. In addition, each Network member receives on average 14 new visitors a month for a total of 98 visitors network-wide. With regular clients and new visitors combined, the Uzbekistan Network serves 497 clients monthly – nearly two and a half times the anticipated level of 210 clients per month.

The Network Hub participated in regional trainings to increase financial management capacity and conducts regular monitoring of the financial procedures of each of the Network members. As a result, the Hub passed a mock-audit based on USAID's pre-award standards in March 2003.

Network members participated in grant management and monitoring and evaluation training workshops in order to handle funds and track projects within their support area. While several proposals have been submitted to manage grants for other donors, the Network has not yet received funding to do so. Nonetheless, the individual Network members as well as the Hub have the capacity to administer grants for donors.

B. Objective 2: Engage communities in solving local problems through facilitation of social partnerships, issue-based coalitions, media support to NGOs and resource assistance to community-based organizations (CBOs) in their attempts to advocate on local issues.

B.1. Regional Overview of Activities

The Community Outreach strategy implemented by Counterpart is comprised of four key components: 1) Community Mobilization, 2) Social Partnership, 3) Advocacy, and 4) Volunteerism.

1. Community Mobilization

As a new concept in Counterpart's programs, many trainings and handbooks were created to support community mobilization. These include:

- Community Mobilization and PRA/PCA Methods Training Workshop to introduce the concept of CM and PCA, how to plan, organize and conduct PCAs, and group facilitation.
- Participatory Community Assessment (PCA) Handbook to aid CSSCs, NGOs and communities in organizing and conducting PCAs and developing Community Action Plans (CAPs).
- Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation training as an extension of the participatory nature of the planning and implementation process.
- The Community Project Logbook to encourage community participation in project management.
- Feasibility Assessment (FA) on Community Network Development. The aim of the FA was to research the conditions, possibilities and community needs to establish community networks – the logical extension of Counterpart's community mobilization process. Community networks are supposed to be new agencies to stimulate people in seeking changes, challenging local governments and businesses to fulfill their obligations towards positive societal development. 2,801 people were interviewed by one of 238 facilitators.
- In collaboration with the Global Training for Development Program in Uzbekistan, training in Community Project Management with two Consultants from Partner Foundation, Russia Andrey Krupin and Elena Vasiliyeva to serve the need for increased skills in managing community-based projects.

PCA exercises throughout Central Asia revealed the following top priority issues:

1. Employment
2. Potable Water
3. Leisure and Sports for Children, Youth, Women, Adults
4. Schools
5. Roads & Bridges
6. Health Care Institutions and Services
7. Electricity
8. Water Supply Infrastructure: Pipes & Canals
9. Ecology/Environment
10. Irrigation Water

As many of these issues are related to infrastructure problems, Counterpart involved engineers and representatives from local agencies as resources for organizations seeking to address infrastructure-related problems. These technical experts were also engaged 5r7w2 oj 9 0 TD 0

2. Social Partnership

To further develop the social partnership concept introduced in Central Asia by Counterpart in 1998, Counterpart engaged in the following regional activities:

- Advanced Training in Social Partnership. The content of the training was considerably deepened in comparison with the basic training on SP. Management of SP was considered from the perspective of experience gained throughout the whole region. This process included essential points, such as stakeholder analysis for SP, planning of SP, the system of M&E, and other important issues, such as conditions, mechanisms and principles of SP, sustainability of SP, identifying SP areas, and motivating government and business for SP. The material was strengthened by the inclusion of the following elements:
  - Refined definition of SP;
  - Overview of legislative environment for SP in each country;
  - Participation of local government representatives in the training, resulting in positive attitudinal changes towards opportunities of partnership with NGOs;
  - Participation of representatives from four main groups – Counterpart program staff, NGO representatives, contract trainers, government officials – resulting in living examples of SP from the four perspectives;
  - Participation of trainers from the CA-region, guided by an experienced colleague from Russia, resulted in broadened skills necessary for providing advanced trainings on SP; and
  - Distribution of an electronic e-mail network of participants.
- Establishing Public Councils. Public councils are places for CSSCs and NGOs to act as partners to governing administrations. Public councils provide a venue for solving local social problems by giving practitioners a voice within government. Public councils activities are aimed at strengthening partnership links to joint recourses and develop joint action plans for future activities. Round tables organized by CSSCs in Tajikistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan have been resulting in establishing of a basis for several NGOs to better coordinate their activities, thus making possible establishing of coalitions. So, there is an increasing tendency towards synergy of outcomes of both Advocacy and Social Partnership efforts with much stronger impact on development of civil society.

3. Advocacy

To build on advocacy successes found in Phase II at the local level, Counterpart engaged in the following regional activities:

- Regional Training on Advocacy. Discussions held during the training highlighted a wide range of possible advocacy activities in different countries. One important aspect remains community involvement and initiative, supported by the expertise of local NGOs and CBOs and the Counterpart CSSCs. During the training different tools and approached in Advocacy were discussed.
- Advocacy Resource Book. This was created as a follow-up to the regional trainng workshop in an attempt to capture participants cumulative experience so that CSSCs, NGOs, CBOs and communities could benefit even if they couldn't attend the workshop
- Consultations on conducting Advocacy campaigns. The main focus is being put on sustainability of the results achieved. Discussions with participation of partner and focus

NGOs, local governments and mass media at series of roundtables resulted in making government representatives more supportive towards civic organizations' activities in promoting and protecting grassroots interests, and the NGOs get the opportunity to learn more about achievements of their counterparts in the frame of Advocacy.

- A regional workshop on Advanced Advocacy conducted by Yelena Yegorova, Charity Public Organization SevenI, Russia. Topics included planning and holding Advocacy Campaigns at the community level.

4. Volunteerism

As a new concept in Counterpart's programs, many trainings and handbooks were created to support volunteer management. These include:

- Regional Training on Volunteer Management conducted by Nikolay Slabzhanin from the Interregional Public Foundation Siberian Civic Initiative Support Center in Russia. The objective of the training was to develop volunteer management skills by learning about strategies NGOs employ to recruit, retain and motivate volunteers as well as establish volunteer clearinghouses.
- Volunteer Management training module.
- Creating Volunteer Management Mechanisms. This includes establishing an operational database of volunteers, volunteer recruitment processes, development of volunteer activity work plans in coordination with those of the Centers, and establishing volunteer clearinghouses and clubs.

B.2. Performance Highlights by Country

Kazakhstan

Indicators	
2.1	Each Civil Society Support Center conducts at least 6 PCAs in communities resulting in at least 4 community-initiated projects per center per year. (This will apply after one year of operations).
2.2	Roundtables, conferences, training and outreach done by support centers result in at least five issue-based coalitions and at least five social partnership projects throughout the country by the end of the Cooperative Agreement.
2.3	At least 25 NGOs and CBOs with a support of CSSCs will launch at least one significant advocacy campaign with emphasis on local and oblast level issues by the end of the Cooperative Agreement.
2.4	Each Civil Society Support Center facilitates recruitment of at least 10 volunteers per year to work with local NGOs (beginning after one year of operation).

In Kazakhstan, a total of 166 participatory community appraisal exercises were held in communities, resulting in 55 community projects. This is nearly twice as many PCAs as anticipated, although resulting in the same number community projects as anticipated. The community mobilization component of the community outreach program was very well-received in Kazakhstan and generated the following illustrative successes:

- High unemployment among disabled Afghanistan War veterans was identified as a priority problem during PCA. The public organization Almaty City Society of Invalid Veterans of War in Afghanistan developed a community action plan that was funded by the Canadian Embassy with $8,000 to establish a joinery, creating 27 jobs to members.
- The lack of farming machinery in the community Incubator in Almaty Oblast resulted in a decrease in labor productivity. An initiative group with the public organization Union of Rural Women of Talghar County designed a community action plan that was funded by the Embassy of Canada with $9,000 for the purchase of farming equipment.

As a result of roundtables, conferences, trainings and outreach activities conducted by support centers in Kazakhstan, 32 issue-based coalitions and 36 social partnership projects were implemented throughout the country. This represents seven times the anticipated result of both five issue-based coalitions and five social partnership actions. Illustrative examples of social partnership in action include:

- The Qostanai branch of the Korean Association of Kazakhstan worked with local government, universities, and media to launch a multi-faceted public awareness campaign to educate the public about the problems of youth and raise the profile of the Association. The campaign included an art contest Children Against Terror with participation of over 100 children and a Martial Arts Festival with the Kazakh Minister of Tourism & Sports as an official guest.
- The public organization Mission on Human Rights established a relationship with the Department of Justice of Astana City and lobbied for obligatory human rights education for state officials. As a result, 150 representatives of juridical structures of the Astana Akimat and Ministry of Internal Affairs participated in the NGO's mini-seminars on the "Conception of Human Rights" and "Mechanisms for the Protection of Human Rights." The NGO proved its capacity as experts in the field of human rights and were invited by the Department of Justice to serve as members of forthcoming examination commission on testing state employees on human rights issues.

Thirty-four advocacy campaigns were conducted at the local and oblast level – exceeding the goal of 25 campaigns. Some examples of advocacy successes in Kazakhstan include:

- Initiated by a group of war veterans, an advocacy campaign was aimed at improving existing legislation for benefits of the Afghan war veterans in one particular region in Southern Kazakhstan. Based on success locally, the issue will now be tackled on a national scale.
- In Kazakhstan the CSSCs were actively involved in organizing forums on the Law on NGOs to be passed by state. At Counterpart Kazakhstan's initiative NGOs throughout the country signed a petition appealing to parliament to revise and amend this law. An informational support of this campaign was organized through Internet and media sources.
- The public organization Stoik petitioned the Mazhilis Deputy to cut the extremely high registration fees. As a well-known civic-minded official the Deputy was able to advocate on behalf of the NGO's interests. On January 15, 2003 the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan issued Decree No. 18 that set the state registration fee for public organizations of invalids at a rate ten times lower than the previous rate.

Each Civil Society Support Center facilitated the recruitment of 24 volunteers per year to work with local NGOs. Examples of successful volunteer management include:

- The Kostanai CSSC formed a Volunteer Center to train volunteers in basic NGO support skills such as fundraising, project design, strategic planning and financial management to meet local demand for such services. As a result, local NGOs were able to strengthen their organizational capacity through qualified OD consulting service, provided by trained volunteers.
- The CSSC ZUBR in Ust-Kamenogorsk hosted the a conference "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 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".

Kyrgzystan

Indicators

2.1 Each Civil Society Support Center conducts at least 5 PCAs in communities resulting in at least 4 community initiated projects per CSSC per year. (For new centers this will apply after one year of operations).

2.2 Roundtables, conferences, training and outreach done by support centers result in at least five issue-based coalitions and at least five policy-based social partnership projects throughout the country by the end of the Cooperative Agreement.

2.3 At least 20 NGOs and CBOs with a support of CSSCs will launch at least one significant advocacy campaign with emphasis on local and oblast level issues by the end of the Cooperative Agreement.

2.4 Each Civil Society Support Center facilitates recruitment of at least 10 volunteers per year to work with local NGOs (beginning after one year of operation).

In Kyrgyzstan, a total of 176 participatory community appraisal exercises were held in communities, resulting in 143 community projects. This is nearly three times as many PCAs and resultant community projects as anticipated – reflecting the increased number of CSSCs in Kyrgyzstan as well as the effectiveness of the PCA process in these rural communities. The community mobilization component of the community outreach program was very well-received in Kyrgyzstan and generated the following illustrative successes:

- People in the Archa Beshik area of Bishkek (100 households) have not had proper access to water for the past ten years. The local residents requested the local NGO Arysh support their initiative to lay pipelines after hearing about Arysh`s success in working on similar issues with a neighboring community. The initiative group raised $730. Arysh contributed $3,000 to lay 500 meters water pipe; the city administration contributed $3,900 to lay 200 meters water pipe.
- Tashtak village in the Jalalabad region has 1350 residents (around 270 households) and a school with capacity for 800 students. PCA exercises revealed the condition of the local school to be a priority problem, with a community action plan developed calling for roof repairs. The NGO and initiative group developed a proposal to fix the roof and got funding by the Asian Development Bank with $2,300.

As a result of roundtables, conferences, trainings and outreach activities conducted by support centers in Kyrgyzstan, 5 issue-based coalitions and 9 social partnership projects were implemented throughout the country. Highlights include:

- The Karakol CSSC has cultivated a long-term relationship with the local Kumtor Operating Company as one key local source for funding. The Karakol CSSC established an Oblast committee for collaboration and through extensive negotiations with Kumtor secured 80000 soms ($1,800) a year from the company to the committee to provide grants for community projects on a competitive basis.
- The NGO *Union Of Women And Mothers With Children With Special Needs (Invalids)* is cooperating with local government agencies to improve the living conditions of these children. As a result of this cooperation, the State Joint-Stock Company Ak-Ulak provided the NGO with $1,000 worth of coal that will serve 30 families, the Rayon Administration granted $70 to support the organization and the Naryn Oblast Governor decreed 15 hectares of land for three families.

Twenty-one advocacy campaigns were conducted at the local and oblast level. Some examples of advocacy successes in Kyrgyzstan include:

- Advocacy Campaign on Recalling of Decree #20 "About publishing activity" in Kyrgyzstan. On January 14 2002 the President of the Kyrgyz Republic this restrictive document, which required licensing of all publishing activities. The NGOs have been campaigning against this Decree for several months and through diligent planning and cooperation they have been successful in getting it repealed.
- Attention, Ayan is on the air - we are protecting our rights! Remote villages in the Naryn Rayon feel great isolation and lack information regarding legal issues and protection of their civil rights. The community members developed a project for the NGO Soopker to provide consultations on legal issues. Soopker, in collaboration with the independent TV company Ayan, provided free consultations on legal issues through video films that were distributed to the population.

Each Civil Society Support Center facilitated the recruitment of 22 volunteers per year to work with local NGOs. Examples of volunteer placements include:

- The Volunteer Center, working in partnership with the Karakol CSSC, organized the Voluntary Movement "If Not Me Then Who?" Through this campaign, volunteers: organized 5 summer camps for disabled children of the Issyk-Kul oblast and secured $4,000 in funding from local authorities, international agencies, commercial organizations and individuals; created a database of organizations needing volunteers; and mobilized 64 volunteers, up from the 23 volunteers one year prior.
- Volunteers from the Center of Volunteer Initiatives, created by the Naryn CSSC decided to support homeless orphans and children. The volunteers applied to ADRA Foundation for humanitarian aid and received 1125 kg of children's clothes. Local NGOs made their contributions as well by providing transportation services to bring the shipment from Bishkek to Naryn. Clothing was distributed among 950 orphans and homeless children in three areas of the Naryn Region. Further, 20 homeless children who had previously quit school were able to continue their education as a result of the shoes and clothing received.

Tajikistan

Indicators	
2.1	Each Civil Society Support Center conducts at least 8 interventions including PCAs, PRAs, problem ID workshops in communities resulting in at least 4 community-initiated projects per CSSC per year. (For new centers this will apply after one year of operations).
2.2	Roundtables, conferences, training and outreach done by each support center results in at least three issue-based coalitions and at least three social partnership projects focused on issues involving the peace process and development of civil society by the end of the Cooperative Agreement.
2.3	At least 3 NGOs and CBOs with a support of CSSCs will launch at least one advocacy campaign involving the peace process and development of civil society by the end of the Cooperative Agreement.
2.4	Each Civil Society Support Center facilitates recruitment of at least 10 volunteers per year to work with local NGOs (beginning after one year of operation).

In Tajikistan, a total of 75 participatory community appraisal exercises were held in communities, resulting in 50 community projects.

- One unintended consequence of support given to the people of Tajikistan after the civil war has been the increase in dependency on humanitarian aid. The Dushanbe CSSC has been pushing community members to take more action for their own lives. After one year of trying, the CSSC assisted in the implementation of 10 projects benefiting 6,125 people. People united to solve common problems. Communities gained knowledge and skills to write proposals, mobilize resources, interact with stakeholders, and use traditional forms of work. More importantly, they gained the confidence to solve community problems without the traditional reliance on the government or humanitarian agencies.
- Many people in the capital of Dushanbe gave up hope to get gas to heat their homes in the winter, but not in one community. The initiative group from the urban Nazarshoev Street mobilized 37 households to address the gas issue. They developed a proposal, funded by Counterpart, which was implemented in two months. As a result 222 people now have access to gas - and without dependence on the government to provide it.

As a result of roundtables, conferences, trainings and outreach activities conducted by support centers in Tajikistan, five issue-based coalitions and four social partnership projects were implemented throughout the country. Highlights include:

- "Social Partnership for Sustainable Development" Conference, June 20, 2002, Dushanbe. The President of Tajikistan, Mr. Emomali Rahmonov, met with NGO representatives to discuss effective interactions between the Government and NGOs in solving major societal problems. This long anticipated event has been a great success in improving interrelations of government institutions and NGOs.
- The Dushanbe CSSC has developed a relationship with the Mayor of Dushanbe to organize a meeting with representatives of local and international NGOs, business structures, media, and financial institutions. While all groups work to address social problems, there is little coordination or information exchange between them. The goal of the meeting was to establish collaboration between sectors for joint problem solving and the Mayor acknowledged that NGOs possess the intellectual capacity to address problems effectively. As a result of the meeting a Coordination Committee of 23 was formed.

Six advocacy campaigns were conducted at the local and oblast level – doubling the goal of three campaigns. Some examples of advocacy successes in Tajikistan include:

- The leaders of three farmer associations of the Khatlon Province applied to the South Khatlon NGO Coalition for consultations and assistance in helping them take back their land. The land had been illegally given to other people by district, claiming that the three farmer associations were bankrupt. The members of South Khatlon NGO Coalition referred the farmer associations to the Provincial Economic Court asking the Court to assist them with legal consultations and to help them prepare all the necessary documents for their legal defense. The Economic Court canceled the resolution, declaring it illegal and gave the farmers their land back.
- The Sughd Oblast Justice Department Employees illegally inspected NGO *Fath* and withdrew their documents, including the Charter and the Grant Agreement with Eurasia Foundation. Fath applied to Sughd Oblast Human Rights Center, who fought the enormity and won. All the documents were returned.

Each Civil Society Support Center facilitated the recruitment of 22 volunteers per year to work with local NGOs. Examples of volunteer related successes include:

- Volunteer development is an essential component of modern society. In the Soghd oblast the number of volunteers is rapidly growing, not only for international organizations and local NGOs, but also for government agencies and social institutions. The Khujand CSSC is experienced in providing educational courses to train volunteers and has trained 42 volunteers in seven Counterpart modules. A recent survey of local NGOs working with Counterpart trained volunteers revealed that they are making a substantial contribution, providing quality services and being responsive to the program needs.

Turkmenistan

Indicators

2.1 Civil Society Support Centers conduct at least 24 PCAs per year in communities resulting in at least 12 community initiated projects . (For new centers this will apply after one year of operations).

2.2 Roundtables, conferences, training and outreach done by support centers result in at least three issue-based community coalitions and at least ten social partnership projects throughout the country by the end of the Cooperative Agreement.

2.3 Each Civil Society Support Center facilitates recruitment of 10 volunteers per year to work with local NGOs (beginning after one year of operation).

In Turkmenistan, a total of 56 participatory community appraisal exercises were held in communities, resulting in 41 community projects. This is more than twice as many PCAs as anticipated and over three times as many community projects.

- In many rural Turkmen communities, infrastructure repair and social cohesion are in need of urgent attention. The Initiative Group Altyn Cheshme facilitated the process of uniting the members of a local community in order to solve the top-priority problem of water delivery and supply. As a result, community members voluntarily carried out additional charity activities that provided warm clothes, sports equipment, and toys for 700 children, with funds donated by a local farmer.

- The NGO *Sarygamysh* designed and managed a project to repair a 2.5 km stretch of high voltage main. The project was implemented with the participation and contribution of the local community, the support of local governmental, and financial support from Counterpart and the joint-stock company Gok Gushak. This project was so successful, the neighboring village, Seylek, organized 70 local people in the decision-making process, collected funds, and restored 600 meters of electric main. Ten new households in Seylek now have access to electricity.

As a result of roundtables, conferences, trainings and outreach activities conducted by support centers in Turkmenistan, 6 issue-based coalitions and 32 social partnership projects were implemented throughout the country. This represents two times the anticipated result for issue-based coalitions and three times as many social partnership actions. Illustrative examples of social partnership in action include:

- The NGO Uchgun conducted special trainings on health protection and attracted the attention of the Central Hospital of Dashoguz velayt. The Head of Hospital applied to Uchgyn with a request to conduct series of trainings for medical staff. Uchgyn has proven its capacity to partner with government by training 32 medical personnel who work with local communities of three villages.
- The Lebap CSSC hosted a roundtable called "Taking Care of Refugees is the Responsibility of all People Worldwide" for participants from local authorities, representatives of UNHCR, local NGOs and refugees. As a result of this roundtable, refugees can get medical aid in the local central hospital free of charge even if they don't have the required documents. They can also appeal to the khakimlik for advice and consultations. The NGO Medet, implementing a UNHCR-funded project, has trained 80 refugees in computer literacy and English language free of charge. The NGO Nargiz organized a summer camp for 30 children from refugee families.

Each Civil Society Support Center facilitated the recruitment of 24 volunteers per year to work with local NGOs. One remarkable event hosted by the Ashgabat CSSC was the Volunteer Forum. The forum brought together 50 participants representing all three sectors and international organizations operating in the country and introduced the Resource Book on Development of Volunteerism. This resource is recommended for successful promotion of volunteerism in the region. Other successful activities include:

- The Lebap CSSC established a Volunteer Center, with U.S. Embassy funding support, to work as a "bridge" matching NGOs and volunteers throughout the region.
- Turkmen legislation restricts the staff size of Turkmen NGOs. To address human capital needs, the NGO *My Rights* has actively started to work with volunteers. 25 volunteers have been recruited and trained to teach 18 interactive training modules on basic knowledge of consumers' rights. These volunteers were instrumental in leading consumers to demand resolution of more than 66 problem situations and issues.

Uzbekistan

Indicators	
2.1	Each Civil Society Support Center conducts at least 8 PCAs in communities resulting in at least 6 community-initiated projects per center per year. (For new centers this will apply after one year of operations. This will include any PCAs conducted with support from the Mahalla Initiative.)
2.2	Roundtables, conferences, training and outreach done by support centers result in at least five issue-based coalitions and at least five policy-based social partnership projects throughout the country by the end of the Cooperative Agreement.
2.3	At least 15 NGOs and CBOs with a support of CSSCs will launch at least one significant advocacy campaign with emphasis on local and oblast level issues by the end of the Cooperative Agreement.
2.4	Each Civil Society Support Center facilitates recruitment of at least 10 volunteers per year to work with local NGOs (after one year of operation).

In Uzbekistan, a total of 98 participatory community appraisal exercises were held in communities, resulting in 84 community projects. While just below the anticipated number for PCAs, the fewer exercises did yield the anticipated number of community projects. Some illustrative examples of the success of these projects includes:

- Twenty families in Fergana did not have gas in their houses. The Youth and Women's Center *Iftikhor* implemented a project resulting in the supply of clean drinking water to 110 households. The success of that project encouraged mahalla residents to become more active. 20 local families mobilized resources, purchased and laid pipes, constructed gas distributions points, and now have gas to cook with and heat their houses.
- There were no schools and kindergartens in Kokand accessible for disabled children. An Initiative group developed a project to address this problem. Five schools and four kindergartens were retrofitted to be accessible for disabled children. The initiative group informed residents about the improvements and sought out children who would benefit. As a result 36 children with various disabilities now attend school.

As a result of roundtables, conferences, trainings and outreach activities conducted by support centers in Uzbekistan, 13 issue-based coalitions and 6 social partnership projects were implemented throughout the country. This represents nearly three times the anticipated result for issue-based coalitions and the anticipated result for social partnership actions. Illustrative examples of social partnership in action include:

- The Nukus CSSC conducted the NGO and Community workshop for 17 deputy khokims, 33 mahalla committee representatives, and nine members of the media. The officials expressed their willingness to promote NGO development. As a result four initiative groups were set up under the Uzbek Association on Reproductive Health. These groups are conducting education activity with the support of local authorities.
- The problem of utilizing organic waste is a problem in the city of Samarkand. In this hot climate, rotting is prevalent and presents an ecological problem. The situation is aggravated by the fact that no one organization, government or business, can solve the problem alone. The NGO *Poisk* established partnerships a local business and the governmental Committee on Environment Protection. The partners found a unique way to solve the problem - processing organic waste into fertilizer and feed for cattle – and are implementing the project.

Twelve advocacy campaigns were conducted at the local and oblast level – just under the goal of 15 campaigns. Some examples of advocacy successes in Uzbekistan include:

- The district department on public education issued a decision to close a local school in Samarkand and give it to the sports college. Closing the school would force 750 pupils to go to a school that only accommodates 400 pupils. Two hundred parents got together and created an initiative group but were not successful. They partnered with the Ayel Center. On September 3, 2002 the city Khokim talked to the parents and promised to cancel the decision about closing the school. The initiative group insisted that the Khokim issue a written order to keep the school open.
- A collector to remove wastewater from fields of the Amu-Darya was dug through the territory of the Karakalpakstan National Park Badai-Tugai. This collector has led to vanishing rare kinds of flora and fauna and affected the drinking water to communities that live downstream. The Aral Sea and Amu-Darya Protection Union has submitted to the economic court a claim for infringement of ecological. The NGO conducted an ecological examination in which experts from the State Committee on Nature Protection confirmed the negative impact of the collector on the environment. Four hearings have been held, but still the courts have decided in favor of the Ministry. While this issue will likely be held up in courts for a long time, the precedent has been set for an NGO to be the petitioner in judiciary practice. The court hearing has shown the role of NGOs for solving regional problems.

Each Civil Society Support Center facilitated the recruitment of 17 volunteers per year to work with local NGOs. Examples of volunteer placements include:

- The Samarkand CSSC conducted training in "Work with Volunteers in NGOs" for NGOs in the region and achieved the following results:
  - The NGO *Sevinch* had no volunteers and the director had no understanding of how to use volunteers. After the training, Sevinch developed a strategy for working with volunteers and recruited four volunteers.
  - The leader of the NGO *Protection of Consumers Rights* had been working practically alone. After the training six volunteers started working with the organization.
  - The Center for Public Education was having the problems with the fluctuation of volunteers. They developed a strategy for motivating volunteers to stay over longer periods of time. To date five volunteers have been working in the Center for more than six months.
- The Center for support of disabled children *Umidvorlik* couldn't effectively implement its programs on rehabilitation and integration of disabled children using only its own staff. To address this the Center:
  - Has spoken on air to inform the public of its activities. These broadcasts have attracted volunteers to the Center.
  - The Center trained disabled children's parents on NGO and Community and Fundraising. After that five parents have become volunteer-fundraisers. They have already been able to raise 300,000 soums (about $270) and to get contributions of various goods costing about the same.
  - Twenty volunteers from local communities actively work at Umidvorlik Center.

C. Objective 3: Expand and localize training and technical assistance capacity to help the NGO sector become more sustainable and better able to advocate their interests at the community and national levels.

Indicators

3.1 By the end of the Cooperative Agreement, the hub office will be able to provide training and consultations in the following areas: governance, financial accountability, fundraising, membership development, advocacy, PCA, volunteerism, facilitation skills, social partnership.

3.2 All of the Civil Society Support Centers will have capacity to assess training needs of local NGOs, CBOs and provide training and consultation in the basic not-for-profit sector's concepts covered by Counterpart 16 basic modules by the end of the Cooperative Agreement.

In each country, Counterpart has successfully transferred skills to the Hub Centers so that they are locally providing training and technical assistance in the following areas:

1. Governance
2. Financial Accountability
3. Fundraising
4. Membership Development
5. Advocacy
6. Participatory Community Appraisal
7. Volunteerism
8. Facilitation Skills
9. Social Partnership

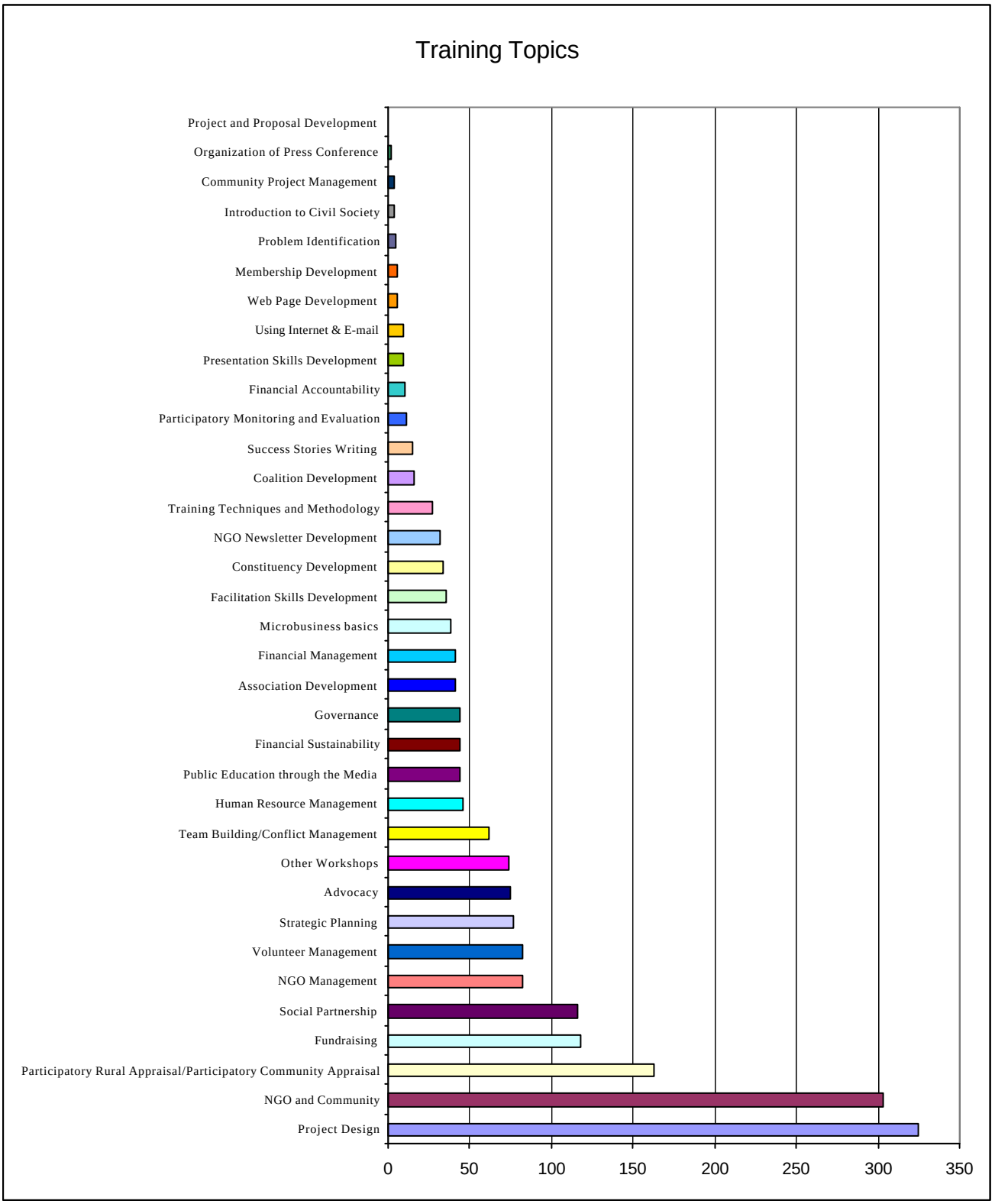
Using these skills, the Hub Centers have been able to develop each of the 34 CSSCs so that they can assess training needs of client NGOs and communities and provide training in each of the following 16 training modules:

1. NGO & Community
2. NGO Management
3. Project Design
4. Strategic Planning
5. Public Education through the Media
6. Fundraising
7. Association Development
8. Financial Management
9. Advocacy
10. Financial Sustainability
11. Human Resource Management
12. Team Building/Conflict Resolution
13. Social Partnership
14. Governance
15. Constituency Building
16. Presentation Skills

In all, the CSSCs conducted 2,002 training workshops for 36,250 participants representing 11,990 NGOs based on the following summary:

	Basic Trainings			**Advanced Trainings**			**Other Trainings**		
Country	***# Trainings***	***# Participants***	***# NGOs***	***# Trainings***	***# Participants***	***# NGOs***	***# Trainings***	***# Participants***	***# NGOs***
Kazakhstan	188	3,768	2,297	96	1,916	1,238	10	174	133
Kyrgyzstan	357	7,135	4,071	194	3,928	2,257	70	1,442	408
Tajikistan	137	2,214	1,430	117	1,940	1,129	42	644	399
Turkmenistan	126	1,976	1,230	64	1,018	687	36	536	315
Uzbekistan	323	5,588	2,962	179	2,939	1,804	63	1,032	741
CAR	***1,131***	***20,681***	***11,990***	***650***	***11,741***	***7,115***	***221***	***3,828***	***1,996***

The following chart shows the frequency with which training topics were provided throughout the region. As trainings are scheduled according to assessments of NGO needs and interests articulated by NGO clients, the following is also a representation of the demand for training topics throughout the region.



D. Objective 4: Provide support for projects that assist NGOs in gaining a larger grassroots constituency and developing more sustainable, effective and accountable organizational and governance structures

Indicators

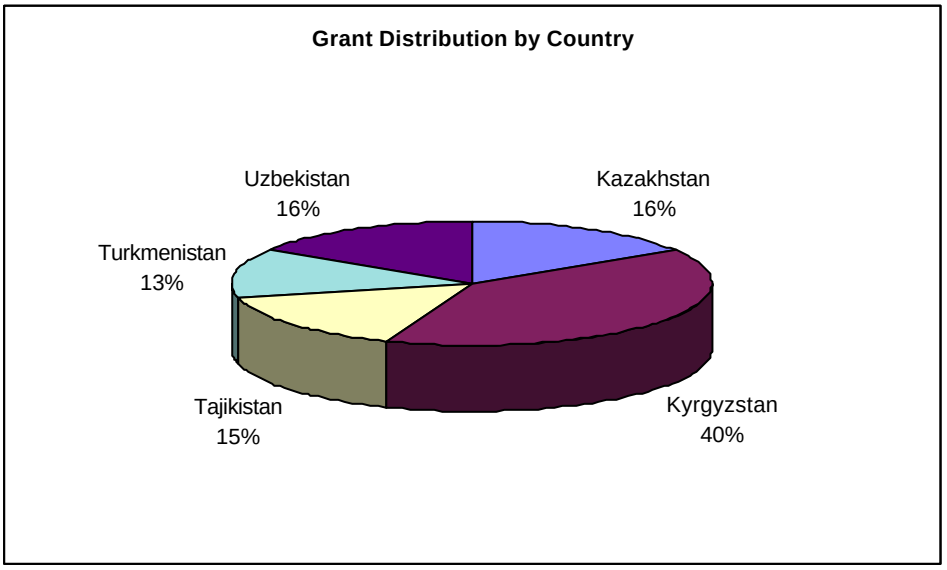
4.1 All Civil Society Support Centers are able to provide the full list of services outlined in the Counterpart proposal to USAID by the second year of the proposal

4.2 At least 30% of the community-based projects initiated and implemented by Civic organizations (NGOs, CBOs, GROs) will be sustainable after their completion.

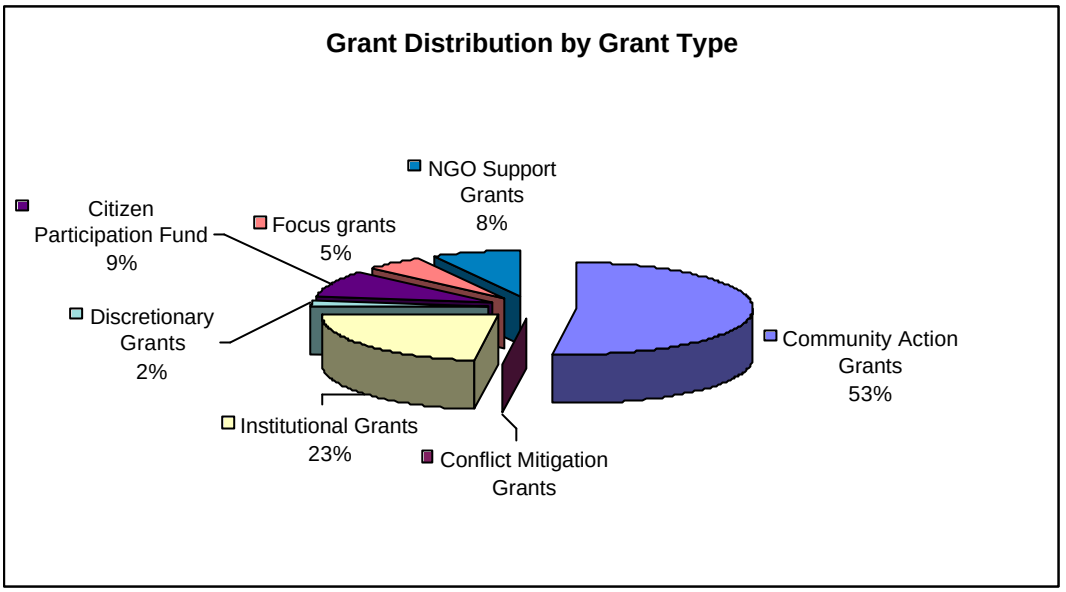
4.3.a. **(Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan)** Civil Society Support Centers and Focus NGOs show a **25%** improvement in score on an OD Assessment Tool.

4.3.b. **(Tajikistan and Turkmenistan)** Civil Society Support Centers show a **20%** improvement in score on an OD Assessment Tool by the end of the Cooperative Agreement.

To support this objective, Counterpart developed a grant program that would provide CSSCs, Focus NGOs (in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan), Target NGOs (in Tajikistan and Turkmenistan), and communities with the resources to address self-identified priority issues[3]. A complete list of Focus and Target NGOs can be found in ***Attachment #3: Focus and Target NGOs for Phase III.*** In Turkmenistan discretionary grants were made available to provide general grant support to continue to foster broad NGO development. In Kyrgyzstan, conflict mitigation grants are available to support peace building initiatives in the Batken Oblast. Also in Kyrgzstan, the U.S. Embassy provided funds for a Citizen Participation Fund (CPF). In all Counterpart disbursed 667 grants worth $3.08 million through the above grant mechanisms. The distribution of grants by country and type are as follows:



[3] NGO Support Grants were relatively small (they averaged $3,400 a grant) for a discreet project over a short time frame. Focus Grants were larger grants (averaging $9,000 a grant) supported overhead costs as well as program costs for more advanced organizations over a long period of time. Focus Grantees were held to a higher standard in terms of organizational development than NGO Support Grantees.



Through grant monitoring activities, Counterpart has documented the following results:

- 31 of the 34 CSSCs are capable of providing the full range of services to their clients. The exception is the three CSSCs in Turkmenistan, where fee-for-service strategies and advocacy activities are not appropriate. The full list of services provided by the other 31 CSSC includes:

  1. Consultation
  2. Information
  3. Community Mobilization
  4. Training
  5. Volunteerism
  6. Social Partnership
  7. Monitoring and Evaluation
  8. Advocacy
  9. Fee-for-Service

- In Kazakhstan, 11 services are provided through CSSCs. A survey of these services found that clients demanded all services, but in terms of preference they ranked the services accordingly:

  1. Training – training module delivery, design and delivery of corporate trainings, and facilitation of meetings, roundtables, and conferences.
  2. Public awareness – information on project and program implementation, information campaigns, and promotional materials (publications, web-site).
  3. Grant Administration – running grant committees, consulting in project design, and designing tenders, grant competitions, and grant selection.
  4. Community Mobilization - CAP design, PCAPs, and community NGO formation.
  5. Technical Consulting – project and program design and evaluation, consulting in NGO development, and financial, legal and IT consulting for NGOs.
  6. Monitoring & Evaluation - project M&E.
  7. Advocacy - public campaigns.
  8. Management consulting - NGO formation, consulting assistance, and OD assessment.

9. Logistics - coordination and assistance, logistics and facilitation of social events, and office and office equipment and supplies.
10. Fundraising – volunteerism and fundraising campaigns.
11. Research - complex research and publications (reports, reviews).

- CSSCs in Tajikistan and Turkmenistan demonstrated a marked improvement in performance based on Counterpart's organizational self-assessment tool. In the case of Tajikistan, CSSCs showed an 82% increase over the baseline. In Turkmenistan, the CSSCs averaged a 270% increase over the baseline.

- In Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan CSSCs and Focus NGOs did not perform as well as their counterparts in Tajikistan and Turkmenistan. Improvement over the baseline in these countries was measured at 20%, 8%, and 11% respectively. The leading contributor to underperformance in this area is the high level of capacity indicated while establishing the baseline. The client organizations, unaccustomed to self-evaluation in general and Counterpart's assessment tool in particular, rated themselves rather high. This is a case of organizations not realizing "what they don't know." As the self-assessments were repeated every six months of the program, personnel were more critical, thoughtful, and honest about their own skill levels. Consequently, it is an inaccurate assessment to claim that Counterpart's program did not have an impact on the development of these client organizations. In fact, our greatest success is that these organizations have higher expectations of their own performance and capacity. Their criticism of themselves demonstrates their commitment to the organizational development process.

- With 57% of the Community Action Grants monitored, 95% of the projects have proven sustainable. Project sustainability is measured at least six months after the close out of a CAG project and is determined by: 1) Physical criteria such as the status of the project's outcomes and results and the implementation of a sustainability plan; and 2) Institutional criteria including defined ownership of project outputs and the sustained engagement of a project implementing organization (NGO/CBO/CIG).

Other CAG monitoring data reveals:

- 40% of CAGs are implemented by an initiative group, but 66% of projects are owned by communities as a whole, with 54% of the projects maintained by communities.
- 90% of CAGs fully achieved project objectives
- CAGs reached 631,508 beneficiaries – 95% of the level planned. Each project averaged 2,263 beneficiaries.
- The average size of projects was $5,273, with 48% of the funds coming from sources other than Counterpart's CAG.

E. Objective 5: Assist in the development of a comprehensive legal and fiscal framework that will support and strengthen the NGO sector.

E.1. Regional Highlights

Corporate Philanthropy Initiative in Central Asia Spurs Action - 2002
In 2002, ICNL and the US Chamber of Commerce's Center for Corporate Citizenship (CCC) catalyzed discussion; brought together corporate, community, and governmental organizations; and helped to clarify the current status of corporate initiatives in these two Central Asian developing economies. The CCC developed a case study on U.S. business and the American Chamber of Commerce in Hungary in order to provide a Central European model, several years in advance in its transition from a controlled to an open market, against which to compare the two Central Asian cases and from which to draw ideas for Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. Several articles had been published in press popularizing corporate philanthropy (citizenship) concepts as a part of an educational campaign engaging businesses and NGOs. The CCC-ICNL team interacted with approximately 200 companies, NGOs, and government agencies over the course of this six-month pilot project, resulting in the identification of the key obstacles and challenges which account for the lack of support to civil society on behalf of businesses. ICNL continues contributing to the corporate philanthropy development effort through support to other USAID funded initiatives.

Legal Consultations provided to civil society actors in all five countries – 2000-2003
In 2002, in response to demand, ICNL stepped up its provision of legal consultations provided to civil society actors in all five countries. In each country ICNL has established office hours during which organizations or individuals may walk-in for free legal consultations. In addition, ICNL legal consultants are available by phone, email, or post for consultations for those who cannot reach the cities where ICNL has representation. Consultations were provided on a full-range of issues from registration of organizations and labor law to the review of contracts and applicable laws of taxation. Over 300 NGOs throughout the CA region benefited from ICNL's in–person consultations.

E.2. Performance Highlights by Country

Kazakhstan

First Initiative of Deputies is in the Form of an NGO Law - 2000
Prior to 2000, all laws in Kazakhstan were initiated and drafted by the Ministries. The only role for Parliament was to approve such laws. Most observers labeled this unbalanced system a "rubber-stamp". To fulfill the proper role of Parliament, the Senate Legislative Committee, initiated an NGO law. At the request of the working group ICNL provided technical assistance to its work. This law was adopted in May 2000, and became the first law initiated, drafted and adopted solely by deputies --- the first successful 'deputies' initiative' in Kazakhstan. Another remarkable feature which highlighted this law from other laws, was the open and transparent process of discussing this law with the NGO community. The process of adoption of the law was an important exercise in democracy for both parliamentarians and NGOs, and was as important, if not more, than the text of the law. Although, the Majilis did not adopt all of ICNL's recommendations, the law had multiple progressive provisions and contributed to improvement of the statutory legislation for NGOs in Kazakhstan. For example, it created a solid base for the establishment and operation of membership and non-membership NGOs.

After a Battle, NGOs Can Take Advantage of Tax Benefits - 2000
After a long term technical assistance and educational campaign conducted by ICNL the Ministry of Government Revenue proposed radical changes to the Tax Code, which were adopted in 2000, and allowed tax exemptions applicable to grant funds. These exemptions saved both local NGOs and international organizations 26% on each dollar spent on salaries. Although the magnitude of the changes were widespread, the lower levels of the tax authorities had refused to implement or accept the amendments at face value and denied the benefits as applicable to various local and foreign NGOs. To combat this, ICNL met directly with the Minister of Government Revenue seeking clarification of the new exemptions to which the Ministry answered in the affirmative. That is, that the benefits are applicable and the decisions of the local tax authorities were reversed.

Public Participation in Drafting of the Tax Code Results in Improvements - 2000
ICNL assisted its local partner NGOs with organizing a seminar on NGO taxation specifically designed for members of Parliament, participated in live TV debates on the draft Tax Code, and conducted several meetings with a number of officials and organizations on this particular issue. Subsequent inclusion of the public on the drafting group resulted in significant improvements to the draft. The draft moved from an unfavorable orientation (fall 2000) to a positive orientation (winter 2000-01). The most recent provisions allow tax exemptions of income generated from certain social services. In addition, the definition of a grant was improved by expanding the definition to include foreign non-governmental public organizations and foundations. ICNL provided technical assistance to both the government and a coalition group on the draft law.

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

Of particular note in the new NCO Law are exemplary provisions that ICNL championed which define non-commercial organizations in terms of goals rather than types of activity, prevents the misuse of property or funds of a non-commercial organization upon liquidation, and adequately details conflict of interest rules that non-commercial organizations must follow in order to prevent misappropriation of property or funds by management. The NCO Law may be described as a "framework act" governing non-commercial organizations rather than a law creating a new regulative regime. The NCO Law further interprets the Civil Code provisions and allows for establishment and operations for non-membership organizations (foundations).

The New Tax Code Was Adopted - 2001
On June 12, 2001, the President of Kazakhstan signed the new Kazakhstan Tax Code, which became effective on January 1, 2002. Once the new Tax Code took effect, the system of benefits for nongovernmental noncommercial organizations in Kazakhstan changed considerably, since the new Tax Code provided for numerous new conceptual approaches regarding the taxation of NGOs. NGOs together with ICNL took an active part in the creation of the Tax Code beginning with its earliest drafts. In large part due to coordinated and

persistent work of ICNL and other NGOs with the drafters of the new Tax Code, most of the initial provisions, which would have significantly worsened the position of NGOs, did not make it into the final version. ICNL`s efforts with assisting NGOs to carry effective public campaign paid off with adopting a generally progressive tax code.

The new Tax Code significantly improved the status of NGOs as compared to the old legislation. For example, the new Tax Code exempts from income tax interest and dividends earned by NGOs. It helps NGOs to become financially sustainable and encourage the establishment of foundations that can finance their activities using the interest from funds in bank deposit accounts or bonds. Another important provision of the new Tax Code provides that organizations engaged in social activities be exempt from income tax on earnings from related economic activities. The benefit can be claimed only if an organization is exclusively engaged in an activity in the social sector. The Tax Code provides an exhaustive list of activities belonging to the social sector, including healthcare, education, science, amateur sports, culture, archives, library services, and social protection of children, the elderly, or the disabled. The third significant change to the Tax Code in favor of NGOs is the new tax rates for NGOs on property and real estate. Public associations, foundations, and associations (unions) of legal entities will enjoy a reduced property tax rate of 1/10th of the standard rate. Noncommercial organizations will also pay the land tax at the reduced rate.

Government Concept on State Support of NGOs Was Adopted - 2002

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.

New Tax Benefits become available to Micro-credit Organizations - 2002

In December 2002, at the request of the Barents Group (now Bearing Point) ICNL prepared comments to the draft law "On Micro-credit organizations" under consideration by the Parliament. These comments identified problems in the draft law that would have prevented NGOs from employing the micro-credit mechanism stipulated by the draft law. One of the primary issues identified was the application of VAT (value-added tax) to all micro-credit loans, making micro-credit activities impractical at best. The commentary was also provided to the Mazhilis and to the Senate. During July 2003, the tax code was eventually amended to include the VAT exemption recommended by ICNL and Bearing Point.

The Government of Kazakhstan Approved the State Program of Government Support of NGOs - 2003

Finally, on March 17, 2003, the Government of Kazakhstan approved the State Program of Government Support of NGOs. This program has the status of the legislative act, and authorizes specified government branches to "work on creation of conditions for sustainable development of NGOs, as a part of civil society and to strengthen their role in resolving socially important problems based on cooperation with and support from the Government". This is an important first step towards the improvement of relations between NGOs and the government and, hopefully, termination of the constitutional prohibition against any direct or indirect government support to public associations. This constitutional prohibition has no international precedents. However, this is of course only the first step, and unless appropriate follow up legislation is adopted and implemented, the program will remain only a declaration of good intent.

Technical Assistance with the Draft Law on NGOs - 2003

After the Ministry of Culture, Information and Public Accord (MinKIOS) made it clear that they were not taking into consideration the comments of NGOs on the "working group" ICNL turned its attention to supporting the then pregnant advocacy initiative of local NGOs. This largely unnecessary draft law is designed to introduce the term "NGO" as a legal term defining specific organizational forms as NGOs. The draft law also contains provisions that would unduly restrict international organizations and preclude NGOs from engaging in political or religious activities.

Kyrgyzstan

ICNL Assists Implementation of the NGO Law - 2000

The NGO law of Kyrgyzstan adopted in the summer of 1999 has been considered one of the more progressive laws in the entire NIS. The reasons why the law is considered progressive include 1) non-commercial organizations can conduct activities without having to be registered, 2) the NGO law does not set territorial limitations for NGOs regardless of their organizational-legal form, and 3) Public associations can be created at the initiative of three or more individuals. Before Presidential elections in fall 2000 the Ministry of Justice made an attempt to undermine positive effect of the Law with proposing amendments to it. If adopted proposed provisions would have prohibited unregistered associations and complicated the registration procedure. Due to the efforts of the NGO community and the Committee on Public Associations and Policy on Information of the Lower Chamber of the Parliament, these amendments were not adopted and were withdrawn. The Committee with the Senate recognized in its decision regarding the proposed amendments that in its current form they are unacceptable and cannot be adopted.

The Government Recalled a Draft Law Prohibiting Unregistered Organizations - 2001

ICNL consultations to NGOs and parliamentarians as well as timely preparation and distribution of ICNL's comments helped the coalition of NGOs to launch an effective lobbying campaign against Government Resolution No. 358. The draft law, if passed, would have prohibited the existence of unregistered NGOs while imposing intrusive and burdensome reporting and disclosure requirements that were designed to monitor and control the sources of financing of non-commercial organizations. On August 20, 2001, the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic (KR) issued a Resolution No. 462 recalling the draft law "On the Introduction of Changes into Certain Legislative Acts of KR" that was introduced by the Resolution of the Government No. 358 dated July 18, 2001.

NGO Law Implementation - 2001

Because of erroneous interpretations of Article 6 of the Law on Noncommercial Organizations and the Kyrgyz government's attempts to force all NGOs to undergo registration procedures, the working group under the Committee on Public Association and Information Policy Affairs of the Legislative Assembly of the Jogorku Kenesh asked ICNL to prepare and submit to the Committee commentaries that would properly explain the permissibility of unregistered NGOs in Kyrgyzstan and their rights and duties under Kyrgyz law. These commentaries were submitted to the Committee and will form the basis for developing a draft law "On the Official Interpretation of Article 6 of the Law of the KR on Noncommercial Organizations."

Parliamentary Committee Rejects Government Resolution 736 - 2002

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 re-registration grounds that would have enabled the Ministry of Justice and its territorial subdivisions to demand re-registration 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.

Kyrgyzstan President Terminates Resolution No. 20 - 2002

On May 25, 2002 President Akaev terminated Resolution No. 20 ("Resolution") of the Government of Kyrgyzstan "On Some Issues of Publishing Activities." The advice and commentary provided by ICNL's local expert helped NGOs and mass media representatives effectively address their concerns regarding the Resolution and its contradictions with domestic and international law, leading to its termination. Several provisions in the Resolution directly contradicted the Kyrgyz Constitution and provisions of international law protecting freedom of speech. The Resolution seriously threatened freedom of speech and the right to disseminate information. For example, the Resolution required the registration of all fax machines, copiers, scanners and other equipment that could be used for publishing activities and required prior certification for any publishing activity. 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. More than 200 NGOs were involved in the campaign against the Resolution. A number of appeals were also lodged with the President, the Prime Minister's Office, and the Constitutional Court urging the repeal of this resolution. Due to joint efforts of civil society organizations the resolution was terminated.

Parliamentary Committee Applies for Recall Resolution No. 315 – 2002

On September 10, 2002, the Committee for Public Associations and Information Policy Affairs of the Legislative Assembly of the Jogorku Kenesh conducted an enlarged session to discuss Government Resolution 315 dated May 17, 2002. This resolution represents yet another attempt by the Government of Kyrgyzstan to impose state controls on the activity of NGOs. 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 315 seeks to amend the laws On Noncommercial Organizations and On State Registration of Legal Entities. The resolution provides new oversight powers to the registering body over the activity of noncommercial organizations, and imposes fines for the activity of unregistered commercial and noncommercial organizations. It also seeks to amend the law On Political Parties and requires re-registration of political parties. ICNL provided substantial technical advice and assistance to the NGO community and parliamentarians and prepared a detailed analysis of the draft resolution. Yuri Khvan, ICNL's local partner in Kyrgyzstan, held numerous meetings with members of the Kyrgyz Parliament, local NGOs, USAID and its grantees, bringing attention to the inconsistencies of the proposed amendments with international law and good practices concerning the freedom of association and the ramifications of the Resolution's approval. He was also present as an expert to answer the Committee's questions. After considering the matter, the Committee decided to apply to the Government with a request to recall Resolution 315.

Amendments to Tax Code Including Tax Privileges for NGOs Signed Into Law - 2002

On December 16, 2002, the Kyrgyz Parliament passed the Law on Amendments to the Tax Code. The law was signed by the Kyrgyz President on March 8, 2003. The new amendments exempt humanitarian aid, grants, charity donations, endowments, membership and entry fees from income tax, and provide additional incentives for companies and individuals to support charities by increasing allowable deductions from 2 to 5% of a taxpayer's taxable income. The amendments also exempt supplies of goods and services provided by charitable organizations for charitable purposes from VAT. In addition, amendments improve implementation of existing tax code provisions by providing clear definitions of the key terms "charitable organization", "charitable activities", "membership fees", "entry fees", "grants", and "humanitarian aid". The amendments to the Tax Code represent the culmination of an extensive two year effort by the International Center for Not-for-Profit Law (ICNL), to improve the tax treatment of NGOs in collaboration with all the stake holders. These amendments are the product of joint efforts undertaken by NGOs, progressive parliamentarians and government officials, and international organizations.

In May 2001 ICNL, with financial assistance of the USAID's Global Program, held a Central Asian regional conference in Issyk-Kul which brought the attention of the Kyrgyz government and parliamentarians to the problematic issue of NGO taxation. The remainder of 2001 was spent effectively facilitating a participatory process of drafting amendments to the

tax code, and educating NGOs, government and parliamentarians on good international practices of taxation of NGOs. And as a result, in early 2002, at the initiative of two Parliamentary Committees with the assistance of ICNL, a roundtable discussion on the need to revise the Tax Code provisions affecting NGOs was organized among NGOs, government officials and parliamentarians. In February 2002 ICNL organized and financed a special workshop at the Issyk-Kul where the official Working Group (including parliamentarians, senior government officials, tax experts, and ICNL) developed initial drafts of the proposed amendments. Subsequently, the IMF, Barents Group, and other international organizations had an opportunity to comment and contribute to the final draft submitted to the Parliament for the consideration.

Finally, in April 2002 the draft amendments were discussed at a Public Hearing held by the Parliamentary Committee for Public Associations and Information Policy Affairs. Counterpart Consortium, including ICNL, conducted a National Advocacy Campaign using a series of roundtable discussions to direct support for the new amendments to Tax code just as the draft was coming to the Floor of the Parliament. However, not all the proposed changes to the tax code supported by ICNL were included in the amendments and, although this is a step forward, further work on improving the Tax Code and charity legislation is required to fully implement the aims of the reform.

Negative Provisions Eliminated from the Draft Amendments to the Civil Code - 2003
In April 2003 a special working group appointed by the President started working on reforming the Civil Code. Unfortunately, from what they proposed certain provisions could have been interpreted to: (i) prohibit NGOs from conducting economic activities directly, allowing these activities only by establishing a subsidiary; and, (ii) prohibit NGOs and political parties from receiving outside financial assistance (grants, donations etc.). The working group eliminated the confusing provisions from the draft after convincing arguments made by ICNL's expert.

Tajikistan

ICNL Opened Discussion on the Draft Law on Registration of Legal Entities – 2001
In 2000 the government initiated a new Law on Registration of Legal Entities. ICNL prepared comprehensive comments to help the drafters to improve the draft and distributed the draft law to all interested persons soliciting their comments. This is an important issue for all legal entities, including non-commercial organizations, since this new law will establish a single registration procedure for all legal persons operating in the Republic of Tajikistan. On March 26, ICNL held a roundtable for government drafters on issues of registration of legal entities and there was an article-by-article discussion of the draft law. As a result of this roundtable, the drafters were persuaded by several of the recommendations regarding how to make the draft more progressive, for example, admitted that the registration procedure for NGOs should be identical to the procedure for other legal entities, and not more difficult.

Presidential Decree to Prevent Abuse by Government Inspection Officials - 2001
Since summer the number of arbitrary "inspections" of non-commercial organizations has dropped dramatically. ICNL assisted NGOs in their advocacy campaign that sought to limit inspections of NGOs and business entities by persons who claimed to be government officials, but were in fact looking for bribes. The NGOs' efforts against improper inspections have played a key part in the adoption of the Presidential Decree No. 542 "On the Introduction of the Book of Registration of Inspections of Business Entities in the Republic

of Tajikistan" that was passed in March, 2001. By requiring that officials record their personal information in an inspection book held by NGOs, this Decree aims to fight corruption among government officials and prevent abuse of their power. ICNL has been educating NGOs about the provisions of presidential Decree and has provided individual consultations for organizations subjected to these arbitrary inspections.

Dramatic Increase in the Number of Registered NGOs - 2001[4]

ICNL technical assistance to government resulted in the issuance of the Government Resolution No. 132 (March 31, 2001) "On the Order of Collection and Amount of Registration Fees for the Registration of Public Associations and Political Parties in the Republic of Tajikistan." Since the resolution's promulgation registration fees for public associations have been significantly reduced. In accordance with the resolution, the registration fees for local public associations have dropped to about $25 from the previous rate of about $165, the fees for republican public associations have dropped to about $60 instead of about $240, and the fees for international public associations have been reduced to about $600 from the previous rate of over $700. The significant reductions in fees have provided an immediate impact on the growth of NGOs in Tajikistan. According to the data provided by the Tajik Ministry of Justice, the number of registered NGOs in Tajikistan increased dramatically in 2001 following the reduction of registration fees. The following chart illustrates the substantial increase of NGOs in Tajikistan.

Oblast	# of NGOs registered in 2001	% increase over prior totals	Total number of NGOs in the oblast
Dushanbe and districts of Republican subordination	179	25.8%	873
Sogdian Oblast	67	57.8%,	183
Khatlon Oblast	59	79.7%.	133
Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast	16	44.4%	52
Tajikistan Total	***321***	***25.9%***	***1,241***

Tajikistan President and NGOs Hold a Conference on Social Partnership Issues - 2002

On June 21, 2002, Counterpart Consortium held an International Conference on Social Partnership that was attended by the President Emomali Rahmonov of Tajikistan, cabinet ministers, parliamentarians, international organizations, and NGOs. The conference came as a result of an eight-month effort by Counterpart Consortium, ICNL, and the NGO community to obtain greater acknowledgement of the Third Sector's role in the reconstruction and development of Tajikistan. ICNL partner, Muatar Khaidarova, was a member of the working group that planned and organized the conference. ICNL also provided consultations to NGOs on legal issues and helped them prepare presentations for the conference. As a result of the conference, participants agreed to establish closer dialogue and cooperation, particularly at the local level, and work together on the resolution of the socio-economic problems of Tajikistan.

[4] This is not the first time ICNL's efforts in the country resulted in an improved registration climate for NGOs. A prior dramatic increase in the number of registered NGOs occurred in 1998, following the adoption of the Law on Public Associations. ICNL continues to work hard to improve the legal climate for NGOs in the country and is a member of several drafting groups working on new legislation in Tajikistan.

Law on State Registration of the Legal Entities was Signed by the President and Entered into Force - 2003

On April 22, 2003, the law "On state registration of the legal entities" was signed by the President. This law establishes a simplified single registration procedure for both commercial and some non-commercial legal entities. Among other improvements in the registration procedure the new law reduces non-commercial organization (NCO) registration fees and the period for consideration of the application. During 2002 to 2003, ICNL worked closely with the drafters providing them with technical assistance and helping them to make the drafting process transparent and participatory. Broad dissemination of the draft law and an educational campaign conducted by ICNL resulted in dozens of NGOs contributing to the drafting effort by presenting their comments and by participating in discussions of the draft law with the drafters in events organized by ICNL. The NGOs' advocacy campaign led to substantial improvements in the draft law. For example, provisions requiring yearly re-registration with a state fee payment and a burdensome registration procedure different from the procedure for commercial entities were eliminated under pressure from the campaign.

Law on Charitable Activity was Signed by the President and Entered into Force - 2003

In April 2003, the Law on Charitable Activity was signed by the President. The new law helps to improve implementation of the tax code provisions related to tax treatment of charities. Prior to adoption of this law the tax code provisions on tax benefits for charities were implemented inconsistently, as the tax code did not provide for a clear definition and a mechanism to distinguish between charities and other NGOs. For example, based on the interpretation of a "charitable organization", an NGO could have been taxed in one region, and exempt from tax in another region. Or, previously given tax benefits to NGOs could have been withdrawn with penalties levied, depending on the interpretation of the law by each particular tax inspector. From 2000 to 2002, ICNL worked to educate the NGO community and its legal experts on the issues of taxation and charitable status of NGOs, resulting in a grass roots initiative to draft a law providing a favorable regime for charities. Throughout the drafting process ICNL worked closely with the NGO-government working group providing it with recommendations on the draft law and helping to organize public discussions and public hearings.

Turkmenistan

ICNL Holds a Seminar on NGO Legislation for Turkmen NGOs - 2002

On April 5, 2002, ICNL in cooperation with Counterpart Consortium and with assistance from ABA held a seminar on "NGO Legislation" for Turkmenistan NGOs. The purpose of the seminar was to educate participants on Turkmenistan legislation governing noncommercial organizations and international best practices in NGO legislation. Twenty NGO representatives attended the seminar. ICNL's partner in Turkmenistan presented the basics of NGO legislation and the reasons governments across the world support the development of a strong non-profit sector. Turkmenistan legislation was analyzed in detail and participants discussed the difficulties in registering as a non-commercial organization. Another section of the seminar was dedicated to social partnerships between the government and NGOs. The participants were divided into small groups and they worked on examining a model NGO-government partnership project. The participants designed the mission for the organization, its management structure, and its projects. The idea was to show participants that they could present their projects not only to international donors, but to government officials as well. As a resource book, the ICNL book Comparative Research and Legislation on Social Partnership Issues was provided to participants.

ICNL Holds a Series of Seminars on NGO-Government Social Partnerships - 2002
On May 28-31, ICNL held a series of seminars on "NGO-Government Social Partnerships" in three Turkmen cities: Ashgabad, Dashoguz, Turkmenabat. The seminar was sponsored by the Global Training Development/USAID and was attended by 88 participants representing the government, NGOs, and business entities in Turkmenistan. Counterpart Consortium provided assistance in organizing the seminar and selecting seminar participants. The goal of the seminar was to develop a concept of NGO-government partnerships and educate the participants on general types of cooperation between governments, NGOs, and business entities, international experience with public participation, and mechanisms of state support of NGOs (subsidies, grants, state procurement). The participants also examined Turkmen legislation Turkmen legislation and compared it with international best practices. The participants were provided ICNL books on Legal Mechanisms of Public Financing of Noncommercial Organizations, and Comparative Research and Legislation on Social Partnership Issues. The program was a great success. For the first time, NGOs and government officials in Turkmenistan met to discuss social partnership issues. The participants stated that this training provided an opportunity for them to establish contacts and discuss opportunities for cooperation as well as problems hindering such partnerships. Participants also noted that they increased their knowledge on civic organizations and the institutional and financial viability of social partnerships, and that they will try to use the new information to improve the technical and management capacities of their organizations.

Seminar "NGO Legislation in a Nutshell" - 2002
The one-day seminar was held in Ashgabad in the US Embassy at the United States Ambassador's behest after having been cancelled the night before by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The seminar was funded under the AED/START Project. This seminar was organized for NGO representatives to learn about the set of documents that regulate NGO activities in Turkmenistan; build local expertise on NGO legal issues, both international best-practice and local Turkmen law; strengthen democratic culture among citizens and target institutions through a better understanding of the rights and responsibilities of the third sector; prepare suggestions and recommendations to include into existing laws; and initiate new law. The seminar was opened with comments by the Ambassador Kennedy on the importance of a strong civil society in Turkmenistan and by OSCE Ambassador Paraschiva Badescu. ICNL's Program Director for Central Asia and Legal Consultant for Turkmenistan were the trainers. Participants discussed perspectives of developing the NGO Law in Turkmenistan. Recommendations made by the NGO-participants of the seminar will be reviewed in drafting a new NGO law. Participants noted that they increased their knowledge of NGO legislation. During the seminar the participants were provided with handouts on legislation regulating NGO's activity in Turkmenistan and materials on international best practices and books Comparative Evaluations and Laws on social partnership issues and Juridical mechanisms of state funding of non-commercial organizations.

Uzbekistan

Karaklpakstan Ministry of Justice Interested in Liberalizing NGO Registration - 2001
After attending ICNL's seminar on NGO law implementation that was conducted on September 5, 2001 in Nukus, the Minister and the Deputy Minister of Justice of the Republic of Karakalpakstan raised concerns about the need to revise the rules for the registration of NGOs in accordance with good international practices. As a result, ICNL received an official invitation from the Ministry of Justice to assist with developing new rules for registration of NGOs in Karakalpakstan.

Commentary on NGO Law Published – 2001

ICNL completed a project directed at the publication of a booklet with comments on the NGO law, including a comprehensive interpretation of the provisions of the new law. Utilization of this commentary has allowed more effective and progressive implementation of the NGO law provisions. Several governmental institutions contributed to its preparation. These contributions will provide the commentary with semi-official status and allow it to be used as manual for government officials carrying out registration and supervision of NGOs. The commentary was broadly distributed among NGOs to educate them about their rights based on the new law. The commentary helped NGOs to better understand the NGO law provisions, and thereby help to ensure more effective implementation of the law.

Draft Law on Public Foundations - 2001

ICNL received an alternative version of the draft law on Public Foundations that was prepared by a local NGO under the guidance of the Institute of Monitoring the Legislation within the Parliament. Remarkably the alternative draft has been prepared by the Legal Issues Research Center on voluntary basis, with no funding provided from the outside. This alternative version of the draft was submitted to the Uzbek Ministry of Justice (MoJ), which, in turn, used it as a basis for the further development of the law on Public Foundation. As a result of this process, the MoJ revised the draft and included several restrictive provisions, including a provision requiring 10 individuals as founders to establish a foundation. ICNL experts have worked hard on the recommendations to eliminate this and other restrictive provisions from the draft. The draft Law on Foundations is expected to be submitted to Parliament during the winter session in 2002.

The Draft Law on Public Foundations Is Approved by the Cabinet of Ministers - 2002

The draft law "On Public Foundation" received the Cabinet of Ministers' approval and should soon be submitted to Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan. The draft law is a result of a yearlong effort supported by ICNL. ICNL reviewed and provided commentary to numerous draft versions of the law, and ICNL organized a seminar and several roundtables to discuss the evolving drafts on the law. In January and June, 2002 ICNL also submitted commentaries to the different versions of the law. Although there was initially strong resistance from conservative officials at the Ministry of Justice who introduced several restrictive provisions, including a provision requiring 10 individuals as founders to establish a foundation, technical assistance by ICNL and hard work by the other law drafters has led to the removal of these restrictions and reintroduction of provisions favorable to the development of foundations in Uzbekistan. The draft law is expected to pass the first reading of Parliament in late 2003.

Methodological Guide on NGO Taxation and Accounting Published - 2002

ICNL and a group of experts from the Public Expert Council headed by G.M. Figlin have completed the work on the methodological guide on NGO taxation and accounting. The board of Open Society Institute Assistance Foundation – Uzbekistan has approved the publication of 2000 copies as well as issuance of 2000 CDs. The first page of the guide will be followed by a preface from first Deputy of chairman of Tax committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan. The guide will include both an analytical portion as well as examples of taxation, budgetary planning, and bookkeeping situations faced by NNOs. Normative – legal materials contained in the guide as of January 2003. The guide was be disseminated in 2003 among the Ministry of Finance, Oliy Majlis, Cabinet of Ministries, Ministry of Finance, Tax and Customs committees, international donors, and NGO by means of address delivery as well as seminars, round tables, etc.

V. Lessons Learned

Counterpart International

- Capacity building of CSSCs (ISOs) is a process, not an end in itself, requiring continuous attention to the changing environment.
- Absorptive capacity of the CSSC staff is critical to the rate of organizational growth and sustainability.
- Specialization of service provision within the CSSC networks will allow individual CSSCs to confine services to a realistic limit.
- Quality of client services and customer focus need to be a high priority and key for sustainability.
- Financial sustainability strategies need to be focused diversification of the funding base to create a better balance between internal and externally generated revenue.
- Performance-based management systems to support internal controls and reporting to donors need to be user-friendly and not so burdensome that they undermine quality of services to clients.
- Hubs need to evolve as customer-friendly and recognize their role as a service provider to the CSSCs.
- Setting of standards-of-excellence for CSSCs needs to be democratically decided by the CSSC network members and not imposed by the Hub.
- The ultimate role of the Hub within each country network needs to be democratically decided by the network members, which means that not all Hubs will evolve as the network association as a given, but rather as democratically elected.
- Leadership training and coaching are absolute requirements for CSSC sustainability.
- Leadership training and coaching are absolute requirements for the Hub/association.
- The governance structure for each country CSSC network needs to evolve through a democratic process for developing membership selection criteria, ethical standards of behavior and benefits of network membership.
- Network development is like partnership development: there needs to be shared vision, shared commitment to the mission, definition of roles and responsibilities of the members to each other and the association, transparency in decision making, transparency in financial accountability, and agreement on shared benefit.

ICNL

- Enabling legal environments for civil society strengthen government accountability. As civil society becomes stronger their issues more often reach government. This creates a far more participatory democracy than would be had otherwise in the traditionally autocratic rule in Central Asia. For example, in 2001 in Tajikistan NGO registration fees were decreased resulting to a 25% increase in the number of NGOs registered. This resolution was the result of continued pressure from civil society actors. One year later Counterpart sponsored a meeting between NGOs and the President at the President's request. A weak civil society could never have achieved having such a meeting, at which the President called on individual ministers to answer NGO questions directly and to resolve outstanding issues.

- Participatory Democracy and Coalition Building Make for Positive Change. ICNL has long supported the participatory technical assistance model. After working in Central Asia on USAID's civil society support initiative, ICNL can provide concrete examples of instances in which non-participatory initiatives have outright failed, resulted in negative trends, or in wasted efforts due to lack of implementation of new laws. ICNL's work, to the contrary, has focused on a consensus building advocacy model for engaging both civil society and government in the process of legislative change. In Kyrgyzstan, the participatory model has been critical. There the legislature and civil society have teamed up to defeat a series of regressive edicts and laws that would have severely restricted civil society, freedom of speech, and freedom of association. In Kazakhstan, a coalition of NGOs has been successful in pushing the Government to reconsider a new draft law.
- Demands from Civil Society Drive a Full-service Consultations Model. ICNL recognizes that the provision of consultations involves engaging local legal professionals with in-depth knowledge of the civil code, the tax code, real property law, labor law, laws governing non-commercial organizational forms, rules on registration, and constitutional law. In addition these legal specialists need to understand basic consulting skills, the importance of documentation, and the necessity for researching many questions prior to giving answers. Since 1997, ICNL has developed the local capacity to bring to bear this local expertise by making use of established networks and associations of lawyers.
- A Focus on Implementation Assistance is Vital. NGOs are not aware of their legal rights, and thus fail to use beneficial legal provisions (for example, the right to create subsidiaries with 100% of the subsidiary's income tax exempt). Due to mistrust and ignorance of the law government officials restrictively interpret legal provisions. While the statutory legislation is already in place and the tax legislation relating to NGOs significantly progressed, it is time to focus on implementation of laws.
- Dramatic Changes in the Legislative Environment are Made by Local Stakeholders. Irrespective of how competent foreign experts are, the most dramatic changes in the legislative environment are made through mass advocacy by NGOs. Groups like ICNL can and should facilitate and provide assistance, but changes are the result of an active civil society engaged and educated on issues of legal change.

VI. Recommendations

A. Regional

1. Further strengthen and formalize five countrywide Civil Society Support Center Networks to provide quality demand-driven services to local Civil Society Organizations and have the ability to contract directly with USAID and other international donors.

2. Enhance the accountability, transparency, professionalism and public image of Civil Society Organizations through community action grants, community development initiatives, improved service delivery, and advocating for the rights and interests of their clients and constituents;

3. Strengthen the organizational and financial sustainability of leading civil society organizations—CSSC network members and local NGOs—through tailored institutional and capacity development assistance, with an emphasis on self-financing, income-generating activities;

4. Develop an enabling environment for civil society by improving the legal framework and providing regular legal advice and services to support civil society organizations, specifically:

    a. Legal Technical Capacity Building: The five countries of Central Asia still suffer from a lack of a sufficient cadre of trained legal professionals. ICNL and other implementers of legal programs need to focus their activities on long-term training and attorney development.
    b. Legal Assistance to Civil Society Actors in Remote Communities: While each of the capitals, and Almaty, receive adequate support from international donors, more rural communities yet suffer from a lack of human capacity. Trainings in rural communities are rare and urban centers are favored. In a 2002 ICNL training on the NGO law of Tajikistan and International Good Practices in Khorog, Tajikistan, representatives of the local Ministry of Justice office and local civil society actors all commented that they rarely had such trainings. Ministry officials revealed that many times they were the last to know about law changes.
    c. Emphasis on Law Implementation Training and Publications: In Tajikistan more professional training and resources are required for government officials. This training can also take the form of booklets, such as the 2003 publication in conjunction with the Ministry of Justice on the "Law on State Registration of Legal Entities." This booklet published funded by USAID will serve as a resource to government officials, civil society actors, and even commercial interests. In Uzbekistan, the USAID/Open Society Institute sponsored guide to taxation developed by ICNL and a panel of local experts has served a critical role in educating NGOs and government as to the taxation and bookkeeping rules. In Kyrgyzstan there are plans to replicate this very successful publications model.
    d. Promotion of Basic Freedoms, such as the Freedom of Association: Over the last three years there have been attempts in Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, and Kazakhstan to restrict the freedom of association in legislation, regulations, and orders. The Central Asian countries are poised to turn forward, or back. Greater attention to the region by human rights organizations and legal

assistance organizations can ensure that individuals, and organizations, are aware of their legal rights and international norms. The protests in 2002 in Kyrgyzstan and the ongoing incidents in Uzbekistan against people engaged in civil disobedience stand-out as examples of violations of basic rights. Even registered organizations in Uzbekistan in 2003 faced government attempts to attack the existence of NGOs through enforcement of, until then, unused provisions of the law.

5. Improve cooperation between various Civil Society Organizations by establishing new and strengthening existing regional and sub-regional inter-organizational linkages; and

6. Increase the accountability and transparency of local governments and self-governing bodies through issue-based advocacy, social partnership and providing targeted capacity development support to local government officials.

B. Country Specific

Kazakhstan

Create and support a positive image of civil society and NGOs among the population, business and the state by increasing the quality of services, transparency and accountability by local NGOs and CBOs, establishing new and strengthening existing channels of cooperation between civil society, and improving the overall coordination and cooperation among civil society.

Kyrgyzstan

Deepen and strengthen democratic changes in the country, by promoting and supporting local and national level advocacy through local NGOs and their coalitions, strengthening existing and creating new links between NGOs and communities and ensuring effective cooperation and partnership within civil society and among civil society, State and business.

Tajikistan

Help local NGOs and CBOs identify the role of civil society in post-conflict society, to raise awareness and acceptance of this role by the State, local communities and international organizations.

Turkmenistan

Provide support to groups, organizations and citizens associated with civil society to keep them alive until legal and political conditions will be improved. Also, provide training and technical assistance to local NGOs and CBOs, and provide grants to participate in social partnership and community development activities.

Uzbekistan

Strengthen the overall capacity of Civil Society Organizations, particularly in democratic governance, constituency building and advocacy, and promote and support development and expansion of coalitions, networks, partnerships and associations. Counterpart will support the activities of established NGOs particularly where these are considered to have a special impact on the development of civil society.

COUNTERPART CONSORTIUM
PERFORMANCE PLAN
KAZAKHSTAN

	Year 2000		Year 2001				Year 2002				Year 2003	
Objectives and Results Indicators	**Target level by 9/30/2000**		**Target level by 3/31/2001**		**Target level by 9/30/2001**		**Target level by 3/31/2002**		**Target level by 9/30/2002**		**Target level by 3/31/2003**	
	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual
Objective 1 **LOCALIZATION** **Expand, strengthen and localize a sustainable network of autonomous Civil Society Support Centers that provide NGOs and other stakeholders with access to a comprehensive range of support services.**												
Indicators 1.1. A network of at least 7 local Civil Society Support Centers is established with a network structure that helps in coordinating its work and raising finances.	7 CSSCs identified	2 CSSCs established 2 additional CSSCs identified	7 CSSCs established	6 CSSCs established	Proposed network structure defined	Network structure defined with Hub center as a leading agency	Network mission, structure and decision-making process defined. 7th CSSC established	7th CSSC established. Network structure defined. Rules and procedures developed.	Network structure and decision-making process monitored for problems[1].	CSSCs' Quarterly Meetings are the instrument of decision-making process and monitoring for problems. Senior Management team is established in the Hub Center.	Network begins implementing network project.	Network implemented project "NGO web-portal (www.ngo.kz)".
1.2. The network operates successfully on its own during the third year of the Cooperative Agreement.					Key skills required for independent operation inventoried; training and TA interventions for needed skills planned	Training and TA planned and start implementing	Coordinated strategic plans for sustainability developed by network members.	Strategic Plans developed by CSSCs and hub center.	Network members coordinate review of strategic plans and revise them as necessary.	Coordinated strategic plan for network development is in the process of development	Network members coordinate review of strategic plans and revise them as necessary.	Network members revise strategic plans as necessary. Network Board is established. Strategic plan of the network is developed and managed by its Board.

Objectives and Results Indicators	Year 2000		Year 2001				Year 2002				Year 2003	
	Target level by 9/30/2000		Target level by 3/31/2001		Target level by 9/30/2001		Target level by 3/31/2002		Target level by 9/30/2002		Target level by 3/31/2003	
	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual
1.3. By the end of the Cooperative Agreement, each Civil Society Support Center in the network regularly provides support to at least 15 NGOs, CBOs, initiative groups/month and has at least 20 new visitors/month.			Baseline establishe d	Baseline established	Support to 5 NGOs (CBOs)/ 5 new visitors per month on average	Achieved	Support to 10 NGOs (CBOs)/ 10 new visitors per month on average	Support to 29 NGOs and CBOs/13 new visitors per month on average	Support to 15 NGOs (CBOs)/ 15 new visitors per month on average	Support to 37 NGOs (CBOs)/10 new visitors per month on average	Support sustained for 15 NGOs (CBOs)/ 20 new visitors per month on average	Support to 51 NGOs (CBOs)/ 9 new visitors per month on average[2]
1.4. The hub of the network passes a pre-award audit by USAID. The individual Support Centers are able to account for their own finances. The Hub of the network is registered as a possible recipient of USAID direct grants.			Audit instrumen t defined in collaborat ion with the Regional Office	Audit instrument defined and tested on the hub office in collaboratio n with the Regional Office	Baseline established by conducting mock audit with CSSCs	Baseline established	Baseline established by conducting mock audit with the hub of the network	Baseline established	Training and TA provided to the hub of the network in areas of need indicated by mock audit	1C program of accounting system is installed and currently is in process. All employee contracts are fixed according to local Law. Employee policy are adopted and introduced on the country level. Performan ce appraisal system is established . Financial staff are trained in the local tax issue.	The hub of the network passes audit	The first part of audit was held in January and the second part will be completed in April. CSSCs have an individual financial accounting system. The registration of the hub will be completed in April.
1.5. The hub of the network has a systematic capacity for administering grants to local NGOs for donors.			Training for CSSCs in financial reporting to donors held	Training was conducted in September 2001	CSSCs involved in Counterpar t grant-making process	CSSCs are involved as a first selection agency	CSSCs are involved in monitoring and evaluation of projects	42% CAG projects have monitored with CSSCs staff participatic	The Hub of the network has developed policies and procedures	USAID and European Commissio n identified as a potential major grant	Network receives funds to administe r grants to local NGOs	"Memoran dum on cooperatio n and interaction within CSSC network"

	Year 2000		Year 2001				Year 2002				Year 2003	
Objectives and Results Indicators	**Target level by 9/30/2000**		**Target level by 3/31/2001**		**Target level by 9/30/2001**		**Target level by 3/31/2002**		**Target level by 9/30/2002**		**Target level by 3/31/2003**	
	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual
								n	for administering grants to local NGOs for donors.	donors for the network. 5 CSSCs conducted local grant committees and gained knowledge of grant administrating		was signed. This memorandum demonstrates network's capacity and ability for administering country-wide grants based on partnership.

	Year 2000		Year 2001				Year 2002				Year 2003	
Objectives and Results Indicators	**Target level by 9/30/2000**		**Target level by 3/31/2001**		**Target level by 9/30/2001**		**Target level by 3/31/2002**		**Target level by 9/30/2002**		**Target level by 3/31/2003**	
	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual
<u>Objective 2</u> **COMMUNITY OUTREACH** **Engage communities in solving local problems through facilitation of social partnerships, issue-based coalitions, media support to NGOs and resource assistance to community-based organizations in their attempts to advocate on local issues.**												
Indicators 2.1. Each Civil Society Support Center conducts at least 6 PCAs in communities resulting in at least 4 community-initiated projects per center per year. (This will apply after one year of operations)			CSSCs trained in PCAs	CSSCs trained in PCA and CAPs	3 PCAs conducted/ 2 projects per established CSSC	All PCAs are conducted. 11 CAGs are approved.	3 PCAs conducted/2 projects per CSSC (total cumulative 6 PCAs/ 4projects per center per year)	All planned PCAs conducted. 19 CAGs are approved cumulative	3 PCAs conducted/ 2 projects per CSSC	All PCAs conducted 33 CAGs are approved (total cumulative 55 CAGs)	3 PCAs conducted/2 projects per CSSC (total cumulative 6 PCAs/ 4projects per center per year)	Total cumulative for 2 years 166 PCAs conducted/ 55 CAGs are approved, 51 projects completed
2.2. Roundtables, conferences, training and outreach done by support centers result in at least five issue-based coalitions and at least five social partnership projects throughout the country by the end of the Cooperative Agreement.					Community outreach plans are developed by each center.	Community Outreach plans are on the way of development	2 coalitions/ 2 social partnership projects	8 coalitions are established/6 social partnership projects are developed	2 coalitions (total cumulative 4)/ 2 social partnership projects (total cumulative 4)	15 coalitions are established (total cumulative 23) / 20 social projects are developed (total cumulative 26)	1 coalition (total 5)/ 1 social partnership project (total cumulative 5)	9 coalitions are established (total cumulative 32)/ 10 social projects are developed (total cumulative 36)
2.3. At least 25 NGOs and CBOs with a support of CSSCs will launch at least one significant advocacy campaign with emphasis on local and oblast level issues by the end of the Cooperative Agreement.					5 campaigns	5 campaigns done	5 campaigns (10 cumulative total)	5 campaigns done (10 cumulative total)	10 campaigns (20 cumulative total)	15 campaigns done (total cumulative 25)	5 campaigns (25 cumulative total)	9 campaigns (34 cumulative total)

	Year 2000		Year 2001				Year 2002				Year 2003	
Objectives and Results Indicators	**Target level by 9/30/2000**		**Target level by 3/31/2001**		**Target level by 9/30/2001**		**Target level by 3/31/2002**		**Target level by 9/30/2002**		**Target level by 3/31/2003**	
	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual
2.4 Each Civil Society Support Center facilitates recruitment of at least 10 volunteers per year to work with local NGOs (beginning after one year of operation).			Needs among NGOs identified, CSSCs trained in Volunteerism	Needs among NGOs identified Volunteerism training for CSSCs postponed**.	5 volunteers per each center	3 volunteers per each center[2]	5 volunteers per each center (10 cumulative total)	5 volunteers per each center	5 volunteers per each center (15 commulative total)	12 volunteers per each center (20 commulative total)	5 volunteers per each center (20 cumulative total)	4 volunteers per each center (24 cumulative total)
<u>Objective 3</u> **CIVIL SOCIETY TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE** **Expand and localize training and technical assistance capacity in Kazakhstan to help civil society organizations become more sustainable and better able to advocate their interests at the local and national levels.**												

	Year 2000		Year 2001				Year 2002				Year 2003	
Objectives and Results Indicators	**Target level by 9/30/2000**		**Target level by 3/31/2001**		**Target level by 9/30/2001**		**Target level by 3/31/2002**		**Target level by 9/30/2002**		**Target level by 3/31/2003**	
	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual
Indicators 3.1. By the end of the Cooperative Agreement, the hub office will be able to provide training and consultations in the following areas: governance, financial accountability, fundraising, membership development, advocacy, PCA, volunteerism, facilitation skills, social partnership.			Staff of the hub office trained in facilitation skills,, PCA, volunteerism,	Staff of the hub office trained in facilitation skills,, PCA, volunteerism,	Staff of the hub office trained in advocacy, funraising, governance & social partnership	Staff of the hub office trained in advocacy, financial accountability	Staff of the hub office trained in governance	Staff of the hub office trained in governance and in Public Awareness Campaign	Staff of the hub office trained in membership development, social partnership	Staff of the hub office trained and conducted advanced Fundraising and Social Partnership for CSSCs. Training Basic OD consulting skills was also conducted for CSSCs	Indicator fully achieved	Indicator fully achieved
3.2. All of the Civil Society Support Centers in the Kazakhstan association will have capacity to assess training needs of local NGOs, CBOs and provide training and consultation in the basic not-for-profit sector's concepts covered by Counterpart 16 basic modules by the end of the Cooperative Agreement.			Assessment of CSSCs' capacity in providing training, consultations and assessing needs of NGOs conducted	Assessment of CSSCs' capacity in providing training, consultations and assessing needs of NGOs conducted	Each CSSC have capacity to provide consultations and/or training in 4 basic concepts	Each CSSC provides trainings and consultations in 4 basic concepts	Each CSSC have capacity to provide consultations and/or training in 4 basic concepts (total 8)	Each CSSC provides trainings and consultations in 4 basic concepts (total 8)	Each CSSC have capacity to provide consultations and/or training in 4 basic concepts (total 12)	5 CSSCs achieved an indicator. 2 CSSCs trainers have a capacity to conduct 13 basic trainings	Indicator fully achieved. Each CSSC have capacity to provide consultations and/or training in 16 basic concepts	All CSSCs have capacity to provide consultations and/or trainings in 16 basic concepts.

	Year 2000		Year 2001				Year 2002				Year 2003	
Objectives and Results Indicators	**Target level by 9/30/2000**		**Target level by 3/31/2001**		**Target level by 9/30/2001**		**Target level by 3/31/2002**		**Target level by 9/30/2002**		**Target level by 3/31/2003**	
<u>Objective 4</u> **GRANT PROGRAM** **Provide support for projects that assist civil society organizations in gaining a larger grassroots constituency and developing more sustainable, effective and accountable organizational and governance structures.**												
Indicators 4.1 7 Civil Society Support Centers are able to provide the full list of services outlined in the Counterpart proposal to USAID by the second year of the proposal [3]			Established CSSCs provide at least 3 services	Established CSSCs provide at least 3 services	CSSCs provide at least 6 services	CSSCs provide at least 6 services	CSSCs provide the full list of services	CSSCs are able to provide the full list of services	The indicator sustained	The indicator sustained. Training "Participatory monitoring and evaluation" was conducted for CSSCs	The indicator sustained	The indicator sustained
4.2. At least 30% of the community-based projects initiated and implemented by Civic organizations (NGOs, CBOs, GROs) will be sustainable after their completion.[4]			CSSCs trained in project design and development	CSSCs trained in project design and development	System for measuring projects' sustainability developed. CAG program started	System for measuring projects' sustainability developed. CAG program started	CSSCs trained in basic monitoring and evaluation.	CSSCs trained in basic monitoring and evaluation. 3 CSSCs trained on the participatory monitoring and evaluation.	Completed projects evaluated in terms of their sustainability (at least 30% of them show sustainability)	8 projects were evaluated. 5 of it (63%) showed sustainability of projects	All the projects evaluated in terms of their sustainability (at least 30% of them show sustainability)	Follow up evaluation of 6 CAG projects showed 100% sustainability5
4.3. Civil Society Support Centers and Focus NGOs show a 25% improvement in score on an OD Assessment Tool.			Baseline established	Baseline established	5% increase	OD Reassessment in the process	10% increase (total)	Second OD reassessment done. 8,72% average increase of organization rating/ 5,34% average increase of Counterpart rating.	20 % increase (total)	Third OD reassessment done. 17,28% increase (total) 18,76% average increase of organization rating/ 15,79% average increase of Counterpart rating.	25 % increase (total)	Forth OD reassessment done. Increase 19.92% (total) 17.52 % average increase of organization rating/ 22.31% average increase of Counterpart rating.

[1] Self-monitoring by network members as a group.
[2] The number of the new visitors reduced, as Centres reached their potential clients within their current outreach area.
[3] List of Services includes: training, consultation, information, community outreach, volunteerism, advocacy, M&E, partnership facilitation, representation for international NGOs (fee for services)
[4] This indicator refers to the projects funded through Community Action Grants Program that is to be implemented through CSSCs.
[5] Sustainability of the project is defined during follow-up evaluation according to the following criterias:

Physical Criterias:

- Status of Project Outcomes/Results - Functioning (Fully or at least Partially).
- Implementation of Sustainability Plan.

Institutional Criterias:

- Ownership of Project Outputs is defined.
- A project implementing organization (NGO/CBO/CIG is actively involved in project sustainability.

The follow-up evaluation is carried out after 6 months of project completion. To date 51 of 55 CAG projects are completed, 26 of 51 projects had close-out evaluation, and 6 project among these 26 have gone through the follow-up evaluation.

COUNTERPART CONSORTIUM
PERFORMANCE PLAN
KYRGYZSTAN

	Year 2000		Year 2001				Year 2002				Year 2003	
Objectives and Results Indicators	**Target level by 9/30/2000**		**Target level by 3/31/2001**		**Target level by 9/30/2001**		**Target level by 3/31/2002**		**Target level by 9/30/2002**		**Target level by 3/31/2003**	
	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual
Objective 1 **LOCALIZATION** **Expand, strengthen and localize a sustainable network of autonomous Civil Society Support Centers that provide NGOs and other stakeholders with access to a comprehensive range of support services.**												
Indicators 1. A network of at least 6 local Civil Society Support Centers is established with a network structure that helps in coordinating its work and raising finances.	4 CSSCs established 2 CSSCs identified	5 CSSCs established 2 additional CSSCs identified	6 CSSCs establishe d (total)	10 CSSCs established (USAID, EU and UNHCR funding)	Proposed network governan ce structure defined	Network vision defined, CSSCs developed strat. plans with network component	Network mission, structure and decision-making process defined.	The CSSCs' Associatio n's of 7 members Statute, defining mission, structure and responsibil ities, developed. Regulation s of the informal network of 12 members developed (*).	Network structure and decision-making process monitored for problems[i].	The regist. papers of the CSSCs' Associatio n are being prepared. The Assoc. Coordinati on Board was elected.	Network begins implement ing network project.	The CSSCs' Association was registered. Its executive body was elected. The Soros Foundation provided $55,518 to the network members to provide services to NGOs.
2. The network operates successfully on its own during the third year of the Cooperative Agreement.					Key skills required for independ ent operation inventori ed; training and TA	Training needs of CSSCs identified CSSCs trained in Strategic Planning CSSCs	Coordinat ed strategic plans for sustainabil ity developed by network members.	The Associatio n members started developing a sustainabili ty strategy	Network members coordinate review of strategic plans and revise them as necessary.	The strategic plans of the Associatio n members are being revised.	Network members coordinate review of strategic plans and revise them as necessary.	The strategic plan and internal procedures for CSSCs' Association were drafted. 7 of 9 Association members revised their

[i] Self-monitoring by network members as a group.

	Year 2000		Year 2001				Year 2002				Year 2003	
Objectives and Results Indicators	**Target level by 9/30/2000**		**Target level by 3/31/2001**		**Target level by 9/30/2001**		**Target level by 3/31/2002**		**Target level by 9/30/2002**		**Target level by 3/31/2003**	
	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual
					interventions for needed skills planned	drafted Action Plans for Capacity Building						strategic plans, the other 2 have been revising them.
3. By the end of the Cooperative Agreement, each Civil Society Support Center in the network regularly provides support to at least 20 NGOs/CBOs, initiative groups/month and has at least 10 new visitors/month..			Baseline established	Baseline Data collected	Support to 5 NGOs (CBOs)/ 5 new visitors per month on average	Support to 20 NGOs (CBOs)/ 10 new visitors per month on average	Support to 10 NGOs (CBOs)/ 10 new visitors per month on average	Support to at least 25 NGOs (CBOs)/ at least 16 new visitors per month on average	Support to 15 NGOs (CBOs)/ 10 new visitors per month on average	Support to at least 30 NGOs (CBOs)/ at least 36 new visitors per month on average	Support sustained for 20 NGOs (CBOs)/ 10 new visitors per month on average	Support provided to at least 40 NGOs (CBOs)/ at least 24 new visitors per month on average
4. The Hub of the network passes a pre-award audit by USAID. The individual Support Centers are able to account for their own finances. The Hub of the network is registered as a possible recipient of USAID direct grants.			Audit instrument defined in collaboration with the Regional Office	9 CSSCs (of 10 CSSCs) use local accounting standards (in order to pass audit)	Baseline established by conducting mock audit with CSSCs	Existing internal procedures reviewed, CSSCs of KR, NR, JA and OS trained in Financial Acountability	Written financial and internal control procedures are in place	Written financial procedures drafted. Internal procedures were drafted and are finalized to ensure compliance with the local legislation	Self-asssment completed. Routine financial reviews of Hub by Regional Office	Financial procedures and internal policies are in place. Internal OD assessment for the Hub Office was conducted by the Regional Office. Change Mgmt Team was formed to address identified gaps.	Routine financial reviews of Support Centers by Hub Office with spot checks by Regional Office. Request for Pre-Award Audit to USAID.	The monitoring of CSSCs' financial procedures by the Hub Office indicated that all of them obey local bookkeeping standards.
5. The hub of the network/association has a systematic capacity for administering grants to local NGOs for donors.			Training for CSSCs in financial reporting to donors held	The training postponed for 2nd quarter of 2001	CSSCs involved in Counterpart grant-making process	6 CSSCs trained in Project Planning and Evaluation CAG funds have been	Written procedures of grant processes are in place.	Written procedures of grant process are in place. The CSSC of Batken conducted	The Hub of the network has developed policies and procedures for	Grant-making procedures have been fully localized. Relevant expertise was	Network receives funds to administer grants to local NGOs.	The CSSCs' Association takes an active part in administering Soros grants-solicitation, consultation,

	Year 2000		Year 2001				Year 2002				Year 2003	
Objectives and Results Indicators	**Target level by 9/30/2000**		**Target level by 3/31/2001**		**Target level by 9/30/2001**		**Target level by 3/31/2002**		**Target level by 9/30/2002**		**Target level by 3/31/2003**	
	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual
						channeled through CSSCs CSSCs conduct M&E, and report on all CAGs		the first meeting of the grant committee on peace building initiatives	administering grants to local NGOs for donors.	transferred to 11 local grant review committees.		monitoring. The Association members were transferred full responsibility on administering CAGs including decision on grants.

	Year 2000		Year 2001				Year 2002				Year 2003	
Objectives and Results Indicators	**Target level by 9/30/2000**		**Target level by 3/31/2001**		**Target level by 9/30/2001**		**Target level by 3/31/2002**		**Target level by 9/30/2002**		**Target level by 3/31/2003**	
	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual
<u>Objective 2</u> **COMMUNITY OUTREACH** **To develop empowered communities that can partner to address community issues, advocate for their interests, and are recognized and valued by local authorities as effective partners in development by providing targeted support to NGOs in advocating and promoting grassroots community development.**												
Indicators 1. Each Civil Society Support Center conducts at least 5 PCAs in communities resulting in at least 4 community initiated projects per CSSC per year. (For new centers this will apply after one year of operations)			CSSCs trained in PCAs	CSSC trained in PCA and each of them conducted at least 1 PCA	3 PCAs conducted/2 projects per established CSSC	5 PCAs conducted/ 3 projects per established CSSC	4 PCAs conducted/ 2 projects per CSSC	CSSCs conducted 2 PCAs each in 2002, total 7 PCAs conducted/ 3 projects per CSSC (*)	5 PCAs conducted/ 3 projects per CSSC	CSSCs conducted 9 PCAs each in 2002/ 7 projects per CSSC in 2002	5 PCAs conducted/ 4 projects per CSSC	CSSCs conducted 2 PCAs each in 2003 (cumulatively 16 PCAs each in 2001-03)/ 13 projects cumulatively per CSSC in 2001-03
2. Roundtables, conferences, training and outreach done by support centers result in at least five issue-based coalitions and at least five policy-based social partnership projects throughout the country by the end of the Cooperative Agreement.					Community outreach plans are developed by each center.	Community outreach plans were finalized by each center The plans are being successfully implemented.	2 coalitions/ 2 social partnership projects	3 coalitions/ 2 social partnership projects	2 coalitions (total cumulative 4)/ 2 social partnership projects (total cumulative 4)	1 coalitions (total cumulative 4)/ 4 social partnership projects (total cumulative 6)	1 coalition (total 5)/ 1 social partnership project (total cumulative 5)	1 coalition (total cumulative 5)/ 3 social partnership projects (total cumulative 9)
3. At least 20 NGOs and CBOs with a support of CSSCs will launch at least one significant advocacy campaign with emphasis on local and oblast level issues by the end of the Cooperative Agreement.					5 campaigns	4 campaigns	5 campaigns (10 cumulative total)	5 campaigns (9 cumulative total)	5 campaigns (15 cumulative total)	8 campaigns (17 cumulative total)	5 campaigns (20 cumulative total)	4 campaigns (21 cumulative total)
4. Each Civil Society Support Center facilitates recruitment of at least 10 volunteers per year to work with local NGOs (beginning after one year of operation).			Needs among NGOs identified, CSSCs trained in Volunteerism	CSSCs trained in Volunteerism	5 volunteers per each center	6 volunteers per each center	5 volunteers per each center (10 cumulative total)	3 volunteers per each center (9 cumulative total)	5 volunteers per each center (15 cumulative total)	8 volunteers per each center (17 cumulative total)	5 volunteers per each center (20 cumulative total)	5 volunteers per each center (22 cumulative total)

	Year 2000		Year 2001				Year 2002				Year 2003	
Objectives and Results Indicators	**Target level by 9/30/2000**		**Target level by 3/31/2001**		**Target level by 9/30/2001**		**Target level by 3/31/2002**		**Target level by 9/30/2002**		**Target level by 3/31/2003**	
	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual
Objective 3 **CIVIL SOCIETY TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE** **Expand and localize training and technical assistance capacity in Kyrgyzstan to help civil society organizations become more sustainable and better able to advocate their interests at the local and national levels.**												
Indicators 1. By the end of the Cooperative Agreement, the hub office will be able to provide training and/or consultations in the following areas: governance, financial accountability, fundraising, membership development, advocacy, PCA, volunteerism, facilitation skills, social partnership.			Staff of the hub office trained in facilitation skills,, PCA, volunteerism	Staff of the hub office got new skills in facilitation, PCA, and volunteerism	Staff of the hub office trained in advocacy, fundraising, governance, social partnership	Since the Phase 3 started, the hub office staff trained in advocacy, fundraising, governance, social partnership	Staff of the hub office trained in membership development, financial accountability	Staff of the hub office trained in financial accountability, facilitation skills, governance and basic mgmt& performance appraisal	Indicator fully achieved	Staff of the hub office trained in social partnership Indicator fully achieved.		
2. All of the Civil Society Support Centers in the Kyrgyzstan association will have capacity to assess training needs of local NGOs, CBOs and provide training and consultation in the basic not-for-profit sector's concepts covered by Counterpart 16 basic modules by the end of the Cooperative Agreement.			Assessment of CSSCs' capacity in providing training, consultations and assessing needs of NGOs conducted	OD assessment, including service delivery components, conducted for 8 CSSCs	Each CSSC have capacity to provide consultations and/or training in 4 basic concepts	Each CSSC have capacity to provide consultations and/or training in at least 4 basic concepts	Each CSSC have capacity to provide consultations and/or training in 4 basic concepts (total 8)	Each CSSC have capacity to provide consultations and/or training in 3 basic concepts (total at least 7)	Each CSSC have capacity to provide consultations and/or training in 4 basic concepts (total 12)	Each CSSC have capacity to provide consultations and/or training in 8 basic concepts (total 15)	Indicator fully achieved. Each CSSC have capacity to provide consultations and/or training in 16 basic concepts	Fully achieved. Each CSSC have capacity to provide consultations and/or training in 16 basic concepts
Objective 4 **GRANT PROGRAM** **Provide support for projects that assist civil society organizations in gaining a larger grassroots constituency and developing more sustainable, effective and accountable organizational and governance structures.**												
Indicators 1. 6 Civil Society Support Centers are able to provide the full list of services outlined in the Counterpart proposal to USAID by the second year of the proposal[i]			Established CSSCs provide at least 3 services	CSSCs provide at least 3 services	CSSCs provide at least 6 services	CSSCs provide 7 services	CSSCs are able to provide the full list of services	11 CSSCs are able to provide the full list of services	The indicator sustained	The indicator sustained	The indicator sustained	The indicator sustained

	Year 2000		Year 2001				Year 2002				Year 2003	
Objectives and Results Indicators	**Target level by 9/30/2000**		**Target level by 3/31/2001**		**Target level by 9/30/2001**		**Target level by 3/31/2002**		**Target level by 9/30/2002**		**Target level by 3/31/2003**	
	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual
2. At least 30% of the community-based projects initiated and implemented by Civic organizations (NGOs, CBOs, GRO) will be sustainable* after their completion.			CSSCs trained in project design and development	CSSCs' staff and local contract trainers conduct Project Design training wsps	System for measuring projects' sustainability developed. CAG program started	CAG program started Procedures for measuring project sustainability developed and incorporated to application form, sustainability is crucial for approval	CSSCs trained in basic monitoring and evaluation.	CSSCs were coached in basic monitoring and evaluation and successfully monitor CAGs	Completed projects evaluated in terms of their sustainability (at least 30% of them show sustainability)	21 close-out and 5 follow-up evaluations have been conducted. The follow up evaluations indicated that 4 projects (80% of evaluated) have sufficient level of sustainability.	All the projects evaluated in terms of their sustainability (at least 30% of them show sustainability)	66 close-out and 20 follow-up evaluations have been conducted. The follow up evaluations indicated that 80% of evaluated projects have sufficient level of sustainability.
3. Civil Society Support Centers and Focus NGOs show a 25% improvement in score on an OD Assessment Tool			Baseline established	Baseline data collected	5% increase	Initial OD assessments conducted for 11 CSSCs and 4 Focus NGOs OD re-assessments conducted for 2 Focus NGOs, which had 10 % increase in score	10% increase (total)	Second round of OD assessments conducted for 11 CSSCs and 4 Focus NGOs They had 7 % increase in score (7 % in total)*	20 % increase (total)	Third round of OD assessments conducted for 11 CSSCs and 4 Focus NGOs They had no increase in score (7% in total)	25 % increase (total)	Fourth round of OD assessments conducted for 11 CSSCs and 4 Focus NGOs They total increase in score was 7.55%

[i] List of Services includes: training, consultation, information, community outreach, volunteerism, advocacy, M&E, partnership facilitation, representation for international NGOs (fee for services)

(*)Counterpart Kyrgyzstan did not reach performance indicator because of several factors: no considerable changes in the capacity of organization; high scores wrote down in the first assessments by clients and consultant; imperfect system of scoring; participation of different consultants in first and next OD assessments; increasing or decreasing scores of one area relatively to another one that is reflected in average scores.

COUNTERPART CONSORTIUM
PERFORMANCE PLAN
TAJIKISTAN

	Year 2000		Year 2001				Year 2002				Year 2003	
Objectives and Results Indicators	**Target level by 9/30/2000**		**Target level by 3/31/2001**		**Target level by 9/30/2001**		**Target level by 3/31/2002**		**Target level by 9/30/2002**		**Target level by 3/31/2003**	
	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual
Objective 1 **LOCALIZATION** **Expand, strengthen and localize a network of at least five Civil Society Support Centers that provide NGOs and other stakeholders with access to a comprehensive range of support services.**												
Indicators 1. A network of at least 5 local Civil Society Support Centers is established (including mini-centers) with an association structure that accounts for their work and helps in raising finances.	5 CSSCs identified	4 CSSCs established, 1 CSSC identified	5 CSSCs established	5 CSSCs established	Network Governance structure defined	Network Governance structure discussed but not defined	Network mission, structure and decision-making process defined.	Network mission, structure and decision-making process defined.	Network structure and decision-making process monitored for problems[i].	Network mission structure and decision-making process redefined. MOU between the Network members will be signed for the remaining period in November	Network submits network project.	Network submitted network project to the World Bank and received support. Sixth CSSC established in Panjakent
2. Each Civil Society Support Center has 75 visitations per month by the end of the Cooperative Agreement.			15 visitations/ per CSSC per month	18 visitations per CSSC per month	30 visitations/ per CSSC per month	32 visitations/ per CSSC per month	45 visitations/ per CSSC per month	45 visitations/ per CSSC per month	60 visitations/ per CSSC per month	72 visitations/ per CSSC per month	75 visitations/ per CSSC per month	128 visitations per CSSCper month

[i] Self-monitoring by network members as a group.

	Year 2000		Year 2001				Year 2002				Year 2003	
Objectives and Results Indicators	**Target level by 9/30/2000**		**Target level by 3/31/2001**		**Target level by 9/30/2001**		**Target level by 3/31/2002**		**Target level by 9/30/2002**		**Target level by 3/31/2003**	
	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual
3. If feasible, the Hub of the network passes a pre-award audit by USAID. The individual Support Centers are able to account for their own finances. The Hub of the network is registered as a possible recipient of USAID direct grants.			Audit instrument defined in collaborati on with the Regional Office	Audit instrument defined and tested on the hub office in collaborati on with the Regional Office	Baseline established by conducting mock audit with CSSCs	Baseline established by conducting mock audit with CSSCs	Baseline established by conducting mock audit with the hub of the network	Baseline established by conducting mock audit with the hub of the network	Training and TA provided to the hub of the network in areas of need indicated by mock audit	Additional consultatio ns were provided to the Hub by the Regional Office in areas of Control Environme nt Checklist	Training and TA provided to the CSSCs in areas of need indicated in Control Environm nt Checklist	Training and TA provided to two CSSCs in areas of need indicated in Control Environm nt Checklist Training and TA will be provided to 3 other CSSCs
4. If feasible, the hub of the network has a systematic capacity for administering grants to local NGOs for donors.			Training for CSSCs in financial reporting to donors held	Training postponed till May 2001	CSSCs involved in Counterpar t grant-making process	CSSCs involved in Counterpar t grant-making process	Potential grant donors identified for the network	Potential grant donors identified for the network	The Hub of the Network has developed policies and procedures for administeri ng grants to local NGOs for donors	The Hub of the Network has developed Guidelines for administeri ng grants to NGOs and communiti es for donors. The Hub will develop a policy on signing contracts with donors	Network receives funds to administer grants to local NGOs	2 CSSCs localized their grant program/h ave capacity to administer grants independe ntly. 3 CSSCs administer grants with Hub's assistance.

	Year 2000		Year 2001				Year 2002				Year 2003	
Objectives and Results Indicators	**Target level by 9/30/2000**		**Target level by 3/31/2001**		**Target level by 9/30/2001**		**Target level by 3/31/2002**		**Target level by 9/30/2002**		**Target level by 3/31/2003**	
	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual
<u>Objective 2</u> **COMMUNITY OUTREACH** **Foster an increased number of NGOs and CBOs in increased locations around Tajikistan to foster peace building/civil society initiatives throughout the country.**												
Indicators 1. Each Civil Society Support Center conducts at least 8 interventions including PCAs, PRAs, problem ID workshops in communities resulting in at least 4 community initiated projects per CSSC per year. (For new centers this will apply after one year of operations).			CSSCs trained in PCAs	CSSCs trained in Problem ID*	4 PCAs conducted/ 2 projects per established CSSC	2 PCAs conducted/ 1 projects per established CSSC	4 PCAs conducted/ 2 projects per CSSC (total cumulative 8 PCAs/ 4projects per center per year)	4 PCAs conducted/ 2 projects per CSSC (total cumulative 8 PCAs/ 4projects per center per year)	2 projects per CSSC	3 projects per CSSC	Total cumulative 8 PCAs conducted and 4 CAGs per CSSC/ a total of 40 PCA and 20 CAGs	Total cumulative 15 PCAs conducted and 10 CAGs per CSSC/a total of 75 PCAs and 50 CAGs
2. Roundtables, conferences, training and outreach done by each support center results in at least three issue-based coalitions and at least three social partnership projects focused on issues involving the peace process and development of civil society by the end of the Cooperative Agreement.					Community outreach plans are developed by each center.	Community outreach plans are developed by each center.	2 coalitions/ 2 social partnership projects	2 coalitions/ 2 social partnership projects	2 coalitions (total cumulative 4)/ 2 social partnership projects (total cumulative 4)	2 coalitions (total cumulative 4) 3 partnership projects (total cumulative 5)	3 coalition/ 3 social Partnership projects	5 coalition/ 4 social Partnership projects
3. At least 3 NGOs and CBOs with a support of CSSCs will launch at least one advocacy campaign involving the peace process and development of civil society by the end of the Cooperative Agreement.					1 campaign	0 campaign	2 campaign (total)	2 campaign	2 campaigns (total)	2 campaigns (total 4)	3 campaigns (total)	6 campaigns (total)
4. Each Civil Society Support Center facilitates recruitment of at least 10 volunteers per year to work with local NGOs (beginning after one year of operation).			Needs among NGOs identified, CSSCs trained in Volunteerism	Training in Volunteerism postponed till June 2001	5 volunteers per each center	5 volunteers per each center	5 volunteers per each center (10 cumulative total)	5 volunteers per each center (10 cumulative total)	5 volunteers per each center (15 cumulative total)	5 volunteers per each center (15 cumulative total)	5 volunteers per each center (20 cumulative total)	7 volunteers per each center (22 cumulative total)

* The training in Problem Identification was developed by Tajikistan office and includes the elements of PCA methods. It is planned to conduct in May 2001.

	Year 2000		Year 2001				Year 2002				Year 2003	
Objectives and Results Indicators	**Target level by 9/30/2000**		**Target level by 3/31/2001**		**Target level by 9/30/2001**		**Target level by 3/31/2002**		**Target level by 9/30/2002**		**Target level by 3/31/2003**	
	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual
<u>Objective 3</u> **CIVIL SOCIETY TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE** **Expand and localize training and technical assistance capacity in Tajikistan to help civil society organizations become more sustainable and better able to support the peace process at all levels.**												
1. By the end of the Cooperative Agreement, the hub center will be able to provide training and consultations in the following areas: governance, financial accountability, fundraising, membership development, advocacy, PCA, volunteerism, facilitation skills, social partnership.			Staff of the hub office trained in facilitation skills,, PCA, volunteeris m	Staff of the hub office trained in facilitation skills, PCA, volunteeris m	Staff of the hub office trained in advocacy, fundraisin g, governanc e, social partnership	Staff of the hub office trained in advocacy, fundraisin g, governanc e, social partnership	Staff of the hub office trained in membersh p developme nt, financial accountabi lity	Staff of the hub office trained in financial accountabi lity	Indicator fully achieved	Staff of the hub office trained in all the topics except Membersh ip Developm ent.	Indicator fully achieved.	Staff of the hub office trained in all topics.
2. All of the Civil Society Support Centers in the Tajikistan network will have capacity to assess training needs of local NGOs, CBOs and provide training and consultation in the basic not-for-profit sector's concepts covered by Counterpart 16 basic modules by the end of the Cooperative Agreement.			Assessmen t of CSSCs' capacity in providing training, consultatic ns and assessing needs of NGOs conducted	Assessmen t of CSSCs' capacity in providing training, consultatic ns and assessing needs of NGOs conducted	Each CSSC has capacity to provide consultatio ns and/or training in 4 basic concepts	Each CSSC has capacity to provide consultatio ns and/or training in 4 basic concepts	Each CSSC have capacity to provide consultatic ns and/or training in 4 basic concepts (total 8)	Each CSSC has capacity to provide consultatic ns and/or training in 4 basic concepts (total 8)	Each CSSC has capacity to provide consultatio ns and/or training in 4 basic concepts (total 12)	Each CSSC has capacity to provide consultatio ns and/or training in 6 basic concepts (total 14)	Indicator fully achieved. Each CSSC has capacity to provide consultatic ns and/or training in 16 basic concepts	4 CSSCs achieved the indicator. 1 CSSC will achieve the indicator by June 1, 2003.
<u>Objective 4</u> **GRANT PROGRAM** **Provide support for projects that assist civil society organizations in gaining a larger grassroots constituency and developing more sustainable, effective and accountable organizational and governance structures.**												
Indicators 1. 5 Civil Society Support Center s provide the full list of services outlined in the Counterpart proposal to USAID by the end of the Cooperative Agreement.			Establishe d CSSCs provide at least 3 services	Establishe d CSSCs provide at least 3 services	CSSCs provide at least 4 services	CSSCs provide at least 5 services	CSSCs provide at least 6 services	CSSCs provide at least 6 services	CSSCs provide at least 7 services	CSSCs provide at least 8 services	CSSCs provide the full list of services (9)	CSSCs provide the full list of services (9)

	Year 2000		Year 2001				Year 2002				Year 2003	
Objectives and Results Indicators	**Target level by 9/30/2000**		**Target level by 3/31/2001**		**Target level by 9/30/2001**		**Target level by 3/31/2002**		**Target level by 9/30/2002**		**Target level by 3/31/2003**	
	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual
2. At least 30% of the community-based projects initiated and implemented by Civic organizations (NGOs, CBOs, GROs) will be sustainable after their completion.[i]			CSSCs trained in project design and developme nt	CSSCs trained in project design and developme nt	System for measuring projects' sustainabil ity developed.	System for measuring projects' sustainabil ity developed.	CSSCs trained in basic monitoring and evaluation.	Not trained. The training will be in May.	Completed projects evaluated in terms of their sustainabil ity (at least 30% of them show sustainabil ity)	6 projects evaluated after their completion in terms of sustainabil ity (4, 75% of them show sustainabil ity. Starting from November follow-up evaluation will be conducted with all the projects.	All the projects evaluated in terms of their sustainabil ity (at least 30% of them show sustainabil ity)	Close out evaluation was conducted with 19 projects and follow up evaluation was conducted with 2 projects. Both projects met sustainabil ity criteria.
3. Civil Society Support Centers show a 20% improvement in score on an OD Assessment Tool by the end of the Cooperative Agreement.			Baseline establishec	Establishm ent of the baseline postponed till April-May 2001	5% increase	5% increase	10% increase (total)	10% increase (total)	15 % increase (total)	82% increase (total)	20 % increase (total)	82% increase (total)

[i] This indicator refers to the projects funded through Community Action Grants Program that is to be implemented through CSSCs.

COUNTERPART CONSORTIUM
PERFORMANCE PLAN
TURKMENISTAN

	Year 2000		Year 2001				Year 2002				Year 2003	
Objectives and Results Indicators	**Target level by 9/30/2000**		**Target level by 3/31/2001**		**Target level by 9/30/2001**		**Target level by 3/31/2002**		**Target level by 9/30/2002**		**Target level by 3/31/2003**	
	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual
<u>Objective 1</u> **LOCALIZATION** **Expand, strengthen and localize a network of Civil Society Support Centers that provide NGOs and other stakeholders with access to a comprehensive range of support services.**												
Indicators 1.1 A network of at least 4 local Civil Society Support Centers is established with a network structure that helps its work and raising finances.	4 CSSCs identified	2 CSSCs established (Ashgabat CSSC is a part of the hub office, RC Manger and intern fulfill functions)	4CSSCs established	2 CSSCs established (Ashgabat and Dashoguz), 2 CSSCs (Mary and Lebap) staff hired and office equipped	Governance structure defined	Draft structure defined	Network mission, structure and decision-making process defined. 3 CSSCs are established.	Network mission, structure and decision-making process defined. 3 CSSCs are established	Network structure and decision-making process monitored for problems[i]. 4 CSSCs are established.	Network structure and decision-making process monitored for problems[i]. 3 CSSCs are established.	Network submits network project.	Developed the strategy for the next three years and submitted the project ideas as apart of the regional project to USAID
1.2 Each Civil Society Support Center in the network increases its visitation by 30% in the second year and 50% by the end of the Cooperative Agreement.	Develop baseline	Baseline developed	Baseline established	Baseline in Mary and Lebap established, Dashoguz increased visitations by 24%, Ashgabat decreased by 19% ***(See footnote	Visitation increased by 15%	Indicator fully achieved	Visitation increased 30% (total)	Indicator fully achieved	Visitation increased by 40% (total)	Indicator fully achieved	Visitation increased by 50% (total)	Visitation increased in average by 317%. (total)

[i] Self-monitoring by network members as a group.
[i] Self-monitoring by network members as a group.

	Year 2000		Year 2001				Year 2002				Year 2003	
Objectives and Results Indicators	**Target level by 9/30/2000**		**Target level by 3/31/2001**		**Target level by 9/30/2001**		**Target level by 3/31/2002**		**Target level by 9/30/2002**		**Target level by 3/31/2003**	
	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual
				note [1] below for explanation of decrease)								
1.3. If feasible, the hub of the network/association passes a pre-award audit by USAID. The individual Support Centers are able to account for their own finances. The Hub of the network is registered as a possible recipient of USAID direct grants.	Audit financial and grant system	Financial and grant system were audited by Regional Financial Director	Audit instrument defined in collaboration with the Regional Office	Finance and Grant team trained by regional office in a new accounting system "Quick books"	Baseline established by conducting mock audit with CSSCs	3 CSSCs passed through Institutional Grant documentations audit by CCT Grant Manager and Regional Financial Manager	Baseline established by conducting mock audit with the hub of the network	Hub office passed two internal audit conducted by Regional Financial Director	Training and TA provided to the hub of the network in areas of need indicated by mock audit	Training and TA provided to the hub of the network in areas of need indicated by mock audit	The hub of the network passes audit	The hub of country network passed USAID's limited financial audit
1.4. If feasible, the hub of the network has a systematic capacity for administering grants to local NGOs for donors.			Training for CSSCs in financial reporting to donors held	Hub office staff participated in Donor reporting, Internal control training conducted by Regional Financial Director	CSSCs involved in Counterpart grant-making process, revision of categories, criteria for selection, and grant committee criteria design	CSSCs involved in Counterpart grant-making process, revision of categories, criteria for selection, and grant committee criteria design	Potential grant donors identified for the network	Potential grant donors identified. The list of donors is available	The Hub of the network has developed policies and procedures for administering grants to local NGOs for donors	The Hub of the network has developed policies and procedures for administering grants to local NGOs for donors	Network receives funds to administer grants to local NGOs	Hub of the country network received funds to administer grants to local NGOs and communities (three months extension)

[1] .

Objectives and Results Indicators	Year 2000		Year 2001				Year 2002				Year 2003	
	Target level by 9/30/2000		Target level by 3/31/2001		Target level by 9/30/2001		Target level by 3/31/2002		Target level by 9/30/2002		Target level by 3/31/2003	
	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual
<u>Objective 2</u> **COMMUNITY OUTREACH** **Engage communities in solving local problems through facilitation of social partnerships, issue-based coalitions, media support to NGOs and resource assistance to community-based organizations.**												
Indicators **2.1.** Civil Society Support Centers conduct at least 24 PCAs per year in communities resulting in at least 12 community initiated projects . (For new centers this will apply after one year of operations)	Develop community mobilization strategy	Community mobilization strategy developed	CSSCs trained in PCAs	At least one staff person in each of the 4 CSSCs trained in PCA orientation training and field work. (Both Dashoguz CSSC staffers trained in this area)	4 PCAs conducted /2 projects per established CSSC	10 PCA conducted, 6 CAG granted by Dashoguz CSSC, 11 PCA conducted, 10 CAG granted by Lebap CSSC, *14 PCA initiated, but interrupted in Mary, 4 PCA initiated, by interrupted in Buzmein (Ahal velayt)*	4 PCAs conducted/2 projects per CSSC (total cumulative 8 PCAs	Indicator fully achieved. In addition one CAP and CAG developed in Lebap velayt (Etbash 'school)	4 PCAs conducted /2 projects per CSSC	14 PCA conducted/10 CAG projects developed by Ashgabat CSSC. 10 PCA conducted/5 CAG projects developed by Dashoguz CSSC. 6 PCA conducted/1 CAG project developed by Lebap CSSC.	4 PCAs conducted /2 projects per CSSC (total cumulative 8 PCAs/ 4projects per center per year)	56 PCA conducted, 41 CAGs awarded countrywide.
2.2. Roundtables, conferences, training and outreach done by support centers result in at least three issue-based community coalitions and at least ten social partnership projects throughout the country by the end of the Cooperative Agreement.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Community outreach plans are developed by each center.	Community outreach plans are developed by each center	1 coalition/ 3 social partnership projects	17 social partnership projects were developed and 16 completed by communities, initiatives groups, NGOs. 1 coalition to solve trash dump problem	1 coalition (total cumulative 2)/ 3 social partnership projects (total cumulative 6)	2 coalitions established. 15 social projects started.	1 coalition (total 3)/ 4 social partnership project (total cumulative 10)	Total cumulative 6 coalitions established; 32 social partnership projects carried out.

	Year 2000		Year 2001				Year 2002				Year 2003	
Objectives and Results Indicators	**Target level by 9/30/2000**		**Target level by 3/31/2001**		**Target level by 9/30/2001**		**Target level by 3/31/2002**		**Target level by 9/30/2002**		**Target level by 3/31/2003**	
	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual
								in Dashoguz was created.				
2.3 Each Civil Society Support Center facilitates recruitment of 10 volunteers per year to work with local NGOs (beginning after one year of operation).	Develop volunteerism strategy	Volunteerism strategy developed	Needs among NGOs identified, CSSCs trained in Volunteerism	Needs identified, Mary, Dashoguz and Ashgabat staff trained in Volunteerism	5 volunteers per each center	Dashoguz and Ashagabt CSSCs has 5 volunteers. Mary and Lebap CSSCs attracted 10 volunteers during implementation of pilot project in Darganata	5 volunteers per each center (10 cumulative total)	Ashgabat CSSC has 14, Lebap – 9 and Dashoguz 4 volunteers	5 volunteers per each center (15 cumulative total)	Ashkhabad CSSC has 22 volunteers. Dashoguz CSSC has 9 volunteers. Lebap CSSC has 22 volunteers.	5 volunteers per each center (20 cumulative total)	72 volunteers are at three CSSCs cumulative total.
<u>Objective 3</u> **CIVIL SOCIETY TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE** **Expand and localize training and technical assistance capacity in Turkmenistan to help the civil society organizations become more sustainable.**												

	Year 2000		Year 2001				Year 2002				Year 2003	
Objectives and Results Indicators	**Target level by 9/30/2000**		**Target level by 3/31/2001**		**Target level by 9/30/2001**		**Target level by 3/31/2002**		**Target level by 9/30/2002**		**Target level by 3/31/2003**	
	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual
3.1. By the end of the Cooperative Agreement, the hub center will be able to provide training and/or consultations in the following areas: governance, financial accountability, fundraising, membership development, advocacy, PCA, volunteerism, facilitation skills, social partnership.	Assess needs of staff in training and consultation	Staff's needs in training and consultation identified	Staff of the hub office trained in facilitation skills, PCA, volunteerism	Staff of the hub office and 3 CSCC staff trained in facilitation skills, PCA, volunteerism	Staff of the hub office trained in advocacy, funraising, governance, social partnership	Staff of the hub office and 3 CSSCs staff trained in advocacy, fundraising, governance, social partnership on regular CCT training	Staff of the hub office trained in membership development, financial accountability	Staff of the hub office trained in financial accountability	Indicator fully achieved	Indicator fully achieved [1]	Staff of the hub office trained in membership development	Staff of the hub office trained in membership development
3.2. All of the Civil Society Support Centers in the Turkmenistan network will have capacity to assess training needs of local NGOs, CBOs and provide training and consultation in the basic not-for-profit sector's concepts covered by Counterpart 16 basic modules by the end of the Cooperative Agreement.	Train 1 CSSC trained in tools in assessment of providing main services	1 CSSC trained in tools in assessment of providing main services	Assessment of CSSCs' capacity in providing training, consultations and assessing needs of NGOs conducted	OD assessment with Dashoguz CSSC conducted.	OD assessment of remaingin CSSCs accomplished.	OD assessment for Dashoguz CSSC started; second rating (assessment "end-point" tool) for Lebap and Dashoguz conducted	Each CSSC has capacity to provide consultations and/or training in 4 basic concepts (total 8)	Each CSSC has capacity to provide consultations and/or training in 4 basic concepts (total 8)	Each CSSC have capacity to provide consultations and/or training in 4 basic concepts (total 12)	Each CSSC has capacity to provide consultations and/or training in 4 basic concepts (total 12)	Indicator fully achieved. Country network has the capacity to provide consultations and/or training in 16 modules	Country Network of CSSCs has capacity to provide consultations and/or training in 16 modules
<u>Objective 4</u> **GRANT PROGRAM** **Increase the number of NGOs and CBOs which are receiving grants.** **Provide practical program management experience to NGO/initiative group.**												
Indicators 4.1. 4 Civil Society Support Centers are able to provide the full list of services outlined in the Counterpart proposal to USAID by the end of the Cooperative Agreementi	4 CSSCs identified	2 CSSCs established (Ashgabat CSSC is a part of the hub office)	Established CSSCs provide at least 3 services	4 CSSCs providing 3 services on the regular basis	CSSCs provide at least 4 services on a regular basis. [2] (**See footnote)	Dashoguz CSSC provides 5 services, Mary and Lebap 4 services.	CSSCs provide at least 6 services	CSSCs provide at least 6 services	CSSCs provide at least 7 services	CSSCs provide at least 7 services	CSSCs provide at least 7 services	CSSCs provide at least 7 services

	Year 2000		Year 2001				Year 2002				Year 2003	
Objectives and Results Indicators	**Target level by 9/30/2000**		**Target level by 3/31/2001**		**Target level by 9/30/2001**		**Target level by 3/31/2002**		**Target level by 9/30/2002**		**Target level by 3/31/2003**	
	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual
4.2. At least 30% of the community-based projects initiated and implemented by Civic organizations (NGOs, CBOs, GROs) will be sustainable after their completion.	CSSCs staff is familiarized with criteria and conditions of different types of grants.	CSSCs staff knows well criteria and conditions of different types of grants.	CSSCs trained in project design and development	3 CSSCs trained in project design and development. Lebap CSSC got orientation training	System for measuring projects' sustainability developed.	All necessary documents for Support Grants and CAG in place	CSSCs trained in basic monitoring and evaluation.	Lebap and Dashoguz CSSCs trained in basic monitoring and evaluation	Completed projects evaluated in terms of their sustainability (at least 30% of them show sustainability)	11 of 16 completed CAG project evaluated and show sustainability	All the projects evaluated in terms of their sustainability (at least 30% of them show sustainability)	13 evaluated CAGs from 16 are sustainable (81%).
4.3. Civil Society Support Centers show a 20% improvement in score on an OD Assessment Tool by the end of the Cooperative Agreement.	Develop baseline	Baseline developed	Baseline established	Baseline for 4 CSSCs established using assessment "end-point" tool with staff of each CSSC	5% increase	3,7 % for Dashoguz CSSC, 79% for Lebap CSSC	10% increase (total)	Lebap CSSC improved score on 15,38 %, Dashoguz CSSC decreased their score on 57,14%.	15 % increase (total)	Lebap CSSC improved score on 256 % and Dashoguz CSSC on 19%.	20 % increase (total)	Targeted TA fully provided by Country Network HUB to CSSCs

Performance Plan Narrative.

Objective 1.

Indicator 1.1. Due to the unfavorable legislative base in Turkmenistan, the network has not registered formally and currently exists as one organization with the Hub center and CSSCs having status of branches **.** The strategy for the next three years developed and the project ideas submitted as a part of the regional project to USAID. The draft Organizational chart , the Internal policy and guidelines are in place. The three CSSCs (Ashgabat, Dashoguz, Lebap) are operational. The fourth CSSC in Balkan welayat is identified and will be operational by the end of June, 2003 (extension period).

Indicator 1.3. The hub of country network passed USAID's limited financial audit .

Indicator 1.4. Hub of the country network received funds to administer grants to local NGOs and communities (three months extension). Local donors UNHCR, UNICEF, British Embassy, New Zeeland Embassy in Moscow are cooperating via small scale grant programs to strengthen the existing CSSCs network capacity (award of computers, copy machines, trainings etc.)

Objective 2.
Indicator 2.1 56 PCA conducted, 41 CAGs awarded countrywide including 7 CAG projects co-funded with UNHCR. Particularly:

Dashoguz CSSC for three years of operation conducted 20 PCA, 11 CAG projects implemented by communities.
Lebap CSSC for two years of operation carried out 22 PCA, 20 CAG projects implemented by communities.
Ashgabat CSSC conducted 14 PCA and 10 CAG projects implemented by communities.

Indicator 2.2. Indicator fully achieved. Total cumulative 6 coalitions established; 32 social partnership projects carried out. Particularly:
Ashgabat CSSC supported NGOs and communities in development and implementation of 12 social partnership projects and 3 coalitions.
Lebap CSSC supported NGOs and communities in development and implementation of 11 social partnership projects.
Dashoguz CSSC supported NGOs and communities in development and implementation of 9 social partnership projects and 3 coalitions.

Indicator 2.3. Indicator fully achieved. For reporting period :

Ashgabad CSSC has 49 volunteers.
Dashoguz CSSC has 14 volunteers.
Lebap CSSC has 11 volunteers.

Total for the country network: 72 volunteers.

Objective 3.
Indicator 3.1. Staff of the hub office trained in membership development through participation in training regional. Hub office is able to provide consultation and/or training on all indicated areas: governance, financial accountability, fundraising, membership development, advocacy, PCA, volunteerism, facilitation skills, social partnership

Indicator 3.2. Country network of CSSCs has capacity to provide consultations and/or training in 16 basic not-for-profit sector development concepts. Particularly:
Ashgabat CSSC - 16 training modules, Lebap - 3 training modules, Dashoguz - 4 training modules.

The diversity of CSSCs' capacity is determined by specifics of NGOs/Initiative groups development in different areas of the country. The Counterpart trainers' pool is made of members of local advanced NGOs. At present, the majority of advanced NGOs are concentrated in the capital city of Ashgabat. The lack of training modules in Turkmen and Turkmen speaking trainers also contributed to the diversity in CSSCs' capacity. However, Country network staff and contract trainers are able to conduct additional trainings in different areas, such as Using Internet & Email, Web Page Development.

Objective 4.
Indicator 4.1. All three CSSCs in Dashoguz, Lebal and Akhal velayts have capacity and provide on a regular basis 7 types of services – consultation, information, community mobilization, training, volunteerism, social partnership, monitoring. The lack of favorable legislative environment in Turkmenistan made difficult to enhance the capacity of CSSCs in areas such as fee-for service, advocacy.

Indicator 4.2. 31 CAG projects from 34 are completed (evaluated and monitored.). 2 CAG project in Lebap , 1 CAG projects in Dashoguz were delayed because of unexpected winter weather circumstances and they will be completed by end of May, 2003 .

13 out of conducted 16 CAG post project evaluations (after the six month from the date of completion) were marked as sustainable (38% from the total number).

Indicator 4.3. Targeted TA fully provided by Country Network HUB to CSSCs.

Improvement in score on an OD Assessment Tool conducted semiannually resulted with

Lebap CSSC : 355% (self evaluation) and 362% (OD consultancy evaluation).

Dashoguz CSSC : 114% (self evaluation) and 250% (OD consultancy evaluation)

Ashgabat CSSC : Baseline is established. The OD scoring is done only after one year of independent operations of CSSCs.

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COUNTERPART CONSORTIUM
PERFORMANCE PLAN
UZBEKISTAN

	Year 2000		**Year 2001**				**Year 2002**				**Year 2003**	
Objectives and Results Indicators	**Target level by 9/30/2000**		**Target level by 3/31/2001**		**Target level by 9/30/2001**		**Target level by 3/31/2002**		**Target level by 9/30/2002**		**Target level by 3/31/2003**	
	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual
Objective 1 **LOCALIZATION** **Expand, strengthen and localize a sustainable network of Civil Society Support Centers that provide NGOs and other stakeholders with access to a comprehensive range of support services.**												
Indicators 1. A network of at least 7 local Civil Society Support Centers is established with a network structure that helps in coordinating its work and raising finances.	7 CSSCs identified	4 CSSCs established (Tashkent CSSC is a part of the hub office)	7 CSSCs establishec	5 CSSCs establishec	Proposed association governanc e structure defined	7 CSSCs established Proposed association governanc e structure defined	Network mission, structure and decision-making process defined.	Network mission, structure and decision-making process defined.	Network structure and decision-making process monitored for problems[i].	Network structure and decision-making process monitored for problems[i].	Network submits network project.	Network submits network project. (we consider UNHCR, UNICEF projects as Network ones)
2. The network operates successfully with partial supervision by Regional office during the third year of the Cooperative Agreement.					Key skills required for independe nt operation inventorie d; training and TA interventio ns for needed skills planned	Key skills required for independe nt operation inventorie d; training and TA interventio ns for needed skills planned	Coordinat d strategic plans for sustainabil ity developed by network members.	Coordinat d strategic plans for sustainabil ity developed by network members.	Network members coordinate review of strategic plans and revise them as necessary.	Network members coordinate review of strategic plans and revise them as necessary.	Network members coordinate review of strategic plans and revise them as necessary.	Network members coordinate review of strategic plans and revise them as necessary.
3. By the end of the Cooperative Agreement, each Civil Society Support Center in the network regularly provides support to at least 25 NGOs, CBOs, initiative groups/month and has at least 5 new visitors.			Baseline establishec	Baseline establishec	Support to 5 NGOs (CBOs)/ 5 new visitors per month on average	Support to 24 NGOs (CBOs)/ 12 new visitors per month on average	Support to 10 NGOs (CBOs)/ 5 new visitors per month on average	Support to 60 NGOs (CBOs)/ 20 new visitors per month on average	Support to 15 NGOs (CBOs)/ 5 new visitors per month on average	Support to 52 NGOs (CBOs)/ 15 new visitors per month on average	Support sustained for 15 NGOs (CBOs)/ 5 new visitors per month on average	Support for NGOs raised up to 57 NGOs (CBOs)/ 14 new visitors per month on average

[i] Self-monitoring by network members as a group.
[i] Self-monitoring by network members as a group.

	Year 2000		Year 2001				Year 2002				Year 2003	
Objectives and Results Indicators	**Target level by 9/30/2000**		**Target level by 3/31/2001**		**Target level by 9/30/2001**		**Target level by 3/31/2002**		**Target level by 9/30/2002**		**Target level by 3/31/2003**	
	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual
4. The Hub of the network passes a pre-award audit by USAID. The individual Support Centers are able to account for their own finances. The Hub of the network is registered as a possible recipient of USAID direct grants.			Audit instrument defined in collaborati on with the Regional Office	Audit instrument not yet defined.	Baseline established by conducting mock audit with CSSCs	Audit instrument defined. Baseline to be established .	Baseline established by conducting mock audit with the hub of the network/ association	Baseline established by conducting mock audit with CSSCs. Baseline established by conducting mock audit with the Hub of the Network	Training and TA provided to the hub of the association in areas of need indicated by mock audit	Training and TA provided to the hub of the association in areas of need indicated by mock audit	The hub of the Associatio n passes audit	The hub of the Associatio n passed audit by USAID. (it was not pre-award audit)
5. The hub of the network/association has a systematic capacity for administering grants to local NGOs for donors.			Training for CSSCs in financial reporting to donors held	Training for CSSCs in financial reporting to donors held individuall y for each existing CSSC	CSSCs involved in Counterpar t grant-making process	CSSCs involved in Counterpar t grant-making process	Potential grant donors identified for the network	Potential grant donors identified for the network	The Hub of the network has developed policies and procedures for administeri ng grants to local NGOs for donors	The Hub of the network has developed policies and procedures for administeri ng grants to local NGOs for donors (not all the CSSC have the capacity to administer grants for NGOs)	Network receives funds to administer grants to local NGOs	Receiving funds is not achieved and may be not achievable by the end of extension period. CSSCs have capacity to administer grants for donors.
<u>Objective 2</u> **COMMUNITY OUTREACH** **Engage communities in solving local problems through facilitation of social partnerships, issue-based coalitions, media support to NGOs and resource assistance to community-based organizations in their attempts to advocate on local issues which includes makhallas as a potential partner.**												

	Year 2000		Year 2001				Year 2002				Year 2003	
Objectives and Results Indicators	**Target level by 9/30/2000**		**Target level by 3/31/2001**		**Target level by 9/30/2001**		**Target level by 3/31/2002**		**Target level by 9/30/2002**		**Target level by 3/31/2003**	
	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual
Indicators 1. Each Civil Society Support Center conducts at least 8 PCAs in communities resulting in at least 6 community initiated projects per center per year. (For new centers this will apply after one year of operations. This will include any PCAs conducted with support from the Makhalla Initiative.)	3 PCAs conducted/ 2 projects per established CSSC	5 PCAs conducted/ 3 CAPs developed/ 6 projects per established CSSC (total 14 PCAs, 8 CAPs and 18 projects for 3 CSSC)	5 PCAs/ 4 projects per established CSSC (total 8 PCAs/ 6 projects)	9 PCAs/ 6 CAPs/10 projects per established CSSC (total 26 PCAs, 17 CAPs, 30 projects for 3 CSSCs) (total for the year 14 PCA/9 CAPs/16 project for 3 CSSC)	4 PCAs conducted/ 3 projects per CSSC	6 PCAs / 6 CAPs/5 project per CSSC (43 PCAs, 43 CAPs and 33 projects for 7 CSSCs)	4 PCAs conducted/ 3 projects per CSSC (total cumulative 8 PCAs/ 6 projects per year)	6 PCAs/6 CAPs/ 3 projects per CSSC (44 PCAs, 39 CAPs and 23 projects for 7 CSSCs) (total for the year 12 PCAs/ 12 CAPs/ 8 projects for 7 CSSCs)	4 PCAs conducted/ 3 projects per CSSC	5 PCAs/4 CAPs/ 3 projects per CSSC	4 PCAs conducted/ 3 projects per CSSC (total cumulative 8 PCAs/ 6 projects per year)	2 PCAs/1 CAP conducted/ 3 projects per CSSC (total cumulative 7 PCAs/ 4 CAPs/ 6 projects per year)
2. Roundtables, conferences, training and outreach done by support centers result in at least five issue-based coalitions and at least five policy-based social partnership projects throughout the country by the end of the Cooperative Agreement.					Community outreach plans are developed by each center.	Community outreach plans are developed by each center.	2 coalitions/ 2 social partnership projects	5 coalitions/ 1 social partnership project	2 coalitions (total cumulative 4)/ 2 social partnership projects (total cumulative 4)	4 coalitions (total cumulative 9)/ 2 social partnership projects (total cumulative 3)	1 coalition (total 5)/ 1 social partnership project (total cumulative 5)	4 coalition (total 13)/ 3 social partnership project (total cumulative 6)
3. At least 15 NGOs and CBOs with a support of CSSCs will launch at least one significant advocacy campaign with emphasis on local and oblast level issues by the end of the Cooperative Agreement.					3 campaigns	3 campaigns	3 campaigns (6 cumulative total)	3 campaigns (6 cumulative total)	4 campaigns (10 cumulative total)	2 campaigns (8 cumulative total)	5 campaigns (15 cumulative total)	4 campaigns (12 cumulative total)
4. Each Civil Society Support Center facilitates recruitment of at least 10 volunteers per year to work with local NGOs (beginning after one year of operation).			Needs among NGOs identified, CSSCs trained in Volunteerism	CSSCs trained in Volunteerism	5 volunteers per each center	3 volunteers per each center	5 volunteers per each center (10 cumulative total)	5 volunteers per each center (8 cumulative total)	5 volunteers per each center (15 cumulative total)	3 volunteers per each center (11 cumulative total)	5 volunteers per each center (20 cumulative total)	6 volunteers per each center (17 cumulative total)
<u>Objective 3</u> **CIVIL SOCIETY TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE** **Expand and localize training and technical assistance capacity in Uzbekistan to help civil society organizations become more sustainable and better able to advocate their interests at the local and national levels.**												

	Year 2000		Year 2001				Year 2002				Year 2003	
Objectives and Results Indicators	**Target level by 9/30/2000**		**Target level by 3/31/2001**		**Target level by 9/30/2001**		**Target level by 3/31/2002**		**Target level by 9/30/2002**		**Target level by 3/31/2003**	
	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual
1. By the end of the Cooperative Agreement, the hub office will be able to provide training and/or consultations in the following areas: governance, financial accountability, fundraising, membership development, advocacy, PCA, volunteerism, facilitation skills, social partnership.			Staff of the hub office trained in facilitation skills,, PCA, volunteeris m	Staff of the hub office trained in facilitation skills,, PCA, volunteeris m	Staff of the hub office trained in advocacy, fundraisin g, governanc e, social part nership	Staff of the hub office trained in advocacy, fundraisin g governanc e, social partnership	Staff of the hub office trained in membersh p developme nt, financial accountabi lity	Staff of the hub office trained in financial accountabi lity; to be trained in membersh p developme nt	Indicator fully achieved	Staff of the hub office trained in all the areas excluding membershi p developme nt.	Indicator fully achieved.	Staff of the Hub office trained in all the areas.
2. All of the Civil Society Support Centers in the Uzbekistan association will have capacity to assess training needs of local NGOs, CBOs and provide training and consultation in the basic not-for-profit sector's concepts covered by Counterpart 16 basic modules by the end of the Cooperative Agreement.			Assessmen t of CSSCs' capacity in providing training, consultatic ns and assessing needs of NGOs conducted	Assessmen t of existing CSSCs' capacity in providing training, consultatic ns and assessing needs of NGOs conducted	Each CSSC has capacity to provide consultatio ns and/or training in 4 basic concepts	Each CSSC has capacity to provide consultatio ns and/or training in at least 4 basic concepts	Each CSSC has capacity to provide consultatic ns and/or training in 4 basic concepts (total 8)	Each CSSC has capacity to provide consultatic ns and/or training in 4 basic concepts (total 8)	Each CSSC has capacity to provide consultatio ns and/or training in 4 basic concepts (total 12)	Each CSSC has capacity to provide consultatio ns and/or training in 4 basic concepts (total 12)	Each CSSC has capacity to provide consultatic ns and/or training in 16 basic concepts	2 CSSCs achieved indicator. 4CSSCs will achieve the indicator by May 31, 2003 and 1CSSC by June 30 2003
<u>Objective 4</u> **GRANT PROGRAM** **Provide support for projects that assist Civil Society Organizations in gaining a larger grassroots constituency and developing more sustainable, effective and accountable organizational and governance structures.**												
Indicators 1. 7 Civil Society Support Centers are able to provide the full list of services outlined in the Counterpart proposal to USAID by the end of the Cooperative Agreement[i]			Establishe d CSSCs provide at least 3 services	Establishe d CSSCs provide at least 3 services	CSSCs provide at least 4 services	CSSCs provide at least 4 services	CSSCs provide at least 6 services	CSSCs provide at least 6 services	CSSCs provide at least 7 services	CSSCs provide at least 7 services	CSSCs provide the full list of services (9)	CSSCs provide the full list of services (9)
2. At least 30% of the community-based projects initiated and implemented by Civic organizations (NGOs, CBOs, GRO) will be sustainable after their completion.[ii]			CSSCs trained in project design and developme nt	CSSCs trained in project design and developme nt	System for measuring projects' sustainabil ity developed. CAG program started	System for measuring projects' sustainabil ity developed. CAG program started	CSSCs trained in basic monitoring and evaluation.	CSSCs trained in basic monitoring and evaluation.	Completed projects evaluated in terms of their sustainabil ity (at least 30 % of them show sustainabil ity)	Completed projects evaluated in terms of their sustainabil ity (at least 30 % of them show sustainabil ity).	All the projects evaluated in terms of their sustainabil ity (at least 30% of them show sustainabil ity)	Work Plan for Extension to evaluate all the projects implement ed has been developed

	Year 2000		Year 2001				Year 2002				Year 2003	
Objectives and Results Indicators	**Target level by 9/30/2000**		**Target level by 3/31/2001**		**Target level by 9/30/2001**		**Target level by 3/31/2002**		**Target level by 9/30/2002**		**Target level by 3/31/2003**	
	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual
3. Civil Society Support Centers and Focus NGOs show a 25% improvement in score on an OD Assessment Tool			Baseline established	Baseline established	5% increase	6.5% increase on average for all organizations	10% increase (total)	Third round has been just started	20 % increase (total)	10.57% Increase (total) after 3-d round of OD	25 % increase (total)	10.68% increase (total)

[i] List of Services includes: training, consultation, information, community outreach, volunteerism, advocacy, M&E, partnership facilitation, representation for international NGOs (fee for services)

[ii] This indicator refers to the projects funded through Community Action Grants Program that is to be implemented through CSSCs.

Democracy Impacts for Central Asia

April 1, 2000 to June 30, 2003

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COUNTERPART INTERNATIONAL, INC.

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Introduction

Since its inception in November 1994, over 1,000 documented impacts have been compiled to illustrate the effect of Counterpart Consortium[1] services that are offered to NGOs through Counterpart International's USAID-funded initiatives.

NGO achievements speak for themselves as the best reflection of the success of Counterpart's innovative approach to NGO capacity building, which helps NGOs contribute to a democratic civil society in a sustainable way. Throughout the region, NGOs are increasing citizen participation in the social, political and economic systems that are slowly developing into a democratic civil society.

Our purpose in compiling this document is to publicize the strength and vibrancy of the NGO sector in Central Asia. Some of the included impacts focus on successful NGO efforts to advocate for policy changes and engage government in being more responsive to the needs of its constituents. Others highlight the value of improved service delivery in improving the visibility and acceptance of NGOs in society. Others still illustrate the enhanced institutional capacity that is necessary for sustainability of the sector.

For additional information, please refer to the Counterpart International website at <http://www.counterpart.org> or the Counterpart Consortium website at <http://www.cango.net> or contact us directly at the numbers on the inside cover of this document.

[1] Counterpart Consortium is the functioning name of Counterpart International's civil society and NGO support programs throughout Central Asia. This title represents the collaborative efforts of organizations working in partnership with Counterpart International. Previous and current partners include Aid to Artisans, Citizen's Network on Foreign Affairs, Goodwill Industries, and the International Center for Not-for-Profit Law.

Counterpart Consortium Program of Civil Society and NGO Development Central Asia

Program Description

Building on the $17 million, 5-year, USAID-funded Counterpart Consortium NGO Support Initiative, this $12.2 million, 3-year, USAID-funded program, which began in April 2000, expands, strengthens and will localize support to civil society in Central Asia. This phase represents a major paradigm shift in Counterpart's activities in the region, evolving from direct service provision to the NGO community to intensive capacity building for a network of more than 33 Civil Society Support Centers (CSSCs). This approach builds on Counterpart's support activities beyond NGOs to include a far broader constituency of other community stakeholders. Moreover, this shift redirects the program's focus to organizations that are active on a community level, where there is greater potential for high impact community mobilization activities.

Alongside of the expansion and localization of the NGO support network itself, there is a simultaneous expansion of the breadth and depth of services offered. The services ensure that the following elements of the strategic framework are met:

- Advocacy: CSSCs are providing communities with the skills to advocate for change, including educating the public, facilitating dialogue and channeling action into change.
- Social Partnership: CSSCs seek to institutionalize the legislative, attitudinal and organizational framework for long-term cooperation among NGOs, media, government and business.
- Community Mobilization: Through the CSSCs, NGOs are being given the tools to activate communities to take charge of their own problems and start working on solutions.
- Volunteerism: CSSCs are introducing volunteerism as a strategy for mobilizing local resources to address community problems and create public "space" for citizen participation and influence.

Counterpart International Impact Highlights

Kazakhstan

You Can Teach Old Dogs New Tricks!
Founded over 30 years ago, the public organization *East Kazakhstan Oblast Society of Environment Preservation* is one of the oldest NGOs in the region. However, political changes and external reforms resulted in an ineffective management system that could no longer attract funds or retain members. The CSSC *ZUBR*, in coordination with the Society conducted a needs assessment and provided the necessary training in Human Resource Management, Fundraising, and the Art of Entrepreneurship. Consequently, the NGO restructured its management and has identified opportunities for financial sustainability, such as: opening a mini market called The Nature and providing services on a for-fee basis to the Bee Center. These revenue-generating activities have allowed the Society to expand its service by launching a series of ecological education programs for residents in Oskemen. Q2/03

The CSSC ZUBR Contributes to Sustainable Development of Youth Organization
Youth, particularly rural youth, have been disenfranchised as a result of the harsh economic transition in Kazakhstan. CSSC *ZUBR* provided technical and consulting assistance as well as a series of trainings in skills such as NGO & Community, Project Design, Personnel Management, Strategic Planning, Mass Media Outreach to a local youth initiative group allowing them to register as the *Association of Youth & Children Organizations*. The Association implements and contributes to state youth policy in East-Kazakhstan region and has developed a project proposal to Establish a Service Center to foster regular information exchange and create a social adaptation among rural youth. This proposal won a state-wide tender with a grant of $29,000 from the Ministry of Culture, Information & Public Accord of the Republic of Kazakhstan. One expected outcome of the project is that 20 newly trained experts of the Association's will provide over 400 young locals with complex consulting and educational services, thereby creating favorable economic conditions for youth. Q2/03

The NGO's Newly Developed Skills Contributes To Drug Prevention In Astana
Astana teenagers, unaware of the myriad of dangers associated with habitual drug use, are increasingly becoming addicted to drug usage. The CSSC *ASTRa* has provided training and technical assistance to the NGO *Private Fund Nachni Novuyu Zhuzn* ("Let The New Life Begin"), one of the key players in the field of drug and HIV/AIDS prevention. Using materials provided by the CSSC, the Fund developed educational modules adapted for teenagers, their parents and teachers to raise the level of awareness of the risks associated with drug use. Over the last four months 28 trained volunteers of the Fund have conducted 24 trainings on HIV/AIDS prevention targeting 364 local teens and their parents and teachers. As a result of the increased awareness, three Drug Prevention Centers were established in city schools to continue promoting a healthy lifestyle among Astana youth. Q2/03

Mission on Human Rights Proves NGOs are Good Resources for Government
Historically NGO and government dialogue has been initiated by NGOs, with state bodies unaware of the capacity of NGOs to build constituencies. Rarely are NGOs actively involved in concerted actions of the state. The public organization *Mission on Human Rights*, trained in Social Partnership by the CSSC ASTRa, established a relationship with the Department of Justice of Astana City and lobbied for obligatory human rights education for state officials. As a result, 150 representatives of juridical structures of the Astana Akimat and Ministry of Internal Affairs participated in the NGO's mini-seminars on the "Conception of Human Rights" and "Mechanisms for the Protection of Human Rights." The NGO proved its capacity as experts in the field of human rights and were invited by the Department of Justice to serve as members of forthcoming examination commission on testing state employees on human rights issues. Q2/03

Media, Government and Business Relations are Key

While a strong organization, the Qostanai branch of the Korean Association of Kazakhstan lacked skills and experience in social partnership with local state bodies and business structures. Assistance by the CSSC enabled the Association establish contacts with local officials, businessmen, and leaders of other youth organizations. Using skills developed through Counterpart trainings at the CSSC, the Association launched a multi-faceted public awareness campaign to educate the public about the problems of youth and to market the Association. The campaign included the following activities, conducted in close cooperation with local government, universities, and media: 1) the art contest *Children Against Terror* with participation of over 100 children; and 2) a *Martial Arts Festival* with the Kazakh Minister of Tourism & Sports as an official guest. As a result, the NGO has gained visibility and was noted as the only ethno-cultural center among the participants of the Social Fair held in Qostanai in April. Q2/03

Association Development Results in Beneficial Cooperation with the State

The Qostanai Housing Association faced difficulties attracting new members. Without a strong constituency, the Association was less effective at lobbying for change with various local state bodies. Recognizing this problem, the Association requested support from the Qostanai CSSC and received consultations and training in Association Development and Human Resource Management. Both members and nonmembers of the Association participated in the seminars. The result of these activities was a conscious decision to cooperate to solve existing problems. With the CSSC's support, the Association attracted five new member organizations who helped to subsequently mobilize over 1,000 community members as part of an advocacy campaign to plant neighborhood trees. In May the Association received government approval and began planting trees throughout the community. With trees planted, the Association is gearing up to address the growing parking needs in communities. Q2/03

NGOs Take Legislation to Heart

Legislative barriers are one of the greatest obstacles to NGO effectiveness. The *Joint Platform of Civil Society Organizations* (JPCSO), initiated by CSSC Network, IDC and YISK, formed to promote the development of effective state policy and legislation governing the activities of NGOs in Kazakhstan. In pursuit of its mission, the JPCSO designed and conducted a comprehensive campaign to promote greater participation of NGOs and independent experts in drafting the Law "On Non-Governmental Organizations." The campaign included meetings with local and national level government officials, press conferences, formal appeals and petititions, an up-to-date web site, and conferences. *JPCSO* gained support of over 200 Kazakhstan NGOs, including a number of NGO coalitions and associations such as the Confederation of Non-governmental Organizations of Kazakhstan, Eco Forum of Kazakhstan and Network of Independent Observers. As a result of the advocacy campaign, the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan has stopped an adoption of the Law and decided to send it to the Parliament in Fall 2003. Additionally, the Ministry of Culture, Information & Public Accord adjusted the Draft Law items that were strongly recommended for review. Q2/03

Training Sparks Change

Many of the rural areas of the Qaraghandy Oblast are not part of the process of civil society development as a result of the limited number of Kazakh-speaking experts in the NGO sector. The community level effect is inactive communities, few public organizations, and a shortage of financial resources for local needs. The CSSC EcoCenter conducted PCA exercises to identify initiative groups that could participate in seminars on NGO & Community and Project Design. The CSSC has Kazakh trainers who train over 16 community members from Egindybulaq, Qarqaralinsk, Nurken and Terekty villages. The initiative groups have subsequently started designing project proposals to address change in their communities. Q2/03

We Can Do It Ourselves
PCA exercises in the Besaghash Village of Almaty Oblast revealed the problem of adequate water supply. The CSSC ZHALGHAS-Counterpart facilitated a community meeting to address the problem, leading to an action plan that exclusively mobilized internal resources. Due to joint activity and efforts, the locals have built the embankment road 250 meters in length, and therefore, connecting their village with neighboring Duman. Q2/03

Tools for Success
The lack of farming machinery in the community *Incubator* in Almaty Oblast has resulted in a decrease in labor productivity. Using skills developed through consultations and training from the CSSC ZHALGHAS-Counterpart, an initiative group, jointly with public organization *Union of Rural Women of Talghar County* designed a community action plan. The subsequent project proposal was submitted to the Embassy of Canada, which granted $9,000 for the purchase of farming equipment. Q2/03

Community Mobilization Triggers Community Employment
High unemployment among disabled Afganistan War veterans was identified as a priority problem during PCA exercises facilitated by the CSSC ZHALGHAS-Counterpart in the Almaty oblast. The public organization *Almaty City Society of Invalid Veterans of War in Afghanistan* used skills developed through Counterpart's community outreach program and a number of CSSC trainings and consultations to design a community action plan. The resulting proposal was submitted to the Canadian Embassy and funded with $8,000 to establish joinery, providing jobs to 27 members. Q2/03

Mentally Disabled Children and Their Parents Receive New Social & Psychological Services
Only 47% of 4,400 mentally disabled children in Astana are involved in the formal education system. The others do not receive relevant assistance as their diagnosis was designated as an "inability to receive education". Their parents lack information and skills in methods of developing and educating mentally disabled children exacerbating the problem as incompetent correctional assistance only aggravates existing defects. After thorough trainings and consultations in NGO & Community and Project Design and seed money from the CSSC ASTRA a local initiative group formed the Center for Social Adaptation of Children. The Center received a grant from $6,500 grant from Soros-Kazakhstan Fund to implement the project All Children Are Loved & Equal, under which the Center is providing the service Socio-Psychological Assistance for Children with Mental Development Diseases for the 53% of children and their parents who otherwise are not receiving professional aid. Q1/03

CSSC Attracts New Investments to the Development Needs of Rural Areas in Semey Region
The Semey countryside faces a problem with sustainable development caused by a lack of mature rural organizations capable of mobilizing local resources and attracting external funds for local needs. As an active regional player in rural organizational development, the CSSC *IRIS*, signed a partnership agreement with the British organization *Mouche* in March 2003 to execute the joint DFID-funded project *Sustainable Land-Use*. According to the project's two-year framework, the CSSC will implement its activity in the villages of Sarzhal and Aqzhar, located in close proximity to a former nuclear testing site. The $20,000 project incorporates PCA/PRA research, CBO development, and community mobilization through the participatory design of an action plan on sustainable land use in the given counties. *IRIS'* involvement in this significant project was a result of CSSC staff and Hub Center consultants who designed the special OD program, including technical and consulting supports to the rural regions. As a result, Counterpart's OD consulting and assistance enabled the CSSC *IRIS* to strengthen its capacity in NGO/CBO development and expand its financial base. Q1/03

NGO Efforts Result in an Amendment to the Law on Welfare for Victims of Political Repressions
The 26th Clause of the Law *On Rehabilitation of Victims of Mass Political Repressions* from April 1993 was aimed to support all victims through state welfare programs. However, a Decree by the Ministry of Labor & Social Protection applied to only civilians who had been rehabilitated after the Law came into force in 1997. The *Association of Victims of Unlawful Repressions*, with skills developed through consultations and training by the CSSC *ASTRa*, conducted a number of advocacy and public awareness campaigns to appeal to the Ministry of Justice's Constitutional Council and the Department of the Public Prosecutor. The campaigns success can be demonstrated by the announcement by the Ministry of Justice on March 20, 2003 in Astana that the Law applies to persons who had been rehabilitated both before and after the 1997 date. Q1/03

Initiative Group Solves Local Problem by Establishing an NGO
In the Aqtobe region, there is a gap in the delivery of medical assistance to children in boarding schools, orphanages and children from vulnerable families. An initiative group of physicians committed to find alternative ways to solve this problem, and to develop organizational management skills to improve public health in the region. Through extensive training, consultations and technical assistance provided by the CSSC *SMEDA*, the initiative group was able to organize and register as a public fund *EMPRO*, which enables them to meet the demands of patients. The newly founded NGO has already conducted two charity campaigns and raised over 7,000 KZT ($46) for the needs of disabled children in the local kindergarten *Doctor Aibolit*. In addition, a New Year's party was organized for children from vulnerable families and gifts were given to 11 children. The NGO has enhanced its activities and is currently capable of providing regular consultations and medical assistance to local patients. To date, eight children with infant cerebral palsy have been provided with free medical assistance from the NGO. Q1/03

The NGOs Signs Memorandum on Cooperation with Ministry of Education
A significant number of NGOs still lack mutual understanding with state officials and, by extension, sustainable cooperation and partnership with state bodies. Nevertheless, Almaty-based public organizations *Ravny-Ravnomu* and the *Association of Children Rights Protection* established contact with the municipal Akimat and Departments of Public Health and Education to launch a healthcare program for local schoolchildren. *Ravnyi-Ravnomu* designed the program *Healthy Way of Life* for the the school audience, conducted correspondence and negotiations with state structures, and organized roundtables and conferences in Almaty, Astana and Aqtobe. With skills developed through Social Partnership trainings from *ZHALGHAS-Counterpart* the NGOs lobbied for the formation of Coordination Councils in the national government and the Akimat of Almaty, and signed a memorandum on cooperation with Ministry of Education. Supported by the Almaty Akimat, the NGOs promoted their joint project in the schools of Auezov District of Almaty-city and secured media coverage by the TV channel *Yuzhnaya Stolitsa*. Q1/03

Initiative Group of Saran's Vicinity Solves the Local Problems through the Project Expansion
Economic transition resulted in the decline of many countryside settlements in Kazakhstan, particularly the villages of Dubovka, Planovyi, Shakhta 106 of the Saran area of Qaraghandy Oblast. The resulting problems include a decline of communication infrastructure, a shortage of power and water supply, the disorganization of transportation, and a lack of medical aid service. A self-management committee was formed from an initiative group representing the three villages. The Committee organized a social center to meet local needs. Representatives of the CSSC *ECOCENTER* performed PCA and, jointly with the initiative group, designed a Community Action Plan and project proposal that lead to the project *Nash Dom*. The project enabled the community to open the social center and offer assistance to community members through medical aid, public dispensary, and legal consulting. As a result, over 2,500 community members received proper medical and legal assistance. Additionally, community members are able to gather in the center to discuss ongoing issues concerning community needs and the Akim First Deputy organized regular meetings between community members and state officials in the center to address quality of life issues. Q1/03

CSSC ZUBR Develops Social Partnership in the Region through Media Outreach
A major impediment to non-profit sector development is limited public awareness about NGO activities. This is particularly true in East Kazakhstan, where the larger public is generally not involved in NGO activities and the local government publicly underestimates the significance of NGOs. The latter is a major contributor to the diminished effectiveness of socially important programs in the region. The Oskemen CSSC *ZUBR*, having received consultations in *Mass Media Outreach*, *Constituency Building*, and *Social Partnership* by from the Hub Center, proposed a joint project on public awareness with the Oblast Department of Information & Public Accord. The project, commencing in March, calls for the design and publication of a special monthly article "Non-Profit Sector" in the regional newspaper *Rudnyi Altai*. This gives local NGOs an opportunity to present their activities to a broader audience and lay the foundation for higher level social partnerships in East Kazakhstan. Q1/03

Community Strengthens Cooperation with Local Government and an International Fund
A number of communities limit their resources strictly to the framework of Counterpart's *CAG* projects. However, during the CAG project *Greenhouse Construction* the NGO *Aq Bota* was able to extend its project with additional resources from the Israeli international fund *MASHAV* including a $1,400 drops irrigation system and free consulting by Israeli experts. *ZHALGHAS-Counterpart's* consulting and technical support enabled its partner NGO to mobilize resources in order to provide technical assistance to the project. Recently, MASHAV has provided *Aq Bota* with special materials required to save heat in the greenhouse. Through additional cooperation with the local municipal body, the NGO was able to register its documents at the proper time with no burden. Moreover, the Akimat of the Turksib District provided the community with transportation for the project's construction needs. Not only did the NGO implement a stronger project, but they also cultivated relationships with international organizations and the local government that will strengthen future programming. Q1/03

Water Supply Leads to Improvement of Well-Being in the Community
The community *Bes Aghash Village* of the Almaty Oblast highlighted inadequate water supply as a significant problem after participating in PCA exercises conducted by *BASPANA*. The NGO and the community participated in training sessions held by *ZHALGHAS* on *Community Mobilization* and *Project Design*, and have subsequently implemented a CAG to address the problem. As a result of project implementation, each of the sixty targeted households saved nearly 1,200 KZT ($8) on water utilization. In addition, the enterprising families have built saunas and launched small businesses of their own. To date, there are nine saunas to fulfill the needs of people from the neighboring villages. Q1/03

New Project Design Results in Innovate Methods of Interaction Between Educators and Wards
There is a lack of interaction and mutual understanding between educators and the 160 wards in Oskemen's *Youth Home*. This has lead to an increase in criminal offenses among minors. The public organization *Knigolyub* used their expertise in educational programming and to mobilize *Youth Home* employees to launch the joint project *Methods of Moral Education for Minors*. Taking part in seminars, summer school, and consulting services of the CSSC *ZUBR*, the NGOs designed a project that was funded by Soros-Kazakhstan with $407. As a result, an alternative system of interactive education was introduced in *Youths' Home*, involving 25 educators and 25 wards contributing to better relations. Q1/03

NGO Expands its Service Delivery through Fundraising
The Public Fund *Saqtan* lacked resources to develop effective training programs needed to address the prevention of HIV/AIDS in the Aqmola region. Due to Counterpart's trainings and seminars on interactive methods and technical support provided by the CSSC *ASTRA*, the Fund has strengthened its team, recruited new volunteers, and improved fundraising skills. These achievements have resulted in proper project design, and the attraction of additional funds in the sum of 400,000 KZT ($2,650) from the Embassy of the Netherlands. As a result, *Saqtan* purchased equipment for the training room in their HIV/AIDS Prevention Center, and is now able to introduce and conduct effective interactive trainings for its target groups. Q1/03

Association of Invalids Secures Reduction of State Registration Fees

The public organization *Stoik* was found in 1997 to render assistance to disabled people in the Stepnogorsk area of Aqmola Oblast. Since then the organization has been confronted by problems of exorbinant registration fees of 20 minimal monthly wage rates preventing it from fully registering as an NGO. The Astana CSSC *ASTRa* provided the Association with consultations and Advocacy training, which resulted in a petition to the Mazhilis Deputy to cut the fee rate. As a well-known civic-minded official and a member of *ASTRa*'s Board of Directors, the Deputy was able to advocate on behald of the NGO's interests. On January 15, 2003 the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan issued Decree No. 18 that set the state registration fee for public organizations of invalids at twice the monthly indexes (1,744 KZT = $11.55), that is ten times lower than the previous rate. Q1/03

NGO Advocated the Interests of Children & their Parents in the Sphere of Education

Recently, the Department of Education initiated a new system for rotating school directors in the schools of the Almaty Oblast. However, this new system had a negative impact on the education process, as it took a long time for pupils to adapt to the change of directors. Equipped with skills gained in Advocacy and Media Outreach trainings and TA from *ZHALGHAS-Counterpart*, the *Association to Protect Children's Rights* launched a public awareness campaign in October 2002 to encourage the Department to cancel the rotation program. Ultimately, by means of informational campaigns through mass media, support letters distribution to state bodies and the active involvement of influential *Confederation of NGOs of Kazakhstan* (CNOK), the rotation of school directors stopped in February 2003. Q1/03

Diabetic Association Develops its Branches and Improves Service Delivery

Counterpart`s focus organization - Diabetic Association of the Republic of Kazakhstan (DARK) is one of the advanced in social service delivery NGOs in the country. Notwithstanding this fact, the Association challenged complicated situation with organizational development in its regional branches and members as many of them could not cope with service delivery to diabetics in the framework of DARK`s standards. Since clients dissatisfied with service quality, it would lead to the image worsening of the entire organization. The given problem was clearly revealed during service quality analysis, conducted by Counterpart`s OD consultants. The NGO management staff was given a recommendation to rebuild and strengthen its relations with the regional branches and members. In addition, Counterpart`s consultants provided the NGO associates with specially designed consulting program on service quality improvement and organizational development in the NGO`s branches. Thus, for the first time, the NGO`s hub office managers carried out special regional site visits, conducting seminars, trainings and individual consultations to improve service delivery in the provinces. Due to financial and consulting support of Counterpart Kazakhstan, DARK was able to recover its state of affairs, set a proper service delivery, strengthen the reporting & planning systems and design the program of organizational development for the regional network. The positive tendency in DARK`s organizational development are reflected in the scale of its OD dynamics that increased to the level of 41,53% making up one and a half higher results that expected level of 25%. Moreover, since then, diabetic diseased patients are able to get qualitative services being delivered by the Association in the regions. Q4/02

Rural NGO Opens its Resource Center to Non-commercial Organizations

Due to their remote location, organizations in the Atbasar County of Aqmola Oblast lack access to information and resources to enhance their own sustainability. The public organization *ANGEL* participated in number of Counterpart's seminars on Fundraising, Project Design, Strategic Planning and Constituency Building and received consultations from the CSSC *ASTRa*. As a result, *ANGEL* developed a project to establish its Resource Center in Atbasar, which received nearly $7,000 in funding from the Soros-Fund Kazakhstan. The NGO has since launched programs to assist in educational programs, consultations, data collection and organization of meetings for the local non-commercial sector, including 12 NGOs and initiative groups. Q4/02

Semey NGOs assimilate new technologies in community outreach programs
A recent UNDP small grants program in Semey revealed the lack of qualified specialists in the fields of social project design and community outreach activities among local NGOs, thus hindering their organizational development and implementation of effective social programs. Since UNDP was unable to fund more than two projects, they turned to the CSSC *IRIS* for assistance in conducting seminars and consultations on Project Design and PCA for local NGOs that participated in UNDP program. In addition, Counterpart consultants coordinated the process with UNDP's office in Almaty for better cooperation. As a result, Semey NGOs developed and submitted nine project proposals to UNDP, which has already approved six of them. The issue of lack of community outreach specialists has been solved due to thorough trainings and consulting provided by IRIS and Counterpart and active involvement of volunteers from local NGOs and initiative groups in the UNDP program. The network of local NGOs formed to utilize *Project Design* skills, *PCA* tools, and methods for implementing social programs. Q4/02

Community Mobilization Resulted in Improvement of the Living Conditions
Community members from 101st Strelkovaya Brigada Street in Aktobe faced problems of effective building management. The community's initiative group and its leader turned to the local Support Center for its assistance. In turn, the CSSC provided trainings on *Participatory Community Appraisal, Action Planing,* and *Project Design*. Through a number of consultations the initiative group was able to conduct *PCA* exercises and design a project proposal to address renovations that were badly needed. Counterpart approved the project with $1,728 in funding. The local community was mobilized to solve its housing problems. There are now regular community meetings with local facilitation of participatory decision-making among the community members. As a result, dismantled pipes were used to fence the building' territory and its garden and to create speed bumps. Q4/02

Community Efforts Contributes to Crime Level Decrease Among Youngsters
The 6th micro-district is located far away from the area of cultural and social life of Ridder Town. Therefore, the suburb' dwellers faced a problem of their engagement in spare time. As a consequence, a crime level among youngsters has recently increased in the given neighborhood. With a thorough assistance of the CSSC *ZUBR*, Public Organization *Zeleyonaya Ulitsa* ("Green Street") researched community needs and conducted *PCA* that revealed perspective solutions, namely organization of centers for labor training, pre-call-up preparation, Internet service, dancing and fitness & health. The NGO participated in the seminar on *Project Design* and received subsequent consultations, performed by the CSSC *ZUBR*. The designed project on *Building of Fitness & Health Center* was examined and granted $3,000 by the decision of *Local Grant Committee*. Joint action of the entire community resulted in the effective decision-making to find fruitful way of spending the locals' time – building of Fitness & Health Center, additional skating-rink and ski rental that attracted nearly 400 constant young visitors. Q4/02

The community initiatives results in effective decision making in solving the local problems
Moscow District as one of the neglected areas in the city of Aktobe lacks its road surface and sufficient water supply. Moreover, the key problem is in the people's ignorance of decision and problem solving. Aktobe branch of *International Ecological Association of the East Women* that works in the district turned to Counterpart's local the Support Center for assistance to conduct the community needs assessment and design related action plan and a project proposal. Aktobe CSSC *SMEDA* facilitated PCA and consulted the community in the issues of community mobilization, advocacy and social partnership. According to the action plan, the community designed its project *Road Repairs on Pavlov Street.* In addition, the community applied to the local akimat and joint-stock company *Aq Bulaq* to repair neighboring Biltabanov Street and build a water pipe. Counterpart's local grant committee approved $1,920 project, whereas the local state and business structures supported the community's initiatives. The locals repaired the streets, cleaned gutters and built water pipe for the district' needs. The community mobilization resulted in effective decision making in solving the local problems. Q4/02

Fundraising Campaigns of Focus NGOs Contribute to Women' Involvement in Social Life
Women' involvement in social life remains to be a significant issue in the country. In fact, many of them have no access to communication means and information related to their rights in social, legal and economic issues. In this connection, being *ZHALGHAS'* focus NGOs, two women organizations received a thorough training, consulting and technical supports in *Fundraising*. In particular, *City Center of Women Initiatives* was granted 720 Euro by OSCE to conduct the seminars on *Effective Communication*, and *Union of Rural Women of Talghar County* received $5,000 from the Soros Fund to establish its Women' Resource Center. As a result of these fundraising campaigns, the CSSC' focus NGOs are able to assist local women in getting knowledge about their rights and opportunities. Q4/02

The Water Supply project was expanded due to the community mobilization.
Participatory Community Appraisal revealed the problem of lack of drinking water supply in the community of IDP (internally displaced persons) and Oralmans (Kazakh repatriates) in Besaghash Village of Almaty Oblast. Through gained skills in *PCAP* seminar conducted by the CSSC *ZHALGHAS-COUNTERPART*, NGO *BASPANA* and the community leaders designed the project *Water Supply in Besaghash Village* that received a grant from Counterpart. The project included 760 meters of water pipe laying to supply 25 households. Moreover, due to active involvement of all the settlement, the water pipe was stretched to 2,5 km in length to supply up to 60 households. The entire community celebrated its achievement in the special Water holiday. Q4/02

NGO raised fund from business organization
Due to the lack of technology and, therefore, ineffective land cultivation, the rural communities faced the problem of productivity reduction. NGO *Naurusum Yuzhnaya Vetv'* designed its plan to provide the local farmers with technology of using wild bees for gardens pollination that would double their productivity. However, the NGO lacked its financial resources to invest the technology. Through *ZHALGHAS*'s consultations and trainings on *Project Design* and *Fundraising*, the organization was able to search and attract funds of 100,000 KZT ($645) from the company *Sert Aqtau Electromontazh Ltd*. As a result, the communities of Enbekshi-Kazakh and Talghar counties have created favorable conditions for effective land productivity. Q4/02

RADUGA Opens Center for Adaptation of Disabled Children and their Mothers
There are about 500 invalid children in Kostanai city. These children need assistance adapting to social life to develop in society. Being trained in *Social Partnership* and *Fundraising* by Kostanai CSSC, the public organization *RADUGA* designed a project and requested operating space from the local government for *the Center for Adaptation of Disabled Children and their Mothers*. As a result, the NGO received a grant from Counterpart to purchase office equipment and raised corporate funds in the amount of 74,048 KZT ($480) to overhaul the Center. As a result of this joint cooperation among local government, business and NGOs, the Center opened in Kostanai on October 16. Q4/02

Community Protects its Children's Sport ground from a Demolition
Through the efforts made by local communities and attracted sponsors a sport & playground was built in neighborhood of three micro-districts in Kostanai. However, a local business structure laid claim to the playground to make a profit of building there car parking. As a matter of fact, ignoring the public opinion, the business had already enclosed the ground with a fence and started building its parking. Due to the CSSC' trainings and consultations on *Advocacy* and *Community Mobilization*, Association of Consumers' Cooperative *Molodyozhnaya* ("Youth") involved local people and their children in advocacy campaign, including official appeal to the municipal bodies and organization of press conference, covered by mass media. The campaign resulted in Akim's decision to ban the parking building. Today, over 100 children of the neighborhood are engaged in a number of sport activities organizing regular soccer competitions among the city school. Q4/02

CSSC ECOCENTER facilitates civil society development in Qaraghandy suburbs
While there are a number of NGOs (about 90) in Qaraghandy city, there are relatively few in its suburbs. In fact, there are none registered in Saran and Shakhtinsk Counties. In the framework of *NGO Support School* project of the Soros-Kazakhstan Fund, CSSC *ECO CENTER* conducted seminars on *Organizational Development*, *Strategic Planning* and *Project Design* for the regional initiative groups. Also, the CSSC carried out summer school for NGOs, held a number of workshops and consultations on issues of *OD* and civil society development in the region. The groups designed projects and received grants in the framework of *NGO Support Program – 2002*. At present, through $459 grant the first non-governmental organization is registered in Saran' Town and involved in the development of ecological education in 11 local secondary schools. Through $440 grant, another NGO – association of young journalists, is on the way to be registered in Qaraghandy city. Q4/02

The Sarzhal Village Community Facilitates Major Repairs in the Local School
A PCA performed by the CSSC *IRIS*, revealed major issues connected with school repair in the Sarzhal Village of Abai County in the East Kazakhstan region. Through CSSC support, the community formed an initiative group and designed a Community Action Plan and project proposal entitled *Windowpane Repair & Installment*, which was examined and approved by Counterpart. Moreover, due to the community's successful fundraising and social partnership campaigns, the County Akimat allocated KZT980,000 ($6,322.57) for additional repairs in the local school. As a result, 500 schoolchildren are prepared for severe winter period. Q3/02

NGO Koktem Initiative Helps Provide Local Children with Nutrition
There are 60 children in the Atbasar boarding school in the Aqmola region. Due to lack of resources in the school, children living there do not have adequate nutrition for their healthy growth. Through trainings and consultations in PCA, Project Design & Fundraising performed by the Astana CSSC, the local NGO *Koktem* initiated the project *Life Water* aimed at building a greenhouse to cultivate and can vegetables. As a result, the NGO was able to gather harvest in September and prepare canned food for winter. As a result of this project totaling $1,608, the NGO has canned enough food to address the issue of malnutrition among these 60 children. Q3/02

The Repatriate Community Mobilizes
ZHALGAS–Counterpart and NGO *Salauat* conducted a PCA in Kazakh repatriates (Oralmans) community hostel with over 300 residents in the Shamolghan Village. The PCA revealed two major needs – lack of water supply and children's playground. Through consultations with *ZHALGAS*, the NGO designed a project proposal and raised a grant to solve the community needs, namely to build a water pipe and playground. At present, 40 preschool repatriate children are able to use the recreation ground in their hostel's territory. Ultimately, this joint action has led to the community mobilization in the unaided repairs of the hostel's front yard and roof. Q3/02

A Community Project Results in Better Financial Management for an NGO
In 1997, an initiative group formed the non-commercial organization Orphanage & Shelter to address care and education of local orphans and vagrants. However, development of the NGO was extremely hard. Fundraising excluded state support, and the partner circle was limited. In spite of these difficulties, the organization continued working and developing. In the course of a PCA seminar in March, its participants conducted a community needs appraisal in Novodelinsk Orphanage with participation of local authorities. As a result of the PCA, the project proposal was designed to supply the orphanage with biogas equipment, and thereby save financial expenses in energy. Qaraghandy CSSC rendered assistance in project design, consultations in organizational development and technical aid as well. The local Grant Committee examined and approved the $2,000 project proposal Biogas Supply for Orphanage, submitted by the NGO. Q3/02

Power in Numbers

One of the key issues in the development of Kazakhstan's third sector is the large number of autonomous service organizations as Resource Centers versus the small quantity of associated membership entities as NGO's Associations. This imbalance has a negative influence on effective NGO advocacy in cases of legislative documents and draft laws that affect living conditions. On its own, autonomous and non-associated NGOs cannot advocate its interests. The bottom line is that due to the insufficient number of associated members, the third sector cannot effectively influence the government on social matters. Currently, the situation in the non-commercial sector is changing. The inclusion of new members into NGOs is considered as one of the top priorities. For example, the Confederation of Non-Governmental Organizations of Kazakhstan (CNOK), as one of the clients of Counterpart, decided to expand its associate membership in order to strengthen its political significance in interaction with state bodies. Due to Counterpart seminars and consultations on Association Development and Constituency Building, the Confederation was able to increase a number of its associated organizations. As a result, the membership was expanded from 60 to 110 (near doubled) associates, including advanced NGOs such as Zhan Sabi and Youth Information Service of Kazakhstan that work in the sphere of social protection. Due to strengthening of the organization's political significance, CNOK was able to influence the state on a matter concerning the social sector. In fact, the Confederation has affected the approval of draft laws on Social Insurance and Early Prevention of Deflection in Child Evolution. Development of associated organizations is conducive to effective structural building of the NGO sector. It also promotes an effective advocacy for the needs of the society. Q3/02

Effective Investments in Social Sphere of Kostanai Oblast Due to Social Partnership

The local government of Kostanai Oblast has faced some problems with effective distribution of limited financial resources to solve critical social problems in the region. Kostanai Civil Society Support Center (CSSC) suggested solving the issue through reforming and optimizing the models and procedures of financing social sphere in the oblast. In this connection, the Center has taken an active part in the process of preparation of tenders on state order distribution directed to social problems solving by local non-governmental organizations. In addition, to increase the quality and quantity of project proposals designed by local NGOs, CSSC jointly with local akimat and maslikhat (regional municipal bodies) have developed an educational program for rural NGOs working in social sphere. The program includes trainings on NGO & Community and Project Design. The next step is to conduct 12 trainings in the oblast's different districts. To this, the staff of the CSSC has participated in Counterpart's trainings including Training of Trainers on Methodology. Counterpart's technical and financial support resulted in the Center's success in the development of stable contacts with state bodies and grant policy realization in the social sphere. Through this comprehensive approach, Kostanai CSSC has provided higher-level delivery of investments that allowed enlarging social programs from 2,000,000 to 5,000,000 Tenge ($32,680). As a result, rural NGOs in Kostanai oblast have become more active and professional. Q3/02

Grant Creates Job Opportunities for Invalids

To improve their day-to-day lives, disabled women in Kazakhstan were united into the National Association Bibi Ana with its regional branches. The East Kazakhstan branch created a small business, a sewing shop, which provided local invalid women with jobs. Many vulnerable people are still unemployed due to lack of information about legal rights and job opportunities in the region. In addition, the organization needed help addressing its communications issues in order to be sustainable. CSSC ZUBR provided the Association with a number of seminars and consultations in strategic planning and organizational development. The PCA process confirmed the problem of informational isolation in Bibi Ana. ZUBR assisted the NGO in fundraising and project design. As a result, the Association designed the project Rights of Invalid Women & their Children / Jobs Placement for Disabled People that was granted $2,000 from US/Kazakhstan Women's Grant Program for NGOs. The project implementation includes procurement of office equipment, organization of three seminars, and publication of brochure Invalids Help Themselves to Create Jobs. Q3/02

NGO's Advocacy Campaign Decreases Monopolized Prices of Water Supply

The local company Bakhtiar Ltd drained water that had accumulated naturally in the reservoir into the farming fields. The company then presented local farmers with a bill of KZT29 per cubic meters for supplying the water. The Farmers' Association Azamat launched an advocacy campaign to protect the interests of its members. The NGO appealed to local state bodies, the Committee for Antimonopoly and Balkhash-Alakol Department for Water Environment and attracted mass media to cover the issue. The Association held a number of meetings and negotiations with Bakhtiar' officials. Moreover, due to thorough calculation, the NGO concluded the real dumping price for natural water supply. As a part of Counterpart's Program on Community Mobilization, Azamat was provided by comprehensive trainings, consultations on Advocacy & Social Partnership and technical support in ZHALGAS-Counterpart. As a result of this two-month campaign, the monopolist made concessions by reducing the price to 8 tiyns and renovated the irrigation system targeting 139 farmers of Malovodny District. Q3/02

NGO Facilitates Registration of Kazakh Repatriates

Repatriates of Kazakh origin (Oralmans) face difficulties in obtaining Kazakhstan citizenship due to their illiteracy in local legal and economic rights and even language barrier (Russian is widely spread throughout the country). Partner NGO Salauat designed the project Legal Assistance to Oralmans to provide Kazakh repatriates with legal consultations and technical aid in citizenship registration in close cooperation with the Akimat (local administration) of Shamolghan Village and Municipal and Oblast migration police departments. In June 2002, the project was granted $2,998 from the Eurasia Foundation as a result of CSSC ZHALGAS-Counterpart's technical, consultative, informational and training supports. The NGO associates participated in the seminars on Project Design, PCA and Fundraising that deepened their skills in the project design and its implementation. As a result of the program, 85 Oralmans to date have been registered to obtain Kazakh citizenship. Q3/02

Charity in Action Raises Over KZT 11,200 for Vulnerable People

Invalids, the most vulnerable people, suffer more than others in the current hard economic conditions. In most cases, a charity is the only way to relieve lives of disabled people. The Public Association of Mothers of Disabled Children *Raduga* initiated a charity action to collect funds and attract public and state attention to the problems of invalid children and their families. After seminars and consultations in Fundraising conducted by Kostanai CSSC, the Association formed its initiative group to organize the campaign on the main street of Kostanai city. The campaign raised more than KZT 11,200 ($73) for disabled children. In addition, *Raduga* was able to set a partnership with other NGOs and many students who helped in conducting the action. In spite of the small sum collected, the society attached great importance to the campaign as local mass media thoroughly covered this tough issue. Q3/02

NGO Participation in State Commissions Leads to Social Partnership

The presence of qualitative information on socially significant issues is an important factor in state management. State bodies often do not have accurate data to make the best-informed decisions. Participation of CNOK in the workshop of the Interdepartmental Commission on Poverty Reduction under chairmanship of Mr. Pavlov, Deputy Prime-Minister of the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan, was an important contribution in improvement of the state management in social decision-making process. In June 2002, Ms. El'nara Kurmangalieva, a representative of CNOK, presented an alternative report on child nutrition issues that were included in the commission' statement with further impacts on the Government's Decree. The active participation of CNOK was a result of consultations in Social Partnership, provided by Counterpart. In addition, the Confederation took part in Counterpart trainings on Constituency Building and Social Partnership that gave the NGO advanced skills in working with state bodies. CNOK's participation in the Government's Interdepartmental commissions improved the quality of state decision-making by providing comprehensive data on important social issues. Further, constructive cooperation between NGOs and state bodies contributes to social partnership development in the Republic of Kazakhstan. Q3/02

Kostanai CSSC Involves Volunteers to Assist in NGO Service

Despite efforts of the Support Centers, the level of NGO organizational development does not meet the demand. To address this gap, the CSSC is utilizing volunteers in higher level program acitivities. The CSSC formed a Volunteer Center to train volunteers in fundraising, project design, strategic planning and financial management. The training program includes an introductory phase, then Counterpart seminars and workshops, then patronage and joint work with the CSSC staff. After completion of the training program volunteers can replenish the ranks of specialists in NGO OD consulting. As a result of Counterpart's assistance in organizational development, CSSC staff developed a thorough action plan for volunteer involvement in their activity. Due to participation in trainings on Volunteerism Management, Team Building, Fundraising provided by Counterpart, the Kostanai Support Center was able to develop its strategy in volunteerism. In addition, Counterpart associates provided the CSSC with appropriate informational supplies in the field of volunteerism development. In particular, a brochure Motivational Strategy & Effective Management in Volunteerism, issued by Institute of Development Cooperation, was given to the CSSC. As a result of the volunteerism strategy, local NGOs were able to strengthen their organizational capacity through qualified OD consulting service, provided by trained volunteers. In general, volunteerism appeared to be one of the main prerequisites for dynamic development of non-commercial sector in Kostanai1 region. Q3/02

Eco Tourist Center TEK Initiates Educational Program for Recreation and Preservation

East Kazakhstan is rich in natural and historical suburban sites. There are many recreation activities for children including out-of-city excursions, walking tours and hikes as well as health and summer camps. Schoolteachers usually conduct these activities, since tourist agencies are too expensive; however, teachers lack the requisite skills in permit registration, national park policies, sanitary regulations, and first aid. Further, ecological illiteracy results in unsafe conditions for both personal safety and the natural environment. Therefore, Eco Tourist Center *TEK* proposed system designs to promote ecological literacy and tourism organization expertise among schoolteachers and groups of students in Ust-Kamenogorsk. An initiative group of teachers was formed during the initial phase of the program. Ust-Kamenogorsk Socio-Corporative Foundation *ZUBR* conducted a number of consultations and seminars on *Project Design* & *Fundraising* and provided *TEK* with technical support. As a result of this cooperation, Eco Tourist Center received $500 grant to launch and develop its educational system in eco tourism addressed to schoolteachers. This project, in which students receive consultations in safe and environmentally friendly organization of eco-tourism, lays the foundation for a long-term educational program that is the priority direction for the Center. Q3/02

Sustainability Through Launching New Services

Currently there are problems connected with sustainable development of NGO resource centers, as well as Civil Society Support Centers because of substantial investment made by international organizations. Grants of donor organizations like Counterpart are a major contribution to budget of CSSCs and very small income comes from offering services or contracting with governmental structures. But the situation is gradually changing and more and more Counterpart's partners are successfully collaborating with governmental structures by realization their own services. For instance, the Consulting Center ZUBR won the governmental tender of an educational program for farmers in East-Kazakhstan oblast. The center has to conduct 15 trainings the total budget of which is $24,000. The first two pilot trainings were already conducted in Ust-Kamenogorsk and Semipalatinsk. ZUBR attracted resources from other Counterpart's partners IRIS and SMEDA for these trainings: IRIS provided logistics for the training and Abay Myrkhin, a director of SMEDA, was a trainer on business plan development. The Consulting Center ZUBR won this tender because of skills and knowledge gained at Counterpart trainings in Financial Sustainability and Fundraising and TA from Counterpart on strategic planning. This tender gave ZUBR an opportunity to increase the number of clients via promotion of the new service "Training for Farmers", and this can result in more sustainable development of the organization in future. By winning this tender the NGO has learned to become less dependent on large donors like USAID. Q3/02

NGO Zharia Raised $25,000 to Improve a Law on Domestic Violence

For the past three years, NGO *Zharia* has actively worked in cooperation with women's public organizations and state bodies to protect the rights and solve psycho-sociological problems of battered women. In fact, the NGO participated in the design of a draft law on domestic violence and proposed to include the protection of children, minors and elders in the draft. The Astana CSSC, jointly with the Eurasia Foundation, organized a round table involving NGOs from over 20 regions of Kazakhstan. *Zharia* designed and presented a project proposal, aimed at promotion of the draft law and addressed Parliament members, officials of Ministry of Internal Affairs and other state structures. As a result, Eurasia as supported this six-month effort with $25,000. Q3/02

Semey CSSC Contributes to UNDP Program in the Region

A UNDP Program was launched in Semey in January 2002 to grant small funds to local NGOs in rural communities in five counties of the Semey, Qaraghandy and Pavlodar regions. However, only two project proposals were submitted to the Program. UNDP consulted with the local CSSC *IRIS* and met other NGO representatives in order to mobilize local NGOs to submit projects. *IRIS* conducted a seminar and a number of consultations in *Project Design*, which resulted in nine projects being developed and submitted to UNDP. Three projects were approved and the other six are under consideration. Further, UNDP lacks personnel in the region and has hired CSSC Iris-trained volunteers from local rural NGOs and initiative groups to support their efforts. Q3/02

Training Program Strengthens Prevention of Drug and HIV Spreading Among Teens

The incidence of drug use and HIV infection among youth in Aktobe is on the rise. According to official sources, 49 HIV infected young people are registered in the city, demonstrating the lack of effective prevention programs. In October 2001, an initiative group was registered as the Public Association Onyx, with the mission to reduce the rate of HIV infection and prevent drug abuse. From November 2001 the organization participated in a number of trainings and received comprehensive consultative and technical support from the local CSSC SMEDA, including "Social Partnership", "Volunteerism", "Project Design", "Citizens Involvement in Decision Making", and "Strategic Planning". In addition, Anna Kaspirova, a Training Coordinator in Onyx, was trained in model design for the seminar on "Concerted Action to Prevent the Future from AIDS", as well as in the organization of work with trainers and advocacy campaigns. SMEDA contributed in contact and partnership developments between the Public Association and the Almaty NGO Equal to Equal, that led to Onyx joining a network of Kazakh NGOs, which designed a training program on HIV and drug prevention among youth. Within the framework of this program, 12 selected students and three teachers were trained in Aktobe and, with Onyx facilitated 15 seminars in city schools. Seven schools, jointly with Onyx volunteers and mass media, conducted campaigns to prevent drug dissemination and addiction among Aktobe teens. Q2/02

NGO Improves People's Living Standards

The transition to an open market has been a difficult one, leaving many, especially those who were in prison, without jobs. Throughout Kazakhstan there is a lack of mechanisms to reintegrate parolees into society or learn a marketable trade. In 1999, the informal community group Preodolenie (Overcome), with its leader Ms. L. Kitova, repaired an old joinery shop, creating new jobs. Over two years the initiative group renovated the shop into a facility for training in joinery, trimming and furnishing works. Twenty parolees were trained in the shop, which ultimately outgrew its working space. As a result of the PCAP process conducted with the help of Karaganda CSSC Eco-Center, the group changed its status to a public association and jointly with the Union of Volunteer Societies of Invalids of the Qaraghandy Region obtained an additional 300 square meters of working space. The concerted action led to a contract for furniture and toys for three local kindergartens. The profit gained from the agreement provided living expenses for 15 members of the Public Association Preodolenie and 30 members of the Union of Volunteer Societies of Invalids of the Qaraghandy Region. Q2/02

Group Fundraising Effort Generates over KZT 13,000 for Vulnerable People

In Kazakhstan, charity is not a mass social phenomenon due to lack of philanthropic culture in the society. In this connection, the funding of NGO social projects through donations is still relatively new and difficult process in the country. The Astana CSSC Agency of Social Technologies and Development, in cooperation with a group of local NGOs, carried out its presentation and fundraising campaign in Astana with participation of parliamentarians, representatives of state executive bodies and over 70 non-governmental organizations. The campaign generated over 13,000 KZT ($85) in donations, the proceeds of which were given to the Malotimopheev Home for the Aging and Disabled. While only a small amount of money was raised, this joint NGO-government effort went a long way toward breaking down societal stereotypes about charity. Q2/02

NGOs Involves Business and Government in Charity for Children

For children of repatriated and internally migrated people, life too often lacks the basics of play and community. Due to gained skills in a number of Counterpart's trainings including "Fundraising" and "Social Partnership", the NGOs Dan and Salauat, that work with refugee populations, coordinated with the local food and grocery companies (Almaty Nan, Aqsai Nan and Liana) as well as with the government administration of the Central Entertainment Park and Zoo to organize a holiday for children from the refugee communities in Shamalghan village, Shanyraq-4 micro district and Stroitel and Saule community hostels. As a result of the joint business, NGO, and government efforts, 200 refugee children visited the park and received gifts. Q2/02

Training Facilitates Rural Community Mobilization

The rural areas in Kazakhstan, especially as regions with unique nature, have an acute shortage in information on environmental laws. The preservation of nature in East Kazakhstan's national parks depends largely on the cooperation of the local people. Thus, surrounding communities need to know and enjoy their ecological rights and duties. In the framework of Counterpart's program, the regional CSSC – The Socio-Corporative Fund ZUBR conducted trainings on "Project Design" and "Fundraising" and appropriate consultations for the Public Association Khranitel Altaya (Curator of Altai). In turn Khranitel Altaya, under the management of Ms. Vera Klimova, conducted Participatory Community Appraisal in a target rural population. The NGO received $500 a fixed grant from the Regional Center for Ecology to conduct four seminars in rural counties and publish informational supplies in order to facilitate local communities mobilization and their involvement in the process of preservation of the national park. Q2/02

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. Q 1/02

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. Q 1/02

Social Partnership Helps Single Mothers to Solve Their Problems

There have been 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*. Q 1/02

Advocacy Campaign Gets Funds for Parents

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 *Zhalgas-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. Q 1/02

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 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 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. Q 1/02

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. Q 1/02

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 hub-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 Hub Center 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. Q 1/02

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. Q 1/02

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 inutilities. 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 the welfare), 1 woman to receive a direct social aid (5 people are in the process of application), and 1 disabled to change his 3rd group of disablement to the 2nd one in the Medical Labor Expert Committee, which will allow him to receive higher disability pension. Q 1/02

Community of Disabled People of Kostanai Protects Rights

Hard socio and economic realities of today's life lead to liquidation or reduction of privileges in social sphere and they are negatively influencing on 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 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 fare 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 own 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. Q 1/02

Rehabilitation for Children With Cerebral Palsy

There are more then 20,000 children with cerebral palsy in Kazakhstan. In November 2001, *Public Foundation Alem Komek* the partner of *CSSC Zhalgas Counterpart*, which participated in all training seminars and consultations, opened the *Rehabilitation Center for Children with Cerebral Palsy*. Under the guidance of special trainers, children can exercise and receive massage and "hippo therapy". With the help of the private sponsors, the Center purchased special antigravity space costumes from Moscow's Space Institute. These costumes, specially designed to help the astronauts to adapt to anti-gravitational conditions, significantly alleviated the process of children rehabilitation by helping the child to move and stand. Q4/01

Counterpart Trainings Helped Rural NGOs Conduct Successful Fundraising

Non-governmental organizations in small cities and rural areas do not have the ability to develop their professional skills by participating in trainings because of their remoteness from big cities. In the Atbasar region of Akmola oblast there are about 12 NGOs and initiative groups that have not been able to participate in capacity building trainings. In September 2001, *Astana CSSC* conducted a training workshop on Project Design for these organizations. There they obtained knowledge and skills, and actually designed 8 projects. Currently, 4 of these projects have received financial support from ISAR, Eurasia Foundation and Virtual Foundation.

- *Club Of Local Lore Kapelka* (Zhaltyr station of Atbasar District) - $2000 grant from ISAR
- *Angel* (Atbasar District) ISAR – $1240 grant under Kaspiy program
- *Protalinka* (Pokrovka village) – $500 grant from Virtual Foundation to plant a lilac garden
- *Initiative Group Of Solitary Women* - $7000 grant from Eurasia Foundation to establish a Center for the Children of Teachers Q4/01

New Year's Present to Children From Poor Families

Poor families inhabit the former dormitory of Almaty Cotton Factory, the majority of whom are single women with children and families. It is hard for the parents to provide their children with necessary food and clothing because the majority of the people are internal migrants and unemployed. NGO Den, which was organized by a local women's initiative group, registered with the help of CSSC Zhalgas Counterpart and participated in several trainings on Fundraising, Project Design, NGO and Community and others. They conducted fundraisers with the help of Chevron Oil Company and provided 100 children from poor families with tickets to the circus, where they enjoyed a New Year's show and received presents. Q4/01

National Consumers League Of Kazakhstan Successfully Implements Its Strategic Plan

Counterpart's focus NGO National Consumer League of Kazakhstan implemented a strategic plan to expand its activities and attract funds from international donor organizations. Recently three of the organizations projects have attracted the attention of two donor organizations: Eurasia Foundation and Soros-Kazakhstan Foundation.

- A project "Legal Protection of Consumers' Rights" was funded by Soros Foundation in the amount of $11,171. At the end of the project there is a plan to issue a collection of judicial precedents on consumers right protection;
- A project "International Round Table: Social Partnership in the Field of Consumers Rights Protection" was funded by Soros Foundation in the amount of $13,986.
- A grant from Eurasia foundation in the amount of $31,901 was donated for the "Establishment of an Educational Center for Teachers". Q4/01

Four NGOs Receive Funding

NGOs in the Astana region have had problems attracting project funding due mainly to their lack of experience in project design. Ongoing support from the Astana CSSC including trainings on fundraising and project design, project design consultations, and dissemination of information about grant programs and donors has resulted in funding for four client organizations through the ECO Center's grant program US/Kazakhstan Women's Grant Program for NGOs.

- Volunteer Center - $1530 for assisting a boarding school for handicapped children to organize athletic activities, help children adapt to the outside environment and inform the community about the students' problems;
- Ardager - $1600 to establishing the New Century Support Center to provide 45 elderly people in Astana with basic business skills;
- Zhenskiy Luch - $1800 to train unemployed women and providing psychological rehabilitation;
- ZAMA-$1500 to building a creamery under the Leadership Development Program. The creamery is to provide people with sunflower-seed oil that will be cheaper than imported oil. Q4/01

Government Recognition of NGOs
As a result of Counterpart's Social Partnership training, program realization by NGO CSSC Association of Kostanai Oblast and other NGOs have begun to enter into social partnerships. NGOs in the region obtained not only the recognition of local governmental structures but are also actively involved in joint projects initiated by Akimat and Maslikhat. In December 2001, the recognition of NGOs was supported by an official acknowledgement when Dmitriy Dey a president of NGO Association of Kostanai Oblast was invited as a representative of NGOs to participate in a meeting devoted to the celebration of the Independence Day of the Republic of Kazakhstan. He was awarded a medal in recognition of 10 years of the Republic of Kazakhstan's Independence by the president of the Republic of Kazakhstan. Q4/01

People Begin To Believe In Own Strength
Inactivity and pessimism among the population have become major social problems in Kazakhstan, particularly in depressed regions such as the Semipalatinsk oblast. However, the desire to change living conditions for the better became the motive behind a participatory community appraisal among inhabitants of Begen Village of Beskaragai region by NGO ZhenSovet Arna. The main problem mentioned by the people was pollution and the lack of vegetation. To solve this problem the community applied to Counterpart for financial support for an environmental project. For example, local citizens organized four street committees to keeping order in the village; also there was a meeting of akims (heads of the village) of the region devoted to solving such problems. The akim of Beskaragai region then made a decision to spread their experience of community cooperation, local government cooperation, and NGO development throughout the entire region. Q4/01

Successful Campaign Results in Community Improvement
The Duman community appeared in the suburbs of Almaty in the early 1990s. During this time of economic crisis many migrants from rural areas occupied and settled lands that were formerly municipal properties. The administration did not name the streets in the community and did not provide numbers for the houses. Since there were no streets, no house numbers, and no postal codes, the people were unable to call for an ambulance, fire brigade or police. Without a mailing address they were not able to receive their pensions, letters or get a job. CSSC Zhalgas Counterpart and NGO Baspana conducted PCA research in the community in February 2001. The informal community leaders (The Council of Elders) together with NGO Baspana have started the advocacy process. In April 2001, the Almaty City Administration issued a decision to give streets a name, houses a number and a postal code for the community. As a result of this advocacy campaign in cooperation with NGO and CSSC more than 1000 families (7500 people) received a proper addresses to ensure postal and social service delivery. Q4/01

NGO Launches An Advocacy Campaign
In 1996 the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan eliminated all benefits for Afghan War Veterans. Previously, they had the right of free public transport, reduced utilities payments, free medical care and free country travel once a year. These benefits have been replaced by a $10 per month pension. The situation has been complicated by the fact that Afghan War Veterans don't have the status of War Veterans. Almaty Society of Disabled Afghan War Veterans, a partner of CSSC Zhalgas, a participant in Counterpart training seminars, and a participant in the Community Outreach Program, started an advocacy campaign in order to participate in the development of the new law on War Veterans, under which they hope the rights of Afghan War Veterans will be protected. As a first step in the campaign, they organized a conference in Almaty on December 3rd and 4th, where a number of issues were discussed with the 20 members of other Afghan War Veterans Societies and representatives of Almaty Akimat (local government). The draft law was submitted to Parliament, where it would be discussed in late January. Zhalgas Counterpart advised the NGO on fundraising issues and helped them to design a proposal on the organization of the conference, with which they then received $2000 from Soros Foundation. Q4/01

Repatriates Receive Legal Consultations
Oralmans, repatriates of Kazakh origin, are one of the socially vulnerable groups in Kazakhstan. These people constantly face problems with the judicial system because of their lack of Russian language skills, poor living conditions, insufficient education level, and different culture. Sary Arka, a cooperative public fund, was established in Astana in April 2001 to support repatriates, protect their rights, and assist them in problem solving. The fund developed a proposal, with consultation and support from the Astana CSSC, to open an Oralman Consulting Center. An $18,000 project was funded by the Soros Foundation and began on September 4th. During the first two months of the projects implementation more than 70 Oralmans from Uzbekistan and Mongolia received consultations on citizenship, pensions, welfare and employment issues. In addition, 10 Oralmans received dwellings and 2 repatriates were employed. Q4/01

Community Action Grants Generate Interest in Community Problem Solving
Home Proprietors Cooperative (HPC) with financial and technical assistance from Counterpart, developed a program of community involvement to solve its own problems. In an effort to provide inhabitants of buildings with safe and comfortable entrances, the organization changed the attitude of people (employed, unemployed, children, adults and pensioners) towards activities near their residence. Local involvement was much larger than planned and gradually the inhabitants themselves began to do additional work by contributing their own resources, labor and materials. In addition, owners of a café, shops and a chemist, who are located on the territory of HPC also began to participate in the accomplishments of HPC with supporting funds, materials, and community reparation and creation of architectural structures. HPCs activities became famous among the local governmental, housing and communal services and mass media. Currently, representatives of HPC, together with an initiative group, which was formed during the projects implementation, are developing a plan for future activities. Q4/01

Government and NGOs Work Together on Shelter For Homeless Children
Deterioration of the economic condition in the country resulted in the growing number of unfortunate families, where children are abandoned; and some are forced to leave their homes and prostitute themselves to earn a living. On July 2001, an initiative group headed by Gulnara Kaldybaeva applied to Counterpart support center Zhalgas with a project to provide shelter for the homeless children. The initiative group received consulting, training and technical assistance. As the result, on October 16th this group was registered as a public funded Seed shelter for homeless children. The organization attracted the attention of Akimat governmental authorities to the problem of homeless children and with its help received a building in the Aksai district of Almaty for a Kindergarten. Q4/01

Disabled Children Benefit from NGO and Business Cooperation in Astana
Astana does not have a tradition of generating successful cooperation between business and NGOs. The Astana Disabled Children's Society has been an active participant in Counterpart trainings, including fundraising and social partners. Confident in their new skills, the Disabled Children's Society successfully appealed to the Republic State Enterprise "Astana Airport" and "Kulager" Ltd., for funds to support the participation of disabled children from poor families in summer camps. In all the Disabled Children's Society received $900, which covered 2 weeks of recreation for 21 disabled children in a summer camp of their peers. Q3/01

Young Leaders Association Expands Services for Children
Counterpart Focus NGO the Young Leaders Association developed the program "Say YES for Children Sake" under the Global Children Defense Movement. The program was supported and financed by UNICEF and USIS in the amounts of $2854 and $2150 respectively. Under this program a 3-day summer camp was organized for the youth public organizations of the Republic of Kazakhstan. As a result of program activities, more then 100 participants from 12 public organizations gained the knowledge and skills necessary for working with youth, thereby furthering their organization's development. Q3/01

Defending Consumers Right to High Quality Goods

One of the most important "trade" problems in Kazakhstan for both consumers and producers is the counterfeiting of goods and use of trademarks for mercenary purposes. The National Consumer League of Kazakhstan is one of the leading NGOs tackling these issues in close cooperation with government bodies. As the result of their joint efforts with officials, a Trade Law regulating trade relations was developed and accepted in July 2001. At the same time the National Consumer League of Kazakhstan has been acknowledged as the Best Social Partner, according to a Proctor & Gamble survey. Proctor &Gamble is the leading supplier of goods for the Kazakhstan marketplace. The National Consumer League has been a target organization of Counterpart's since the beginning of our activities in Kazakhstan and is currently a Focus NGO under Phase III. Q3/01

Informational Campaign for Astana Communities

In spite of NGOs increasing and expanding of their activities, there is a lack of information about the nature of their work and their role in communities. The Astana NGO Forum, which was established with active support from the Astana CSSC, conducted a public campaign in the City Park to inform people about NGO sector and volunteer opportunities with local organizations on June 30, 2001. Over 15 NGOs and initiative groups coordinated and participated in this campaign. Over 500 booklets were distributed and about 200 people were reached. Additionally, local media covered the campaign. As a result, the number of people appealing to NGOs either looking to help or to be helped increased. For example, over 30 new clients were referred to the Disabled Children's Society, and the Volunteer Center obtained 10 new volunteers. Q3/01

NGO Conducts Successful Fundraising Campaign

NGO Umit, which supports talented handicapped children, has a long history of successful fundraising activities. Umit has participated in all Counterpart trainings, which helped them to approach one of the leading oil producing companies, Chevron. With the support of Chevron Umit has already completed several projects, such as the First Republic Festival of Handicapped Children in the Arts in October 25-27, 2000 and a New Year's celebration for them. The first festival hosted 160 handicapped children, 70 of which participated in Master Class. There were three awards in drawing, applied arts, and literature. Recently Umit signed another agreement with Chevron to conduct the Second Republic Festival of Handicapped Children in the Arts from October 10-12, 2001. One hundred and fifty children will take part in the festival and they will be accompanied by their parents and teachers. The festival preparations and day's events will be aided by the support of 30 volunteers. Chevron will cover the total cost of the Festival - $5000. Q3/01

The Second Sport Competition for Diabetics "SPARTAKIADA" Held in Almaty

Kazakhstan citizens suffering from diabetes and similar ailments need special sport programs. The Diabetics Association of the Republic of Kazakhstan (DARK) is devoted to helping such people. Being one of the Counterpart's focus grantees DARK, together with the Ministry of Defense, conducted the Second Kazakhstan Sport Games SPARTAKIADA for diabetics. The games were held at the Sports Complex of the Ministry of Defense on August 17-18, 2001. The competition was aimed at promoting health and fitness among people suffering from diabetes and similar ailments. 78 participating athletes based on their sporting abilities were selected by 13 regional diabetic societies in Kazakhstan as well as Ukraine. They competed in a variety of events, including swimming, athletics, volleyball, table tennis and badminton. The games were opened by officials from the Kazakh government, the Healthcare Agency and the Almaty Akimat as well as by Massimo Massi-Benedetti, the president of the European Bureau of the International Diabetics Foundation. Exxon-Mobil Company and Novo Nordisk pharmaceutical company sponsored the event in the amounts of $7000 and $3000 respectively. Q3/01

Initiative Group Won a German House's Grant for Establishing Public Speaker School.
The main problem facing youth and children these days is what to do in their free time. Under the strict market conditions different organizations that worked with youth were closed, and this fact was reflected in the growth of crimes among young people. Tatyana Golovach and her initiative group Women and Time, using skills and knowledge received at the Counterpart's trainings such as "Project Design" and "Fundraising," applied to German House with a project proposal to establish a Public Speaking School for youth and children. $1000 and furniture were granted to this initiative group. In March 2001 the School opened its door for to 25 interested young people. Q3/01

Community Solves its Problem
After the collapse of old state-owned fruit and vegetable factory, a significant number of employees who were promised apartments in a housing complex to be built by the factory were left without a job or an adequate place to live. They occupied two old factory-owned buildings, which lacked heating facilities, hot water, and indoor toilets. As a result, the children of the community were susceptible to the flu and other diseases. Additionally, the majority of families' income was spent on electricity bills to heat their units. These people became a focus group of Baspana, which implements a program to provide housing for poor people and has lobbied on behalf of this group since the late 80's. In April 2001 Baspana and Zhalgas-Counterpart conducted a PCA with this community. The resulting CAP called for the installation of heating and hot water supply systems, which are being installed with funding support from a Counterpart Community Action Grant. Following this PCAP exercise, the community residents conducted their own community meeting where they decided to install a system of cold water supply and toilets for each unit. As a result of these joint actions the community of 230 people, of which 142 are the children, will enter this next winter with more decent living conditions. Q3/01

First Hospice In Kazakhstan Is Starting Its Operations
Thousands of oncological-diseased people are in need of a palliative care, but there is no hospice to tend to their needs. In 1998 an initiative group of medical students founded an NGO that could mobilize resources needed to establish a hospice. Passing through several Counterpart trainings, this group established the NGO Solaris in Pavlodar in 1999, which then entered into cooperation with the oncological-diseases hospital and started providing medical services at home such as psychological consultations, medicine consultations and social care (i.e. food delivery and cooking for oncological-diseased patients). At the time the NGO had found premises for the hospice and after renovation the hospice started operating. One further problem solved by the NGO was the need for volunteers with specialized knowledge of palliative care. The NGO applied to the British Embassy and received $3,842 to train and develop 20 volunteers to work in the hospice. As a result of this activity 50 people will receive palliative care in this hospice starting from November. Q2/01

Successful Community Actions in Almaty
Counterpart-Zhalgas began cooperation last autumn with *Baspana*, a local NGO who protects the rights of poor and homeless people in Almaty. *Baspana* expressed interest in Counterpart's Community Outreach Program and sent two participants to PCA training in Almaty. Following the training *Baspana* prepared four focus communities, including *Shanyrak 2*, to model a real PCAP situation for trainees and ascertain the priority needs of the community. One of the needs identified was construction of a road. In the beginning community members thought that the facilitators came to solve their problems and asked them to help in construction of the road. During this training exercise the participants explained to the local inhabitants the idea of PCA methodology, and that the main idea is for the community take initiative and demonstrate that they can solve problems themselves. In March 2001 the community, inspired by an initiative group of 16 families, combined forces to build a gravel road 434 meters long and 4 meters wide. *Baspana* provided transportation and the community bought construction materials and by May 2001 the road was build. Q2/01

Society for Disabled People Reregistered as an International Association
The NGO Zhan was registered as a local NGO in September 2001 and has been an ongoing recipient of Counterpart support ever since. They were the most active in lobbying the interests of their constituents nationally. In May 2001 they won a grant for network development from Soros Foundation Kazakhstan ($35,000) to open branche offices in Kazakhstan as well as in other Central Asian republics (Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan and Tajikistan). The "Asian Society of Disabled People" became a registered organization. New legal status will help them to expand their services and deliver help to the disabled people in the region. They will also begin lobbying activities on behalf of disabled persons at an international level. This is the first instance of a Kazakhstan NGO working at an international level. Q2/01

National Consumer's League of Kazakhstan Helps to Develop Legislation
Interaction between non-governmental organizations and state bodies in Kazakhstan is most often conducted in the form of single actions and NGO initiative. As a result of participation in the conference "Conceptual Problems of Legal Development in Kazakhstan" held in Almaty from March 26-28 coordinated by Counterpart focus NGO the *National Consumer's League of Kazakhstan,* an advising council was organized under the Ministry of Justice. The specialists of *National Consumer's League of Kazakhstan* are involved in the ongoing advisement of this body. Establishment of such councils assists effective dialogue development between non-governmental organizations and state bodies in addition to strengthening the NGO's capacity in social partnership. Q2/01

Eastern Kazakhstan NGOs Becomes More Sustainable
One of the goals to be reached by Counterpart's partner organizations in Phase III is to become more sustainable for successful implementation of their activities. To this end ZUBR from Ust-Kamenogorsk and Iris from Semipalatinsk successfully attracted additional funding in the amount of $10,000 through participation in the program "NGO supports NGO year 2" funded by Soros Foundation-Kazakhstan. For such a short time these organizations developed their own fundraising policy that helped them to support other partner local organizations as well as to become more sustainable. Q2/01

Confederation of NGOs Delivers Services and Develops Financial Sustainability
Many NGOs still experience problems in promoting their activities and gaining support from their constituencies through mass media. The Confederation of Non Governmental Organizations of Kazakhstan, a current Counterpart grantee that unites more than 100 Kazakhstani NGOs, received a $5,000 grant from the World Bank to create 24 TV programs entitled "Success – it's me". For the first time an Astana-based non-governmental organization has reached a franchise agreement on television broadcasts on local state television channels for the next six months. Thus, Counterpart's focus NGO has been encouraging the development of the civil initiatives through the media. Q2/01

Rural NGO Developed Partnership with Urban NGO for Education Rural Children
Major problems facing Talgar's youth are access to quality education and awareness of options of things to do in their free time. The NGO Union of Rural Women of Talgar's District attended Counterpart trainings and receives regular support from Counterpart-Zhalgas to work with its focus community. During one of the trainings it learned about the Association of Young Leaders (AYL) and got acquainted with its president Natalia Bakhmutova. The Union conducted negotiations with AYL and developed a plan of joint actions focused on education of rural children at AYL. This will provide rural children with the opportunity to learn more about the social life and after school activities of their peers and will serve as a means to strengthen the ties between rural and city students. Starting in September 2001 twenty rural children will attend trainings at AYL. These trainings directed for comprehensive development of child individuality, breeding and skills of leadership, dispute and communication. Young leaders of AYL and close attendance of members of the organization will conduct trainings. This should be helpful experience for rural children in their behavior, socialization and aspiration for better. Q2/01

NGO Organized Deaf Translation on the National Channel Khabar

One of the main problems of deaf people in Kazakhstan is that they are isolated from audio information such as television and radio. Until recent times there has been only one source of deaf translation on TV-ORT Russia. Since 1997 the NGO Umit has promoted the idea of deaf translations on the Kazakh channel Khabar. In 2001 Umit started to receive the services of the Counterpart-Zhalgas Center and has participated in "NGO and Community", "Project Design" and "Fundraising" trainings. These increased skills, Umit was able to attract 6,000,000 tenge (approximately $41,000) from Chevron to begin a deaf Russian language translation project on Khabar channel in June 2001. Chevron is covering all fees until May 2002, when the Kazakh Ministry of Social Affairs will provide further support. Q2/01

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

After the collapse of USSR, nobody, including government agencies, devoted time to the development of press and television development for children and youth, thus creating a void in youth education. The NGO Kid's Time has participated in Counterpart trainings, receives ongoing technical assistance, and successfully completed the project "Unified Information Area for Youth and Children" with funding support from Counterpart. Building on this, Kid's Time has concentrated its efforts on the mass media and other NGOs that support children and youth. From January 5-9, 2001 Kid's Time held a conference in which it organized master-classes and round table discussions on the development of youth education. Representatives from 70 mass media organizations from all regions of Kazakhstan attended the conference. As a result of this assembly, Kid's Time and the production company Oriental Project teamed up to form the Association of Mass Media for Youth and Children. The Association has already planned to conduct a seminar on new informational technologies for children in March in Almaty and an International Forum of Young Journalists in June in Astana. Q1/01

Successful Development Of Training Net

In the mid-90's drugs became an increasing problem in Almaty schools. The NGO *Equal to Equal* was organized in 1995 and registered in 1997 with the mission of providing anti-drug education. The organization became a target of Counterpart support and received funding in 1997. In the last six months *Equal to Equal* has developed a network of training teams working in four Almaty schools. The teams consist of students with leadership skills, deputy directors on training, and school psychologists. All team members are working on volunteer basis. Each training team delivers trainings on healthy lifestyles. With support and training from Counterpart on Volunteerism and Association Development, *Equal to Equal* is currently expanding its network of volunteers. As a result of this ongoing support from *Zhalgas* Counterpart the volunteer training teams are involved in the national and city activities to promote healthy living (round tables, conferences, TV programs and campaigns). Q1/01

NGO Rallies Support Against Domestic Violence

Domestic violence against women is a growing concern in Kazakh society. The Crisis Center Podrugi has received ongoing support from Counterpart through training in topics such as Newsletter Development, Advocacy, How to Conduct a Press Conference, and Governance as well as funding support to set up a battered woman's shelter. As a result of Counterpart's support and technical assistance, Podrugi has been successful in launching other initiatives, thus establishing the Center as one of the leading advocates against domestic violence. For example, the Center received funding from the Soros Foundation – Budapest for the 16 Days Without Violence campaign, which ran from November 25 to December 10, 2000. During this initiative the question about adoption of a Law on Domestic Violence was raised. All of the following activities of the Center garnered wide public support for the adoption of such a law: collection of 1000 signature cards with the slogan "I vote for the Law"; television broadcast of two public service announcements against domestic violence; and conducting a conference whose NGO participants included the Feminist League, the Association of Women-Lawyers of Kazakhstan, and the Union of Women's Crisis Centers. Q1/01

Counterpart Partners Fill Gap in NGO Services
Eastern and Western Kazakhstan have a small number of non-governmental organizations and the third sector's capacity has been traditionally weak. Counterpart's partners in Aktobe *(SMEDA)* and Ust-Kamenogorsk *(ZUBR)* have started implementation of their service delivery programs to local NGOs and communities in these regions. As a result of technical assistance and consultancies provided to initiative groups by both *SMEDA* and *ZUBR*, three new non-commercial organizations including the public union *Aktyubinsk History Society* and the public funds *East Kazakhstan Without Drugs* and *Youth City* have been founded and registered. For such a short period of activity the CSSCs have strengthened ties with local non-commercial organizations, contributing to sustainability of the NGOs and the Centers. Q1/01

Confederation of Non-Governmental Organizations of Kazakhstan Increases its Members
The Western region of Kazakhstan is characterized by a very small number of underdeveloped NGOs. To address this gap, the Confederation of Non-Governmental Organizations of Kazakhstan (CNOK) established a branch organization in Atyrau, with support from Counterpart. This branch assists the third sector in the decision-making process on different levels. As a result of increased capacity in organizational development, this branch of CNOK has been successfully operating as a coalition of Western Kazakhstan NGOs; they have already participated in a public hearing on oil and ecological issues; and in only six months CNOK has attracted more than 25 legal entities as new members. All of these successes have been achieved in a very short period of time and have stimulated improvement in CNOK's sustainability in different regions of Kazakhstan. Q1/01

Expansion of Network of Young Leaders Association (YLA) Across Kazakhstan
Even the most successful NGOs do not pay attention to network development, rather focus on individual and immediate goals to survive the transitional period. *Young Leaders Association (YLA)*, funded by Counterpart as a focus NGO, was supported and given the skills necessary to register the National level of YLA. Working in partnership with Counterpart, YLA developed an outreach strategy to foster the creation of similar YLA branches across the country, which included participation in Counterpart trainings and a tailor-made technical assistance plan for leadership of potential new branches. YLA branches have been formed in several Kazakh cities and are collaborating with each other in a network to foster a collaborative environment for the development of youth movement in Kazakhstan. Q1/01

Baspana Successfully Continues its Activities
Counterpart grantee the association *Baspana* is the sole Kazakh NGO working with homeless and other vulnerable categories of people. *Baspana* recently completed a short-term project aimed at improving living conditions for its clients. In order to extend this project *Baspana* consulted with Counterpart on financial sustainability. As a result, *Baspana* signed a long-term agreement for three years with Dutch Interchurch Aid (DIA) for the amount of $1,500,000. These funds will help *Baspana* to mobilize the homeless and socially vulnerable people to solve their problems more efficiently, and to strengthen the organizational sustainability of *Baspana* as well. Q1/01

NGOs and Local Government Work Together to Teach Disabled Children
There are more than 1,300 disabled children in Astana that cannot afford to receive a modern high quality education**.** Recently the public union *Disabled Children Society* and the Local Social Security and Labor Department started a joint project to educate disabled children in computer literacy. The total cost of the education is 140,000 tenge (about $1,000). Eighteen children have already received training and twelve others are still being taught. Another 50 children are expected to attend two-month courses. *Disabled Children Society* was registered at the end of 2000. Kamka Madieva, the Director of *Disabled Children Society* indicated "the training we have received from Counterpart, and participation in the Republic Conference in February, 2000, On the Way to the Social Partnership, have played the major role in the realization of this project." Q1/01

Successful Lobbying Implemented by Counterpart Grantee
Through ongoing collaboration with Counterpart Focus NGO and grantee the National Consumers League of Kazakhstan, the Department of Consumers Rights Protection was established within the structure of the Anti-Monopoly and Small and Medium Enterprise Support Committee in February 2001. Prior to this there weren't any state-entities dedicated to the protection of consumer rights, nor was there systems for policymaking or tools for implementation. The League consulted on issues of structure, aims and procedures to be used by the Department. Another successful example of cooperation with the government is that the Ministry of Education agreed to include the course "The legal aspects of consumer rights protection" as a compulsory course in the Law and Economics program at the university level. Also, League representatives were included in two working groups comprised of the Ministry of Industry and Trade for the development of customs policies and a new law on trade. Q1/01

Association of School Public Council Strengthens its Financial Sustainability
As a result of the success and visibility of the campaign "Action Against Smoking Among Children and Teenagers", The Association of School Public Councils successfully obtained $10,000 from Philip Morris Kazakhstan to support ongoing activities related to the newspaper Trusteeship Council, a publication devoted to children' rights and parents' duties. With this funding the Association can cover publishing costs and has established relationships with members of the Association in 16 regions of Kazakhstan through which it distributes the newspaper. The Association's success is a direct result of ongoing technical assistance from Counterpart, including training in fundraising skills and strategic planning. Q4/00

Local NGO Fills Gap in Social Service Delivery to Orphans
Current economic constraints prevent the government of Kazakhstan from being able to establish a children's home for all orphans. Liliya Solovyeva, the Manager of the Astana-based NGO Svetoch appealed to Counterpart's Astana Support Center for help in solving this problem. The Center arranged for representatives of Svetoch to participate in joint Counterpart and Soros Foundation/Kazakhstan trainings through the Street Children Program. Additionally, Counterpart staff identified a Peace Corps volunteer to help Svetoch design a project to secure property for the establishment of an orphanage. As the result of these activities Svetoch has been successful in attracting funds from Kazakhoil to open an orphanage, which currently houses 33 children. Q4/00

Association of Unlawful Repressions' Victims Meets Community Need and Expands Activities
Until now thousands of Kazakhstani citizens were unable to find information about their relatives who died during the time of political repression (1930 – 1950). The Association of Unlawful Repressions' Victims has collected information on the victims such as their names, rehabilitation locations, and burial places. In 1998 the organization received a grant from Counterpart to publish the first volume of a Victims Memory Book Retain Forever. Their successful implementation of this project allowed them to attract additional funding ($6000) from the European Initiative on Human Rights and Democracy Development (TACIS) to publish a second volume and to organize an international conference for oppressed people. Q4/00

Successful Development of the Student Organization
Students in Free Entrepreneurship had 6 members in 1996 and needed to be strengthened organizationally. Two of their activists attended Counterpart seminars on organizational development, financial sustainability and fundraising and began to transfer knowledge gained at these seminars to other students. This organization now has 60 members and branches in four universities in Almaty. One successful and income-generating activity of the organization is the creation and distribution, in collaboration with the business sector, of Valentine's Day cards in various universities and colleges of Almaty. The success of this project has allowed the organization to begin planning for their expansion of activity throughout Kazakhstan. Q4/00

New Organization Helps Mothers Address Family Health Needs
The initiative group Zhan Uya-2030 Maternity and Childhood Support Center was organized by a doctor in Astana to help families learn methods of self-diagnosis and treatment (biogenic methods) that can be administered with minimal costs. The hope was to provide more than 200 mothers and their families with an option for accessing medical services, as they are extremely expensive. After getting informational and training support from Counterpart's Support Center in Astana, the group has registered and is in the process of expanding its community outreach. With $1300 in funding for the To the Top of Health Project more than 160 mothers have learned basic skills for maintaining healthy lifestyles. As a result, the trained women formed the club Otau Zharygy as a wing of the NGO through which experiences and information can be shared. Additionally, the NGO now has 20 volunteers that work with them on a full-time basis. Q4/00.

Western and Eastern Kazakhstani NGOs Expand Services
Until recent history, many areas of Kazakhstan have not had access to international agencies and services of local organizations. Areas most affected included western Kazakhstan and the Semipalatinsk region in eastern Kazakhstan – an area suffering as a result of years of nuclear tests. After participation in Counterpart trainings Western and Eastern Kazakhstani NGOs have gained the requisite skills for making developing strategic plans and fundraising strategies to enhance their marketability among the local and international donor community. As a result, these organizations have been successful in attracting over $20,000 from various donors to implement the following programs:

- "Women's Initiative Support" (Semipalatinsk) - $1,200 from Power Engineering Institution (USA);
- "Organization of Juridical Services for Women of Semipalatinsk" - $4,000 from American Juridical Bureau;
- "Cleanliness of Irtysh Bank" (Semiplatinsk) - $2,000 from Global Ecology Fund (UNDP project);
- $10,000 was given by ISAR through its Caspian program in Atyrau (Western Kazakhstan);
- $3,500 was given by Eurasia Foundation under the framework of their "Development of Local Governing in Aktau" program. Q4/00

Kazakhstani Focus NGO Integrated into International Community
One of the few non-commercial and non-governmental organizations of Kazakhstan that has been able to expand its activities to the international level is the National Consumer League of Kazakhstan. Through Counterpart-sponsored conferences, round tables and Counterpart training and technical support, the League has developed its skills in international partnership development. Recently it participated in the 16th International Congress and became the Central Asian representative of the organization Consumers International. Beginning in February 2001 the organization will participate in trainings provided by Consumers International to expand the technical expertise of the League. These activities support the development of the League as a local resource for information on consumer's rights for Central Asian consumer groups. Q4/00

Women Help Police Stop Violence Against Women
In early 1999 the Administrative Police Department established special units to prevent violence against women. These units are understaffed and not adequately trained. To address this, the Almaty-based women's crisis center Podrugi, a long-term target and grantee of Counterpart, initiated a meeting with the head of the Administrative Police Department. As a result, the Program of Cooperation between the Center and the Administrative Police Department was developed and launched in June 2000. Under this program, the Center will conduct training on the issue of violence against women for officers from six district-level police departments. Additionally, the Center will create training and procedure manuals for the police officers. This is the first successful example of cooperation between an Almaty NGO and the police department. Q4/00

Public Hearings Promote Interaction
For the first time public hearings were held in the Republic of Kazakhstan in November 2000. This event was the result of the efforts and initiative of the Confederation of Non Governmental Organizations of Kazakhstan (CNOK), the majority of who are Counterpart grantees, partners and recipients of training in Social Partnership. This activity was designed to engage the community and government in a dialogue to discuss Kazakhstan's societal problems in a public forum and to work together to find ways to solve them. The first public hearing was scheduled for the VI Republican Day of Diabetes and focused on diabetic and other health issues. Participants in the discussion included representatives from health agencies, business, government and NGOs. As a result, the Ministry of Labor and Social Defense expressed their intent to enter into partnership with the Diabetes Association of the Republic of Kazakhstan. Q4/00

Counterpart Target Organizations Successfully Access Soros Funding to Expand Support
As a result of ongoing technical assistance by Counterpart, three target NGOs in Kazakhstan have extended the range of their activities to include providing support services to other NGOs and initiative groups. As a result of this enhanced capacity, these target NGOs successfully received funding through the Soros-Kazakhstan Foundation competition "NGOs support NGOs" for the following projects:
The consulting center "Zubr" received $12,000 to provide consulting and educational support to NGOs working in East Kazakhstan. The association of lawyers " Legal initiative" received $8,865 for the organization of support center consulting on legal issues for NGOs. This activity will be fulfilled together with Counterpart's affiliated partners. Kiwanis Club in Taraz received $9,702 to develop opportunities for Taraz NGOs to do business. Q3/00

NGO Wins the Contest in the Web Design
The NGO center Kid's Time successfully competed and beat out several large corporations for the "The Best Entertainment Site" in the "The Best Site of KITEL 2000" competition. The goal of this competition was to highlight and recognize companies working in the Kazakhstan market and using professional approaches to promote their activities through the Internet. The victory of Kid's Time was made possible through Counterpart's financial support of the project "Unified Information Area for Youth and Children." Under this project four seminars were conducted in Atyrau, Shymkent, Astana and Semipalatinsk to promote issues for children. Kid's Time decided to develop a web site to foster discussion among youth and children and about all aspects of youth's lives. Q3/00

Social Partnership Helps to Protect Social Vulnerable Groups
About a year ago, as a result of Counterpart funded activities, the Association of Noncommercial Organizations Invalids of Kazakhstan was instrumental in establishing a coordination committee of NGO and government leaders from the Bostandyk Akimat of Almaty. The Coordination Committee has been represented by 40 members of public and religious organizations of the Bostandyk district under chairmanship of the Akim deputy. The Committee publishes a newsletter about its activities, which has been distributed among NGOs. Additionally, the Committee created a computer database to improve the quality of financial aid management to vulnerable social groups. As a result of this social partnership activity initiated by the Association, the database now includes 41,000 invalids and pensioners. Q3/00

Government Attracts NGOs' Experience to Solve Youth Problems
For the first time ever in Kazakhstan, NGOs are working with local government in a formal partnership for the Regional Youth Program of Kostanai Oblast for 2000-2001. NGOs were given an important role in the implementation of this program. In particular, two of Counterpart's target NGOs, Alliance and Help, are responsible for the administration of a contest, named for the Oblast Akim, to stimulate youth and children organizations and initiative groups. The total funding of this contest is 21M Tenge over three years. Other NGOs are working as members of the established Advisory Committee of this program under the Oblast Akim. Q3/00

Counterpart's Partner Obtained Sustainability for the Regional Housing Association
At the beginning of this year the Department of Housing and Utility Services of Ust-Kamenogorsk acknowledged that the Regional Housing Association (RHA) established two years ago was not operating within state guidelines and it was clear that the organization had management problems. The Department appealed to the NGO ZUBR to help the RHA solve its problems. After carrying out an organizational development assessment, a General Assembly of the Association was convened where a new charter was approved and a new Executive Board was elected. As a result of ZUBR's support and intervention, the membership base of the RHA is now 70%, up from 5%, despite the fact that only 20 cooperatives out of 47 (former members of the Association) have shown genuine interest since the reorganization process. ZUBR is now providing the RHA with meeting space so they can conduct meetings on a weekly basis – rather than the bi-monthly meeting schedule previously implemented. Counterpart has been providing on going consultations for ZUBR on different issues and has trained staff in a variety of topics, particularly Association Development, and has provided financial support through the small grant program to establish and develop this local Resource Center for NGOs. Q3/00

Pokolenie's Successful Actions
The Association Pokolenie is dedicated to defending the rights of pensioners in Kazakhstan. The first tangible result of their efforts came through the Counterpart-funded activity "Social protection of widows and aged women having many children and single mothers." Under this project heat gauges were installed in select apartments of a few apartment buildings (CAPs - Cooperative of Apartment Proprietors) in order to compare the actual consumption with the set tariffs. The result was that set rates were several times higher than actual consumption rates. These results were presented to the Almaty Akimat Antimonopoly Committee and the Almaty Power Consolidated Company. After a request from the Antimonopoly Committee to reconsider the tariffs on heating, it was determined that the Almaty Power Consolidated Company illegally earned profits in excess of 69 million tenge from 1998-1999. This year the APC has started paying out compensations to apartment proprietors for the 1998-1999 years. Q3/00

NGO Protected Individual Rights of Astana Citizens
Over the past few years, the Astana-based company, "Astanaenergoservice" used its position as a monopoly on utilities in the capital market to issue a collective contract for its services. As a result of such illegal actions, individual rights of utility consumers were ignored. The local NGO Consumer's Advocate, a grantee of Counterpart and training participant in the Counterpart Advocacy module, took their appeal to court. The resulting decision was that collective contracts on utility consumption should be abolished and, for the first time in Kazakhstan, the company will have to sign individual contracts with each of 350,000 consumers. Q3/00

Mothers Rally to Secure Education for their Children
Prior to this quarter, partially deaf children in the Astana area were unable to access public education, as there was no school in Astana to support their special needs. In September a school was opened that is providing education to 15 children previously denied access to school. This success is a direct result of coordinated activity of an initiative group of mothers, the Astana Civil Society Support Center, and the Almaty-based Association of Disabled People of Kazakhstan NGO Zhan. After approaching staff at the Astana Center, the Center developed a strategy for the group of mothers that included education, training, and practical work with Zhan. The result was a legal registration of this initiative group as an NGO, which allowed it to more actively lobby interests of partially deaf children in the local Akimat. Q3/00

Baspana Helps Homeless
Today more than one million homeless people are registered in Kazakhstan with about 120,000 of them in Almaty. Baspana Association reaches about 35,000 of these people through its program "Help Yourself." With support and training from Counterpart in topics such as Constituency Development, NGO and Community, Community Outreach, and Project Design, Baspana has been able to design projects that mobilize people living in bad social conditions and implement programs that help individuals solve their own problems resulting in the following outcomes: 1) Baspana built 339 apartment houses and shops in Shanyrak-2 and Duman-1; 2) more than 300 families received interest-free credit to build houses; and 3) ith the financial support of international donors, Baspana built a 2 km water conduit. Q3/00

NGO's Access to Partner Increases its Ability to Detect Disabilities
Science has proven that early intervention is key to the normal development of children with mental and physical disabilities, yet there is no tradition of preventative care in Kazakhstan. In response the local NGO Center SATR, in partnership with the Elwyn Institute of Philadelphia, was able to develop a unique early intervention program. The children referred to SATR, the program was highly effective in increasing the diagnose capture rate of the children (ages 0-3) with delays in development up from 8% in 1993 to 64% in 1998. Recently SATR started accepting applications for interns from organizations around the NIS, and continues to attract more specialists. Q2/00

NGOs Have Equal Voice on National Commission for Children's Rights
Kazakhstan has failed to provide a timely report on implementation of the UN Convention on Children's Rights that was ratified by Parliament in 1994. To address this, the Government of Kazakhstan organized a professional commission to prepare a report that addresses this seven-year period. Members of this commission included four leaders of NGOs working in the subject area. The members shared equal ranking as Parliament and Government representatives. Three of the NGOs – *League Ak Bota, Kids' Time Center, and the Information Research Center for Civic Education* – are Counterpart target organizations, that have both received and participated in Counterpart grants and trainings. Q2/00

NGO Civil Society Support Centers Assist in Supporting Women's Initiatives
An organization's ability to secure financial support for new initiatives is a key contributor to the success and sustainability of that organization. This is especially the case for newly-organized NGOs that often have their projects discarded by potential funders due to their lack the experience in developing and writing grant proposals. Through training and follow-up consultations in Program Design provided by Counterpart's Civil Society Support Centers, six established and ten newly-organized women's NGOs throughout Kazakhstan received funding through the US/Kazakhstan Women's Leadership Training Grant Program for NGOs. This program is a partnership project between the EcoCenter of Karaganda and the American organization, Center for Safe Energy. Q2/00

The Association of Pension Funds Recognized as Key Player in Pension Reform
Kazakhstan is the first country in the NIS to implement a comprehensive pension reform. During the first two years of the reform, 14 non-governmental pension funds were opened, 11 of which became members of the Association of Pension Funds. Because of their limited knowledge of the new pension system, the reforms suffered pitfalls from the weaknesses of the first new pension legislation (unclear definitions of the role of pension system participants and inconsistency of the reform's steps). To address these challenges, Counterpart awarded the Association a grant to establish a close working relationship with Parliament and other parties. As a result of successful implementation of grant activities, the NGO is now recognized as one of the key players in pension reform. In addition, the Chairman of the Council of the Association of Pension Funds has been named to two state structures: the Interdepartmental State Board for Implementation of Activities for Program Loans from the World Bank for Supporting of the Pension Reform; and the Working Group for Developing the Concept of the Future Development of the Pension System under the Prime Minister of Kazakhstan. Q2/00

Legislative and Executive Authorities and NGO Sector Unite to Combat Ecological Crisis
For the first time, representatives of two government authorities: the Legislative (the Committee for Ecology and Wildlife Management of the Majilis from the Kazakhstan Parliament) and the Executive (the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment Protection) along with a working group of seven NGOs have signed an agreement of cooperation to address the increasing ecological crisis in Kazakhstan. This agreement was a result of international environmental policies and conventions that aimed to address problems of ecology and human health through public education, information, public participation in decision-making of ecological issues, implementation of programs, and improvement of the current legislation. Three of the seven organizations that signed the agreement are Counterpart's long-term partners and grantees: Belovodie (Leninogorsk), Kiwanis (Taraz), and Kaspiy Tabigaty (Atyrau). Q2/00

The Association of Libraries Develops Fundraising Skills of its Members
The Association of Libraries of the Republic of Kazakhstan (ALRK) has suffered from low membership dues payments. This is in large part to vast state cuts in funding to ALRK member libraries throughout Kazakhstan. Exacerbating this problem is ALRK's weak fundraising skills. ALRK received funding from Counterpart to develop a program to increase its knowledge and capacity in the latest fundraising techniques. As a result, 26 local companies now provide the ALRK with financial assistance totaling over 400,000 tenge for purchases and updating of equipment. Examples include: the publishing house Economics- provided the Association with literature estimating $410 in value; Chevron- sponsored the Association with a total of $1,500; and USIS- assisted in publishing materials. Today, the ALRK is poised to enter the international market and identify partners abroad. Q2/00

NGO Leads Education on Labor Law
As of January 1, 2000 a new labor law went into effect that introduced several changes in the relationship between employers and employees in Kazakhstan. Despite increased interests, the government made no attempts to educate people about it. The NGO Legal Initiative was the first in Almaty to offer a seminar on the law, in which the people could get the necessary information delivered in an understandable and comprehensive way. The seminar, funded by Counterpart Consortium- women's grant program was targeted primarily towards women's NGOs. It was highly successful and popular, prompting several government institutions, including the Kazakhstan State National University to request the seminar, covering all associated expenses. Q2/00

NGO Actively Addresses the Problem of Women's Unemployment
The city of Uralsk, in Western Kazakhstan, was one of the largest defense industry towns under the Soviet system. With the dissolution of the Soviet Union, this town, particularly women continue to face growing unemployment issues. The local NGO, Union of Priuralye Women – Umit developed a three-month training course for unemployed women. Upon completion of the course, participants received a certificate in small enterprise development. With funding from the Counterpart Women's Grant Program, the Union has successfully trained two groups of women, with 30 participants per group in January and April. Of the 30 women, 5 started their own businesses and 16 found a job within three months after completion of the course. These promising results have enabled the organization to win a tender announced by the local government and receive $4200 to continue delivering training. Q2/00

Network of Civil Society Support Centers Contributes to Development of the Third Sector
Counterpart Consortium's endeavor to support civic initiatives through a network of Civil Society Support Centers has shown significant results in the development of sustainability and capacity to not only the Resource Centers, but to also their principal clients - local NGOs. Over the last year and a half, the Centers assisted 27 new NGOs in obtaining registration and 42 NGOs to receive grants totaling $140,000 (through consultations and training in Project Design, Strategic Planning and legal issues). Amongst the numerous achievements, the most successful Civil Society Support Centers included Astana Support Center, the Eco-Center of Karaganda and the Consulting Center Zubr (Ust-Kamenogorsk). Q2/00

Kyrgyzstan

Save the Trees

For the past three years the number of felled trees has increased in the Tup region, leading to increased soil erosion. The resulting desertification has lead to decreased plough-land, low soil fertility, and a decrease of haymaking. In order to solve these problems the NGO *Etno-Tur Santash* applied for consultative assistance to Karakol CSSC and attended the following trainings: Project Design and Fundraising. As a result, *Etno-Tur-Santash* designed a project to preserve forests in mountain villages by planting saplings near Santash, Ken-Suu, and Kara-Chunkur village. Under this project, the local population will plant the saplings, which are provided free of charge by the local forestry on the contract basis. GTZ funded this project with $1,005 in April under its program *NGO and local communities support the Convention on desertification in the Kyrgyz Republic*. Q2/03

Refugees created strong organization in Kyzyl-Kyia.

Refugees from Tajikistan face a lot of difficulties starting a new life in a new place. There are 596 refugees (120 households) in Kyzyl-Kyia, and many face problems with housing and unemployment. Recently these refugees have been taking more initiative to resolve their own problems. In 2001, with the support of Batken CSSC, the refugees created the NGO *Radjab-Ata*, which currently provides support to refugees. To build the capacity of the NGO, its members attended training seminars delivered by Batken CSSC and Counterpart, including PCA facilitation. As a result of this assistance, *Radjab-Ata* designed the project *Construction of Toilest and Dust-collectors*. The project was approved and financed by UNDP/LIFE to the amount of $4,000. This project is being successfully implemented. Currently, *Radjab-Ata* is one of the best NGOs in Batken Oblast with qualified staff, good material base and effective communications with their communities. Q2/03

Solid Project Design Skills Win Funding

In May 2002 the Counterpart-funded project to renovate the secondary school *Alykul* in the village of *Tashtak* (Suzak Rayon) was successfully completed. $4,871 in grant funding supported major repairs to the school. An additional $2,679 of Counterpart grant funding allowed the community to install a new heating system. With all these repairs, the community still lacked technical equipment to put in their renovated school. The school badly needed basic materials such as desks, chairs and blackboards for the 750 student school. The NGO *El Kutu Elette* and *Tashtak* community members took the initiative to address this problem and attract additional resources. With the NGO's proven ability to design projects, they prepared the project *Providing school equipment*, which was funded by Mercy Corps with $5,100. The community was able to purchase 9 blackboards, 12 tables, 20 chairs and 75 desks. Q2/03

Stable Partnership = Stable Funding

The initiative group of *Eski Pokrovka*, as a target community of the Osh CSSC, has experience in community project management. While cost share from the community and local authorities was agreed upon by all parties as a stipulation of grant funding, the local authorities cited lack of funds and backed out on their commitment. The initiative group, ultimately responsible for the cost share requirement, scrambled to collect the $507. This process helped the initiative group realize the importance of interaction with local authorities and community members. The Osh CSSC, aware of the struggles, conducted training in Social Partnership and Advocacy and hosted a roundtable discussion on strengthening cooperation between NGOs and local authorities. With broad participation from NGOs, community members and local government, five communities developed agreements to work with the initiative group, who in turn established a stable partnership with the Kyzyl October village board. The village board supports the initiative group's activities with a set aside in their budget equaling $2,325 in 2003. As a result, the initiative group is able to address problems in their own and seven neighboring villages of the Kyzyl October village board. Q2/03

Installation of heating system in Komsomol School
PCA exercises in *Komsomol* village in the Suzak Rayon, Jalal-Abad Oblast revealed the deterioration of social infrastructure, namely the heating system in the high school. In recent winters students have had to study in the cold school. The local community, with the NGO *Azem*, took the initiative to attract external funding to install a new heating system. They attended the training workshops, conducted by Jalal-Abad CSSC and Counterpart and received technical and informational support from the Jalal-Abad CSSC. As a result, they prepared the project *Installation of heating system*, which was supported with $2,300 in funding from the Asian Development Bank. Q2/03

Innovative Partnership for Long Term Development
A partnership agreement between the Kumtor Operating Company (KOC) and the CSSC of Karakol was signed in February and provides support to local NGOs, community organizations and initiative groups to implement activities addressing social problems, protecting local interests, and strengthening cooperation among communities, businesses and governments. According to the agreement, KOC is providing $2,439 annually in grant money to be disbursed through the local grant committee in the Issyk-Kul Oblast. The first meeting of the grant committee took place on June 20, during which 12 of 30 applications were approved. In order to implement credit activities the CSSC Karakol and KOC have founded the Microcredit Agency, which was registered in April 2, 2003. The sum of $4,878 will be given as credits to NGOs, CBOs, and initiative groups with a 20% interest rate. Every year the credit portfolio will be replenished with accrued interest rates and additional contributions of KOC, which estimates annual funding at $4,800. The sum of $2,073 has been allocated to cover costs associated with administration, grant review and selection, and monitoring and evaluation. The cooperation with KOC contributes to the sustainable development of the CSSC and development of local NGOs/CBOs. Q2/03

NGO in Partnership
In this difficult economic environment, many entrepreneurs have created small businesses as a means to create jobs for themselves others. While the intention is good, they often lack the appropriate business management skills and knowledge, to found a viable business. In order to solve this problem, members of three Batken NGOs *XXI Kylym Baldary*, *Ustat*, and *Kanykei Ene* attended a number of Counterpart and the Batken CSSC trainings including Project Design, Financial Sustainability, Strategic Planning, Microbusiness Basics, and Social Partnership. The three formed a consortium to accelerate the formation of Small and Medium Business in Batken region. They designed the project *Opening Own Business*, which was funded by Europe Aid in April 2003 with $11,950. The consortium is providing trainings in the development of business ideas and expanded training to include one-day seminars for official establishments, state organs, local authorities, financial establishments and NGOs in Batken, Isfana, Sulukta, Pulgon, Kyzyl-Kya. Altogether over 70 people were trained. This project became has motivated further business development and stands as a model for intersectional cooperation. Q2/03

Working Together for a Big Payoff
Dayres' district (180 households) is located 60 km. from the Kerben rayon center. On April 22 heavy rain destroyed a 500 meter road running through the village and the main drainpipe preventing irrigation problems. Receiving consultiontations and training in Human Resources Management, Strategic Planning, Social Partnership, Fundraising, Project Design, NGO Management, Financial Sustainability, and Formation of Interested Environment from the Kerben CSSC, the members of the NGO *Yntymak Dayres* mobilized citizens to repair the damage. 29 people participated in the road repair work with $35 contributed from a local sponsor to subsidize labor costs. Then the community worked to restore the drainpipe by hand. 18 community members worked for two days to complete the repairs. The local farm *Dayres* sponsored the drainpipe repairs with $115 for welding supplies. Further, 55 members of the community and residents of *Dayres* district cleaned 700 meters of the irrigation ditch. With just $150 in funding and in one month, the NGO *Yntymak Dayres* mobilized people to fix the road, repair the drainpipe and clean the irrigation ditch. Q2/03

Community Demands Change, Gets Clean Water
People in the *Archa Beshik* area of Bishkek (100 households) have not had proper access to water for the past ten years. The local residents requested the local NGO *Arysh* support their initiative to lay pipelines after hearing about *Arysh's* success in working on similar issues with a neighboring community. The NGO helped establish four community initiative groups and trained them in skills such as NGO and Community, Project Design, Fundraising, and Human Resources Management. For the start up of the water pipeline campaign, the initiative groups raised $730. *Arysh* contributed $3,000 US dollars to lay 500 meters water pipe; the city administration contributed $3,900 to lay 200 meters water pipe. People actively participated in public works. On May 16 the water project was completed and opened for use. The project's success was in the local newspaper *Slovo Kyrgyzsytana*. Q2/03

Repair of the School Roof in Tashtak Village
Tashtak village in the Jalalabad region has 1350 residents (around 270 households) and a school with capacity for 800 students. PCA exercises revealed the condition of the local school to be a priority problem, with a community action plan developed calling for roof repairs to take place during the summer holidays. In anticipation of the repairs, the initiative group, working with the local NGO *Lola Bah* began looking for funding from international donors. As a result of participation in Counterpart trainings such as Project Design, Fundraising, NGO and Community, Advocacy, Social Partnership, and Joint Monitoring and Evaluation, the NGO and initiative group developed the project proposal *Repair of Roof of Tashtak School*, which was funded by the Asian Development Bank with $2,300. Q2/03

The Hamza school has got a new roof
The Hamza Secondary School is located in the village of Choko-Dobo (Suzak Rayon, Jalalabad Oblast), populated with 2,046 people. The school was built in 1976 and currently more than 1,000 students attend the school. The minor repair works done annually have not been sufficient to prevent the old building from falling into disrepair. Last year, roof repair was identified as a priority problem during PCA exercises and was the focus of the community action plan. The community approached members of the NGO *Kojomat* to develop a joint project to repair the roof. Both participated in trainings and seminars conducted by Jalal-Abad CSSC and Counterpart. As a result, the joint project to repair roof was designed and funded by the Asian Development Bank with $2,500. Q2/03

Achy school rehabilitation
The mountain village of *Achy* has a population of 650, 207 of which are school aged children. *Achy* has a three-year school, but after third grade, the students must go to a cluster village school located 27 km away to continue their studies. Given the great distance, the majority of students do not study beyond the third grade (only 16 students of 67 children continued last year). The community decided expansion of the school was their best option. The village government administration started to build additional rooms of the school in 2000, but lacked the resources to complete the construction. Community members, working with the NGO *El Kutu Elete* took the initiative to finish construction by attracting resources from external donors. Equipped with skills learned in Counterpart workshops at the Jalalabad CSSC, the group developed a project that was subsequently funded by the Asian Development Bank with $2,500. Q2/03

Nookat CSSC Provides Training Services for Fees
Many international organizations have conducted trainings, seminars and roundtables devoted to the education of the local population concerning independent solutions to social problems. These activities are primarily conducted for the urban population and rural populations have been neglected as a result of transportation and language difficulties. To address this gap, the Nookat CSSC began charging fees to conduct trainings in Kyrgyz and Uzbek local languages. As a result, 23 fee-for-service trainings were conducted for five village councils with a total of 391 villagers in attendance. The Nookat CSSC collected $1,695 in training fees, thus enhancing its sustainability. Q1/03

United States Democracy Commission Supports Legal Education of Rural Women Project
Women from the rural areas of Kyrgyzstan have expressed a need for greater knowledge of NGO legal issues. Limited access to information and resources has led to a deterioration of their legal knowledge. The *Coalition for Democracy and Civic Society* public union actively participated in Talas CSSC's trainings and developed the "Education of Women in Rural Areas on Legal Issues Project" in close consultation with the CSSC. The United States Democracy Commission in the Kyrgyz Republic supported the above project allocating $2,661. Currently, the NGO is conducting trainings, seminars and roundtables on legal issues and on the creation of women's NGOs among village women in the Talas oblast. To date, the NGO has conducted two trainings and 21 consultations for 40 women from two villages participated in trainings and consultations. Q1/03

NGO Organizes Fundraiser for School Breakfast Program for 150 School Children
The temperature in the Arstanbap village's secondary school has been low due to a malfunctioning heating system, which negatively influenced children's health. To combat the cold, hot breakfasts were prepared for children during the winter period. Unfortunately, due to the school's scarce administrative budget, the provision of hot breakfasts was limited. The members of the NGO *Salman-Ata* participated in Jalal-Abad CSSC's trainings on NGO and Community, Project Design and Fundraising. The NGO conducted a fundraising campaign for the secondary school children called *Free Food*. The village's 200 residents collectively provided $152 and the village forestry administration contributed an additional $50. One hundred and fifty secondary school children have received hot breakfasts from the NGO for the duration of the three-month winter season. Q1/03

Providing secondary education to Kosh-Almurut children
Since 2001, the remote village of Kosh-Almurut in Jalalabad Oblast has experienced a problem related to the rising number of children in secondary schools. Students were attending school in shifts to accommodate the population. To address this problem, in late 2001 village residents started construction of additional classrooms. The village authorities lacked the appropriate resources to complete the construction. The NGO *Kosh-Almurut* conducted a meeting with the head of the village authorities, and facilitated the creation of the community initiative group to address this issue. The initiative group developed a detailed proposal with technical estimates and architectural assignments. This year, the leader of *Kosh-Almurut* and three members participated in the Jalalabad CSSC training in Project Design and learned more about mobilizing communities. As a result of this support, the project was redesigned to include the village authorities as a partner and was presented to ADB and UNDP for funding. The ADB is contributing $2,500 and the UNDP is providing $1,500. The village governments are taking responsibility for project implementation. It is anticipated that after the completion of the project 1637 students will more comfortably receive secondary education. Q1/03

Corporate Sponsorship Takes Hold in Karakol
The main problem of the CSSC in Kyrgyzstan is the relationship with business structures in terms of sustainable corporate charity. This issue was raised during OD assessments with the Karakol CSSC. Although there were several contributions from local businesses to the projects of local NGOs and communities, there is no coordination of corporate support. Training and consultations on strategic planning and social partnership have been provided to the Karakol CSSC. According the strategic plan, the Center has been developing its relationship with the Kumtor Operating Companyas one of the key local sources of financing. Through extensive negotiations between the Karakol CSSC and representatives from the Kumtor Operating Company, an Oblast committee for collaboration was formed and will meet regularly at the Center. The Kumtor Operating Company will contribute 80000 soms (1800 USD) per year to the committee, which will grant funds to support community projects on a competitive basis. Q1/03

Amendments and additions to the Tax Code of the Kyrgyz Republic" bill was successfully approved
Taxation is one of the most important issues for the sustainable development of the civil society. With the adoption of the Tax Code in 1996, an attempt was made to create a favorable tax regime for NGOs. However, due to the absence of such fundamental laws as the NGO Law and the Law on Patronage and Charitable Activities, tax privileges are not appropriately applied, a source of tension for NGOs working with tax offices. A task force, consisting of deputies of the Legislative Chamber of the Kyrgyz Parliament, representatives of local NGOs and ICNL, developed a bill called *Amendments and Additions to the Tax Code of the Kyrgyz Republic*. The CSSC Association initiated a national advocacy campaign to promote this bill and conducted 14 round tables in all provinces of Kyrgyzstan with participation of 350 people representing NGOs, mass media and state institutions. The roundtable participants discussed the proposed bill and prepared appeals to 45 deputies of the Legislative Chamber with requests to support the efforts of the civil society organizations and adopt the bill. On March 8, 2003 the bill *Amendments and additions to the Tax Code of the Kyrgyz Republic* was signed by the President and on March 14 it was put into force. Q1/03

Attention, Ayan is on the air – we are protecting our rights!
The population of the remote villages of *8 of March* and *Shoro* in the Naryn Rayon feel great isolation and feel they lack information regarding legal issues and protection of their civil rights. The community members developed the project *Free consultation of NGO Soopker on Legal Issues* for the benefit of the population of remote villages, which was approved in 2002 by the Democratic Commission of the USA. The *Soopker,* in collaboration with the independent TV company *Ayan,* provided the population with the free consultations on legal issues through video films that were distributed to the population. Both groups have participated in Counterpart training workshops such as Project Design, Social Partnership, Fundraising, and Public Education through the Media at the Naryn CSSC since 1997. As a result, the population of Naryn and At-Bashy Rayons (about 300 people) has received consultations from *Soopker* on legal issues such as the exchange of Soviet passports for Kyrgyz ones, home ownership, division of property, and the collection of alimony and child support. Q1/03

Fundraising Leads to Reconstruction of School Building
The Kara-Chunkur village has two school buildings, one of which has been in terrible condition for ten years due to budget constraints. Because of the poor building condition, classes have been conducted in shifts. Members of the public association, *Etno-Tur Santash*, comprised of villagers from Kara-Chunkur, requested and received assistance in fundraising, project design, and strategic planning from the Karakol CSSC. Using the acquired knowledge, the members drafted projects to reconstruct the non-operating school buildings. The project school reconstruction project was supported by a Mercy Corps grant of $3,330. Q1/03

Community Mobilization Leads to Construction of School
The population of the *Boo Terek* village has grown to 3,500 people, of which 900-1000 are children. The existing school was intended for only 450 students; therefore, there is a need for considerable expansion of the school. An initiative group of six people, who subsequently registered as a public fund (PF), was established to solve this problem. The members of the PF received training from the Talas CSSC on project development and fundraising. The PF mobilized 340 people for reconstruction of the school with the involvement of state and private sectors. The local municipality and businessmen have provided construction materials and freight delivery transport valued at $13,775. After roofing the school with slates provided by Ministry of Emergency (costing $580), the project was submitted to the Canadian Fund for further financing ($5,200). The contribution from the local population amounted to $9,280. The total construction cost of the school is $29,000. Completion is on track for the beginning of the school year in September. The leader of the project has expressed his gratitude to the staff of the Center and hopes for further assistance in the administration of future projects. Q1/03

Semenov Fir: a rare and endangered species of Kyrgyzstan's flora

The *Semenov fir* is registered on the Red Book of species and grows in a handful of territories in the Kyrgyz Republic, including an area of five villages in the Bakai-Ata Rayon. For the last 10 years the natural habitat of these trees has decreased from 40 hectares to 15. The trees are in great danger from being cut down by the local population since firewood yields such a high price. After participating in the Talas CSSC training in Project Design, the members of the NGO *Ak-Kaiyn* developed an idea to protect this rare species and requested help from the CSSC to identify appropriate donor agencies and to develop the funding application. The project *Semenov Fir* was approved by the UNDP/GEF Program for $6,000. The objectives of the project are to purchase and plant young Semenov fir trees (1,000 units) on the original 40 hectare plot and to conduct a public awareness campaign among the five villages (7,000 people) to promote the protection of this rare species. In all, 28 families joined the initiative. After a one and a half year period, there will be land plots with beautiful Semenov fir trees in the areas where they once stood. Q1/03

First step to the community development sustainability

Community Foundations are a new concept in discussion of sustainable community development. Projects related to revenue generation and micro-business in communities have been the first step toward the creation of community foundations by CSSCs. OD assessments with CSSCs revealed a fundamental lack of information and experience in providing consultations on revenue generation, business development and community foundations in general to initiative groups of target communities. As a result, Counterpart developed consultations and presentations for CSSC's, including presentations and training from Counterpart Germany and organized a study tour for staff members of the Karakol and Osh Centers to Germany to see community foundations first hand. As a result, the quality of revenue generation projects has improved and the CSSCs are more comfortable, with increased capacity, to consult on business planning and participatory monitoring and evaluation of these projects. Target communities in Osh have started to pay interest to the community initiative group and in Talas and Kerben target communities are starting to generate real income as well. Q1/03

Gained knowledge helps Kok-Jar community to implement projects successfully

Kok-Jar village of Osh Oblast, with the population of 13,800 is located far from the oblast's center and other villages, which leads to slow development of the third sector. Members of the village board and local communities did not know how to solve problems like repairing the school, water supply system, power lines, etc. After consulting with the Nookat CSSC and participating in the NGO and Community and Project design training seminars, the community members created an NGO and developed several project proposals. The first one is "Power line building" which gained funding by USAID to the amount of $9,445. Mercy Corps International financed two other projects: $1,000 was spent to repair a school for 1200 students; $2,500 was spent to repair the water supply system. USAID also supported the project to build a macaroni workshop to the amount of $2,257 and jobs were provided for seven people. The above successful activities are contributing to an increase in the social level of the Kok-Jar village population and their ability to find solutions to their problems themselves. Q4/02

GEF /UNDP supported a project to save the rare species

Increased extermination of Tien Shan marals almost caused the extinction of this rare species. Naryn State Nursery was created on the territory of the Naryn oblast for conservation of these animals but 5 hectares was not enough. After consulting with the Naryn CSSC and participating in the training-seminars Project Design and Fundraising, the Public association *Eco-Health* developed the project *"Rehabilitation and increasing the population of Tien Shan marals,"* which was supported by the Global Environmental Facility /UNDP to the sum of $12,000. Consequently, 50 hectares of land were provided. *Eco-Health* is planning to increase the number of marals to 27 by 2005. Now there is hope to save this rare and beautiful animal. Q4/02

Cattle Breeding Was Developed In Karimberdi Village

The village of Karimberdi is located 65 km away from the Nookat Vl. The village is populated with 34 families (186 people), whose main activities are mostly growing tobacco, raising corn, cotton, wheat, melons and watermelons. The land can be used for cattle breeding, but because of poor financial resources, the villagers did not have an opportunity to buy and herd cattle. After consultations with the CSSC of Nookat, the community leaders participated in the training seminars in *PCA, NGO and Community, Business Planning,* and *Project Design*. Using the obtained knowledge and skills, the community leader A. Dooronov assisted the community initiative group (15 members) in developing the project *Cattle Breeding Development*, which was submitted to Mercy Corps. The project was supported for $1,580. As a result, 6 villagers received $220 per person, and one person received $260 to buy a churn that increased the level of income of recipients by 50 %. Q4/02

Kerben CSSC diversified services toward the financial sustainability

Improvement of services provided by Kerben CSSC for communities regarding financial sustainability was the one of the priority problems identified in the OD consultancy. Development of an action plan, consultation on strategic planning and fundraising activities of Counterpart consultants enabled the staff of Kerben CSSC to look for additional funding. One of the areas of concern was the problem attached to the border crossing between Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan which often consisted of illegal bribe-taking by authorities engendered by the ignorance about regulations and laws on the part of citizens of both countries. The International Organization on Migration (IOT) approved a project to establish information stands at the border points of Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan that would provide information and explanations on regulations and laws of Kyrgyzstan necessary to enter the other country. This new service for citizens in Kerben rayon could prevent trans-border conflicts and is a good opportunity to attract financing. The grant, worth $2,200USD, is a big contribution to the financial sustainability of Kerben CSSC. Q4/02

Volunteerism development in Nookat CSSC

Priority problems identified in the first OD assessment in the Nookat CSSC were the inactivity of volunteers and the absence of conditions to develop a volunteer movement. Counterpart consultants facilitated development of an action plan to promote volunteerism activities. Consultations and training on volunteerism and visits of volunteers of Nookat CSSC to other centers on an exchange program financed by Counterpart enabled the Nookat CSSC in developing a Volunteer Center. The Nookat CSSC opened 4 branches of the Volunteer Center in the target communities. According to the database the number of volunteers reached 65, including volunteers who were recruited to assist in community projects in the 4 target communities. Q4/02

Our volunteers helped 72 children with special needs to survive the winter safely.

After visiting Bakai Ata Children Psychoneurological Boarding School, two volunteers from Youth Initiative Group (also members of Talas CSSC) discovered the urgent need for medicine, tranquilizers, detergents/soaps, food, clothes and shoes for 72 children mostly from poor families. In the framework of the program "Lets make the World kinder" 20 members of a Youth Initiative Group carried out a fundraising campaign "Lets present joy to children." Volunteers approached a wide range of organizations and institutions. Many international organizations and private companies kindly responded to the request of the volunteers to take part in the campaign. These organizations included: Central Asian Partnership; Joint-stock company "Dan-Azyk"; "Manas 1000" which provided 70 pairs of clothes and shoes; INTERLOT Bishkek company which provided $100 worth of soap; Kyrgyz Agricultural Finance Corporation which provided $250 worth of food; and Public Find "Lavanda" which provided medicine and tranquilizers worth $60. Individuals and other members of the private sector also contributed to this action by providing clothes, shoes, money, and food. The Youth Initiative Group managed to raise up to $1,150 for the children at the boarding school. This year-long campaign was the first of its kind carried out in the Talas oblast. Q4/02

Nookat CSSC Increased Membership
Membership development is a key component to attracting additional funding for financial sustainability. In Nookat CSSC this problem was raised during the OD assessment. Counterpart provided consultations on membership development and gave training on constituency building for the staff of the organization**.** As a result, The Nookat CSSC attracted new members from the target communities. Now the number of members has increased from 48 in 2001 to 116 in 2002. Since the membership fee is about $10USD per year it provides a strong base of financial sustainability. Q4/02

Women's NGO Builds Successful Dialog with World Bank
The main objective of Public Association "Bishkek Center for Women" is to assist in the realization of women's capacity in order to increase their social status and improve their quality of life. The need to help women and women's NGOs was determined by the fact that women involved in the NGO community did not have sufficient skills in NGO management and did not know how to be more effective in order to satisfy the needs of the NGO clients. With the skills they obtained at Counterpart's Project Design, Social Partnership, Public Education through Mass Media, Volunteer Management, NGO Management, Fundraising and other training seminars, employees and volunteers of "Bishkek Center for Women" were able to provide 155 leaders and 125 representatives from women NGOs all over the Republic with free informational and consultative assistance. In June 2002, the World Bank gave $2,000 worth of support to the project "Supporting Women's NGOs." The main objective of the project was to provide women's NGOs with consultative support and to enlarge the library of the organization. Q4/02

NGO was created to help the disabled children.
Today families with children with special needs (disabled) are in a very bad financial situation. Women of Kochkor rayon, Naryn oblast created a NGO *"The Union of Women and Mothers with children with special needs* (invalids*)"* to improve the living conditions of these children and make it possible for them to communicate with their peers. The members of the NGO collaborated with the Naryn CSSC and participated in the training-seminars NGO and Community, Social Partnership, Project Design, and Fundraising. After the training, this NGO started working with government organizations. As a result of this cooperation they bought coal worth $1000 US for 30 families with disabled children from the State joint-stock company "Ak-Ulak". Kochkor rayon administration gave $70 US to support organizational development. Also 3 families were given 15 hectares of land by Naryn oblast Governor. Q4/02

Naryn Civil Society Players Successfully Advocates for Children Rights
Over the last decade, the number of teenagers who started smoking and drinking has been on the rise. The main reasons identified include: 1) the lack of a control over implementation of the Government Regulation *Prohibition to sell alcoholic drinks to children under 18* at the local level, 2) the growth of unemployment, and 3) a high number of homeless children. According to local militia data, 362 teenagers were written up in 2002, of which 17 were regularly taking alcohol. The local Military Department reports that 60-70% draftees take hard drinks. The staff of the Narcological Center identified that 60-65% children aged 11-12 have already tried alcohol at least once. The leaders of the NGOs *Gak-O* and *Agape* decided to conduct a roundtable on *Alcohol is a Threat for the Genetic Pool of the Nation*. Participation in Counterpart workshops in *Advocacy* and TA from the Naryn CSSC helped the initiative group develop an agenda and facilitation method to lead leading the roundtable discussions. The representatives of the Oblast Kenesh, Military Department, local militia, Narcological Center, Health Center, local media, Education Department and schools of Naryn attended the roundtable. As a result, participants wrote an appeal to the Oblast Kenesh requesting the prohibition of alcohol and tobacco sales to children under 18 in Naryn District. The appeal was supported with written statements from the Department of National Security Service of Kyrgyz Republic, Office of Public Prosecutor of Naryn District, and Education Center of Family Doctors Group. Based on clauses #23 and #30 of the Law "On local authorities and local government administration," the bylaw on "Prohibition on sale of alcoholic beverages to children under 18 in Naryn District" was adopted and put in force by the Oblast Kenesh. Q4/02

Community Enhancing Its Local Economic Opportunities
Participatory Community Appraisals (PCAs) conducted in Ugut village, Ak-Talinskii district, in 2001-2002, revealed the problem of unemployment as a priority. Lack of financial resources and inaccessibility of loans impeded the development of farmers and economic activity of community members. Members of the Community Initiative Group attended training seminars *NGO and Community, Project Development, Fundraising, and Social Partnership* and participated in the round table discussions conducted by Naryn CSSC. Having previously participated on a project on water supply issues, community members learned to believe in their strengths and improved their mobilization skills. At a community meeting they decided to create a Community Fund in order to increase local economic opportunities. The fund was accumulated by collecting community members' dues at the rate of $1-2 per family, depending on the income level of each family. Since April 2002 the Community Fund has been giving micro-credits to needy members of the community (no more than $20 US for no longer than one month and at a 10% interest rate) and has tripled their fund to $650US. Q4/02

New road minimizes losses of the harvest
Otradnoe and *Tasma* villages are connected by a poorly maintained 5km stretch of road. During the sowing and harvesting seasons, the poor condition of the road caused trucks to lose grain during transportation and to use 30% more fuel. After participating in the training seminars "Team building" and "Fundraising" by CC and consulting with the Karakol CSSC, the members of the initiative group gained support from 350 villagers to repair the road. At the meeting all villagers decided to collect either $0.26 or one liter of gas from each family making the total contribution 100 liters of gas and $50. Aiyl – okmoty, oblast agriculture, water and farm departments aided the villagers with 13 tractors and 1 excavator. Using 243 tons of sand the villagers have improved the road by themselves. $850 was spent for the repairing of 5km of the road. As a result the losses of the harvest were decreased to a minimum. Q4/02

Drinking Water for Karatubinians
The Kara-Tube village (Jaiyl Rayon, Chui Oblast) has been experiencing an increasing problem with contaminated drinking water caused by a breakage of the water inlet equipment. The location had become overgrown with grass and was not protected. The villagers had to haul water in containers, churns and buckets from far away. The CSSC of Kara-Balta was asked by the initiative group of Kara-Tube village to assist in solving the problem. After participating in the training seminars *NGO and Community, Project design*, and *NGO Management*, conducted by Counterpart, the initiative group *Suu Omyr Bulary* developed a project with consultative and technical support of the CSSC The Counterpart Grant Committee approved the project for $1,720. The financial support along with active participation of the villagers allowed the successful renovation of the water supply system that provided the village population of 400 people (50% of which are refugees) with clean drinking water. Currently, the initiative group is planning to develop a project aimed at repairing the school roof. Q4/02

Only Villagers Can Improve Their Lives.
The Kum-Aryk village, Talas Oblast, is located on the way to the picturesque *Besh-Tash* canyon. The village is populated with 1,937 people, and has the social structure, including mosque, secondary school, medical-obstetrical station and aiyl okmoty. Like many other villages, it also faces such problems as a non-operational bathhouse, deteriorated house of culture and rundown roads and poor water supply system. To address these problems, the villagers decided to create a community initiative group which consisted of villagers, deputies of Jogurku Kenesh, the doctor of the local medical-obstetrical station and farmers. The group prioritized several problems with the assistance of the CSSC of Talas, which conducted PCA and assisted in developing an action plan of the community for 3 years. The community developed the project "Health is our wealth", which was supported by Counterpart for the amount of $3,928. The villagers contributed $3,012. Sponsors supported the project implementation to the amount of $3,804. In November 2002, the water-supply system and bathhouse were repaired. Q4/02

Now We Can Solve Our Own Problems

In the village of Cholpon (Kochkor Rayon), populated with 736 people, there were many problems with drinking water supply and deteriorating irrigation system. After participating in the training seminars NGO and Community, Project Design, Fundraising, and Social Partnership, conducted by the Naryn CSSC, the members of the initiative group developed a project on rehabilitating the system of daily distribution of irrigation water. This project was submitted to and supported by the UNDP in the amount of $5,325. The community's contribution totaled $2,340. The village government's contribution was $570. In 2001, the system was remodelled, and more than 40 jamaats (groups of 10-15 villagers who live on the same street) were created. These jamaats formed mutual aid funds, necessary for such activities as starting businesses or implementing spring and autumn field work. A turnover of these funds was estimated at $2,088. The members of the initiative group also participated in the development and implementation of the following projects:

- Repair of the school in Ara-Kul village, financed by the Soros Foundation at the amount of $2,080. The community contributed $2,370 and the village government provided $220. As a result, 180 students enjoy better conditions in the school.
- Repair of the school in Oro Bashi village, attended by 140 children. This project was supported by the UNDP in the amount of $3,124. The community's in-kind contribution was estimated at $6,900, and the village government's contribution was $1,885.
- Repair of the water supply system in Tuz village, financed by the UNDP in the amount of $2,740. The community's in-kind contribution was $2,900 and the local government contributed $130. Currently, 1,010 people receive access to clean water.
- The villagers are becoming more self-reliant in addressing their needs. Q3/02

Focus NGO Successfully Diversify its Funding Sources

Talas Farmer Association (TFA) is one of the Counterpart's focus NGOs. Based on Organizational Assessment, one of the issues raised was the issue of financial sustainability. Counterpart was the only funding agency for the last year. The whole package of interventions was offered to the NGO, and the staff was trained at the training Project Design and Proposal Writing. For the time being, TFA was able to write several proposals and two of them were successfully funded. One is aiming at providing farmers juridical services and worth $6,500 through TACIS support. Another project was supported by Soros Foundation in amount of $1,905 with a goal to expand the knowledge of the farmers about the Land Law, to facilitate the process to get farmers to the land market. Q3/02

Farmers Fight for Their Interests

On August 16, 2002 the Tyup District Administration (Issyk-Kul Oblast) issued the decree #191 "Payment of taxes by available cash funds" on accepting land tax payments in cash only. The regulation created hard problems for the farmers of Tyup District (the population of the district is 56,200), because their income after the payment of all taxes decreased to 5-10%, which was not enough even to cover the sowing expenses for the next year. The Public Foundation "Develop-Koruk" of Toguz Bulak village, Tyup ditrict made the decision to conduct an advocacy campaign to revoke regulation #191. The initiative group, consisting of representatives of five NGOs and farmers of the district, shared the idea of an advocacy campaign among the district population. After participating in the training seminar Advocacy, conducted by Karakol CSSC, the initiative group wrote the letter of protest with the demand to abrogate the regulation #191. The letter was sent to the President of Kyrgyz Republic, Minister of Agriculture and Water Resources of Kyrgyz Republic, Deputies of Jogurku Kenesh, and the Akim of Tyup District. CSSC also provided technical assistance- consultations, print services, and faxes. The meetings with the Deputies of Jogurku Kenesh and keneshes of districts and oblasts were conducted. Resulting from the campaign, the regulation was revoked on September 25, and farmers are allowed to pay land taxes in-kind, as they have only crops at their disposal. Today the land tax is being covered by wheat at the price of 5 soms per kg. Q3/02

Successful Advocacy Campaign In Kyrgyzstan

On January 14 2002, the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic issued Resolution #20 on Certain Issues Concerning Publishing Activities in the Kyrgyz Republic. This Resolution restricted freedom of speech and religion conscience as well as a right of private publishing activities. In November 2001, Counterpart conducted an Advocacy training workshop for representatives of all 11 CSSCs where they received knowledge and skills in organizing and conducting effective advocacy campaigns. In February 2002, the CSSCs started a national advocacy campaign to veto the Resolution #20. CSSCs elected a working group of 5 people who coordinated the campaign. In all 7 oblasts of Kyrgyzstan the CSSCs conducted a series of round tables with local NGOs, government, and media representatives to discuss the Resolution. Participants of each round table worked out and signed appeals to the President and Parliament requesting to veto the Resolution and expressing the reasons why it violated people's rights for freedom of speech. During the campaign the CSSCs actively used modern communication to establish network relations within the framework of the campaign. The Working Group actively used Counterpart-hosted listserve SCNEWS (designed specially for CSSCs) to exchange news, ideas, successes and obstacles of the campaign. Talas CSSC created a web site where it placed the text of the Resolution and ICNL's comments on it, as well as an opinion poll on the document. In April 2002, several CSSCs organized a web conference for their clients to discuss the Resolution and possible impact it may have. On the Constitution Day (May 5) CSSCs organized a 'fax attack' of the Government and Parliament with fax appeals to veto the Resolution. The campaign involved all 11 CSSCs and more than 120 NGOs and partners throughout the country. The immediate result of this advocacy campaign was that in May 2002 the President vetoed the Resolution #20. Moreover, the campaign was a good example of networking relations and a big step towards building a truly working CSSC network in Kyrgyzstan. It also increased capacity of the network networking in implementing advocacy campaigns and enlarged the constituency by outreaching local communities. Q3/02

Financial Reporting Meets All Standards

Due to specific activities of CSSCs mostly funded by various grant programs, financial reporting of these organizations was done according to donors' requirements and standards. No attention was paid to the local accounting standards and that derived from narrowness of CSSCs' approach to the financial issues confined to relations with donors. Moreover, active participation of NGOs in development of Complex Development Framework and National Poverty Reduction Strategy resulted in development of mechanisms of state funding of non-profit sector initiatives but such financial support implies strict compliance with local accounting standards that is why many NGOs including CSSCs were not able to provide appropriate financial reporting. At the present moment situation is completely different owing to joint and long-term efforts of Counterpart's regional and CSSC staff. Seven CSSCs initiated and successfully carried out the process of introduction of local accounting standards in terms of financial documentation maintenance. Counterpart's advanced training modules on financial accountability and social partnership promoted realization of acceptance of local accounting standards by CSSC. In the end of July there was a one-day workshop on accounting standards for CSSC staff with involvement of experienced accountants from NGOs. Moreover there was another workshop on taxation issues arranged by ICNL that also fostered the process mentioned above. Counterpart Kyrgyzstan held a series of meetings on compliance of CSSCs' financial documents with local accounting standards for the same purpose, so as far as the results of all these activities are concerned, CSSCs accepted the necessity of local accounting standards and understood advantages of their implementation. Now the acceptance of local accounting standards will make all joint CDF and NPRS projects' financial reporting feasible in terms of compatibility with state requirements. It is necessary to mention one more important result of this achievement: the point is that these seven CSSCs are ready to auditor check-ups, conducted in compliance with local accounting standards. Ultimately, the compliance with local accounting standards increased CSSCs' financial sustainability as they are now in full compliance with rules and can now participate in tenders with state funding. That way they become less dependent on foreign donors like USAID. Q3/02

***Lastochka* Takes Flight**

Counterpart's partner CSSC NGO *Chernobylians of Nookat in the XXI Century* is the newest partner in the Kyrgyzstan CSSC Network. During the last OD assessment conducted by Counterpart consultants, one of the key goals identified by consultants for building CSSC's internal capacity was establishing of a volunteer center within the organization. According to the assessment the creation of the center should improve the capacity of the CSSC in serving more clients. In January 2001, NO CSSC staff was trained at Counterpart's training workshop Volunteer Management in NGOs, where they improved their skills in attracting and working with volunteers. In the framework of organization's Action Plan for Capacity Building and Service Delivery the CSSC established a volunteer center *Lastochka*. The organization announced a competition for attracting volunteers. Fourteen volunteers were selected on the interview basis. The CSSC conducted a workshop on Project Design for these volunteers. As a follow up activity of the workshop the internal grant competition (around $210) among those volunteers was announced. Sixteen project proposals were submitted and the internal grant committee of the NGO approved four of them. By designing and implementing these projects, the volunteers had an opportunity to put their knowledge and skills in project design and implementation in practice. Moreover, some of the volunteers were trained in Participatory Community Appraisal and Planning (PCAP) and Training of Trainers (TOT). After being trained and implementing the projects, the volunteers are now able to provide a variety of services to clients of the CSSC, including consultations on project design (for the past 2 months, 6 NGOs received consultations from volunteers), conducting PCA, community action planning (CAP), and conducting training workshop NGO and Community. Q3/02

Refugee NGO Seeks Additional Funding to Advocate for Refugees' Rights

In order to get Kyrgyz citizenship, Tajik refugees must go through the tedious exercise of compiling a file consisting of 20 different papers. The refugee NGO *Booruker-Urmat* has been working on assisting refugees for the last several years, the NGO leader has been trained at Counterpart trainings and received consultations on how to address refugee rights violations. Together with Counterpart, refugee NGOs have hosted several roundtables and have identified key issues, with the papers as one of the priority issues. *Booruker-Urmat* took the lead in this cause and developed a proposal, funded by Soros Foundation with amount of $1,500. One of the objectives of the proposal is to lobby Kyrgyz Parliament to ratify Kyrgyz-Tajik agreement, where the procedure of obtaining the Kyrgyz citizenship is simplified. Q3/02

New Bridges, New Confidence

The village of Chech-Dobo is divided into two parts by a canal. During the rain seasons, the villagers faced the problem of crossing the canal. After participating in PCA and CAP exercises conducted by the Nookat CSSC, the community members developed the project titled "Clean water means good health", which was successfully implemented. The most important result of this project was that the community became confident in its ability to make positive changes. Inspired community members have constructed two big bridges and six small ones spanning the canal using their own resources. The total contribution of the community, excluding labor, is $4,180. Q3/02

Learning from Neighbors

In Jar-Korgon Village, population 4,070, which is located next to Chech-Dobo Village, the road was in a very bad condition. Heavy rains have deteriorated the roads to the point of being impassable by motorists and pedestrians. While this has long been a problem for the community, the population of the village lacked the confidence to address this clear need. Recent experiences of their neighboring community, Chech-Dobo, encouraged the residents of Jar-Korgon to take action. After participating in PCA exercises conducted by the Nookat CSSC, the community successfully implemented their first project with funding support from Counterpart. To date, the community of the Jar-Korgon village has already reconstructed 8 km of the road. The contribution of the Jar-Korgon community to the project accounted for $400 plus labor costs. Q3/02

Let's Save the Tulips

The Otogon village of Chuy Oblast is located close to the Kegety canyon, which is one of the most picturesque surroundings attractive to locals and foreign tourists. However, visits of the tourists have a negative effect on the local nature. The Kyrgyz mountain ridge (particularly Keketin and Assyk-Ata canyons) is the motherland of the mountain tulips and four species of tulips, such as Greiga, Kolpakovskii's, Ostrovskii's and Zinaida grow in Kegety. Villagers noted that the number of wild tulips has been continuously decreasing. An Initiative Group of employees of the Botanical Garden of the National Academy was formed. After participating in Counterpart training workshops in Project Development and Fundraising, the Initiative Group developed a project to protect the tulips through organizing a nursery. Global Environmental Fund funded the project with $12,400. The money was spent to enrich the soil on 15 hectares, which has been allotted for planting tulip bulbs, to build greenhouse and develop the nursery. 789 villagers collected 250,000 bulbs. In October the villagers are going to plant the flowers. In addition to saving the existing species, the Initiative Groups has identified botanists to help create a world-class strain of tulip to make Kyrgyzstan a global player. Q3/02

Community Works to Preserve Education Funds

550 students in the village of Chech-Dobo, population 2,386, have to attend school in a building that is badly in need of repairs. The leaky roof was causing severe water damage inside the building, leading to numerous and expensive repairs. Two teachers from the school participated in the training workshop Project Development, which was conducted in the village of Chech-Dobo. Afterwards, they developed a project amounted to $2,000 and submitted it to the ADB. The Bank approved the project under their program of rehabilitation of social infrastructure. The community's contribution was estimated at $2,350. To date, the repair of the roof is almost finished. After the roof is renovated, the administration of the school is going to buy 2 computers using the money, which was previously earmarked by the local government for school repair. Q3/02

Children Are Our Future

The village of Kara-Bulak with the population of 3,067 people is located in the mountainous area 18 km away from the district center. Social infrastructure of the village consists of the school, the post office and the medical-obstetrical point. In the school, 674 students are being taught in two shifts. Every year the number of students has increased and the administration of the school has to deal with the problem of classroom deficiency. According to the data of school administration, in 2002-2003 academic year, the number of students will increase up to 850. Therefore, the school needs to build an additional (supplementary) building for the elementary school, which should include at least eight classrooms, an assembly hall, a library and a buffet. The Initiative Group of 15 members, recently registered as Social Fund *Ospurum Umutu*, was created by the community members to solve the problem in question with the support of the CSSC. The members of Community Initiative Group regularly participate in the training seminars such as Project Development and Fundraising. The following plans of action were developed and conducted:

- According to the appeals of the Initiative Group a village council transferred an administrative building to the balance of the school.
- The village population was organized to repair a new building and to build an annex.
- On March 3, 2002 the Charity Marathon was carried out and more than $1000 USD was received.
- Project for reconstruction of the new building was developed by the members of the Social Fund *Ospurum Umutu* and approved by the ADB for $2,500 USD.

To date a considerable amount of construction work has been completed: the foundation of the annex has been laid, wooden building frame and clay bricks were made by the students and employees of the school in their free time. Thus, one of the most important problems of Kara-Bulak village has been addressed. As a result, in 2002-2003 school year 850 students will enjoy new classrooms. Q3/02

CSSC – On the Road to Independence

Localization of the CAG program through transferring grantmaking expertise to the CSSC was one of the important tasks of Counterpart Kyrgyzstan in increasing the grantmaking and administration capacities. In consultation with the CSSCs, the Hub Office implemented the following interventions: revised the CAG guidelines, drafted operational procedures for local grant review committees (LGRC), and developed criteria for selecting members of review boards. LGRCs, under CSSC management, will be entrusted to make decisions on applications using clear-cut criteria, and final approval will come from the Hub level grant review committee. The two-phase awarding system was designed to ensure smooth and gradual transferring of skills. Hub program staff provided a series of consultations to all CSSCs on CAG localization procedure, establishing and functioning of Local Grant Review Committee, selection of its members, their responsibilities and functions. CSSC based in Karakol was among the first who started process of adopting a grant-making expertise. In April 2002 Karakol CSSCs formed its LGRC in accordance with procedures developed by the Hub. The first meeting of Karakol LGRC was held in April 2002 with 8 proposals reviewed, 4 of which were recommended for funding. Representatives of Counterpart's Bishkek office were participating in the meeting and provided more recommendations. In May of 2002 the Committee reviewed the 4 selected proposals for the second time and all of them were then approved by Bishkek Grant Review Committee. Thus, as a result of extensive assistance of Counterpart Kyrgyzstan CSSC based in Karakol successfully acquired a new expertise, increased its capacity in grant administering and formed a new body in their organizational structure, which already have demonstrated good results in the practice. Q3/02

Creation of the Youth Recreation Center

The House of Culture was built in Komsomol village, Issyk-Kul oblast 34 years ago. Since the collapse of USSR, this building has been left unattended and is now in a poor condition. PCA exercises held in April revealed the problem of idle free time of young people in Barpin village. The community decided to reconstruct the House of Culture to address both problems. Leaders and members of NGO Cholpon-Ata, who had participated in the trainings, "Project Design" and "Fundraising", became executives of the reconstruction project. Cholpon-Ata, in cooperation with local initiative groups, developed a plan of action for the community and the specific project "Youth Recreation Center". Community members, representatives of local authorities, and the NGO all made contributions to this project (community - $1,285; Barpin board - $5,221; the NGO - $499). About 300 villagers took an active part in project implementation and the village board involved 100 people from the local schools. In the end the reconstruction of "Youth Recreation Center" was completed. Q2/02

Roundtable an Effective Tool to Solve Problems

In the Komsomol village, in Jalalabad Oblast, the NGO Cholpon-Ata was implementing a community project to rebuild a youth/health center. The head of the village administration pledged $2,255 in support of the project, including funds for salaries and a new heating system. After several meetings with the administration to get the funds, Cholpon-Ata appealed to the Jalalabad Center to host a roundtable discussion with participation from representatives of various state structures, rayon, and local village administration representatives and members of the noncommercial sector. The roundtable, held in early February, was devoted to the discussion of problems relating to the youth/health center's reconstruction. The leading specialist of the Suzak rayon state administration promised to solve the problem, and immediately instructed the head of Barpin village administration to pay $2,530 to the NGO. Everything that was assigned by the project including salaries, heating system as well as some unexpected costs was covered by these funds. Q2/02

Remote Farmers Improve Legal Knowledge
There is an information vacuum on land reform for farmers and peasants, especially in the remote areas of Kyrgyzstan. It is important to explain agrarian reforms for farmers owning land and making land-related deals. Due to a lack of information these farmers don't know the necessary laws, such as taxes, social insurance, and tenant laws. In July 2001 the Talas Center conducted "Project Design" and "Fundraising" training for the Public Association Lady Shirin. The Center assisted Lady Shirin in designing a project for Soros Foundation to conduct a series of educational seminars among the villagers of Kara-Bura region on "Land Reform", taxes, social insurance, use of water resources and associations of water users. Additionally they will publish a newsletter on land reform, including advice from land and water experts. Soros Foundation funded the program with $1,358. As a result, 300 rural farmers and peasants of Kara-Bura region have access to information on land issues. Q2/02

Year Long Advocacy Effort Pays Off
In early 2001 the government passed legislation, which stipulated that pregnant women in the Issyk-Kul and Chui Oblasts must pay in advance to receive care at the local maternity hospitals. There was a fatal case in the district when a woman was taken to the hospital and refused medical care because she had not paid the money in advance. Having studied this case the NGO Jety-Oguz aiymy conducted a roundtable in the Kyzyl-Suu village, which resulted in the collection of signatures in order to fight the regulation. After several consultations in the Issyk-Kul CSSC and training in "Advocacy" Jety-Oguz aiymy collected about 2500 signatures throughout the oblast. Taking into account the signatures of different Ministries of Kyrgyz Republic (Ministry of Health, Ministry of Finance etc.) a draft amendment was presented to the government in August 2001. In January 2002 the government ratified the amendment repealing the maternity payment procedures. Q2/02

Distribution of Seeds Among Farmers Of Kara-Buurinsk And Manas Districts
In Kara-Buurinsk and Manas districts seed stock is in poor condition. The lack of grade quality seeds is resulting in decreasing crop yields and revenue. Through the bulletin Bazar-Tamyry, the Social Fund Lady Shirin found out about a competition sponsored by of the the Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources of Kyrgyz Republic entitled "Providing needy population groups with help." The purpose of the competition was to create seed stock in the rural areas in order to help poor families and farmers. The Lady Shirin wrote a letter of concernment which was reviewed and than approved by the Ministry. The Talas CSSC provided the Lady Shirin with advisory and informational support as well as training for the NGO in how to work with local community. As a result Lady Shirin got $6,150 to buy and distribute different kinds of crops of seeds. Q2/02

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. Thus mostly children suffered, as they carried water on foot to their houses. To address this problem the Public Association *Ak-Kuduk* took the initiative, but lack of 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* has been 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 among the members of the organization. Q1/02

Public Association Bukamal Attracts Funds

The public association *Bukamal* has been working in the Leilek Rayon for only one year, nevertheless, to date there has been a lot of positive changes. The *Republican Reserve Fund* entrusted the organization to distribute wheat for needy and the staff members of *Bukamal* provided consultative support related with 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 the 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 the 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* has been the largest success for this young organization so far. Q1/02

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

In the Kyrgyz Republic there was no law promoting the development of social services, leaving the need for the creation of legislation for establishment of 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 project, the 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 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 project 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. Q1/02

Citizens Solve Bridge Problems

The village *Kuu-Maidan* with 740 households was divided into three sites: Juktu, Medrese and Kocho Bashy. A large steep 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 of the large danger, the villagers continued to pass through the bridge or directly through that steep in order to reach 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 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. Q1/02

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 peasants 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 to expand economic activity and increase profitability. Q1/02

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 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 of $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. Q1/02

Youth Information Center
As a result of difficulties associated with the transition period in Kyrgyzstan, infant and mortality rates in the Naryn oblast have been increasing. Two contributing factors are the lack of access to information about family planning practices and the lack of knowledge on the part of youth about healthy lifestyles. The NGO *Eldos* has been working to educate the population of Naryn about family planning and practicing safe sex. *Eldos* has conducted a number of sexual education seminars for young people and family planning seminars for women. In 2001 the European Alliance on Reproductive Health supported *Eldos'* efforts to open a *Youth Information Center (YIC)* on sexual education. As a result of this expanded programming and funding *Eldos* has achieved the following:

- Trained five volunteers in reproductive health practices;
- Conducted two seminars on reproductive health for teachers and students of Naryn educational institutions;
- Distributed 50 booklets on family planning and sexual education for teenagers free-of-charge;
- Conducted sexual education lessons at village schools;
- Opened a *Health Center* in the Jan-Bulak village; and
- 100 teenagers, students, teachers and doctors have visited the center since its opening. Q4/01

Initiative Group Leads Way for Access to Clean Drinking Water
PCA exercises conducted by Counterpart in the village Chon-Kara revealed a severe shortage of drinking water resulting from outdated pumping equipment for the existing pump station. 2,517 villagers, including 117 refugees from Tajikistan republic live in Chon-Kara. An initiative group from the community developed a plan of action to reconstruct the pump station. With Counterpart guidance, the initiative group designed a proposal and received $900 in funding from both Counterpart and Mercy Corps to repair the station. The two donor projects reinforce one another and will ensure access to clean water for years to come. Q4/01

Employment and Infrastructure Improvements Through Partnership

Unemployment and dilapidated infrastructure facilities plague the *Jalgyz-Terek* Vl. of the Naryn Oblast. The repair and maintenance of water pipeline systems, built in 1950, have not occurred for over a decade. In 2001 the members of the NGO *Nasip-Ber* attended training workshops in Project Design, Fundraising, Financial Management and Financial Reporting, conducted by the Naryn CSSC. After researching the social and economic problems of the local community, *Nasip-Ber,* together with active community members, designed a joint project aimed at repairing the water pipes. The project proposal was approved and $2,000 was awarded by the UNDP under the program *Strengthening Capacity of the NGO/Community Based Organizations in the Social Sector*. The project, implemented jointly with local governments and the Oblast Employment Center, created 10 jobs for unemployed villagers who lined a self-flowing channel to the water pipe system and did partial repair of the water pipe system in the village of Jalgyz-Terek. The Employment Center covered the salaries for the 10 workers. The leader of the *Namys* fund provided $520, the Governor's Fund provided $285 for purchasing diesel fuel, the Rayon Administration set aside $210 from the local budget to cover oil and cement costs, the local municipality gave $980. Local partners contributed $1,991. As a result of the project, the villagers of Jalgyz-Terek have access to clean drinking water. Q4/01

People in Remote Regions Reap Health Benefits From NGO Partnership

The remote populations in mountainous regions of the Kyrgyz Republic had never been examined or treated for cardiovascular diseases. The *Kyrgyz Club of Patients with High Blood Pressure,* involved in *the Health NGO Capacity Building Initiative Program* of Counterpart, took part in training workshops and received consultations on establishing partnerships. Technical assistance from Counterpart allowed the NGO to design a project *Qualitative selection of therapy of the hypertension disease on the basis of patients inherited genetics* which was approved by the *Imperial College* based in the *Hammer Smith Hospital* in London. The project has been implemented in partnership with the *Molecular Biology Department* in England. The partners plan to finance the project throughout the next three years. The first installment of $3,000 was made this year. During the first year of the project, about 4,000 people from Alai, Sulukta, Kemin Rayons and Bishkek were examined. According to the test results, 1,200 people were identified as a high-risk group for cardiovascular diseases. Shortly after, 18% of newly registered patients and 40% of the group of high-risk people were registered by health authorities and received preventive treatment. Q4/01

Restoration and Clearing of the Drainage System in Krasnaya Rechka

In February the Kant CSSC conducted PCA exercises in Krasnaya Rechka, which revealed reconstruction of drainage networks as the main problem facing the community. There are 7,025 villagers (1, 536 families) in Krasnaya Rechka. The existing drainage system was outdated and hadn't been serviced in at least 15 years. The result of this neglect was that there was no resetting of subsoil waters so fields bogged and soil quality degraded. Together with the Kant CSSC the community designed a project to solve this problem. The village administration, the Department of Irrigation Systems, and the community worked together to restore the drain lines. The village administration allocated $390 to purchase diesel fuel for two dredges, the Department of Irrigation Systems paid for specialists to oversee the repairs, and the community organized brigades for digging irrigation ditches and guarding the equipment. The community succeeded in restoring and clearing three drainage systems. As a result, subsoil waters from 200 hectares now drain freely and provide irrigation to 140 hectares of land used for sugar beet and corn production. The lands belong to the village administration and community members. 97 refugee families rent lands from the local villagers and plant and sell sugar beets to supplement their own family income. The local villagers grow corn to provide their households with forage. The community made plans to restore three more systems. Q4/01

Kyrgyz Club of High Blood Pressure Patients
Cardiovascular diseases are one of the leading causes of death in Kyrgyzstan. 70-80% of cardiovascular diseases are caused by hypertension and coronaries. Most high blood pressure patients are not aware of basic preventive measures and lack the funds to buy the necessary medicines. The staff members of the *Kyrgyz Club of High Blood Pressure Patients* in conjunction with the *National Center of Cardiology and Therapy* developed a project proposal to increase the effectiveness of prevention and treatment of high blood pressure patients and coronary patients at the ambulatory-polyclinic level in Bishkek. The Club's staff was trained by Counterpart in Project Design and Fundraising. They won an open contest sponsored by the Obligatory Medical Insurance and were awarded $14,590. The Club began implementation of the project in August 2001. Fifty low-income high blood pressure patients and coronary patients have already been treated through the program *Schools of High Blood Pressure Patients* and have received medicine free of charge. The doctors of the Family Practitioner Groups of the hospitals # 6 and # 7 received 25 tonometers for measuring blood pressure to replace their dilapidated supply. Q4/01

Repair of the Secondary School in Chui-Tokmak
There are 42 general schools in Chui-Tokmak, most of which are in need of maintenance and repair. For example, school #37 was built 40 years ago and has never undergone major repairs. 80% of the school's facilities, including lighting, heating, doors, window frames and restroom facilities are worn-out or unusable. Using skills gained in Counterpart trainings in project design and fundraising, NGO *Yrys Kenchi* designed a project to repair school #37. The project received funding from Mercy Corps International in the amount of $2,590 and the city Department of Education contributed $485. As a result of strong leadership by the NGO and participation of parents, teachers, pupils, senior students and local villagers, the repairs were completed in a months' time (even though original plans called for a two month implementation timeline). The repaired school now has functioning heating and lighting systems, freshly painted and re-framed windows and doors, and working lavatories. As a result, 246 school children including 52 refugee children are regularly attending school this year at school #37. Q4/01

Family Practitioners Fighting Sexually Transmitted Diseases
Family Groups Practitioner Association (FGPA) has been working with 803 groups of Family Practitioners in the Kyrgyz Republic on the issue of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs). During 2001, the FGPA conducted a marketing survey to determine the percentage of people with STDs. While conducting the survey, FGPA used PRA methods, learned at Counterpart trainings. The survey resulted in the pilot project aimed at decreasing STDs in the Tokmak City. Shortly after the FGPA received funding from the Soros Foundation in the amount of $4,200 to provide specialists of FGPA with professional and modern diagnostics of sexually transmitted diseases (seminars, workshops) and also to provide Family Practitioner Groups with necessary medications for combating STDs. The project is being implemented successfully, and to date 20 doctors in Tokmak City are proactively conducting elucidative work among the local population, identifying high-risk groups and providing treatment services worth $5,600. Q4/01

NGO Finds Creative Solutions to Address Refugee and Community Needs
The village of Chon-Kara has had trouble maintaining its medical facilities, particularly the medical ambulance station. The roof leaks, the floors are rotting, and the general dampness of the building creates an unhealthy environment for patients. The NGO *Avaz-Makham*, using skills gained in Counterpart trainings in NGO and Community, Project Design, and Fundraising developed a number of projects to repair the village medical ambulance station. With $1,865 in support from Mercy Corps, *Avaz-Makham* is using Tajik refugees as laborers to repair the building. The refugees are "paid" with food products donated from resources outside the budget of the project. It is anticipated that in the near future the repairs will be complete and the village medical ambulance station will be providing services to 2,517 members of the community, including 117 refugees (21 families). Q4/01

Solving Problems Locally

Legal knowledge among the residents of Bishkek is low. Legal illiteracy leads to the deterioration of relations between citizens, businesses, and local authorities and hampers the process of solving infrastructure problems. Public building associations have been working to eliminate information and legal gaps in the knowledge of the inhabitants, define strengths and weaknesses of their own work, and establish links with state and other organizations to collectively define ways to solve local problems. The public associations' activities will also aid in lobbying social issues. The members of the public association *Kut - Doolot* were trained in Project Design and NGO Public Relations at the *InterBilim Center*. *Kut - Doolot* designed a project proposal for educational seminars on legal issues for women and youth in Archa- Beshik. The project proposal was approved and an $882 grant was awarded through the Democracy Commission of the US Embassy. The NGO *Kut-Doolot* conducted 18 training workshops for 203 participants and held round tables with parliamentary deputies, city council members, Lenin Rayon officials, the Committee of Self-governance, NGOs and the mass media. 82 women from Archa- Beshik found solutions to problems related to the registration of land plots and passport registration; 15 women joined and formed a women's groups of self-assistance; and a 10-year old problem with drinking water in the Archa-Beshik housing estate was solved due to lobbying skills learned by residents. Q4/01

New Community Based Organization Begins Fundraising

An old water pipe built in 1967 in the villages of Andarak and Iskra of Sumbulin municipality in the Leilek Rayon had not been repaired since it was built. This problem resulted in the poor quality of the water supply and regular breaks in the water pipe. The municipality, which is an owner of the water pipeline, could not repair it because of budget constraints. The Water Committee Leilek-Sumbula-Suu, registered as a public association, decided to address that problem. After attending Counterpart training workshops in NGO and Community and Project Design, the association submitted a funding proposal to the Soros Foundation. The project was approved for $2,461. Currently, the Water Committee in partnership with the administration of the Sumbulin municipality proactively involves citizens of Andarak and Iskra in the project's implementation. In order to ensure project sustainability, the village population is ready to pay fees for further maintenance of the water supply system. Q4/01

Giving Joy to Children

Developmentally disabled children are among the most vulnerable groups of the population in Kyrgyzstan. Very often their physical, mental and emotional needs are not properly met. Many of them stay inside and are unable to get fresh air and sun. The problem is worsened by the fact that developmental opportunities and needs of disabled children are generally ignored. There are no advocacy campaigns on local and national levels and their participation in public life is very limited. At the present time there are 60 developmentally disabled children in Karakol. The Karakol CSSC trained the volunteers of the Volunteer Center in Volunteer management and Fundraising and offered counseling support. In June-July 2001, the Volunteer Center held 4 summer camps entitled "Children Helping Children". They were run by 15 volunteers and financed from local sources. During this period $1,200 was raised from 15 organizations such as Kumtor Operating Company, Helvetas, local joint ventures "Ais-Quin" and "Alem", local businesses, NGOs and 5 private sponsors. All 60 disabled children were able to attend one of the summer camps. Additional successes include:

- After organization of a summer camp in 2000 the Association of Parents of Disabled Children was established. The Association and the Volunteer Center found an opportunity for 38 children to have a surgery in Bishkek.
- This year a meeting of parents was held and it was decided to conduct an advocacy campaign in August 2001 with the participation of the NGO *Umut*, Committee of Unemployed Women and NGO *Bayastan*. Q3/01

Congress of Women in Kyrgyzstan Combats Unemployment

From the moment of disintegration of the former Soviet Union many production enterprises were closed and thousands of people in the Kyrgyz Republic were left jobless. Many women could not adapt to the modern conditions of survival. The necessity of a center for retraining unemployed women became urgent. The *Congress of Women in Kyrgyzstan* launched a net of isolated training centers in 1995. Today 7,000 women have been trained in basic enterpreneurship, English and Turkish languages and computer skills. The members of the *Congress* did not stop at these results and designed a proposal to build a new Training Center. The leader and members of the *Congress* participated in roundtables and training workshops at Counterpart. As a result their proposal was approved with $2,500 in support from the German Embassy and $1,500 allocated from the local firm *ATAZ*. A writer-congresswoman Ann Fray presented heaters to the Center and the members of the *Congress* did the half of the construction work themselves. As a result of the successful activity a new Training Center was built in Bishkek and training workshops are being conducted in one place. After being trained in the Training Centers 30% of the attendants of the courses on enterpreneurship designed business proposals and received micro-credit, 37% opened small enterprises, and 12% work on patent base. 120 unemployed women were trained as seamstresses, 83% of whom were placed in jobs and continue to have jobs. Q3/01

NGO Helps to Improve the Talas TV

Some TV channels in Talas oblast broadcast only during weekends. Many basic channels such as ORT, RTR, and KTR broadcast only during the second half of a day. As a result, Talas citizens did not have constant access to important information, events, and news taking place in the region and the world, as Russian channels were reporting primarily on local Russian events. An initiative group of citizens decided to solve this problem and turned to the CSSC for consultations about the NGO registration procedure. The initiative group received information on writing proposals to possible donors and, in cooperation with the Talas CSSC, the group was registered as the Public Association *Nazar*. *Nazar* submitted project proposals to Internews and the Democracy Commission of the US Embassy. Both organizations approved funding (Internews $5,000 and Democracy Commission $24,000). The money was spent on purchasing and maintaining transmission equipment. As a result, the citizens of Talas and the surrounding areas have been able to access programs from the central channel TV-6 Moscow day and night since July 2001. In addition to the news from Russia, the channel has 30 minutes of Kyrgyz news daily through the shows "Otkrytaya Azia" (Open Asia) and "Vek" (Century). Around 30,000 residents of Talas city and oblast now have access to this coverage. *Nazar* also plans to expand coverage beyond the current 20 km radius and introduce local daily news and other programs. Q3/01

Rural NGO Supports Rural Initiatives

The NGO *Aitoldu* was established to help refugee women and women from low-income families who are unemployed in the Suzak region. *Aitoldu* members participated in a series of training workshops conducted by the Jalalabad CSSC and received counseling support from the Center in project design. As a result the NGO was able to:

- Provide 24 women, including 4 refugee women, with jobs producing national crafts – yielding $10 a month income for each woman;
- Receive a grant from UNDP in the amount of $2,000 to build a school for 350 students; and
- Secure an additional $65,000 from the following sources to build the abovementioned school: $1,000 from the Suzak regional administration; $3,000 in construction materials from the local governing body; $20,000 in construction materials and human resources from the regional education department; $3,400 from community contributions; $5,600 from community donations of construction materials; and $2,000 from the Asian Development Bank. The construction started on May 21, 2001 and is currently half-completed. Four refugees are participating in the construction. On June 15 the Prime Minister of the Kyrgyz Republic and the governor of the Jalalabad region met with *Aitoldu* and indicated how impressed they were with the progress of this project. They promised to allocate an additional $30,000 to finish construction of the school. Q3/01

Successful Fundraising Ensures Continuous Access to Information

Due to its remoteness Batken oblast was characterized by lack of information to support programs aimed at development of youth in education, culture and occupation. Realizing the role of mass media in the development of youth and prevention of interethnic conflicts, the members of the Public Association For International Tolerance, who attended Counterpart training workshops in "Project Design and Proposal Writing" and "Fundraising", designed a project proposal to launch a youth radio station. The project proposal was submitted to UNICEF, which approved it with funding of $75,000. Internews in Kyrgyzstan was a technical partner during project implementation. As a result a new radio station was launched and now over 70,000 young people in Batken oblast get timely and unbiased information about events taking place in the region, oblast, republic and in the whole world and have access to information about culture, education, science and sports. Q3/01

Development of Voluntary Movement "If Not Me Then Who?"

Scarce local resources for NGOs need to be leveraged by all means, including the active use of volunteers. This concept is relatively young in Kyrgyzstan and therefore a lot of organizations need voluntary assistance. The volunteers of the Volunteer Center, established in partnership with the Karakol CSSC, participated in the Counterpart training workshops Volunteer Management, Proposal Writing, Fundraising, and Conflict Resolution and Team Building which resulted in the following:

- Volunteers organized 5 summer camps "Children help children" for disabled children of the Issyk-Kul oblast. For this purpose the volunteers succeeded in attracting $4,000 from local authorities, international agencies, commercial organizations and individuals.
- The database of the organizations needing volunteers was created. Now there are 20 volunteers trained in the CSSC that have been working successfully in various organizations (in US Embassy, tourist agencies, non-commercial organizations, library, Kumtor Operating Company and mass media agencies as coordinator assistants, volunteers, programmers, translators, temporary employees or non-staff members).
- The Karakol CSSC has catalogued 64 volunteers, up from the 23 volunteers 1 year ago. Q3/01

Youth Employment Agency Establishes an Information and Counseling Center

There are 15,500 unemployed, in the Chui-Tokmok region in Kyrgyzstan, 40% of which are young people. A youth initiative group turned to the Kant CSSC for counseling support in NGO establishment, design of a strategic plan, team building and building social partnership with local governing bodies. Since December 2000 the group attended workshops in Project Design, Fundraising and Small Business Development. In December 2000 it was registered as the NGO *Tseonis,* which in January 2001 opened a Youth Employment Agency. The city administration and a dental clinic helped the NGO with office space, equipment and furniture. As a result:

- The NGO collected data and created a database of job vacancies that is updated on a regular basis. The NGO made agreements with public enterprises, joint stock ventures and businesses that operate in the region.
- Skills acquired at training workshops the helped NGO members in writing proposals to donors. Eurasia Foundation supported one of them in the amount of $17,154. The grant allowed the NGO to establish information and counseling center under the Youth Employment Agency. It has been operating since April 23, 2001 and provided many unemployed with jobs.
- Since the NGO was established 2242 people applied and 391 got full time jobs. 12 young people got jobs at the Kyrgyz-Chinese paper plant. In the summer many young people got temporary employment at the Issyk-Kul resorts that made agreements with the NGO *Tseonis*.

Thus, the NGO created an information service of the Youth Employment Agency that provides access to information not only to young but also to older people. Due to a client-friendly environment the number of visitors in the non-profit agency is much higher than in a similar public organization. Q3/01

CSSC in Kara-Balta Facilitates a Process of Getting Kyrgyz Citizenship by Refugees
In 1992 the first refugees from Tajikistan appeared in Kyrgyzstan. Now there are roughly 8,500 refugees, 80% of whom are ethnic Kyrgyz who wish to stay in Kyrgyzstan and get Kyrgyz citizenship. Many of them have been living in Kyrgyzstan for 7-8 years. The process of legalization is complicated by the fact that there is no consular service of the Tajikistan Republic in the Kyrgyz Republic. After a recent meeting the NGOs (*Young Lawyers of Kyrgyzstan, Center of Initiatives Support "Consulting"*, Kant CSSC) with the Embassy of Tajikistan is was agreed that there would be a monthly visit of the Tajikistan consular to Kyrgyzstan for consideration of refugees' applications and issues documentation and document validation. As a result, refugees no longer have to travel to Almaty to talk with a Tajikistan official about documents necessary for citizenship. Q3/01

NGO Participates in Information Dissemination for Citizens on their Rights
Access to recent literature and information has diminished in the Aksy region of the Issyk-Kul oblast since 1991. The 7,000 villagers of this region are not aware of their rights and lack the resources to learn about them. The social fund *Booruker-Ch* reviewed this situation and turned to the Karakol CSSC for consultations. The CSSC invited the NGO representatives to attend Counterpart trainings such as "Project Design" and "Fundraising" and provided technical assistance. As a result *Booruker-Ch* designed a project proposal to purchase juridical and reference literature for the library and subscription of journals covering documents and legislation of the Kyrgyz Republic. Soros Foundation awarded $300 for the project. Q3/01

CSSC of the Issyk-Kul Region Helps an Initiative Group to Acquire Legal Status
Over a one-year period an initiative group of disabled in Karakol tried to launch activities, but was unable to get official legal status. The regional Department of Justice returned registration papers three times for updating. The group appealed to the Karakol CSSC with project ideas, but lacking legal status it faced cooperation complications with donor agencies. The CSSC assisted the initiative group in designing a packet of registration papers including a Charter, a list of governing body members and founders, and provided the group access to office equipment to create and print documents. The group was also invited to the Project Design workshop and received a list of donor agencies and NGOs operating in the Issyk-Kul region. As a result, the Public Association *The World of Issyk-Kul* was registered with the regional Department of Justice in February 2001. It also received $70 (3000 som) to buy equipment to broadcast a radio program and publish two brochures in both Russian and Kyrgyz covering the activities of *World of Issyk-Kul* Public Foundation. The organization also closely collaborates with media in Karakol. Q2/01

Rehabilitation of Middle School in the Yurevka Village, Issyk-Ata Area
Children of local villagers and 180 refugee families lacked the opportunity for education in the Yurevka village of the Issyk-Ata area. A local school was built 39 years ago for 550 school students. At present there are 7586 students attending the school including 49 refugee children. The school has been poorly maintained: the heating system is in disrepair and the roof is leaking making the classrooms wet and inappropriate for holding classes. A community meeting was held to discuss the problem. Community members decided to raise funds to repair the school. Refugee NGO *Sairon* in collaboration with the school administration, local governing bodies and with support and counseling from the Kant CSSC designed a partnership project, which was approved in the amount of $1,904 by UNDP program "Strengthening NGO/CBO Capacity in the Social Sector". The school administration and local government contributed $3,615 to repair classrooms, purchase and put together a heating system, and purchase and deliver construction materials. The local population collected an additional $1,480. Over the period of 11 weeks the roof of the school was renewed and classrooms were repaired. 80% of local citizens, members and volunteers of the NGO *Sairon*, school administration and local government participated in the project implementation. Through joint efforts the school in Yurevka village was rehabilitated and the students were able to finish the school year in an appropriate environment. 90 more students were admitted to the first grade in a rehabilitated school. Q2/01

Charitable Foundation Jolgon Raised Money to Rehabilitate a Water System
1500 residents of the Jarkymbaevo village in the Issyk-Kul region accessed drinking water from a water system built in 1960. For the last ten years nothing has been done to maintain this system, resulting in significant deterioration. The decrease in the quality of water coming from the system caused many villagers to use water from a nearby river. In order to raise funding to repair the system the members of the Charitable Foundation *Jolgon* turned to the Karakol CSSC for counseling support in project design. Using expertise provided through these consultations and through training in NGO and Community, *Jolgon* appealed to the World Bank for funding support and was awarded a $3,800 grant to rehabilitate the system of drinking water in the Jarkymbaevo village. The NGO will initiate the establishment of a community-based water committee, which will control the utilization of the water system, identify and fix system defects. Q2/01

Kyrgyz Alliance of Family Planning Expands its Influence in the Community
Reproductive health is a relevant issue in the Issyk-Kul region. The Issyk-Kul CSSC offered counseling support in NGO registration to the initiative group that coordinated activities on reproductive health issues in the region. As a result the group was registered with the regional department of justice as an Issyk-Kul branch of the Kyrgyz Alliance on Family Planning (IB KAFP). The leaders of IB KAFP attended Counterpart trainings in Fundraising, Project Design and Volunteer Management. Not long ago IB KAFP together with the International Federation on Family Planning got a $5,500 grant from UNFM to conduct a series of seminars in sex education of young people based on a principle "equal to equal," and to open the KAFP office. At the present time the NGO incorporates 12 legal entities and 60 individuals who collect membership dues to fulfill activities outlined in their Charter. All activities performed by organizations and citizens in the area of reproductive health are well coordinated and a success in the community. Q2/01

Children's Talents Successfully Resolve Financial Problems
In the beginning of 2001 a non-profit Center for Support of Young Talents in Naryn initiated the revival of the music group Altyn Balalyk. 50 gifted children were selected to the group. In order to participate in the TV program " A Crystal Note" and demonstrate children's skills it was necessary to raise funding for music instruments and costumes. Parents were the only source of funding and therefore only few of the children could participate in the program. The members of the Center for Support of Young Talents took part in trainins held by the Naryn CSSC, which in addition offered counseling and technical support. The NGO was also assisted in organizing a marathon and publishing promotional booklets. On June 1, 2001 a show and a marathon were held in the Naryn Music Drama Theatre, at which the Altyn Balalyk group raised $1,360.00 Owing to a successful fundraising campaign the group of talented children got many wonderful opportunities. They purchased attractive outfits and can participate in shows and performances on a national level and admit more gifted children to the group. Q2/01

Volunteers Contribute to the Improvement of Orphans Lives
In the Naryn region of Kyrgyzstan many parents are unemployed and unable to provide for their families, many with five or more children. Not having essential items at home, these children are forced to beg in the streets and join groups of homeless children and beggars who ask for money and other items to survive. Quite often these children do not have shoes and their clothing is so old and shabby that they are unable to attend school. Volunteers from the *Center of Volunteer Initiatives*, created by the Naryn CSSC, studied the problem and decided to support homeless orphans and children. The volunteers applied to ADRA Foundation for humanitarian aid and received 1125 kg of children's clothes. Local NGOs made their contributions as well by providing transportation services to bring the shipment from Bishkek to Naryn. Clothing was distributed among 950 orphans and homeless children in three areas of the Naryn Region. Further, 20 homeless children who had previously quit school were able to continue their education as a result of the shoes and clothing received. Q2/01

NGOs of Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan Implement a Cross-Border Project

The Osh and Batken Regions of Kyrgyzstan and the Leninabad Region of Tajikistan have been in close cooperation for years. The population of each region is made up of Kyrgyz, Tajiks and Uzbeks. Among the most critical problems of this area are ethnic conflicts, inequality between men and women and violations against women. Realizing negative consequences that may result from these problems and participating in round tables and trainings conducted by Counterpart, four NGOs – Osh Regional Center of Women's Initiatives *Ayalzat*, Batken NGO *Omur Bulagy*, Batken Association *Ayal Jana Ui-Bulo* and NGO *Irshod* from Tajikistan decided to unite their efforts to address these problems by conducting joint Kyrgyz-Tajik round tables, meetings, friendship festivals and seminars on women's rights. To implement these activities they received technical support from the Batken CSSC to design a project that was approved by Soros Foundation in the amount of $800. Thirty women from Tajikistan and 58 women from Kyrgyzstan participated in round tables and seminars that were aimed at developing leadership skills and cooperation between women of two countries. As a result of the project, women in neighboring regions established close ties. They also became better aware of women's rights through round tables and seminars. In the future, partner organizations plan to establish crisis centers in these regions. Q2/01

NGO Facilitates Fundraising for a Tuberculosis Hospital

Economic constraints in the Kyrgyz Republic affect all spheres of life, especially healthcare and hospital management. Statistics show 88 tuberculosis cases were registered in the Batken region in 2000 and 21 cases in the Batken area. In 2001 the incidence of tuberculosis increased twofold: 135 cases were registered in the Batken region and 50 at the local level. TB patients require high calorie intake that can hardly be covered through the budget allocated by the government. In Batken, the tuberculosis hospital was no longer able to provide patients with adequate nutrition. NGO *Sulaiman-Bakir*, which was established in 2000, attended a series of training workshops, such as Project Design, NGO and Community, Participatory Community Appraisal, held by the Batken CSSC. With counseling support from Center and in collaboration with the hospital administration the NGO wrote a proposal to build a small farm for the TB hospital. Mercy Corps International funded the project in the amount of $2,025. Under the project four cows and thirty-eight goats were purchased for the farm. Currently, 80 patients, 30 of whom are children, are provided with fresh milk and meat. Each patient receives on a monthly basis 6 liters of milk that contains proteins, fat, potassium as well as vitamins A, E, C, B5, B12, D that contribute to a speedy recovery for the patients. Q2/01

Learned About Own Rights and How to Protect Them

The need to provide free counseling support to low-income and vulnerable groups in the Naryn region emerged several years ago. Due to the low level of legal education among disadvantaged groups it was impossible to adequately defend the legal interests of citizens. The lack of knowledge of the labor, civil and criminal codes provided the pretext for infringing upon basic human rights, in this remote, economically underdeveloped, and socially vulnerable region of the country. Based on results of a study it conducted on this problem last year, the NGO *Soopker* established the *Center of Free Legal Consultations*. The Naryn CSSC offered the NGO counseling support in project design and invited the NGO to participate in roundtables and training workshops including such as Project Design and Fundraising. Under the assistance of the CSSC the *Center* was established to provide access to legal regulations, laws and bylaws; two professional lawyers provided counseling support on legal issues to those in need. Over the life of this one-year project the number of visitors to the *Center* was 756, the *Center* defended the rights of 12 families whose houses were confiscated by the agricultural corporation for inability to pay debts. As a result of *Center* efforts and litigation, one citizen was paid back $850. On the whole, 70% of the total number of people who applied to the *Center* received efficient support in defense of their right and interests. Q2/01

Community Mobilizes Own Resources to Address Problems

In order to get from one village to another in Batken people have to cross borders of neighboring republics, which is becoming an increasing problem. For the 4,000 people living in the Chon-Gara and Zar-Tash villages this has become a growing concern, as the villages are separated by Uzbek villages that are in some parts are divided only by the Sokh river, which cannot be crossed as the bridge is missing. Some community members attended training workshops held by the Batken CSSC and were offered counseling support in community mobilization, which they successfully applied in practice. As a result, villagers from the Cho-Gar village hosted a meeting, at which it was decided to build a bridge. People mobilized community resources to attain this goal. 70 villagers participated in the construction for free and local women cooked meals to provide workers with lunches. Community members contributed $200 to buy construction materials. As a result of these efforts, villagers can now visit their relatives and friends living in the neighboring area by bypassing customs posts and avoiding conflicts caused by violations of customs rules. Q2/01

A Bridge Is Built, Life Goes On

Over the last 11 years 464 residents in the Ak-Bosogo residential area have been surviving through significant difficulties because they did not have bridge over the drainage system that separated the residential area from the northwestern part of Bishkek. The population did not have an opportunity to get help in health, fire or other emergency situations, let alone their economic separation from the city. In the fall of 2000 the NGO *Arysh*, with representatives of a local community, studied the problem and started some activities to address it. The Bishkek CSSC assisted the NGO with training in Project Design and Participatory Community Appraisal. Knowledge and skills acquired at workshops were shared with *Arysh's* implementing partners. They designed a project to build a bridge and submitted it to the mayor's office and local governing bodies. As a result of negotiations and activities pursued by the activists in collaboration with local government the city mayor supported the project with $375. Local governing bodies supplied construction materials and the *Arysh* purchased construction materials worth $1,460. According to data provided by the NGO 98% of human resources were invested in building of the bridge. The construction was completed within 20 days. As a result of an efficient partnership among the NGO, the implementing partners and governmental agencies the residents of the Ak-Bosogo area are no longer separated from the capital city. Q2/01

Raising Refugees' Well-being Through Revolving Credit Mechanism

There are currently 3,000 refugee families from Tajikistan in the Issyk-Ata area of Kyrgyzstan. Due to economic constraints and the high level of unemployment in Kyrgyzstan the most vital issue for the refugees is to pursue income-generating activities. Having addressed this problem, the NGO *Sairon* designed a project to provide a series of specific services to develop fund-raising activities for 200 low-income refugee families. The CSSC in Kant organized and conducted 10 training workshops in micro-financing for 15 credit groups at which the participants acquired skills in small business development. The CSSC in Kant also offered counseling support and technical assistance in project design. Twenty-five families received credits and in two months they paid them back with 6% interest. The credits were used to open bakeries, small retail shops, fertilizers shops and small gas stations. Thus, 14 more families (39 instead of 25) received credits from the revolving fund and started their own businesses. The project has already helped 174 people, up from 96 in the very beginning. Q2/01

Renovation and Cleanup of a Water Canal Will Allow to Efficiently Use Water Resources
The At-Bashy canal is made up of a network of smaller canals. One of them, P-6 canal, delivers water to three villages in the Alamedin area and irrigates three thousand hectares of plowed land. The canal was built in 1936 and has not been renovated ever since, resulting in clogging. Through counseling support and training from the Kant CSSC the NGO *Yntymak-Mercy* designed a project to clean P-6 canal and address the problem of villagers. Mercy Corps, the local irrigation department, the Association of Water Users, and local communities supported the project. One farmer contributed a steam shovel to clean out the larger sections of the canal and 36 citizens manually cleaned a network of smaller canals. In addition, all of the locks in the network were replaced over the course of the month and a half the project was carried out by the community. As a result, the level of water in the canal has increased by a quarter, fields are getting more water, and a fourth of the village now has access to the canal. Q2/01

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

- Establishment of a fund for training high school children in economy and democracy;
- Creation of women's information center;
- Development of an electronic informational network on the southern shore of the Issyk-Kul Lake;
- Opening of a legal center to provide free counseling services to low-income citizens; and
- Recognition of the NGO leader's achievements with the award of the Presidential Diploma for activism and socially significant achievements. Q1/01

Naryn CSSC Mobilizes Community Voluntary Initiatives
Volunteer development in the Kyrgyz Republic supports the transition to a market economy and, consequently, the societal aspirations toward such progress. In the Naryn Region the number of volunteers was insignificant, prompting the need to increase volunteer numbers to implement versatile community-based actions. Skills acquired by the members of the Naryn CSSC at the Counterpart workshop on volunteer management helped them to design an efficient work plan that envisaged the establishment of a center of volunteer initiatives under the CSSC. As a result, the number of volunteers in Naryn increased from 2 to 22 for the last six months. The program resulted in development of the CSSC database of volunteers that pursue activities in the NGO community of the Naryn Region. The database lists 102 volunteers. Q1/01

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

- 139 unemployed citizens were involved in short-term employment projects;
- A public restroom was built in the city of Jalal-Abad; and
- A series of seminars in business planning was held for the members of credit unions. Q1/01

Biom Youth Ecological Movement Develops Successful Proposal Writing Strategy

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

- Increase of NGO membership increased to 450 members;
- Creation of a Board of Directors for the NGO;
- Establishment by the NGO of close collaboration with various ecological organizations and governmental agencies such as National University, Academy of Sciences, National TV and Radio Company, Bishkek schools and colleges); and
- Participation by NGO members in the IV Conference for the Ministers of Ecology of Pan-European Union that took place in Denmark. At the conference the participants designed a framework of environmental protection and joint steps to implement it. Q1/01

Public Association of Scouts Builds Partnerships Through New Technology

The *Public Association of Scouts* is a newly established non-profit organization. Recognizing its limited experience and the need for information exchange and cooperation, the Association needed partners abroad to upsurge the Scouts' movement in the Kyrgyz Republic. Through skills acquired at fifteen Counterpart training workshops and accessing Counterpart's Internet Center, the Association established ties with five scouts' organizations from the US and Europe. As a result of these ongoing discussions, the leader of the American Boy Scout Movement visited Kyrgyzstan and signed three partnership agreements with the Kyrgyz Association. Moreover, due to the efficient use of the Counterpart resources, the Association maintains sustainable collaboration with various Scouts organizations worldwide and is planning to participate in international conferences and meetings. Q1/01

CACSA Support Expands Membership Through Strengthened Partner

The Central Asia Crafts Support Association (CACSA), a Counterpart grantee, provided support to the newly founded association of artisans *El-Onor* working in a remote region of Kyrgyzstan. *El-Onor* sought funding and support to improve organizational development and sustainability. CACSA offered counseling support and assistance in the marketing and sale of crafts to *El-Onor*. As a result of CASCA support and technical assistance, the regional and city governing bodies and the national bank of Kyrgyzstan requested that *El-Onor* produce national souvenirs and art works for the celebration of the 3000-anniversary of Osh city. The NGO raised $1,100 through sales of these handicrafts and was awarded with a diploma by a city administration for active participation in festive activities. Q1/01

Association of Consumer Rights Protection Makes National Authorities Reimburse Gas Fees

There are frequent gas outages as a result of the Kyrgyz government's inability to pay gas providers. In accordance with a Governmental Decree from 1997, consumers are entitled to be reimbursed for gas outages in excess of five days. *Aikyn* Consumer Rights Protection Association, through active participation in Counterpart trainings and round tables, acquired the necessary skills to address this problem. Appealing to the Deputy of the Legislative Assembly of the KR Parliament and the First Vice Prime-Minister, *Aikyn* pleaded the case for reimbursement after a day of outage, rather than five consecutive days. The KR Government and KyrgyzGas Joint Stock Venture discussed the issue over a period of three weeks. A new Governmental Decree was adopted as a result of consensus among the interested parties and the advocacy campaign waged by *Aikyn*. The new decree states that consumers are eligible for reimbursement after a day of gas outage, and that that reimbursement should be available immediately. As such, consumers in Bishkek were reimbursed $175,825 for gas outages in 1999. Q1/01

Association of Social Workers Successfully Utilizes Fundraising Skills

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

- Two subsidiaries occupying a 100-hector plot of land were established;
- A new bakery and senior citizens center were opened;
- A rehabilitation center was established and currently offers its services to 5000 disabled;
- 310 college students were trained in social services delivery and new technologies;
- The *Association* supplied its affiliates with new office equipment; and
- The *Association* entered the International Federation of Social Workers. Q1/01

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

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

- The amount of payment for gas heating was reduced for retired citizens, the owners of houses
- Gas meters were installed for free in the houses of 17,000 retired citizens
- 23 retired were able to get hearing aids for free
- Participants of the World War II got additional benefits
- An agreement with 6 pharmacies was reached and they sell medicines to the retire with 40% discount
- An amendment to the Law on Retirement Allowances was made called for retired citizens who keep working to get their full retirement allowance. Prior to that they were 50% cut off. Q1/01

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

In 2000 Bishkek faced with an environmental from plans for construction of an incinerator by the Bishkek mayor's office and a contract with the company Italian Technology Innovations (ITI). The general public was concerned about ecological and economic hazards imposed by the planned project: pollution of the Chui valley; health impacts; the necessity to develop a site to bury poisonous dioxins; and an increased payment for utilities. The *Forum of Ecological NGOs*, established in 1997, in collaboration with the international center *InterBilim* conducted a series of activities to stop construction, using skills acquired at Counterpart trainings. Based on the results of the investigation that proved that the offered technology was not applicable in Kyrgyzstan the coalition held a series of round tables for governmental, non-profit and international organizations, mass media and attracted public attention to the problem. A wide scale media campaign was conducted in newspapers, television and the Internet. In September 2000 the ITI Company in Kyrgyzstan sponsored a trip of working group members to Italy to study the operation of a similar plant and its impacts on the environment and people's health. The working group offered to make another expert evaluation of the project with participation of non-profit organizations and as a result the construction of the plant was postponed. Q1/01

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

In 1987 a small village of Tash-Bulak was destroyed by a mudslide and all the villagers were resettled to a new place, which was named after a damaged village. In 1993 this new settlement housed 17 refugee families from Tajikistan. The lack of water to drink and water crops was a huge problem that people faced with in a new place. Water resources were stored in reservoirs that did not meet any sanitary standards and contained many hazardous germs. It entailed the increase in a morbidity rate from hepatitis, skin and intestinal diseases. The Jalal-Abad CSSC that participated in many Counterpart training workshops and round tables designed a project to construct a water system in the village, which received a $28,500 grant support from international donors. The project also gained a $5,500 support from the local government. As a result of efficient fundraising a new water system was built and at the present time 89 families are provided with clean drinking water. A community-based association was established to maintain and improve water facilities. Q1/01

For International Tolerance Facilitates Cross-Border Initiatives in Fergana Valley

Residents of three villages that are in close proximity to one another in the Leilek area of the Batken Region had only one source of water, causing a series of ethnic conflicts in these villages on the Tajik-Kyrgyz border. Outbreaks of contagious diseases were also documented. The NGO *For International Tolerance* addressed this problem through peaceful negotiations with fighting parties and a number of round tables and community-based meetings with senior citizens. Having acquired skills through Counterpart's workshop on Project Design the NGO wrote a proposal to improve social infrastructure in the Fergana valley. The Swiss Development Fund and UNOPS supported the project with a total of $96,972. A new water system connecting three villages was opened in November 2000. Since then, no cases of ethnic conflicts among the 8,000 person population or of infectious diseases have been registered A community-based committee was established to monitor the operation of the water system. Q1/01

NGO Issyk-Kul Sabaty Addresses Community-Based Needs through Fundraising

NGO *Issyk-Kul Sabaty*, a 1.5-year-old non-profit organization, was looking for funding to address the issue of civil and environmental education in the Issyk-Kul region of Kyrgyzstan. Through Counterpart trainings and participation in round tables conducted by the Issyk-Kul Civil Society Support Center the NGO members improved their fundraising skills as demonstrated by their ability to secure $8,110 in grant support from different international agencies. With this funding the organization trained 3,180 people in environmental issues and innovative methods of education and conducted workshops and disseminated information on gender issues that helped breakdown stereotypes about the role of women in society. Q4/00.

El Onor Public Association Benefits From Membership in the Crafts Association

Under the transition to the market economy artisans and art workers experience constraints in selling their art. In order to help them promote their creative endeavors and earn a living the *El Onor Public Association* opened an exhibition of fine arts dedicated to the 3000 anniversary of Osh city. Office equipment received by the Association through a grant from Counterpart was very instrumental in the development of multi-color catalogues, invitations, and promotional materials about the exhibits and participants. The exhibition brought in $255 in revenue for the NGO. In addition, it was widely covered by local media, which generated interest among the general public for the unique and original attributes of the exhibited works. Q4/00.

Association of Disabled Children Utilizes Skills Towards Sustainability

Two years ago the newly-formed *Association of the Balykchy City* united 43 disabled children, but had more than office space. With ongoing support and counseling from the Karakol CSSC, and with skills acquired in fundraising and project design through Counterpart trainings, NGO members have documented the following results:

- The NGO opened a small school where 20 developmentally disabled children have access to instruction in various subjects and are provided with hot lunches.
- With assistance from the Save the Children Foundation, 17 children with facial defects underwent surgeries for free.
- 14 children were provided with free physiotherapy and other health care services through support in the amount of $1,500 from the German Technical Assistance Agency.
- The NGO purchased physiotherapy equipment in the amount of $1,430 to treat cardiac diseases and open a physiotherapy department.
- In December 2000 the Korean Charitable Foundation *Friendship* donated new coats to 50 children and Adventist Development and Relief Agency donated humanitarian relief to 80 members of the Association. Q4/00.

NGO Altyn Oimok Improves Well-being of Rural Women by Making Them More Active

In the village Bokombaevo in the Issyk-Kul region, the level of unemployment is very high, particularly among women. This high unemployment rate is a key contributor to divorce, poverty and migration of rural populations to cities. Through training and counseling support from Counterpart the NGO *Altyn Oimok*, a member of Central Asian Crafts Support Association, designed a project aimed at improving the standard of living of rural women through income-generating activities. As a result of the project:

- The NGO leader was awarded a diploma by the local administration for active participation in resolving the problems of rural women.
- From January through October 2000, the *Altyn Oimok* created jobs for 18 women artisans in the village of Bokombaevo; a local group of women artisans generated $1,750 by selling crafts.
- With the local governing bodies the administration lead to the exemption for *Altyn Oimok* from paying local taxes for five years, until 2004. Q4/00.

NGO Aibek Leads Effort to Improves School Attendance

In the remote Aksy area of Kyrgyzstan children had to wade across a river to get to school. Many experienced health problems or did not attend school as a result. By gaining skills and knowledge at Counterpart trainings, the leader of the NGO *Aibek* organized a meeting in the community, with participation of local governing bodies, to discuss this problem. As a result of this action 100 community members contributed construction materials worth $700 and built a bridge for the children. Now 180 schoolchildren have increased access and attend school on a regular basis. Q4/00.

NGO Program Demonstrates its Success

High school graduates and young people in rural areas often lack the business and economics knowledge to initiate their own income-generating activities. Through a $8,850 grant from Counterpart the NGO *Junior Achievement* created a network of regional centers to train this younger generation in applied economics in the transition to market economy. As a result:

- *Junior Achievement* opened two centers in Chui and Jalal-Abad for 900 high school students and trained 100 teachers.
- Applied economics was introduced into the curriculum for grades 1 to 11 (Order #329/1 issued by the Ministry of Science, Culture and Education).
- *Junior Achievement* initiated many competitions – the winners of the first school campaign competition were invited to participate in the International Economics Camp, where three schools from Kyrgyzstan won prizes.
- Based on the results of the Bishkek competition in applied economics three high school graduates were admitted to the Bishkek Financial and Economics Academy without entrance exams. Q4/00.

NGO Yntymak Supports Health Service Delivery in Rural Area

In the Chui Region of Kyrgyzstan there are 9,735 refugees including 4,851 children. Poor living conditions and nutrition are contributors to an increasing number of tuberculosis cases among the refugee population. The Chui regional tuberculosis hospital was unable to find funding to rehabilitate the facilities and as a result could not provide proper treatment to those in need. To address this need, the refugee NGO *Yntymak* (Mercy) facilitated a partnership whereby Counterpart provided counseling support and a UNHCR provided a $3,074 grant. As a result, the administration of the regional hospital repaired the facilities and was able to provide long-term treatment to 41 adult and 16 pediatric patients inflicted with tuberculosis. In addition the hospital examined 389 people and has been taking care of a 5-member refugee family for a year providing them with a place for living, job and food for free. The cost of treatment and these examinations represents a contribution of $6,057 from the regional hospital. Q4/00.

NGO Cholpon-Ata Shares Its Income with the Poorest

Four unemployed refugee families in collaboration with 13 low-income families of the village Komsomol in Kyrgyzstan established the NGO *Cholpon-Ata* to assist in creating jobs for unemployed residents. Through technical assistance, counseling support and a small grant ($ 2,450) from the Jalal-Abad Support Center the NGO members implemented a small farming project. As a result of the project they gathered 17 tons of grain and 2 tons of sunflower seeds. Seventeen low-income families of the village received an additional 200 kg of wheat per family that made up $500. Portions of the crop were left to be sown next year. Q4/00.

NGO Leader Successfully Combats STD Incidence in Student Communities

The incidence of STDs among young people has been constantly increasing in the Issyk-Kul region. In 1999 the number of infected people increased by 17%. By using skills acquired at Counterpart trainings the NGO *Leader* conducted a public information campaign on STD prevention. The action included 43 workshops for 1084 students in the city of Karakol. The project was carried out by 36 volunteers and was supported by partners such as the Regional AIDS Center, the health department and international business companies, who provided promotional health materials, lab tests and equipment, anonymous services and $933 in cash. The project concluded with a conference dedicated to the theme of teenage reproductive health, which was held for young people, parents, health workers, mass media and other stakeholders. As a result of this wide-scale campaign the incidence of STDs decreased by 32% according to the last monitoring surveys. Q4/00.

Women's NGO Archa-Beshik Gets Fresh Water for Communities

The *Archa-Beshik* residential area, established in 1994, is one of many Bishkek suburbs that never developed any social infrastructure or services for its residents, including water facilities. The residents use water facilities one kilometer away from their homes, contributing to health hazards such as frostbite in the winter months. By using the skills acquired at Counterpart trainings in fundraising and coalition building, the women's NGO *Archa-Beshik* received small grants of $2000 from Soros Foundation and $3,000 from the UNDP-funded "Life" project to address this issue. As a result of the NGO's active involvement to address this problem and close collaboration with the construction department of the mayor's office a two-kilometer pipe was built to connect the residential area with a neighboring village. Currently, 3,000 residents now have newly-gained access to this water system. Q4/00.

NGO Leader Diversifies Funding Sources as Part of Sustainability Strategy

The NGO *Leader* needed to raise additional resources to create a favorable environment for personal growth of young people and the development of the NGO community in the Issyk-Kul region. By using the skills acquired at Counterpart Consortium training workshops the NGO successfully received grant funding totaling $35,047 from four donor organizations for projects over the next three years. As a result of funds raised the NGO accomplished the following:

- Established a club for teenagers "We Give Joy to People"
- Opened a summer camp for developmentally disabled children
- Opened the NGO Resource Center in the Issyk-Kul region
- Issue an information newsletter for 115 NGOs of the Issyk-Kul region
- Established Youth Legal and Information Support Center
- Established a Youth Rock Climbing Club
- Opened public legal centers Q3/00

Women's Congress of Kyrgyzstan Strengthens Legal Outreach in Countryside
A high demand in raising legal awareness of the population urged the need to provide counseling services in the remote Batken region. Through skills acquired at Counterpart training workshops and round tables the leader of the NGO Women's Congress of Kyrgyzstan made some changes in a fundraising strategy, which allowed the NGO to get a $15,000 grant from Soros Foundation. As a result of an efficient fundraising the NGO opened the Center of Legal Information in Batken supplied with modern office equipment and staffed with two lawyers who are experienced in civil, criminal, family and retirement issues. It was the third center established through the initiative of the Women's Congress. Q3/00

Public Legal Association Civil Dignity Advocates Poor Rights
The transition to a market economy has resulted in a high demand for legal services in Kyrgyzstan, which are not always accessible by low-income and disadvantaged citizens. Through a $4,660 grant from Counterpart Consortium the Public Legal Association opened two Charitable Legal Centers located in different parts of Bishkek. In the first six months of operation they provided counseling services to 128 citizens for free (an estimated cost of $780). The clientele of the Centers are mostly retired (96%) and low-income people (4%).
In February 2000 an elderly couple applied to the Center because their house was gradually deteriorating under the pressure of a neighboring house. As a result of efficient actions undertaken by lawyers volunteering for the Center the court made the defendants reimburse $10,000 to the family including court expenses.
In March 2000 a disabled retired woman asked the Center's volunteers to help her with repayment of funds she loaned two years prior. Due to the efficient assistance of the volunteers, the court forced the borrower to pay $3,650 (the full amount she loaned and reimbursement of court expenses). Q3/00

Association of Brokers and Dealers Introduces Ethic Code to Increase Rapport Among Customers
To meet the needs of clients in a more efficient manner the members of the Association of Brokers and Dealers needed standards of professional ethics. By using the skills acquired at Counterpart workshops the Association drafted an Ethical Code consisting of five chapters, which was approved by the National Committee on Securities on March 2, 2000. The new Code gives the right to the National Committee to cancel licensees in case the Association members do not abide by the principles of the Ethical Code. As a result, the amount of securities sold quadrupled as compared with last year's figures and reached one million soms (more than $20,000). Q3/00

Central Asia Crafts Support Association (CACSA) Shares Expertise with Local Partner
Through a grant from Counterpart Consortium the Bishkek-based NGO CACSA has developed a network of artisan NGOs and assists them in marketing, sales and coordination of joint activities. One such example is the Uzbekistan-based NGO the *Aral Golden Heritage,* which faced difficulties selling carpets produced by local craftsmen due to the low purchasing power of the population and the remoteness of the region. As a result of support gained through CACSA's communication network *Aral Golden Heritage* strengthened the financial sustainability of the organization through the sale of carpets totaling $800 and a mechanism for receiving additional orders. Q3/00

Protection of Rural Children's Rights
Recreation of children during summer holidays was neglected especially in rural areas due to economic constraints in Kyrgyzstan. The leader of the NGO Protection of Rural Children's Rights visited an abandoned summer camp in the Jalal-Abad region and applied to the regional health department with an offer to rehabilitate the facilities. By using skills gained through Counterpart training workshops, the leader successfully negotiated with the oblast health department for support. In 1999 the NGO provided 150 children from low-income and refugee families with an opportunity to get rest at a summer camp. This year a union of health workers allocated 15000 soms ($320) to the NGO for rehabilitation of the camp. Since June, 2000 more than 50 children have spent their summer at the Medik camp in the Kyzyl-Unkur canon. The local administration provided additional support by donating 5700 kg of wheat. Q3/00

Clients Benefit from Afghanets NGO Activities
In the Kerben village in Jalal-Abad, there are 19 families with veterans from the Afghan War that are experience serious difficulties finding jobs. Through ongoing counseling support and participation in Counterpart training workshops the members of the NGO Afghanets designed a grant project, which was awarded a $1,170 grant by Mercy Corps International and a 2.5 hectare plot of land by the village administration. As a result of efficient fundraising efforts and collaboration with the donor and local governing bodies the NGO members and their families started a small project aimed at potato growing. The crop (estimated at $1000) will be equally divided among the families. Also, to improve the environment in the Kerben village the NGO Afghanets conducted a community-based action to plant trees in the village. Using community mobilization techniques the NGO collected 500 saplings and planted them on a 1.5 hectare plot of land allocated to the NGO by the village administration. Q3/00

ILIM Educational Complex Builds its Public Relations
ILIM Educational Complex had little experience in public relations when it started implementing the 21st Century Schoolhouse project supported through a partnership grant from Counterpart Consortium. As a result of funding to support the inclusion of students from the School of Young Journalists, high school students participating in the project acquired excellent skills in writing press releases, articles and newsletters. The 12 teachers involved in the project received training in how to use e-mail and the Internet, greatly enhancing their ability to participate in this interactive project. This Counterpart support has enhanced 21st Century Schoolhouse's ability to promote its activities. At present, 21st Century Schoolhouse members cover all their activities in press releases and have published two issues of a newsletter with a circulation of 160 copies that are distributed to mass media and the radio station Europe Plus. As a result of the competition for the best environment-related article held by the Soros Foundation 13 project participants were awarded a 1000-som award ($25). In addition, the school designed a project logo and redesigned a web site (www.ilim.kyrnet.kg), which won the third place in the city competition of websites. Q3/00

NGO Bakyt Promotes Grassroots Initiatives
In the village Kurulush in the Jalal-Abad region, the public bath has not been operating for the last ten years, resulting in increased rates of skin diseases and contagious diseases among village citizens. The NGO *Bakyt* analyzed the problem and raised $1,105, through partnership efforts at the community level and in cooperation with local governing bodies, to address this health need. The project was also awarded a $1,050 grant by UNDP. Counterpart Consortium provided the NGO with technical assistance in the form of training and counseling services. For month and a half 12 NGO members were involved in the reconstruction of the public bath, which is currently operating and provides services to 300 local families. As a result, the sanitary and hygiene environment in the village has improved and there have been no incidence of skin or contagious diseases reported in the two months following the opening of the bathhouse. Q3/00

Association for Consumer Rights Protection "Aikyn" Advocates for Disadvantaged Students
Due to the low level of awareness and insufficient knowledge of the law on consumer rights a great number of consumers in the Kyrgyz Republic are not able to efficiently defend their own rights. For example, 25 students were admitted to and paid for a college in Bishkek but had to quit when the college administration did not meet their obligations. The students could not get back the fees they paid for tuition. Counterpart grantee NGO *Aikyn* has opened three branch offices in universities and *Aikyn* members implement a program among college and university students that targets young consumers. All of the Association's activities are widely covered by the mass media. As a result of the involvement of *Aikyn* the students were reimbursed 100% of the tuition fees (45,000 soms - $950). Q3/00

Aimira NGO Is Capable of Earning Income and Distributing it to Disadvantaged People
There are 17 refugee families from Tajikistan in the Oktyabrsky village of the Jalal-Abad region. Many of them, as with local citizens, are unemployed and the standard of living is very low. Through training and counseling support from Counterpart Consortium and participation in round tables arranged by the Support Center, the leader of the refugee-focused NGO *Aimira* designed a small community-based project, which was approved by UNHCR in the amount of $1,270. As a result of the project, the NGO members started a small agribusiness and grew 16 tons of wheat, which made up $1,700. The crop was partially divided among 13 of the local and refugee families, members of the NGO, and 10 tons were left for planting next year. Q3/00

Kyrgyz NGO Opens a Door to Montana Partner
In order to replicate and construct a training and teaching center for 200 developmentally disabled young people, the *Educational Center for Professional Training of Disabled Children* (ECPTDC) needed a partner organization. Through assistance from Counterpart Consortium and the Montana Army National Guard the NGO was partnered with the Farm-in-the Dell Foundation (Rural Opportunities Project). The leader of the Kyrgyz ECPTDC was invited to visit Montana at the expense of the US partner, which covered all travel and accommodation costs. As a result, the leader of the ECPTDC signed a 5-year partnership agreement with the US Foundation and received an initial $5,000 contribution for construction of the Center in Kyrgyzstan. The Ministry of Emergencies in Kyrgyzstan contributed $4,750 and the Mayor's Office allocated a 1.3-hectare plot of land for construction. The Montana National Guard continues to oversee the delivery of funds for the project, participates in the delivery of materials and supplies, and help transport volunteers from Montana to Kyrgyzstan. Q2/00

NGO Increases Rural Women's Activeness Through Financial Sustainability
In response to the growing demand for services related to women's rights and professional development for rural women, including training to preserve traditional crafts and develop new marketing skills, the NGO *Jez-Oimok* successfully leveraged funds in excess of $20,000 from Soros, Mercy Corps, UNDP and UNHCR to purchase wool processing equipments and trained 74 women including 18 refugees. More than 40% of trained women were offered jobs in crafts making workshops. Some funding was used to open an affiliated training center in the village of Voznesenovka. The success of the projects resulted from the NGO's skills in program design, obtained through Counterpart training and consultations. Q2/00

Association of Tax Consultants
To improve financial sustainability and implement new projects, the *Association of Tax Consultants* sought new sources of funding, by using skills and knowledge acquired at Counterpart workshops, and achieved the following results:

- The Association applied to ARD/CHECCHI, a USAID-funded project, to carry out the project "Comments on the Tax Code of the Kyrgyz Republic." The Tax Code was designed by tax specialists and contained specific terminology without any case studies. Therefore the general public was denied access to it. With a $14,280 grant the Association will be able to provide the taxpayers with a printed copy of comments on the Tax Code, which will present the Code in a more simple and accessible manner, using explanations and examples.
- The Association also received support from ARD/CHECCHI to implement a six-month televised project entitled "The Right to Create," which is aimed at developing tax awareness of citizens. The project will promote the dialogue and mutual understanding between tax inspectors and taxpayers. A $960 grant will help the NGO develop materials for TV programs. Q2/00

Advocacy of Human Rights in Remote Areas of Kyrgyzstan

Advocacy of citizens' rights and interests is an integral part of the development of democratic society in Kyrgyzstan. The population in rural areas in the southern part of the country is most vulnerable because of their lack of access to information. They also do not have access to legal counseling services not could they afford to pay for the services if they were available. Through consultations and training at Counterpart Consortium, the leader and members of the Human Rights and Democracy Center received a $25,000 grant from the Soros Foundation to service the high demand for legal consulting services to the low-income groups in the Osh region. As a result of this successful fundraising effort the Center is making considerable strides in advocating for human rights in the southern region of Kyrgyzstan. Q2/00

Women's Congress Raises Additional Resources to Increase Legal Awareness of Regional Population

In order to meet the growing demand for legal education in the Osh and Jalal-Abad regions, the *Women's Congress* needed to open two more Legal Information Center branches. Using skills and knowledge acquired through Counterpart trainings and consultations, the leader of the Women's Congress made efficient changes to the NGO's strategic plan to ensure its financial sustainability. The NGO successfully submitted an application to the Eurasia Foundation and was awarded a $15,000 grant. As a result of the project the NGO opened two centers that are staffed with competent lawyers and equipped with modern office equipment. In the two months since it's establishment, the Centers offered counseling services to 211 low-income people, organized a meeting for 500 women to inform them on their rights and disability allowances, and made two field visits to local colleges. All activities have been widely covered by mass media. Both Centers have established strong partnership relations with local governing bodies and governmental agencies. Q2/00

Fundraising to Increase Legal Awareness of Women

In order to provide rural women with informational, legal and counseling support the *Talas* branch of the *Women's Support Center* needed to identify more resources. By using the skills acquired at the Project Design workshop at Counterpart, the NGO wrote a series of applications to donor organizations which resulted in nearly $12,000 in grant funding that was used to open a computer training center in *Talas*, publish a book entitled "Women's Rights," and provide women with micro credits. Q2/00

NGO Addresses Community-Based Issues Through Fundraising

To promote comprehensive development of rural children and to improve the social & economic status of orphans & children of low-income families, the NGO *Protection of Rural Children's Rights* sought additional funding. By using the skills acquired through Counterpart Consortium trainings and participation in roundtables, the NGO designed a series of grant applications to address issues such as children's health, education and social guarantees. The NGO received funding from the Asian Development Bank, Mercy Corps International, Soros Foundation, Swiss Foundation and ICDIVOCA in excess of $40,000 to implement nine projects in collaboration with local and regional governing bodies. Q2/00

NGO Financial Sustainability
The *Students' Bar Association* needed financial resources to advocate for rights and interests of law college graduates. Through counseling support from Counterpart Consortium, the youth NGO designed several grant applications, which were submitted to donor organizations such as USIS, Global and UNHCR. Since May 1999 the Association has received nearly $24,000 in grant funding to implement a series of projects and improve the NGO's financial sustainability. This group used money to conduct summer school courses in election law and debates in international law to train high schools students throughout the republic. In addition, the Association established a Refugee Social Assistance Center, which offers counseling services on refugee rights. Q2/00

NGO Integrates Rural Children in Educational Process
In the village of Kaldyk in the Chui region the local elementary school building was deteriorating and unsuitable for conducting classes. The children in this village, many of whom migrated from Tajikistan and are ethnic Kyrgyz, were denied the opportunity to attend school. By using skills gained in Social Partnership workshops at Counterpart, *Hirenso* received a $4,500 grant from a donor organization, $1,600 from a local governing body and $1,700 from the local education department to refurbish the school. As a result of this partnership a new heating system was installed and school classrooms were repaired. Now 36 refugee children are able to get elementary education. Q2/00

Altyn-Balallyk Disseminates Basic Fundraising Skills Towards Communities
The continued economic depression in the Kyrgyz Republic is beginning to have a lasting affect on the ecological situation of the Republic. People in rural areas cannot afford to buy coal or firewood to heat their houses in winter thus prompting them to cut down the trees in forests. This deforestation has led to an increased number of mudslides, which are especially prevalent in the Ak-Sy rayon. By using skills acquired at Counterpart trainings, the NGO *Altyn-Balallyk* established a strong partnership relationship with the Swiss organization *Lesic*. With funding from *Lesic*, the NGO has planted 20 walnut, 100 apple, 100 poplar, and 100 plum trees and is providing ecological education for kindergarten children in Kerben. Further, the NGO has provided consultations to residents in Kerben (15 people) and Altyn-Balallyk (2 people) advising the best way to coordinate with *Lesic*. As a result of these consultations, these residents received a grant for 74,345 som to plant fruit trees on 5 hectares of land. Q2/00

Union of Rural Women Successfully Utilizes Grant Solicitation Strategy
In order to raise the awareness of rural women and involve them more actively in the development of civil society in Kyrgyzstan, the *Alga Union of Rural Women* needed more financial resources. By using skills acquired at training workshops and roundtables sponsored by Counterpart Consortium, the NGO submitted a series of grant applications to donor organizations that were aimed at providing comprehensive support to rural women including information, training and micro-crediting. As a result of successful fundraising the NGO implemented 11 projects totaling $64,687 granted by UNDP, HIVOS, Soros Foundation, UNHCR and the Eurasia Foundation. As a result of the NGO's programs, nine refugee families in three villages built greenhouses. Q2/00

Aikyn Promotes Nationwide Advocacy Campaign and Saves Consumers' Money
Advocacy of consumers' rights and interests is a very important task in building and strengthening a democratic state based on the rule of law. The *Aikyn Association of Consumer Rights' Protection* is actively working in this direction. Through skills gained at Counterpart Consortium training workshops and counseling services *Aikyn* submitted applications to donors and was awarded grants by the Mercy Corps International and Soros Foundation. As a result of fundraising activities the Association implemented several projects totaling $22,800. One of the most significant impacts from the NGO projects was the cancellation of fees for distribution of energy utilization rules to consumers totaling $3,319,094. Q2/00

NGO Advocates Refugee Right to Residence Permit

In 12 villages of the Jaiyl region in Kyrgyzstan, 376 families of refugees and migrants from Tajikistan. 151 families do not have a residence permit and therefore not entitled to housing, jobs or health care services. On March 14, 2000 the NGO *Hirenso* initiated a meeting of refugees, migrants with representatives from the State Agency on Migration and Demography, deputy governor, department of interior affairs and village administrations. Counterpart Consortium provided consulting and logistics support for the meeting. As a result of the negotiations 12 families (52 people) have received residence permits. Q2/00

Women's Support Center Expands the Network of Rural Women's NGOs

The network of women's organizations in Naryn and Talas regions is underdeveloped. There are only four women's NGOs operating the Talas region. These few organizations are making an effective contribution to poverty alleviation, legal literacy and social protection of low-income groups of the population. Through training and counseling services at Counterpart Consortium, the *Women's Support Center,* a nonprofit organization, received a $14,568 grant to build capacity and expand the network of women's NGOs in the Talas region. As a result of the project targeting rural women, two women's non-profit groups were established – Sheker and Ak-Totu. The latter initiated the opening of a maternity home in the village of Kok-Sai. A database on women working with micro credits was created for three regions. Q2/00

Archa-Beshik Public Association of Women-Constructors Advocates for Children's Rights

The population in the new residential area of Archa-Beshik has been steadily increasing, developing a need for additional educational facilities, including an elementary school. With skills developed in a number of Counterpart trainings and as a former Counterpart grantee, the *Archa-Beshik Association of Women Constructors* appealed to the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic and the Mayor's office. The latter allocated 20,000 soms ($1,200) and the Ministry of Emergent Situations provided the group with pre-fabricated houses. The Mayor also paid salaries to the builders for five months. As a result of close collaboration between the NGO and governing bodies a new school was erected and the number of school students has increased from 250 to 500 over the last two years. Q2/00

Tajikistan

New Organization, New Voice

In February 2003 in Penjikent Tajikistan a CSSC was established, which provides information, technical, training to NGOs, CBOs, and Initiative Groups from all districts of Zeravshan Valley, who are totally isolated from Republican and Oblast Centers. The CSSC has proved to be a catalyst for civil society development in the area and is a meeting place for initiative groups and activists. The CSSC proved its value in June 6 when a mountainous flood threatened Penjikent. The CSSC was the intermediary receiving all International Humanitarian Organizations and providing them with information, access to its database, and other services. The CSSC is the bridge between local civil society organizations and the international community. Q2/03

Somondukht Creates Jobs and Expands Services for Women

To tackle the issue of unemployment among women in the Nau district, the NGO *Somondukht* developed the proposal *Woman in democratic society*, which received Counterpart funding. As a result of the project, a sewing workshop was organized, employing 10 women. The workshop now manages two shifts, doubling the number of employees. The NGO's first project encouraged the expansion of activities beyond fundraising – it organized sewing courses for women who could use them to earn a living. In partnership with the local government, the NGO organized computer classes for women, using funds generated from the sewing classes to purchase computer equipment. Additionally, the NGO provides medical services to women in remote communities, including a Mobile Medical Aid for women unable to travel from remote areas. The cumulative effect of the NGO's charitable activities and service provision is the respect of local government and communities. Q2/03

Unemployment is Challenging

With men in the rural areas leaving for job opportunities in Russia, women heads of households are prevalent. Many of these women are not equipped with the skills to provide for their families. The NGO *Parvin*, a participant in several Counterpart trainings, identified women in the *Tursunzoda* district and trained the 60 poorest women in small business development and vocational training sewing national dress. After the trainings *Parvin* was keen to create jobs for these women. The local Khokimat allocated space for a sewing workshop and the NGO equipped the workshop with sewing machines, contributing 900 somoni ($300). Now women are provided with permanent jobs, earning 30 somoni ($10) per month. *Parvin* applied to the WFP to support these women with flour and oil for six months, after which the women are confident they will increase their volume work to be able to provide for themselves and their families. Q2/03

Motivation to Move Forward

One of the root causes of poverty in the Shitharv village in the Ishkashim District in Badakshan is the lack of water to irrigate new lands. At its worst, the population wasn't able to grow anything for six months, leaving many families to struggle to eat. Repeated appeals to the state went unanswered. After going through Counterpart trainings, the initiative group *Shitharv* decided to take matters into their own hands and developed a proposal to construct a 3 km channel. The Khorog CSSC provided technical and consulting assistance in the design of the project, which was funded by the Aga Khan Foundation. Within the three months the channel was completed and 50 hectares of lands were irrigated. Now community members are growing potatoes, wheat and pumpkins, all of which thrive in the mountainous conditions. This project has resulted not only in food and products that can be sold in the marketplace for income, but has also ignited the community to continue to look inward to solve problems. They intend to initiate school repairs over the summer vacation. Q2/03

Promotion Generates Cooperation
Mistrust and lack of information about NGO activities has proven that local authorities are not ready for cooperation with NGOs. The CSSCs *Shahrvand* and *Fidokor* united their efforts to bring positive changes in the relationship between local government and NGOs of the Khatlon Area. They initiated an exhibition devoted to NGO projects and activities and invited regional and district level government officials. As the result the Governor showed interest in the Counterpart CAG program and expressed his willingness to mobilize all districts to benefit from Counterpart program through training. Both CSSCs were requested by Government to organize a number of trainings for governmental officials on a fee-for-service basis. Q2/03

Social partnership for sustainable development of Dushanbe
Over the last four months the Dushanbe CSSC has worked with the Mayor of Dushanbe to organize a meeting with representatives of local and international NGOs, business structures, media, and financial institutions. While all groups work to address social problems, there is little coordination or information exchange between them. The goal of the meeting was to establish collaboration between sectors for joint problem solving and the Mayor acknowledged that NGOs possess the intellectual capacity to address problems effectively. As a result of the meeting participants prepared an agreement for social and economic partnership with a Coordination Committee of 23 people from different sectors as a governing body. The Mayor serves as the Chairman of the Coordination Committee. Q2/03

Qualified volunteers
Volunteer development is an essential component of modern society. In the Soghd oblast the number of volunteers is rapidly growing, not only for international organizations and local NGOs, but also for government agencies and social institutions. The Khujand CSSC is experienced in providing educational courses to train volunteers and has trained 42 volunteers in seven Counterpart modules. A recent survey of local NGOs working 16 Counterpart trained volunteers revealed that they are making a substantial contribution, providing quality services and being responsive to the program needs. Q2/03

Change of Attitude
Citizens of the community Korez in the Dangara district suffered for a long time due to the lack of drinking water. The water was delivered by trucks and was sold for a high price. Those who were not able to buy pure water had to drink dirty and salty water from the nearest canal, resulting in the spread of infectious diseases. Community citizens didn't feel responsibile for their health and were not inclined to solve the problem with their own resources. The NGO *Khairhoh*, frequent participants in Counterpart activities, conducted PCA exercises in the community. As a result, community leaders developed an action plan and proposal to address the water problem. The project was submitted to Counterpart's *Healthy Communities* program and received funding. Q2/03

Land Is Highlanders' Wealth
The *Badjuv* community is located in 50 km from Khorog and 30 km from Rushan and stands 3,800 meters above the sea level. Geographical considerations and severe weather affect the quality of life of the local population. Because of the remoteness of the community it is often overlooked by governmental and international organizations. One specific problem identified by community members is the lack of sowing lands. With assistance from the Khorog CSSC, community leaders developed a proposal to construct an irrigation canal which received funding from the UN WFP. Construction of the canal promoted the processing of new sowing lands – 36 hectares where citizens can sow grain and supply themselves with bread to feed 40% of the population. Irrigation of new lands also promoted the development of raising livestock. Q2/03

Where There's a Will …
Many people in the capital of Dushanbe gave up hope to get gas to heat their homes in the winter, but not in one community. The initiative group from the urban Nazarshoev Street mobilized 37 households to address the gas issue. They developed a proposal, funded by Counterpart, which was implemented in two months. As a result 222 people now have access to gas – and without dependence on the government to provide it. Q2/03

From Dependence to Self-Reliance
The consequences of the civil war in Tajikistan still affect many citizens, with the low level of education, increased unemployment and other social and economic problems. Among vulnerable groups there is an increasing dependency on humanitarian aid. One of the main goals of the Dushanbe CSSC over the past year has been to provide consulting, information, and technical assistance to develop proposals to help communities address their own needs themselves. The Dushanbe CSSC assisted in the implementation of 10 projects in Dushanbe area, benefiting 6,125 people. As a result the CSSC's goal was achieved – people united to solve common problems (gas, water-provision, electricity, and renovation of schools and medical centers). Communities gained knowledge and skills to write proposals, mobilize resources, interact with stakeholders, and use traditional forms of work. They gained the confidence to solve community problems without the traditional reliance on the government or humanitarian agencies. Q2/03

Success of Mobilization
While implementing a CAG the NGO *Paivand* had problems with the diminished level of participation of the population. The Kulob CSSC *Sharvand* organized complementary activities like informal meetings with the population and roundtables with different stakeholders to ascertain the reason for the low participation. The interventions revealed that the leader of the initiative group wasn't a motivator. As a result, he's been replaced with a new leader who is demonstrating strong leadership abilities and promoting mobilization. Under new leadership the community not only built a road, but also built a playground for youth and children and created a soccer team. Q2/03

The bridge has passed the trial
The breakdown of the bridge in the *Galaobod* community in the Khatlon Region was the source of great frustration for community members. Without the bridge, local community members cannot take agricultural products to the market, bring in construction materials or attend school. Members of an initiative group trained by the Khurgan-Teppa CSSC conducted PCAP exercises and developed a proposal which was funded by Counterpart. They mobilized the population, local government and other stakeholders to address the issue. Taking into consideration on-going rain and mountain conditions in Tajikistan, some of the specialists and experts were skeptical about the bridge restoration, but the community restored the bridge and passed the trial period and weathered the Spring rains. Q2/03

NGO Succeeds in Teaching Literacy for Girls In Rural Areas
As a result of both the Civil War and the existing economic problems, many children, especially girls in rural areas, have not been able to attend school and many of them lack basic literacy skills. To address this problem, the NGO *Javshan* in the Ragun district organized literacy courses for girls. After forming their NGO in 1999, members of *Javshan* participated in Counterpart's training workshops on NGO and Community, Project Design, NGO Management, Coalition Building and Social Partnership conducted by Dushanbe CSSC. Through the partnership with the NGO *Parvin* they received a grant from Mercy Corps to educate 30 girls between the ages of thirteen and sixteen. They also involved the Education Department of the Ragun District Government, which provided them with space in a kindergarten. Thirty girls received basic education through these courses and twelve of them continued their studies at secondary schools. In addition to this, they prepared thirty-five girls who were secondary school graduates for entrance into establishments of higher education. All thirty-five girls are currently pursuing higher education. Q1/03

UNHCR Contracts Fidokor to Implement its Community Mobilization Program in Khatlon
Financial sustainability has been a critical issue for many NGOs in Tajikistan. NGO *Fidokor*, which runs the Kurghon-Teppa CSSC has made considerable progress in paving their way towards sustainability by diversifying their funding. In 2002, UNHCR selected *Fidokor* as a partner to implement the project entitled " Community Mobilization in Khatlon" and provided them with a grant of $30,000. $1,000 of the total grant was allocated for *Fidokor*'s overhead expenses. At the end of the project, *Fidokor* achieved the following: 1) Conducted PCA and CAP activities in 18 communities in partnership with five NGO partners; 2) Provided community action grants to 9 communities (grant maximum of $2,300); and 3) Issued micro-loans to 48 households. As a result of successful implementation, *Fidokor* received another grant of $30,000 from UNHCR in 2003 to carry out similar program activities in Jilikul and Kumsangir with a particular focus on promoting the sustainability of communities. Again as part of this grant, *Fidokor* received funds for overhead costs as well as financing to purchase computer equipment. *Fidokor* also works with Mercy Corps, Norwegian Refugee Counsel, National Social and Investment Fund to implement their projects. Over the past few years, Counterpart has provided direct technical assistance to strengthen the institutional development of *Fidokor* through various trainings including strategic planning and fundraising, one-on-one organizational development consultations, and institutional support grants. Q1/03

A Good Example of Sustainable NGOs
The NGO *Munis* based in Hisor District, is Counterpart's target NGO and its members have received a great deal of training and other technical assistance from the Dushanbe CSSC. *Munis*' mission is to help solve the problems of the most vulnerable population in Hisor, mostly by creating jobs for them. The NGO is renting two hectares of land and has a livestock farm, where twenty-four members of the NGO work. The income gained from the land and farms is spent not only for the organization's sustainability but also on charity activities. Recently, they provided five hundred children of poor families in Hisor with clothing and footwear. They also assisted sixteen single mothers with access to credit to improve their lives. *Munis* not only provides assistance to vulnerable citizens, but also helps community groups address their priority problems. After taking Counterpart's training workshops on Participatory Community Appraisal (CAP), *Munis* started implementing community mobilization activities. The last community proposal developed with *Munis*' assistance was the Ehyo Initiative Group's project to create a poultry farm to support 103 poor families and to provide jobs for thirteen women who are heads of their family. ORA International and the Swiss Agency for Development funded this project proposal. Q1/03

Initiative Mobilizes a Community to Address the Water Problem
A common problem throughout Tajikistan, is that many communities do not have access to potable water. With the collapse of the Soviet Union, many state utility departments were left bankrupt including the water management department. As a result, many communities are faced with rotting water pipes, inoperable water pumps and are without the necessary funds to repair and maintain their water systems. Community members often do not have clean water and must travel great distances for potable water. *Govmesh*, located in Tursunzade, is an example of such a community. In the fall of 2002, the NGO *Initiative*, from Tursunzade received PCA training from Counterpart. *Initiative* then conducted a PCA with the community *Govmesh*. During the PCA, community members identified the lack of drinking water as their priority problem. A number of activists from the community formed an initiative group and, with technical assistance from *Initiative*, developed an action plan for laying a water pipe line to the community from an existing water borehole in the northern part of the community. Together they submitted a proposal to Counterpart that was funded with a $3,612 community action grant. The community contributed over 30% in matching funds ($1,690) in the form of labor and construction materials. As a result of this community initiative, 652 people in *Govmesh* now have access to drinking water. This community further demonstrates its lasting empowerment by continuing to address other problems. At the moment, they are planning to reconstruct a secondary school in their town. Q1/03

The Social Partnership Follow-Up Meeting in Khatlon Brings New Results
There are still districts in Tajikistan where local governments either do not recognize or underestimate the role of NGOs in addressing social problems. As a result of the Social Partnership follow-up meeting conducted by the Kurghon-Teppa and Kulob CSSCs in December in Khatlon, a number of successful social partnerships between local government and NGOs were initiated. One such example is *Mehan*, which is one of the many Community Development Centers (CDCs) that assist poor community members through establishing small enterprises and providing them with jobs. After the meeting, the Governor of Vose met with the leader of the CDC to discuss cooperation. As a first step, the Governor agreed to provide *Mehan* with land to grow wheat for the CDC's macaroni shop. Q1/03

One More Impact of the Social Partnership Efforts in Kulob
Despite of their efforts, Kulob NGOs have been facing difficulties in setting up partner relationships with local government. Last Summer Counterpart hosted the National Conference on Social Partnership with participation of the President and follow-up meetings were organized in December in the Khatlon Oblast. On March 19 the Kulob CSSC initiated a roundtable with the Kulob Government Chairperson, representatives of some Governmental structures, Kulob City Justice Department representatives and local NGO leaders. Along with other issues, the leaders of Kulob NGOs talked about common problems (absence of office space and land and problems with Law-Enforcement Agencies and Tax Bodies, etc.). After extensive discussions the Kulob Government Chairperson designated 10 rooms in the Katlon Hotel to NGOs for their long-term use and allocated plots of land for NGOs. The Chairperson commissioned his deputies to resolve issues related to illegal treatment of NGOs by Law-Enforcement Agencies and Tax Bodies. Q1/03

Children Are Our Future
At present the majority of communities understand that nobody will solve their problems instead of them until they start to act themselves. The NGO *Sogdiana* conducted PCA exercises in *Chortuti Poen* in the Leninsky District and identified the following priority problems: poverty, poor education and unemployment. In particular, community members complained about poor conditions in the local school and the lack of natural gas. During the PCA activity an Initiative Group *Dastras* was established from the active members of the community. They agreed to address the poor conditions of the school and developed an action plan to reconstruct the school. They submitted a project proposal, which was funded by Counterpart with $3,791 for construction materials (the community contributed labor). The project was implemented over a two-month period. As a result of this project, 450 children attend the school repaired by their parents and the community is energized to address their natural gas supply problem. Q1/03

Light and Security for Each House
One of the major problems for families reconstructing their homes after the civil war is the lack of adequate power supply. Over the past few years, because of the absence of the electricity, many villagershave siphoned electricity from the main electricity poles without regard for safety regulations. High voltage cables are hanging low, creating a hazard for the general population, not to mention the children that play around these badly connected, high voltage cables. When *Munis*, Counterpart's grantee and target NGO conducted PCA exercises with the members of the Hissar District *Karamkul* Community they identified electricity supply as a priority problem. The Initiative Group *Shafak*, formed during the PCA activity and, jointly with the community members, designed a project proposal to provide the population with a more stable power supply. Counterpart supported this project with $3,720. As a result, 35 households (257 people) have a safe power supply. Sixteen electricity transmission poles were installed with the efforts of the citizens. Electric equipment was installed according to all safety regulations. Q1/03

Community in Varzob Utilizes Government to Solve Flood Problem

Counterpart's target NGO *Nilufar* conducted a PCA in the community *Guraha* in the Varzob District. The community members identified the annual spring floods that devastate this village as their priority problem. Every Spring, the Varzob River overflows its banks and floods the community. Over the last few years, the floods have damaged 60% of the households and completely destroyed six houses. As an outcome of the PCA process facilitated by *Nilufar*, the community members decided to address this problem by reinforcing the banks of the river and cleaning the river. The community members then applied to the Ministry of Emergency for support. The Ministry of Emergency confirmed the need for taking immediate actions to resolve this problem and presented its recommendations to the Government. In response, the Government provided the community with a bulldozer and 1000 meters of netting. The community members contributed fuel and labor. In addition, CARE International supported the project by providing food for the workers. In total, the community cleaned 200 meters of river and strengthened the riverbank by building 15 dykes. Today, 726 people (80 households) no longer fear damage and destruction from the Spring floods. Q1/03

The Example of Successful Income Generation Project in Gorno-Badakhshan

Counterpart Tajikistan's target NGO, *Vahdat*, located in Gorno-Badakhshan, has conducted PCA with six communities located on the outskirts of Khorog where 650 families live comprising a total 3,500 people. The priority problem for the inhabitants of these communities was poverty due to unemployment. The most vulnerable in the community were families headed by single women. *Vahdat* identified 109 of the most vulnerable of these single mother families, whose monthly income averaged 15 to 20 *Somoni* ($5 – $6.60). *Vahdat* members then developed a project proposal to provide these families with credit and teach them how to start their own businesses. Counterpart Tajikistan supported the proposal with $4,355 to support 30 families. During the first stage of the project, from September to November 2002, *Vahdat* targeted thirteen women heads of family, providing them with training on how to start a business and credit management. Credits up to $100 were handed out to each family to start their business for a period of two months at a 2% interest rate. The women used the credit to buy goods in other cities and sell them in GBAO. Some also opened bakeries to provide baked goods and bread to the local market. The women who opened bakeries were more successful in earning income. The income from these loans was in general twice as much as the original loan. They plan to reinvest the profit into the development of their businesses. Now *Vahdat* has started the second stage of the project, in which 17 families with old and disabled parents will be trained and given credits to improve their lives. *Vahdat* through Counterpart's technical assistance has increased its capacity in working with communities and was particularly successful in providing income generation opportunities for communities. They are planning to give credit to all 109 families even after the grant from Counterpart is finished using the returned money. The 2% interest from loans will be spent for administrative costs and for the organization's sustainability. Q4/02

Forty Women in Darvaz District Provided with Jobs

To address the major unemployment problem among women in Darvaz District of Badakhshan, a group of women supporters established an NGO called *Umed* (Hope). The Khorogh CSSC assisted the group in developing the charter and other documents of the organization in order to register with the Oblast Justice Department. The members of *Umed* also participated in a Project Design training workshop conducted by the Khorog Center. As a result of a successful fundraising activity, *Umed* received a $700 grant from UN WFP and a $250 loan from MCDCP Agha Khan Foundation. This money will be used to purchase sewing materials for 40 women who sew traditional robes and dresses in their homes using their own sewing machines. Each woman has been able to make 2 dresses a week and sell them for 8 to 10 Somoni each ($3.50). As a result, the 40 women of the organization have considerably improved the lives of their families. According to the leader of the organization Ikbolbi Abdurahmanova, they are planning to create a sewing workshop soon where new sewing machines will be purchased and the fabrics will be made available to the clients. Q4/02

Community and Vodokanal Succeed in Resolving Water Problem

About 2,200 inhabitants of *Bahor* community in Kurghon-teppa were suffering from a lack of access to potable water due to the poor condition of a 300-meter portion of the city water pipeline. The NGO *Peace and Reconciliation*, established in 2002 and under the direction of Counterpart's contact trainer, conducted a Problem Identification workshop in Kurghon-teppa with the leaders and activists of this community using Counterpart's module. As a result of the workshop all the participants agreed to work on the water problem and created an initiative group to plan and implement solutions. The initiative group established contacts with the local *Vodokanal* (the state water supply authority), which pledged to provide their expertise. *Peace and Reconciliation* assisted the initiative group in writing a proposal to receive a grant from UNHCR's community grant project implemented by the Kurghon-teppa CSSC. The grant committee approved the project proposal to the amount of $1,890 and the money was used to purchase the necessary materials. The community and *Vodokanal*'s combined contribution amounted to a total of $1,030, and included labor, expertise, and part of the materials. The community members demonstrated high motivation and actively participated in the whole process of reconstructing the water pipeline and connecting water lines to each household. The project was completed in September and now all the members of *Bahor* community have access to potable drinking water. A joint agreement between *Bahor* community and *Vodokanal* placed the water pipeline on the list of *Vodokanal*'s property and it will be responsible for maintenance of the pipeline. Q4/02

The Tirchid Community in GBAO Protects the Results of their Project Before Vodocanal

Through a CAG from Counterpart, the community *Tirchid* located in Khorog laid a 1,800 meter water pipeline to an existing water reservoir to provide 2000 people of the community with potable water. After the project was completed, the employees of Khorog City's *Vodocanal* (Water Supply State Entity) decided to replace a part of the pipe that connects the water pipeline with the reservoir with a 40 mm diameter pipe, which would negatively impact this community as they would no longer receive sufficient supplies of water. The head of *Vodocanal* who had previously agreed to this project and even provided a letter of support to *Tirchid* Initiative Group before the project was started, now claimed that laying 100 mm diameter pipe would cause shortage of water in other parts of city and thus, decided to cut and replace this piping. Initially, the T*irchid* community members were very angry and wanted to address this issue immediately. Yet, the Khorog CSSC advised them that the best way to resolve this problem was through legal methods. The members of the *Tirchid* Initiative Group, the project director, and the leader of *Kalam* visited the head of *Vodocanal* and advised him to follow their original agreement or face legal action. They also informed the Khorog City Government about the incident. As a result of the community's campaign, the Khorog City Government cancelled *Vodocanal*'s order to cut and change the pipe and 2,000 people in this community still have drinking water. This project was implemented under Counterpart's CRD Program. During this program, Counterpart through its partner NGO *Bunyiod* conducted an Advocacy workshop for the members of this community. According to the Khorog CSSC Director, Buribek Buribekov, the skills they gained from this training helped *Tirchid* members succeed in solving this problem. Q4/02

Volunteers Promote the Increase of Visits in the Dushanbe CSSC

The Dushanbe CSSC covers Dushanbe and the Direct Rule Districts, where almost 50% of active Tajik NGOs are located. Due to the high volume of visitors, the Center's staff were not always able to provide the highest quality of services to all NGOs all of the time. To address this issue, the Center decided to recruit and train volunteers to work with visitors. By the end of 2002, the Center had trained and hired 10 volunteers in addition to 13 volunteers who were then recruited by other NGOs. The Center's volunteers now assist visitors with using the CSSC resources (computer, Internet, literature, and etc.) and sometimes give basic consultations. As a result, the Center increased the number of visitors. According to our statistics, the number of visits to the Center in 2002 increased 30%, from 2065 visits in 2001 to 2681 visits in 2002. It also allowed the CSSC members to concentrate more on conducting monitoring and evaluation of grants, implementing PCAs and other community outreach program activities. Q4/02

The Dushanbe CSSC Assists the National Association of Scouts in Receiving Grant
When Counterpart Tajikistan announced a new grant competition in September 2002, the *Tajik Association of Scouts* was among those NGOs who applied for a grant but because of the poor quality of the project proposal Counterpart didn't approve it. The organization had also had previous difficulties in receiving funds from donors so they applied to the Dushanbe CSSC for consultation and training on Project Design. The Director of the Association participated in the training and two volunteers of the NGO also attended a two-month training program for NGO volunteers, conducted by Dushanbe CSSC and the Norwegian Refugee Counsel. This training program included project design and fundraising components as well. After receiving these trainings the volunteers became active members of the organization. Recently, the *Tajik Scouts Association's* project proposal titled "Global Scouts Village" aimed at educating youth on actions against violence was funded under the World Scouts Foundation's grant program. Q4/02

A new project on Income Generation for Former Opposition Combatants
During the Civil War, 65% of the 4,500-member community of *Sokhtmon* of Vakhsh District Khatlon Oblast left their homes and their land. They returned to their homes from1993 to 2000. Since *Sokhtmon* used to be a hot bed of military confrontation during the war there are many former combatants among the returnees who belonged to the opposition in the past. They have had to face many problems after their return home mostly because of a lack of job opportunities. The Kurghon-teppa CSSC provided technical assistance to *Mehvar* Center of Community Development (CCD) through trainings and consultations in writing a project proposal for the creation of workshops to employ these former combatants. The proposal was submitted to the British International Development Department and was funded for the amount of $27,000. Mehvar CCD is a member of the Association of CCDs, which has received a great deal of technical support from Counterpart Tajikistan. In September, the *Mehvar* CCD working in Vakhsh District created workshops for processing wool, combing cotton, and a Chinese mill in *Sokhtmon*. These workshops employ 55 former combatants who can now earn money for their family members, totaling 330 people. Q4/02

The Public Council for Social Partnership in Khujand Succeeds in Addressing Khujand's Social Problems
Most NGOs of the Sughd oblast work in the rural districts. However, Khujand, the capital city of Sughd, is rarely targeted by NGOs even though it too faces many problems. Nine months ago, a Public Council for Social Partnership was established following Khujand Mayor's call to NGOs and government entities to cooperate in addressing it's social problems. The Council consisted of 5 local NGOs, 4 international NGOs and 6 representatives of government structures. The goals of the Council were to combine and mobilize government and NGO resources, and to attract donor organizations' assistance in order to improve standards of living for the people of Khujand. Since its establishment, the Public Council has accomplished the following projects:

- In the *Kassobon* community of Khujand 120 people were given access to natural gas, thanks to Counterpart's Community Action Grant
- Through a project funded by Counterpart, thirty-one families in the *Beshkeppa* community of Khujand were connected to the gas pipeline. Now 146 people have access to natural gas for heating and cooking.
- Through a grant from Soros Foundation, one of the city's four water pumps was repaired giving 150,000 people of Khujand access to potable water.
- With the support from the Japanese Embassy, the Public Council renovated the two biggest secondary schools (#13 and #26 where 4257 students study) and provided these schools with modern equipment.
- Khujand CSSC is an active member of the Council and assists in fundraising and developing proposals. Q4/02

An Artisan NGO in Kulob Obtains New Clients Among the Government Entities

Unemployment has been a critical problem for many people in Tajikistan, particularly among women. In Kulob, the NGO *Zan va Oila* (*Women and Family*) and the Kulob City Youth Committee under a joint project have established a Center for training women in traditional handicrafts. About 60 women from needy families have been trained in this Center. Currently, they produce handicraft items but due to lack of markets for their goods they can't always sell them. The Kulob CSSC offered this NGO an opportunity to display their products in a fair that the Kulob and Kurghon-Teppa CSSCs were planning to arrange as part of the follow-up Social Partnership meeting on December 13, 2002 in Kurghon-Teppa. After their goods were shown in the fair many people and government entities expressed interest in these products. In particular, the Cultural Department of Kurghon-Teppa Oblast Government ordered 50 national dresses for cultural events conducted by the Kulob City Government and ordered 2,000 various traditional souvenirs for their celebration of the 2700th year anniversary of Kulob. In total, these orders amounted to $8,000. Q4/02

Social Partnership Conference Strikes a Chord in Tajikistan

On June 11,Counterpart Tajikistan and AED conducted a national conference on social partnership. The conference was seen by all as a positive step in the development of the civil society sector in Tajikistan. It was the first time the President of Tajikistan met with such a large number of NGO representatives to discuss the benefits of the Government-NGO coordination to address social problems. After three months Counterpart has identified the following sample of concrete outcomes from the Conference:

- NGO access to government controlled media outlets has improved. The state TV now shows special programs on NGO activities. They also invite NGO representatives to participate in discussions on the role of NGOs in addressing social problems and ways to develop partnerships between NGOs and Government Offices.
- One of the problems raised in the Conference was lack of cooperation between NGOs and Government Offices at local levels. The President instructed local government officials to assist NGOs in their work. According to Counterpart's regional CSSCs and other NGOs the situation has significantly improved:
    - In GBAO the NGO registration procedure was simplified. The head of the Justice Department visited the Khorog CSSC to cooperate with them on updating the list of GBAO NGOs
    - The leadership of Khatlon Province is taking an active part in preparing the follow-up meeting in Kurghon-Teppa. They are ready to contribute $500 for the meeting arrangements.
    - When the Director of the Dushanbe CSSC visited the Tursunzade District Government Office to collect information about NGOs in this area, the District authorities displayed strong interest in cooperating with local NGOs. They also expressed their readiness to provide office space and other assistance to local NGOs. Previously it had been very difficult to get that kind of support from the authorities of this district.
    - Behruz and the Kurghon-Teppa City Government, in response to the President's comment that NGOs aren't addressing drug issues, established a working group to fight drug addiction.
- The leader of the Disabled Association of Tajikistan in his speech at the Conference emphasized the need for revising the Law on Social Protection for the Disabled. Currently the Ministry of Social Welfare, in cooperation with the Tajikistan Disabled Association, is working on a draft of the new Law on Social Protection for the Disabled.
- Counterpart is planning to conduct a series of follow–up meetings in Khatlon, Sughd, Khorog, DRD (Direct Role Districts), and Dushanbe with the participation of NGOs, government institutions and businesses. The goal of these roundtables is to inform the participants about the results of the Social Partnership Conference, particularly about the recommendations adopted by Conference participants. Also in these meetings the representatives of all sectors of society will identify their priority social problems and take first steps to address those problems. Q3/02

Counterpart Assists a Community in Muminabad in Resolving a Water Problem
The Balkhobi community is located in a remote area of the Muminabad District. The community lacks many conveniences, but PCA exercises emphasized the need for potable water. Community members carry water from springs located far from their village making daily living very difficult. This is one of the reasons why many Balkhobi community members have migrated to other areas. Counterpart target NGO *Anis* conducted PCAP exercises with members of the community, and an Initiative Group developed a plan to to connect a spring from a nearby mountain to the village by means of a 2,440-meter water pipe. The Initiative Group received a $1,750 grant from Counterpart for the project and the community contributed an additional $2,750 in labor and materials. Now 643 members of Balkhobi community have access to potable water and ten families who left the community returned. Q3/02

Meeting with the President Opens New Avenues for Successful Collaboration
As a follow-up to the social partnership conference, the office of the President organized the seminar "Basic Directions of the State Policy on Providing Equal Rights and Opportunities for Men and Women in Tajikistan" together with the UNFPA. Participants, including international organizations, governmental officials, local NGOs, and Media, discussed M&E models for evaluating the State Program. It was the first time all sectors of society were invited to participate in the area of Monitoring and Evaluation. At the seminar, participants reviewed the definitions of Monitoring and Evaluation and the difference between them. They discussed the specific issues concerning the qualitatitve and quantitative indicators for the program for the following sectors: Economic, labor, education, family and reproductive health and domestic violence. There were governmental officials as well as NGOs representing each sector. Each of them expressed their view and made suggestions on the potential indicators as well as the M&E report format. All reviewed materials will be sent to the Presidential Office for final approval. Q3/02

South Khatlon Coalition Helps Farmer Associations Get their Land Back
In April 2002 the leaders of three farmer associations of Beshkent District of the Khatlon Province applied to the South Khatlon NGO Coalition for consultations and assistance in helping them take back their land. The land had been illegally given to other people by district authorities from Beshkent, claiming that the three farmer associations were bankrupt. The three associations argued that this action by the district officials violated the Law of Tajikistan on Farmer Associations. According to the law, if an association goes bankrupt, the liquidation of their assets are under the jurisprudence of the Economic Court. The members of South Khatlon NGO Coalition referred the farmer associations to the Provincial Economic Court asking the Court to assist them with legal consultations and to help them prepare all the necessary documents for their legal defense. The Economic Court canceled the resolution by the Beshkent District authorities, declaring it illegal. The South Khatlon NGO Coalition, which consists of 11 NGOs from Shahrtus, Kabodiyan and Beshkent works with the communities of these districts to assist them in improving their living conditions. Q3/02

What's Old is New Again
Volunteerism in Tajikistan was developed hundreds of centuries ago. They call it "hashar". But in our days not all the people follow this tradition. To renew the tradition the Khujand CSSC developed a three-month program on "Development of Volunteers movement in Soghd Region". Twenty-five volunteers were trained and received skills at Counterpart's and other trainings. They conducted Charity Action for 50 children of Children's home Rodnichok. Six of them were taken under the Children's home patronage. Ten were involved in implementation of the project in collaboration with NGO Zerkalo as paid employees. Four of them were attracted by the local NGO. This program includes the volunteer's development in communities as well. The implemented project under NGO Support Grant and Coalition-project "Kassobon" are based the community mobilization and volunteers development. This program was highlighted in the local newspapers and attracted the attention of other international organizations as well. For instance, Mercy Corps invited the Khujand CSSC to collaborate in this area. The first step in this collaboration will be to provide trainings to the Mercy Corps' volunteers. Q3/02

Kurghan-Teppa CSSC Finds Way to Build Relations with Local Government

The Kurgan-Teppa CSSC faced problems with local Government, due to the often changes of the local officials of the region. They had close relationship with the previous officials. Not all of the new Local Government representatives demonstrated their willingness to work in partnership with local NGOs. The leader of the CSSC met several times with the representatives of the local Government and informed them on the local NGOs' activities, their achievements, obstacles, and problems. After the following event the representatives of the local Government changed their attitude to the local NGOs. The Kurgan-Teppa CSSC in partnership with the NGOs Munisi dil/Hissor, Donish/Dushanbe, and Chashma/Shahritus conducted the project action Caravan of Peace supported by Mercy Corp. Eighty children from Hissar and thirty from Dushanbe came to Khatlon Area to celebrate the public holiday "Children's Protection Day". The aim of conducting this event was tolerance education of the children from the different part of the republic. The local Government supported that event as well. They provided services of using the facilities and merry-go-round free in the Central Cultural Park. Also they assisted in preparation of the stage, decorations of the park etc. Almost all Deputies of the Local Government Departments participated in the preparations. The event was demonstrated by the TV broadcast of Khatlon area. Q3/02

Land of Solidarity

A drought in 2001 in the Sogd Oblast led to the fast deterioration of the quality of life for the rural populations in the Nau district. The joint stock company Guliston decided to increase the territory for the cotton planting and use the fields for wheat, which were usually given to the community members of jamoat Kurkat (25,000 people, almost 4,000 households). Naturally this caused mass discontent among the people. The increased tenseion required extreme actions. The Association of the Support of the Development Process Nau couldn't stay disengaged. The members of this organization developed and implemented the project "The land of solidarity". With the support of the WFP they cleaned 40 km. of irrigation channels in jamoat Kurkat. The work started in February-March, when many families were short of foodstuff, so total participation from community members was 3,214 people instead of the planned 500 persons. After the completion of the work they got 300 tons of the food (flour, oil and salt). Also the Association requested the Company donate seven hectares of the irrigation areas for one season to the vulnerable families. This land was divided among 27 vulnerable families, which yielded a rich harvest. This project helped to resolve the increasing social tension, helped the community obtain experience in problem solving by working together, and helped the families get food. Q3/02

First Independent Radio Starts Broadcasting in Tajikistan

Until recently there was only one radio station in Dushanbe that belonged to the City Government. In August 1998 the independent Information Agency Asia Plus applied the State TV and Radio Committee for a license to broadcast entertainment and information programs on the FM radio frequency. After three years of delays the License Commission of the State TV and Radio Committee officially refused Asia Plus's request for a license. As a result many local and international NGOs, including NANSMIT responded by appealing the decision and supporting Asia Plus's right. NANSMIT issued a public statement criticizing the License Commission's attempt to monopolize local media outlets in the capital city. Also, NANSMIT voiced its opinion in local newspapers on the need to reform the License Commission. After intense pressure by local and international organizations and the diplomatic community, the License Commission reversed its decision and gave a broadcasting license to Asia Plus. The President of Tajikistan met with the Director of Asia Plus and assured them of his support for the creation of an independent media station in Dushanbe. Radio Asia Plus went on the air on September 9, Tajikistan's Independence Day. Now over1.2 million people living in Dushanbe can listen to this radio station everyday. Q3/02

NGO Madad Assists a Khorog Community to Resolve Water Issues

Forty-two families of the village of Shokhdasht, a community near the city of Khorog, have been suffering from the lack of potable water for many years. The people have been using local river water, which has caused a number of different waterborne diseases. When the NGO Madad, Counterpart's Target NGO in GBAO, conducted a PCA exercises with the community and helped an Initiative Group develop a CAP to dig a trench and lay 1,750 meters of water pipe to the community. In order to get funds for the whole project, the Initiative Group, with assistance from Madad, developed a proposal and applied through the Khorog CSSC for a CAG from Counterpart, which was approved with funding of $2,779 USD. The community members and a number of water specialists shared all the labor costs for the project. In spite of the difficulties of the mountainous location, the community managed to finish the work as scheduled. Now 252 people of the community have access to safe potable drinking water and are free from the effects of waterborne infectious diseases. Q3/02

Hope to Disabled Children and their Parents in Khorog

The situation for disabled children and the parents of disabled children who live in Khorog is especially difficult because there are no special schools or care facilities. As a result, parents have to stay at home with children and cannot earn money outside the home. A group of concerned citizens decided to form an initiative group to help address these problems. The group asked the Khorog CSSC for training and assistance in forming an NGO. After attending the training workshop on NGO and Community and receiving consultations the members formed the NGO Nur (Ray of Hope). After attending the training workshop on Project Design the members of Nur developed a project proposal to create an educational center for disabled children. With the help of the Khorog CSSC they submitted their proposal to Save the Children (UK), who supported the project with $8,000. The Khorog City Government donated one of the Khorog kindergartens for the educational center, demonstrating a positive social partnership in the project. Recently the Education Center for Disabled Children was officially opened in Khorog and now 36 children attend the Center and their parents are able to work while their children study. Q3/02

The President Encourages Social Partnership with National NGOs

Counterpart and the Academy of Educational Development, working in partnership with the Office of President and USAID, conducted a national conference on Social Partnership for Sustainable Development on June 21, 2002 in the capital city of Dushanbe. The President of the Republic of Tajikistan, Emomali Rahmonov, met with the representatives of local NGOs for more than three hours during the morning session. President Rahmonov gave the opening speech highlighting the role of local NGOs as important partners in building civil society in Tajikistan. He assured the NGOs that the Government of Tajikistan would support and work together with local NGOs is solving a wide range of the social and economic problems. This was the first time the necessity of *social partnership* was officially recognized as a priority by the Government of Tajikistan. Seven representatives from various local NGOs had an opportunity to present short speeches concerning the role of local NGOs in helping to solve social and economic problems. They also addressed some of the difficulties and obstacles they are currently facing in the present social and political environment. The speeches laid the groundwork for afternoon group discussions on ways in which the government, on both national and local levels, can better cooperate with local NGOs to achieve mutual objectives. NGO representatives from all over the country, the heads of various government ministries from the Republic of Tajikistan, as well as the representatives from a number of foreign embassies and international organizations took part in the meetings. At the end of the day the working groups came together to summarize and to forward a list of recommendations on how the Government of Tajikistan and local NGOs can engage in effective partnerships. One of the problems that NGOs had been facing was a lack of access to government-controlled mass media outlets, especially to the State TV. As a result of the conference, the President directed the director of the State TV and Radio Committee to cover the activities of local NGOs. The following week on the State TV televised special reports on the *Social Partnership Conference* and in addition televised three other programs focusing on the work of local NGOs. Q2/02

An Advocacy Campaign Succeeds in Releasing an Imprisoned Community Member

In 1998 TASIF, working through the local NGO *Nulufar*, built a gas pipeline to provide the *Chagatay* community with natural gas. The pipeline crossed through a village located in a neighboring Frunze District. Recently the Frunze District authorities illegally cut off the gas going into the *Chagatay* village. Members of *Nulufar* and about 200 other members of the *Chigatay* community decided to hold a demonstration in front of the Frunze District authorities' office to protest the action and to demand a meeting with the local authorities. In addition, the members of *Nulufar* collected all the necessary legal documents, which proved the communities' right to use the gas, from the regional and state government and submitted the documents along with a petition of their demands to the Frunze District Prosecutor's Office. The officials resumed providing gas to *Chagatay* but at the same time they put Rahmon Satorov one of the activists of *Chagatay* community and the head of *Sokhtmon* a firm that maintained the gas pipeline into jail. As a result of *Nulufar's* joint efforts with the local community they managed to bring the case to a higher court. To help them succeed, the community hired a lawyer to defend Mr. Sattorov in court. The Higher Court decided in favor of Mr. Sattorov and he was immediately freed. In addition the Deputy Prosecutor of the Frunze District, who had wrongly imprisoned Mr. Sattorov, was both fined and fired for his role in unjustly imprisoning the activist. According to *Nulufar*'s leader Tursunoy Isomiddinova, the Advocacy training she attended at Counterpart helped her and the other members of the NGO to carry out this successful advocacy campaign. Q2/02

Widows are Helped to Obtain their Land Rights

In 1996 the President of Tajikistan issued an edict providing 0.1 hectare of arable land, referred to as "Presidential" lands, to each member belonging to a collective farm. Local authorities, however, have abused the system and are taking land, especially that designated for women heads of household, for their own use. Often women are allotted land that is too stony to work or too far from their homes, if they are given land at all. Most of these women are widows and are the acting heads of larger families, so this type of injustice brings an additional hardship into their lives. The NGO *Saodat* is Counterpart's target NGO and after receiving training and technical assistance through the Khujand CSSC they improved their capacity in community mobilization. The members of the NGO decided to take action and through a PCA they were able to identify the land distribution problem in several districts in the Sughd Province. As a result of their PCA activities they assisted women in two of the districts with obtaining land. Their assistance included arranging legal consultations, preparing necessary documents as well as mobilizing the women to advocate for their rights at the local government level. Due to this advocacy campaign almost 100 women in these two districts received arable land in accordance with the fixed norms. Q2/02

A Divided Community Comes Together to Solve a Common Problem

Due to the efforts of NGO *Fidokor*, Counterpart's main partner in the Khatlon area, the people of the *Tugarak* Community in the Vose District of Khatlon came together to solve a common problem. At *Fidokor's* suggestion, community members conducted a Problem ID workshop. During the workshop the community members, divided into groups of one ethnicity, identified a lack of water as a top priority problem. The two communities, one Tajik and one Gypsy, had to take drinking water from the only well located 1.5 kilometers from their community. After the workshop an initiative group consisting of five people was established to develop a CAP for installing a water pipeline to the community. Based on their plan the initiative group, with *Fidokor*'s assistance, designed a project proposal and submitted the proposal to Counterpart Tajikistan. The community asked Counterpart for $1,879 to purchase the pipes and to hire an engineer for the project. The community contributed significantly by donating almost $2,500 in labor and additional piping. Supported by Counterpart Tajikistan the project was successfully accomplished in just two months. A 1.5 km pipeline was laid and six water outlets were installed. In total, 1,750 people now have access to drinking water. Significantly, the project also brought two normally separate community ethnic groups together to complete the project, as approximately 60 members of the community are Gypsy and normally live apart from other community members. Q2/02

NGO Sitorai Najot Establishes a Board of Directors with Fidokor's Assistance
After the Director of the local NGO, *Sitorai Najot* (Star of Hope), one of the strongest NGOs in Kurghon-teppa, left the country *Sitorai Najot* faced a number of internal management problems. The organization asked our partner *Fidokor,* the Kurghon-Teppa *Civil Society Support Center,* for consultations on governance. *Fidokor* introduced them to the concept of a *Board of Directors* and suggested that they establish such a board in their organization. As a result of these consultations the members of *Sitorai Najot* established a Board of Directors consisting of 5 people, including the Director of *Fidokor,* Dilbar Khalilova. At their recent annual general meeting they elected a new director, who will act as an Executive Director for the organization. As a result of adopting solid principles of governance the atmosphere in the organization has greatly improved and it has helped the organization to carry out its program activities in a more effective manner. Q2/02

Community Kaduchi Resolves Lack of Irrigation Water
In the *Kaduchi* community located in Vose District of Khatlon Oblast personal plots have been the main source of income for 4,500 people living in this community. But the only concrete ditch that brings water from a river had been damaged and people were suffering as a result. NGO *Fidokor* assisted this community to develop a proposal to address their irrigation needs. With $1,650 received from Counterpart the community members repaired and cleaned 2,500 meters of the ditch and dug another 500 meters to lay additional ditch. Community members showed high interest and motivation during the implementation of the project. The community's contribution to the project was $1,850. Community members selected a group to maintain the ditch and control the use of water. Now 400 households of *Kaduchi* are provided with the irrigation water and can improve their lives. Q2/02

One Community Mobilization Effort Leads to Another
The village of *Metantughay* is situated on Afghan border. Since community members have no medical center they had to travel 13 km to the district center for treatment. The lack of public transport and the extra expense of having to travel so far forced the community to seek healthcare only when absolutely necessary – leading to increased health problems. Counterpart's partner NGO, *Shahrvand* learned about the situation and conducted a community mobilization activity. They encouraged community members to identify and prioritize their problems through a Problem ID Workshop. As a result, community members formed an Initiative Group to address the problem. *Shahrvand* then worked with the Initiative Group to put together a CAP that involved repairing an existing hospital. After the community made their action plan, the staff of *Shahrvand* continued their work with the community and assisted them in writing a project proposal for a CAG. The grant was funded by Counterpart Tajikistan and the hospital was repaired. Now 8,000 people, including the population of three neighboring communities, have access to local medical services, increasing the health and financial welfare of the community members. More importantly, the community has now learned how to mobilize themselves to solve their own problems. Recently, for example, they used their own resources to build a water tower and lay a pipeline to provide the hospital with water. Q2/02

A Significant Contribution of Community Members to the Project Funded by Counterpart
For the last five years in *Chirtak* community of Kofarnihon District a lack of access to potable water resulted in community members accessing unclean water from the Kofarnihon River. When Counterpart's target NGO *Open Asia* conducted a Problem ID workshop with the members of the community they developed a plan to repair an existing borehole and lay a new pipeline to the community. In order to have funds to purchase the necessary materials, the community, with the help of *Open Asia,* developed a proposal. Counterpart supported the project with funds to purchase a transformer, pump, and electric board. The community covered the labor cost and provided 1,200 meters of pipeline. In all, the community's contribution to the project was about $3,574 versus the $1,886 grant from Counterpart. The project was accomplished within two months. Now the 1,800 members of the *Chirtak* community have access to clean drinking water. Q2/02

A Community Builds a Micro Power Station with Counterpart's Assistance
Members of *Parshed* community of the Roshtkala District identified lack of electricity in wintertime as a priority problem. With the assistance of *Bunyod*, Counterpart's partner NGO, the community designed a project proposal to build a micro power station. An initiative group was formed among the community activists to implement the project funded by Counterpart. The amount of Counterpart' s grant was $1,850 while the community's contribution was $2,280. As a result a micro power station was set up and a 500-meter water canal was dug. 779 members of the community now have electricity. A group of specialists was formed to maintain the power station. In summertime when electricity to *Parshed* comes from the state power station, community members use the canal to irrigate their land. This has allowed each household to extend its personal plot of land an additional 0.3 hectares. Q2/02

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. Q1/02

A Coalition of NGOs Working with Communities Established in Tajikistan
Although there have been 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 for Khatlon. Q1/02

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. Q1/02

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 Khoroq 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. Q1/02

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. Q1/02

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 develop volunteers. 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. 30 people (mostly young people) who were selected on a competitive basis have taken the above mentioned above trainings and have been assigned to different jobs in the Khujand CSSC. Four of them have already been recruited by local NGOs. Q1/02

The Human Rights Center in Sughd Defends NGO's Rights
There have been a number of cases of Government officials interfering in NGO 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 Grant Agreement with Eurasia Foundation, according to which Eurasia Foundation supports *Fath*'s project on handicraft development. *Fath* applied to the Sughd Oblast Human Rights Center who 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 has been revealed that the Department's Deputy Chief was involved in the 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. Q1/02

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 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 has been *Fidokor*'s task for sustainability according to its Strategic Plan for Organizational and Service Delivery Capacity. Q1/02

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 the 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. Q1/02

Fidokor's Moves Towards Sustainability

NGO *Fidokor*, which runs the CSSC in Kurghon-teppa, has recently obtained another donor to ensure its sustainability in the future. Mercy Corps International has invited *Fidokor* to be its partner in the implementation of its new agricultural program. The grant amount that will be given to *Fidokor* to carry out this project is $2,500 and project duration is 6 months. According to the project proposal developed by *Fidokor*, they will participate in developing a training module on Marketing of Agricultural Products for Farmers and will conduct these training workshops for farmer associations in Bokhtar, Vakhsh, Kolkhozabad and Ghozimalik Districts of Khatlon Oblast to improve the capacity in agriculture and farmer association development. 3 of *Fidokor*'s members have attended the Interactive Agriculture Courses conducted by MCI. Q4/01

Community in Kurghon-Teppa Builds a Gas Pipeline

Many Tajik homes have no access to natural gas facilities. A great deal of funds and efforts are needed to set up gas pipelines to areas where gas has not yet been provided. Although *Frunze* Mahalla, which consists of 60 households, is located in the center of Kurghon-teppa, the inhabitants suffer from limited access to natural gas, especially in the winter. The NGO *Women and Society* conducted several meetings with the community members to find a solution to this problem. A working group of 10 people was selected among community activists to take action. 80 Somoni ($32) from each family was collected to purchase pipes and other materials and labor, provided by community members,' was used to accomplish the task. The working group also got assistance from respected and known people throughout the community to get permission from the local authorities to set the gas pipeline. As a result 1,300 people living in this community have access to natural gas for their daily household use. *Women and Society* is a constant recipient of Kurghon-teppa CSSC services. In particular, they have taken part in PCA, Volunteerism and Advocacy training workshops conducted by the Center. Q4/01

NGO Medservice Succeeds In Running An Income Generation Project For Needy Women
After NGO *Medservice*, one of Counterpart's target NGOs, conducted a Problem Identification workshop with the members of their target communities, *Telman* and *Sharq*, unemployment and lack of sources of income were identified as top priorities for these two communities. In the second part of the workshop in the *Telman* community, some women suggested creating a workshop for sewing market bags from empty sacks that can be obtained for free from some humanitarian organizations. Community activists with *Medservice*'s assistance applied to World Food Program (WFP) with their proposal to which WFP agreed to provide them with the sacks as well as food for the workers. In addition, some community members agreed to give their sewing machines to the workshop. Now, 60 women from the two communities work in the workshop making bags and selling them in bazaars. Before starting the project, project members researched local bazaars and assessed the demand for these market bags in different market places. After *Medservice*'s negotiations with Oktyabrski District Government authorities, the project implementers were also freed from tax obligations. The project members are planning to increase the wages of each member from 7-9 Somoni ($2.8 – $3.6) to 12-14 Somoni ($4.8 – $5.6) per week by increasing the production of bags and sewing other items as well. Since *Medservice* is Counterpart's target NGO it has received a great deal of training and technical assistance from Counterpart. When working with local communities, *Medservice* uses the knowledge, skills and techniques gained from the TOTs on PCA, Volunteer Development and Facilitation Skills provided by Counterpart. Q4/01

Hamroz Provides Jobs for Refugee Women
The problem of unemployment has been a critical issue for most of Tajikistan's population, especially for women. Counterpart's target NGO *Hamroz* has established a sewing workshop in Kurghon-teppa, where 62 women work in three shifts producing handicraft and other products to sell to various institutions. Part of the income is paid to cover labor costs and the rest is spent for raw materials and project sustainability. All women working in the workshop are former returnees from neighboring communities. Due to *Hamroz*'ssuccess, the United Nation's World Food Program supported the project by covering the equipment cost and by providing food commodity for the project's beneficiaries. *Hamroz's* members have taken a number of Counterpart's training workshops, including fundraising, project design and small business development. Q4/01

Pirchid Community Initiative Group Succeeds in Secondary School Renovation
NGO *Kalam*, which runs the Khorog CSSC in GBAO, conducted a PCA activity with *Pirchid* community members to remedy the poor conditions at the secondary school. For example, a leaky roof is causing physical damage to the building, which contributes to the susceptibility of children to airborne infections. During the PCA teachers and parents created an initiative group. It turned out that the Head of the school was also a Deputy of the GBAO Council and was able to solicit support from four other deputies from Khorog for school repairs. As a result of negotiations with the government, they agreed that the government would provide $30,000 to purchase and transport materials and the community would provide the labor for the repairs. Now 1,200 children benefit from the classrooms. Q4/01

Munis Generates Income From its Private Land
Due to the highly regulated and uncertain business environment in Tajikistan, many Tajik NGOs are unable to carry out economic activities for their financial sustainability. The community organization *Munis*, which is one of Counterpart's target NGOs, generated approximately $4,500 from growing, harvesting and selling wheat, rice and other agricultural products. These products are grown on 19 hectares of land that were given to *Munis* by the local government as a result of efforts by *Munis'* Board of Directors. Of this income, $3,000 will be spent on wages for workers who are at the same time *Munis'* beneficiaries and also to support other needy families in Hissar region. The remaining $1,500 will be used for *Munis'* expenses and for their organizational development. Q4/01

NGO Fair in Khujand Attracts Donors and NGOs

The Khujand CSSC conducted the first NGO Fair in Tajikistan, at which 30 NGOs of the Sughd Oblast displayed their services to the public. Two of the goals of the fair were to assist NGOs in finding partners and to help NGOs get support for their project ideas from international donor organizations. Participants included local NGOs, business, government, media and representatives of international organizations. One of the positive outcomes of this fair was that NGO *Youth Group for Environment* was successful in making and agreement with OSCE. OSCE will now support their project aimed at preparing young trainers in Khujand. The local media covered this event. Q4/01

***Harmony of World* Launches New Environmental Project**

The NGO *Harmony of World* has always been active and enthusiastic in supporting children, as stated in their mission. However, lack of fundraising and marketing skills didn't allow the NGO to succeed in implementing their ideas. After attending the training workshops on Fundraising and Project Design conducted by Dushanbe CSSC, NGO *Harmony of World* managed to receive a grant from UNDP for translating, publishing and distributing 4,000 books, *Jelly Jam People Preserver,* an ecological book for children into Tajiki. The book will teach children about the environment and how to preserve it. This is the first project of *Harmony of World* supported by an outside donor. Before that they were using small donations from local business structures, which were not enough to implement big projects. The NGO has also submitted a project proposal to AED to conduct interactive trainings for 100 schoolteachers and kindergarten educators to teach the above-mentioned book. These 100 teachers will educate 5,000 children from Dushanbe. The proposal is likely to be supported by AED. Q4/01

Tajik Air and Government Power Engineering Company Contribute to NGO TAIS Program in Supporting Street Children

Counterpart's target NGO *TAIS* has recently received 100 Somoni form Tajik Air ($40) and 80 Somoni ($32) from the Government Power Engineering Company to support street and orphan children in Dushanbe. *TAIS* has established a center to support street and orphan children from *Telman* and *Ahrori* Mahallas of Dushanbe through educational and cultural programs, medical services and humanitarian assistance (food and clothes) provided by international organizations. A sports club and English language study group are functioning in the Center and an average of 75 children attend the Center daily. *TAIS* in cooperation with other local NGOs, conducts cultural events and festivals for children devoted to national celebrations. The leader of the organization, Saodat Hakimova, said that they succeeded in attracting different donors due to the skills and knowledge that they received through Counterpart's trainings, especially on Fundraising, Project Design, Social Partnership and Strategic Planning. Q4/01

The Dushanbe CSSC Achieves Initial Success in Becoming Financially Sustainable

Achieving financial sustainability is a major priority for the five CSSCs in Tajikistan. Established by Counterpart in September 2000, the Dushanbe CSSC began to concentrate its activities on achieving sustainability shortly after in was officially registered with the Ministry of Justice in July. The Acting Director, Kiomiddin Davlatov deserves particular credit for his efforts and personal initiatives. To date he has submitted 14 proposals to 12 different international donors. One of them, a pilot project entitled "Reproductive Health Education" was approved by UNFPA. At present the project cost is $600 for 2 months, and if the project succeeds it will be extended for a year. The project will be implemented in partnership with the local medical NGO *Umed.* Although the project is small it is a good first step. The other source of financial sustainability is profit from services. From the beginning of 2001 the Dushanbe CSSC has seen $1,000 in income from conducting trainings for international organizations. This money is already applied to the approved budget developed by the Dushanbe CSSC. The Center is planning to become fully sustainable by the end of Phase III, March 2003. Q3/01

NGO Efforts Against Drug Addiction in Khujand Give Tangible Results
The increase in the number of drug addicts among youth has caused many people in Khujand to worry about the long-term impacts of drug-use. Recently, with the technical assistance of the Khujand CSSC an NGO coalition that was formed by the name of *No to Drugs*. The NGO was established by three NGOs: "*SM-1"* (an independent TV station), *Ittifoq*, and the NGO "*No to Drugs*." This coalition has successfully implemented a "Youth Against Drugs" project supported by Counterpart under the NGO Expand program. According to this present program various interactive trainings/roundtables and other educational activities about the harmful effect of drugs are carried out with school children from Khujand. After the training students and staff in School Number 24 formed an initiative group which continued to conduct similar activities with teenagers. The Deputy Chief of the interior department of the district, where the school is located is very pleased with the project. According to his words for the last 6 months the number of drug addicts among the youth has decreased 50% in the area. Q3/01

Kurghan-Teppa CSSC Lobbies NGO Interests in the Khatlon Region
During several meetings and roundtables conducted by NGOs in Khatlon region many local NGOs complained about the problems they were having working with the Ministry of Justice. The charge was that workers of the department assigned to registering local NGOs were creating artificial barriers and requiring additional paperwork. They were hinting that they would register NGOs and help with the additional paper work if the NGOs would pay a "special" fee. In order to resolve the problems connected with the registration process of NGOs, the Kurghan-Teppa CSSC Director, Dilbar Khalilova, met with the Regional Director of the Justice Department and presented all the NGO complaints. The Regional Director promised to look into these complaints and to prevent such problems from happening again. As a first step towards solving the problem it was decided to openly indicate all of the necessary documents required for registering a local NGO. They also agreed that both local NGOs and the Justice Department's employees would work together more closely in registering new NGOs. Q3/01

MedService Assists a Community Member to Retake her Apartment
Since their establishment Counterpart's target NGO *Medservice* has operated in four communities populated with 56% of refugees and large number of sick and disadvantaged elderly people. Nearly one thousand five hundred elderly people from those communities are direct beneficiaries of *MedService*. In the *Sevastopolskaya* community one of the key problems faced by the elderly is the illegal seizures of apartments occupied by elderly people. As such, *MedService* now concentrates its efforts in helping elderly people defend their rights. Counterpart has trained *MedService* how to conduct Participatory Community Assessments PCA. As a result *MedService* is now able to mobilize community initiative groups, so that they are able to facilitate arbitration sessions. For instance, one "guardian" of an elderly woman placed her in the hospital and forged documents to defraud her of her apartment. The community's roundtable resolution forced the man to admit his wrongdoing and return the apartment to the woman. Q3/01

The Khorog CSSC Helps a Community in Shughnan in Project Development
In the *Moon* community of Shughnan District there has been a lack of potable water that has contributed to many suffering from severe intestinal diseases. A community initiative group applied to governmental and international organizations several times, but they were required to write a well-developed project proposal. The Khorog CSSC conducted a "Project Design" workshop for the *Moon* initiative group members and provided relevant consultations to them in the process of project development. Also the Center allowed them to use the Center to type and print the proposal. As a result, they submitted a project proposal to the UN World Food Program in the amount of $ 2,700 and the project proposal was approved. After four months of enthusiastic volunteer work by the community, the families of 85 houses have access to drinking water through their own drinking taps. Another result was the improvement of sanitary and hygiene conditions in the community. Q3/01

NANSMIT Contributes to the Civil Society Development in Tajikistan
The development of the civil society in Tajikistan depends mainly on the citizens' awareness about civil society. The OSCE is in the process of conducting a large-scale civil education program through the media with the help of the Association of Independent Mass Media of Tajikistan (NANSMIT), a former grantee of Counterpart. The goal of the project was to spread information on civil society issues among the population and increase the level of legal knowledge among ordinary citizens. According to the project 48 radio and TV programs on civil society were developed and aired. In addition 24 articles on civil society were published in newspapers throughout the country. According to NANSMIT more than 3 million people have been reached through this civil society project. Q3/01

Partnership with a Hungarian NGO Established
Seven representatives of Counterpart's target NGOs: *Nilufar, Fidokor, Women Center, Fath, Madad, Chashma*, and *Development Fund* attended Community Outreach training in Budapest, Hungary through GTD AED to share their knowledge and skills. The training included discussions and site visits to successful community projects. The training provider, *Hungarian Foundation for the Development of Local Social Network*, was impressed by the skills and experience of the Tajik Delegation. Upon their arrival in Dushanbe the participants received an official letter notifying them of HFDLSN's intention to visit the Tajik NGOs to exchange experiences in Tajikistan. Q3/01

Community Group in Tavdem Brings Electricity to their Community
Due to the lack of electricity people often cut down fruit trees in order to cook and to heat their houses during the winter period in the villages of Roshtkala, a district in Gorno-Badakhshan. After a series of Project Development trainings conducted by Khorog CSSC with a number of interested people from the village of *Tavdem*, a community initiative group was formed and a project proposal to put an electricity line and a transformer substation in the community was developed. The Khorog CSSC was able to give practical assistance by training the people on how to write a good project proposal. The project was supported by Aga-Khan foundation for the amount of $1,400 and now fifty families are able to use electricity. The standard of living of community members has improved and the damage done to the environment as a result of chopping down trees will be stop. Q3/01

Journalists of Fergana Valley Initiate the Creation of a Journalist Center in Konibodom
The political and economical problems that the country has met during the last ten years have also affected more then 120 journalists living in Tajikistan part of Fergana Valley. Many of them could not improve their professional skills due to lack of journalist supporting entities. After attending Counterpart's training workshops held by the Khojand CSSC four of them came together and created a journalists' resource center in Konibodom District and called it *Journalism and Democracy*. Q2/01

Successful Publicity Campaign Helps the NGO Parastor to Find New Donors
The NGO *Parastor* has had an excellent background in dealing with community problems, but its lack of fundraising skills limited the scope of services it could provide to new beneficiaries. As a result of participating in several NGO Management Training Seminars *Parastor* now has a better understanding of such skills as fundraising, project design and proposal writing. *Parastor* has just successfully implemented a project *School of Survival* funded by Counterpart under the NGO Expand Program and has also conducted a good publicity campaign. Because of its work the NGO *Parastor* now has a very positive image among the local population and the international donor community in Tajikistan. The local media recognized *Parastor* as one of the more effective social delivery non-governmental organizations of Dushanbe and dedicated a number of articles and TV/radio programs to its charitable activity. As a result the World Bank chose *Parastor* as one of the partners for its *Poverty Reduction Program* and offered to expand its activity to include the *Sughd* oblast as well. The World Bank supported *Parastor*'s *Chicken Incubator Project*, a project for $3,000 USD. The project aims to teach more then 150 women in new chicken rising techniques and provide them with chickens on the compensatory basis. Q2/01

Tajik NGOs Foster Volunteer Movement in Tajikistan
The *Center of Volunteer Initiatives*, with Counterpart support, conducted a national conference entitled "Development of the Volunteer Movement in Tajikistan." A total of 110 representatives of local NGOs from all over the country attended the conference in order to share practices and experiences and identify concrete methods and approaches to effectively use volunteers. The conference resulted in formulating 11 concepts for fostering volunteerism in Tajikistan, including creating a network of volunteer centers throughout the country. Counterpart was instrumental in the establishment of the *Center of Volunteer Initiatives*, which represents the collaborative efforts of the NGOs *Manizha, Najot-2000* and *National Association of Independent Mass Media*. Q2/01

Electricity Shortage Liquidated with Community's Efforts
The entire GBAO region of Tajikistan has suffered from electricity shortages throughout the postwar period, and the Shivroj community is a striking example of this. Last year Counterpart conducted training workshops on "Problem Identification" and "Project Design" aimed at assisting this community with finding possible solutions to the problem. As a result, the Shivroj community members were able to write a project proposal to the UN World Food Program to install an electric power micro-station and restore a malfunctioning generator. The proposal was approved and the community members successfully implemented the project. At present 60 households comprised of 500 inhabitants are now provided with essential access to electricity. Q2/01

Three NGOs in Khojand Come Together to Address Youth Drug Addiction
Over the past four years there has been a marked increase in drug addiction among the youth in the Sogd Oblast. The following three organizations – Youth Initiative Center *Ittifok*, *No Drugs* and Public Television *SM1* – created the coalition *Youth Against Drugs* to prevent further increases in drug addiction among youth. During 2 months they conducted 25 seminars or discussions on drug addiction with 380 senior students in 13 schools of Khojand. SM 1 showed a number of video and TV programs on this topic. According to the questionnaires filled out by the seminars' participants before and after seminars they became better informed about the dangers of drug addiction and changed their attitude toward drug addicts. In many of the schools where the seminars were held the administration is committed to continuing anti-drug educational activities. Q2/01

NGO Intellect Initiates Hashar to Assist Khorog Community with Water Problems
The inhabitants of Gulmamadov Mahalla of Khorog were suffering from the lack of the clean water that resulted the spread of a number of different infectious diseases. To help people solve the problem the NGO *Intellect* started to search for a donor that would help pay for water pipes and other construction materials. As a result of *Intellect's* efforts the Khorog branch of the World Food Program (WFP) donated food equivalent to $1,800 for the project. The food was then exchanged for raw materials. At the same time the organization initiated a traditional *hashar*, a local voluntary labor campaign, among the members of the community. As a result the community joined together and laid about 500 meters of pipes, free of charge. This community mobilization initiative of the NGO brought clean water to more then 110 families of Gulmamadov Mahalla. Q2/01

GBAO NGOs Contributed to Drug Problem Solution and Earn Government Respect
Drug trafficking, trade and addiction are the most vital problems facing the GBAO region today. As such, when an inspecting tour through the region was taken by state authorities the question of anti-drug trafficking and addiction treatment arose. Local government officials used domestic NGO achievements in their final report. The report contained various success stories of such local NGOs as *Madina*, *Volunteer* and *Intellect* that made the report solid and complete. The data was collected and well organized with input and support by the Khorog CSSC, run by the NGO *Kalam*, thus raising the credibility of both *Kalam* and NGOs in GBAO. Q2/01

Kulob CSSC Helps Three NGOs Obtain Legal Status
In May 2001 three new NGOs: *Shodi, Baljuwon* and *Subhi Tandurusti* were registered as legal entities after they received consultations and other technical assistance from the Kulob Support Center. The Kulob region of the Khatlon Oblast is a remote area of Tajikistan, where the NGO sector has not been developed, due to a lack of NGO support type of organizations, such as Counterpart. In December 2000 Counterpart opened the CSSC in Kulob to provide services to NGOs. Before that only nine NGOs were in the region, since nine new NGOs have been registered with the support from the Kulob CSSC. Q2/01

Kulob Roundtable Results in Creating a Joint Project Between NGOs and Local Government
The Association of Journalists *Social Partnership* conducted a roundtable in Kulob on Social Partnership with representatives of local NGOs, government, businesses and media representatives to promote social partnership between the sectors of society in Tajikistan. As a result of the roundtable local NGOs and government agreed to establish a Press Center in Kulob in order to collect information especially about Tajikistan and disseminate it among the population of Kulob. Many people, particularly in remote areas like Kulob, have raised the problem of accessing information. The local government is providing the premises for the Center. Q2/01

NGO For Earth Saves The Earth
Since the civil war, the Botanical Park of Dushanbe has been abandoned and is not longer a focal point for gathering in Dushanbe. The environmental group *For Earth,* an active participant in Counterpart training workshops, developed a project to rehabilitate the Botanical Park to its former condition. Many volunteers were needed for activities such as clearing away accumulated debris, pruning dead branches, and repairing irrigation ditches. To involve more people in the activities, information about the initiative was spread to other NGOs and interested and active individuals. More than 100 volunteers came forward, primarily from other NGOs, to help in the clean-up campaign. As a result the Park is attractive, safe, and once again a popular place for gathering. This small activity of working together is an indicator of the eradication of incidents of past violence. Q1/01

UMED Leverages Support For A New School
The overall economic crisis in Tajikistan has had an impact on the standard of life for inhabitants of Sino in the Khulob region. One outcome of this disparity is that the community school has not been repaired in more than ten years, resulting in illnesses and diseases among the children who studied there. Residents appealed to local authorities for assistance, but lack of money prevented the government from helping. *Umed* developed a project and began to search for alternative funding sources. With support from the Kurghan-Teppa CSSC, *Umed* received $49,980 in support from the Embassy of Japan, under its Grant Assistance for Grassroots Project Program *Umed* announced a tender and construction was completed over a short time period. The initiative provided 580 children of the Sino village with an opportunity to begin a new academic year in a brand new school. Q1/01

Conference On Social Partnership Results In Increase Of Public Awareness About NGOs
In Tajikistan the government-controlled media often ignored NGO events and activities and seldom carried stories to promote understanding of local NGOs and their activities. If an NGO wanted coverage, a fee had to be paid. Counterpart's Khojand CSSC was asked by the NGO *ASTI* to assist in addressing the problem by educating government media managers. Counterpart and its CSSC have assisted the local NGO *ASTI* with training and technical assistance. They conducted a Social Partnership Conference that brought together nearly 70 representatives of NGOs, government agencies and business organizations across the *Sughd Oblast*. The Conference promoted a better understanding of each other's activities and problems and helped them figure out ways to cooperate. As a result, the *Sughd Oblast* state TV company, as well as two other private TV companies, decided that each would allocate 20 minutes of air time for a special monthly program to cover NGOs and their activities. This first step helps the 1,000,000 person population *Oblast* to begin to learn about NGOs and to to invest in news for the public interest. Q1/01

NGO Leads Community Mobilization To Build A School In Pastkhuf
320 children of Pastkhuf village in the mountainous province of Gorno Badakhshan had no school of their own and had to walk nearly 5 km. to attend classes in a neighboring community. This is a major problem in the winter in Gorno Badakhshan, which prevented Pastkhuf children from attending school at all in the several hard winter months. Encouraged by NGO *Bunyod*, an ongoing recipient of training assistance from Counterpart through the Khorog CSSC, villagers decided to build a school for their children. *Bunyod* invited local government to help with the project and the officials contributed the equivalent of $25,000. A local commercial firm helped the community by contributing transportation of building materials at no charge. The community members contributed the labor costs by completing all the construction work on a voluntary basis, thus saving the project $51,000, or 45% of the total costs. Q1/01

NGO Engages Donors To Provide Assistance To Fergana Valley
Ittifoq is an excellent example of a Counterpart alumnus organization in action. Supported by the Swiss Agency for Cooperation and Development, *Ittifoq* has implemented a monitoring system of ethnic conflicts in the border areas of the Fergana Valley. Special conflict resolution interventions using Counterpart's Problem ID workshop were conducted by the NGO in the several of the target communities. As a result, problems involving shortages of irrigated water and land were identified as major sources of conflict. The NGO presented the results of the workshops to interested international organizations, which resulted in three project initiatives to resolve the problems of distribution of irrigation water and land. The total budget of these projects is approximately $250,000. Q1/01

Counterpart Training Helps Roshtqala Community Open New Cultivated Areas
20,000 people of the *Roshtqalaa* district of GBAO live in poverty because of the lack of access to irrigated land. After participation in Counterpart's *Problem ID* workshop, the *Farmers Association* of *Roshtqalaa* engaged members of the community in the identification of a project to build a six-kilometer water channel to open new cultivated land. Assisted by the Khurog CSSC the *Association* received support from the Aga Khan Foundation for this effort. According to the project, the *Foundation* provided building materials worth $20,000 and the local community completed all the construction work in four months. The community's voluntary contribution was equivalent to $12,000. The channel provides irrigation to 27 hectares of agricultural land to improve the standard of living in the community. Q1/01

NGO Clients Helps Themselves Deal With Loneliness
Loneliness is a widespread disease, suffered mostly by the disabled and pensioners. Supported financially and technically by Counterpart, the NGO *Medservice* created the *Hope Club* for lonely people of the Oktyabrsky district of Dushanbe to meet and communicate. The idea became so popular that during the first four months of the *Club's* operation the number of clients grew from 627 to 1,499. This increase caused another problem – the small club was not able to entertain all NGO beneficiaries. To address this problem, NGO members created their own *Active Groups* – a small-scale model of the *Hope Club*. Presently ten such groups have been established to serve different professional interests in various neighborhoods. In all, roughly 1,000 elderly found a solution to their loneliness. Q1/01

NGO Helps A Shugnan Community In Food Production
Darmorakht Village has suffered from chronic land shortage in mountainous Shugnan District. Community members have been unable to grow sufficient food to feed their population. The traditional crop of food grain, irrigated wheat, lasts only one month of the long seven-month winter. NGO *Madadgor* helped Darmorakht village people to develop a project to bring more land under irrigation, through the construction of a new headgate and 7 kilometers of irrigation canal. World Food Program and Aga Khan Foundation supported the project and community members provided local materials and all of the labor involved. Now the more than 3,000 inhabitants of Darmorakht village can use 8 more hectares of land and grow enough grain to stave off hunger during the winter months. NGO Darmorakht is a frequent client of Khorog CSSC for training, advisory and information services. Q1/01

Crafts NGO Association Helps Members To Become Sustainable
The *Association of Crafts NGOs of Tajikistan* was established last year with technical assistance from Counterpart. There are seven members in the Association of Crafts NGOs and not all of them are particularly strong. NGO *Khairiya*, located in Sovetsky District of Kulob, was one of the weaker members. In the past there was much rivalry among crafts NGOs and very little working together. Two members of the *Association*, *Haft Paykar* from Dushanbe and *Faizbakhsh* from Faizabad, together with *Khairiya* held an exhibition of handicrafts made by those NGOs. The purpose of the exhibition was to demonstrate and advertise crafts traditions among the people in that area and then to broaden the constituency of the *Khairiya*. The *Association* members collaborated to host an interactive exhibition that displayed their products. Further, the exhibit demonstrated the NGOs ability to work together and the benefits of such collaboration. More than 500 people attended the exhibition, the local government officials of this remote area learned about NGOs for the first time, and *Khairiya* identified 10 crafts women as potential new members, in addition to their 41 existing members. The new *Association of Crafts NGOs* has found the path to participatory membership and the benefits of working together. Q1/01

Kurghan-teppa CSSC Assists International Organizations to Implement Projects
OSCE has started to implement a project on supporting NGOs located in Khatlon Oblast, the most affected by the Civil War area. The Kurghan-teppa CSSC assisted OSCE in identifying 15 active NGOs in Khatlon oblast as a target group for this project. Also, with the support of Counterpart Consortium hub office, eight Dushanbe based strong NGOs were identified and recommended to OSCE for the experience exchange with their colleagues in Khatlon. Now OSCE is planning in cooperation with Kurghan-teppa CSSC conduct for those NGOs trainings, roundtables and discussions on the topics related to Leadership, Team Building and Management. Q4/00.

NGO and Government Maintain Order
Due to the increase of crime in Khujand City in nighttime Union of Afghanistan War Veterans in cooperation with the local Government has established a Voluntary Patrolling Squad to maintain order in Khujand streets. The squad consists of 50 people and almost all of them are members of the Union of Afghanistan War Veterans. According to statistics, crimes in Khujand City significantly have been reduced since the Voluntary Patrolling Squad has existed. Q4/00.

NGO Odamiyat Fosters Volunteerism in Communities
NGO *Odamiyat*, a former grantee of Counterpart, has been working on the development of volunteerism in Tajikistan since 1997. The target group of the organization is elderly people in the capital city, Dushanbe. Over the years *Odamiyat* has developed five handbooks to encourage people to volunteer to work with the elderly population. *Odamiyat* recently trained an enthusiastic group of citizens in the Kofarnihon district on the topic Volunteerism. Due to the total lack of support from the Ministry of Social Welfare Services, elderly people in this district are not able to provide for themselves. The most vulnerable are those who are bedridden. As a result of *Odamiyat's* intervention, there are now 32 volunteer workers working in concert with the Social Welfare Service to improve the lives of 320 elderly indigent people. Q4/00.

NANSMIT Promotes Establishment of a New Media Center
Many journalists in Tajikistan lack essential knowledge and skills on journalism and there are only a few entities which provide services to journalists to improve their professional skills. Due to the joint project between the National Association of Independent Mass Media of Tajikistan (NANSMIT) and Swedish NGO CIMERA Network, 10 active independent Tajik journalists took part in a number of trainings in Tajikistan and third countries to develop their skills. As a result of this project, participants of these trainings established a Media Center to provide young journalists with various services to improve their professional skills. NANSMIT is Counterpart's target NGO under the NGO Development Program. Q4/00.

Gender and Media Club Established to Promote Gender Issues in Tajikistan
At present there are more than 30 NGOs in Tajikistan dealing with gender issues. Although they have conducted various events to address gender problems, their activities have not received much coverage in the local media, reflecting the media's lack of awareness of these issues. In response to this problem, Counterpart grantee ***NANSMIT*** **(**National Association of Independent Mass Media of Tajikistan) conducted several focus group meetings and round table discussions with both local and international NGOs on the topic to emphasize the importance of journalists' coverage of gender issues. This initiative resulted in the establishment of the ***Gender and Media Club***, which is dedicated to sharing information, generating ideas on gender problems and solutions, expanding coverage of the issue, and promoting a better-informed public policy on gender issues. Q4/00.

NGO and Public TV Cooperate for Mutual Interests
Because of lack of funds public television stations in Tajikistan are not able to purchase new modern equipment. NGO German Cultural Center located in Khujand has negotiated with a local public television station about showing a 30-minute program on German Culture produced by the NGO through this local television station. In exchange for airing this program the German Cultural Center assisted this public television station in obtaining broadcasting equipment donated by the German Embassy in Tajikistan. Q4/00.

New NGO Coalition on the Convention of Children's Rights Established
As a result of Counterpart training and technical assistance in the association development and coalition building, a group of children-focused NGOs has combined their efforts to protect children's rights in Tajikistan. The Coalition on Children's Rights is made up of 5 NGO members **– *Nasli Navras, Odamiyat, Open Door, Foundation of Assistance to Medical Establishments*** and *Aurora***.** One of the key activities to date has been the collaboration of the Coalition with UNICEF and Save the Children/UK to research problems facing Tajik children. The Coalition assembled these results in the report: "Implementation of the International Convention on Children's Rights in Tajikistan." Q4/00.

NANSMIT Builds New Partnerships
NANSMIT (National Association of Independent Mass Media of Tajikistan) was established in early 1999 to assist local media to become more independent and sustainable. Since its existence the Association has implemented several projects to educate people on the basic principles of civil society and promote NGO movement in Tajikistan. Swiss Agency for Development invited National Association of Independent Mass Media of Tajikistan for partnership to implement Central Asia Media Support Project as well as OSCE/Tajikistan requested NANSMIT to facilitate a regional conference titled *Media of Central Asia: Today & Tomorrow*. That activity resulted in adding to the association three new members. Today it consists of 28 media organizations, which benefit more than 1000 people in total. Q4/00.

NGO Jahon Contributes in Improving the Quality of Militia Cadre in Tajikistan
The issue of inadequacy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs' employees was raised and openly discussed in the Conference titled: Militia Today: Problems of the Cadre's Selection and Training. The Conference, which was organized by NGO *Jahon* gathered high rank Militia officials (including First Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs), other Government representatives and NGOs. Conference participants prepared a number of recommendations to improve the quality of the Militia Cadre, which were presented to the Ministry of Internal Affairs. One of the recommendations is to include to the training curriculum of all Militia entities throughout the country the module developed by *Jahon* on Human Rights in Accordance with International Human Rights Documents. Earlier *Jahon* had conducted those workshops for Militia officials in Khatlon Region with the grant from Counterpart Consortium. After the completion of the project Khatlon Oblast Department of Internal Affairs decided to include that workshop into its training plan in Khatlon. Q4/00.

NGO Creates a Database of Disabled People in Tajikistan
Disabled people are among the most underserved and vulnerable people in the transition period in Tajikistan. Many humanitarian organizations trying to help disabled people have had little information about them. The NGO *Dulsuz* created a database of people with disabilities, which is updated regularly. The database includes information about 10,000 disabled people, and is used by both international and local organizations, including government entities like Ministry of Social Protection. So far 5,600 people have received assistance from humanitarian organizations due to the listings in the database. Q3/00

University Students Help Khojand NGOs as Volunteers
There is a large need among Khojand NGOs for human resources staff and for people with English skills. They often cannot afford hiring such specialists. There are students from the English Language Department at Khojand University who would like to work for NGOs as volunteers to practice their English and to learn more about NGOs. In order to regulate this process, the Khojand CSSC Support Center has made an agreement with the English Language Department to facilitate placement of bright students who are interested in working as volunteers. So far ten students have been placed in six local organizations, including the Khojand Center. Q3/00

A Private Newspaper Works With A Local NGO On Women's Issues
Over the past few years, partnerships between the third sector and the Government in Tajikistan have grown while cooperation with the business sector is still not active. The NGO *Hilola*, a recipient of Counterpart's services, in cooperation with the private newspaper *Oila* (Family) has successfully implemented the project "Legal Education of Women" funded by the Soros Foundation. Through this project *Oila* presented legal information on women's issues, which resulted in an increased readership over the life of the project. This tangible result has encouraged *Oila* to sponsor the project for an additional six months. Q3/00

NGO Assists Orphaned Children in Hissar District
According to Government statistics there are more than 2,000 orphaned children in the Hissor District of Tajikistan. Most of them do not attend school and spend most of their time in markets and streets. There have been very few assistance efforts targeting these orphans. After Counterpart Consortium conducted a training workshop on NGO and Community for NGOs in this area, NGO *Munis* decided to help the orphans. *Munis'* mission was to assist children in Hissor; they expanded their services by creating a center for the rehabilitation of 95 school aged orphans/street children. As a result of successful fundraising campaigns, the Government of Hissor District supported the project by giving an office (seven rooms) and 11.5 hectares of land for processing. German Agro Action assisted them with seeds, and there were other donations from private sources. Today the Center is providing 95 orphan children with housing, food, clothes, medical services, and basic literacy training. Q3/00

NGO Initiates Social Partnership to Create New Jobs
More than half of the population of Leninabad Oblast lives below the poverty line. The resulting unemployment particularly affects women, many of whom are single heads of household responsible for at least four children. Separately both government and NGOs have tried to address this problem, but their efforts have been scattered and have had little impact. The local NGO *Women for Progress* initiated an effort to establish a group of NGOs, businesses and Government representatives to focus on the problem. The groups sought assistance from Counterpart in how to foster Social Partnerships. For several months they met to address several local problems in and around Khojand and then established themselves as the Council on Social Partnerships, meeting quarterly. In one successful project, implemented by the Government of Khojand and *Women for Progress*, the Government provided four hectares of irrigated land, a neighboring collective farm contributed a tractor and fuel to plow the land, and the NGO helped the local women organize a group to coordinate their farming and marketing efforts. As a result, 40 women head-of-household are self-employed in seasonal farm work. Q3/00

NGO and Community Resolve Problems Together
The Borikachar village of Nau district in Northern Tajikistan consists of 300 families but has only one source of domestic water – a canal, located 2.5 km. from the village. The poor quality of this water and lack of adequate treatment facilities for the water has resulted in high incidence of infectious diseases. Working under a contract with NOVIB-Holland, the local NGO *Association of Scientific and Technical Intelligentsia (ASTI)* carried out a needs assessment that identified the poor water quality as the primary cause of the high rate of diseases. The NGO identified likely places for 10 wells and offered villagers 10 hand pumps. The wells were dug and the pumps were installed by members of the community as their contribution to the project. The pumps are providing pure and safe drinking water to 1,700 villagers. This successful community participation project has resulted in a 15% decrease in the rate of infectious diseases in the village during the first month after pumps were installed. This NGO received training and technical assistance from the Counterpart CSSC in Khojand that enabled it to develop the relationship with its donor and to mount a successful community participation project – its first project of this kind. Q3/00

NGO in Shahritus Assists Communities in Problem Solving UNHCR and UNOPS have assisted the population of the Shahritus District – the most conflict affected area of Tajikistan – by building three mills and two rice-cleaning constructions in five villages with a total population of 15,000 people. However, these people had no experience in managing such equipment themselves. Using skills gained through Counterpart training and targeted support, the local NGO *Chashma* has facilitated meetings of the community leaders in the five villages of the Shahritus District in order to help them solve this problem. As a result, committees of seven people in all five villages were selected to control the operation of these mills and rice cleaning machines. Q3/00

Open Asia Initiates a Program on Preventing Violence Against Women
The Information and Analytical Center *Open Asia* conducted research on *Widows of War* in Tajikistan for the Soros Foundation. After the research was completed, *Open Asia* developed and implemented a program to prevent violence against women in Tajikistan, from February 1999 to April 2000. That project, funded by UNDP, included research, advocacy, conducting round-tables and other events in cooperation with high-level government authorities. As a result of that activity the taboo was taken off this subject especially in the official quarters. Moreover, a Presidential Decree on Improving Status of Women in Tajikistan was issued in December 1999 and emphasized strengthening measures on preventing violence against women. This project, including the funding support from Soros Foundation and UNDP, demonstrates the organizational strength and maturity of *Open Asia* as a result of targeted Counterpart support that included training in a variety of modules. Q3/00

Counterpart Training Promotes Organization Development
Not until NGO *Umed*, located in Kurghon-teppa, began its activities, the community was unaware of Childhood Cerebral Paralysis. The Regional Health Department was unresponsive to the needs of children with cerebral paralysis, and there were few resources available to NGOs such as this. After attending training courses conducted by Counterpart, the staff of the NGO was inspired with optimism. New ways of thinking and planning resulted in the establishment of a Rehabilitation Center for Paralyzed Children. Direct mission activities started. The group implemented a fundraising campaign that exceeded all expectations. The group discovered that their services were in high demanded in the district. The initial stages of work included identification of 10,600 paralyzed children; 85 were registered for rehabilitation, including 25 children who had already been rehabilitated with good medical results. The local power now supports the NGO and has allocated 5 hectares of irrigated land to the NGO for its economic sustainability. The NGO *Umed* has also been recognized by a number of international organizations operating in Tajikistan, which provide the NGO with materials and humanitarian aid support. The future plans of the organization involve renovating and operating a bakery to generate income, as well as providing fee-for-service medical care for non-target groups of the population. Q 2/00

NGO Fights Successfully Against Malaria

Many poor families in Nau and J. Rasulov districts in the Fergana Valley of Tajikistan work in rice farming. It brings people some disposable income but also contributes to the proliferation of mosquitoes – including those that carry infectious diseases, like malaria. The NGO *Association of Scientific and Technical Intelligentsia (ASTI)* conducted research on the issue and under a contract with NOVIB-Holland conducted experiments using the ecologically safe control method of breeding small fish and placing them in the rice paddies to eat the mosquito larvae. The experiment was successful so they showed the villagers how to breed and use the fish themselves. This NGO's efforts this past summer resulted in a 40% reduction of malaria cases. ASTI has received training and technical assistance from Counterpart Consortium and is a target NGO of the new NGO Development Program. Q3/00

Local NGO Engages People in Gorno Badakhshan to Solve Health Problems

Nearly half of population of the remote Shughnan district in the Pamir Mountains suffers chronic anemia and other diseases because of nutritional deficits in their regular diets. This condition is not entirely due to environmental problems such as soil and crop deficiencies, indeed the plants and fruits in the area are rich in nutrients, but the harsh winters require that they be well preserved and stored in order to retain their nutrient value for human consumption. Supported by the AKF, NGO *Didor* implemented a micro project in Sokhcharv village of Shughnan that taught women from 55 families improved methods of preserving fruits and vegetables. Women were provided with glass jars, sealable lids and tools for the process. These women will teach other women of the village how to preserve fruits and vegetables. It is anticipated that by the end of the project all women of the village will be able to provide essential nutrients for themselves and their families – about 2,000 people – to prevent diseases. NGO *Didor* has received training and technical assistance from Counterpart through the Civil Society Support Center in Khorog. Q3/00

A Successful Civic Education Campaign among Women Brings new Volunteers

Counterpart target NGO, *Parastor* had a number of small projects promoting the role of women in society, which were ready to be implemented in the Oktyabrsky District of Dushanbe City. The NGO, however, lacked sufficient membership to accomplish these projects. To increase membership, *Parastor* conducted a series of workshops on Civil Society for 450 women in 6 mahallas in the District. The workshops included such topics as Women's Rights and NGO & Community. Other activities such as discussions and meetings with women NGO leaders were held. As a result of the campaign 50 women from those communities are now actively involved in *Parastor's* activities and are contributing to the NGO's projects as volunteers. This increase in membership has allowed *Parastor* to reach three times the number of beneficiaries then served previously. Q 2/00

NGO Leaders Lobby for Rights in Decision-Making Process on Gender Issues in Tajikistan

A task force on gender issues was established at a recent conference on gender issues, which took place in Dushanbe with the support of Swiss Development Agency. The main activities of the task force are act as: an advocacy and lobbying mechanism; an "interface" between the government, NGOs and international organizations; and as a forum for the coordination of gender issues and programs in the country as well as advise on gender policies, At the conference, strategies for fulfilling these tasks were developed. The governmental representative, Bureau of "Women in Development," proposed it to be integrated into the official government structure – a national committee under the Prime Minister, the President's Administration or sector coordination bodies under the concerned ministries. The majority of participants, primarily NGO representatives, rejected that proposal as having the risk of being too "directive" and suggested the task force be independent from the government. Following heated and challenging discussions, it was decided to establish an independent coordination agency that would comprise the representatives of local NGOs, international NGOs and Governmental structures. There were 86 NGO representatives at the Conference, most of whom being assisted by Counterpart Consortium. Q 2/00

NGO in Khojand Addresses the Drug Addiction Issue in the Region

The issue of drugs has become one of the most alarming problems in Fergana Valley. Drug addicts, especially youth, do not realize the dangers associated with this disease and refuse to undergo treatment. The newly formed organization *No to Drugs* has prepared two excellent anti-drug Public Service Announcements (PSAs) for television that show the true consequences of drug addiction. With assistance from the Khojand Civil Society Support Center, both the Leninabad regional state TV and independent TV station "SM-1" aired the PSAs free of charge for two months as their contribution to address this problem. In the month after the first PSA aired, over 35 drug addicts – more than three times the normal number of clients –applied to the NGO *No to Drugs* for help. The clients received consultations from the NGO and were referred to the Khojand narco-hospital for treatment. Q2/00

"Fourth Power" Involves State Media to NGO Issues

Tajikistan, like other Central Asian countries, has faced the problem of attracting media coverage to NGO issues. While Independent TV stations do cover NGO activities, state TV ignores them or asks for monetary compensation in exchange for coverage. Supported by the Soros Foundation, the NGO *"Fourth Power"* conducted several seminars and roundtables for media leaders in the Leninabad region. The Khojand Civil Society Support Center was actively involved in the establishment of *Fourth Power* and regularly provides a variety of assistance. As a result, the Leninabad-region State TV (LTV) and the Khojand Center (the NGO representative for the area) signed an agreement to expand TV coverage of NGO activity. Today, one million people in the Leninabad region are regularly informed about NGO activity through a monthly 40 minute TV program that is prepared and aired by LTV in association with the Khojand Center. Q 2/00

NGO Madina Receives the First Social Order from the Government

The number of drug addicts in the Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast (GBAO) of Tajikistan has increased four times over the last 8 years. Two contributing factors to the rise in drug addiction are the proximity of the oblast to the drug trafficking route from Afghanistan and the high level of unemployment, especially among young people. To attract the attention of local authorities and the community to this problem, NGO *Madina* conducted a youth festival entitled "We are Against Drugs – the World is Against Drugs," which was attended by the Governor and other high level officials as well as covered by local media. The festival was such a success that the Governor allocated US$5,000 for NGO *Madina* to implement a project on the prevention of drug addiction. *Madina* is going to use these resources to repair and equip 18 sports grounds for youth in Khorog city and conduct a series of workshops and other activities on drug awareness for more than 2000 at-risk youth and teenagers. This is the first NGO initiative in GBAO to be requested and sponsored by the local government. Q 2/00

NGO Mobilizes the Community to Reconstruct the School

Many social sector establishments, especially in rural areas, have few if any resources for maintenance and repair. This is due to lack of funds in local government budgets. The NGO *Didor* conducted a number of meetings in Sokhcharv village (population 1,500) in order to mobilize community efforts and resources to rehabilitate the village school. The group realized that the existing available resources were not enough. Through the Khorog Civil Society Support Center they learned of support available though TASIF, which helped them with project funding. The community contributed 20% of the cost of the project and 20 members of the community are working on volunteer basis. They anticipate completion of the reconstruction by the beginning of the new study year. *Didor* has participated in a number of Counterpart's training through the Khorog Center and the knowledge gained from Counterpart helped them conduct a successful community mobilization campaign and design a good project. Q 2/00

NGO Leader in GBAO Represents NGOs in Government Meetings

Due to the lack of true information and understanding about NGOs, government officials in Gorno–Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast (GBAO) seem to have a general mistrust of NGOs. With the support from Counterpart Consortium the NGO *Kalam* established an NGO Support Center in Khorog in January 1999. Twenty-seven new NGOs have been registered in GBAO and are dealing with a variety of social problems such as: drug addiction, income generation, women's issues, and assistance to vulnerable people. With the expansion of NGO activities to an estimated 6,000 beneficiaries, there has been a shift in attitude by the government leadership. Further, the leader of the NGO Support Center is now a regular participant in weekly local government meetings. Q 2/00

NGOs Promote Community Mobilization in Zarafshan Valley

Zarafshan Valley, with a population of 90,000, faces many challenges that prevent effective community mobilization. Its specific geographical location and transportation problems leave it isolated from other parts of Tajikistan for nearly five months of every year and there are few NGOs. Counterpart Consortium assisted the NGO *East Women Ecological Association* in establishing an NGO Information and Consulting Center in Panjakent City. The Center conducted a series of workshops on NGO Management for activists and community leaders and provided consultations to them. Since 1997 more than 20 new NGOs have been established as a result of the Center's activity. These NGOs are actively involving communities in solving their problems. For example, the Tajikistan Social Investment Fund (TASIF) funded the installation of two water pipelines in the villages of Shashkat and Maikatta as a result of the community cooperation and organizational skills of these trained NGOs. Q 2/00

Turkmenistan

Strengthening Communtity Relationships

The potential for social partnership is weakened by dissociation and the lack of information about NGO work and achievements. In the summer 2002 Counterpart supported 10 CAG projects on infrastructures problem solving with community involvement and partnership development in Akhal velayt. The Ashgabat CSSC held a roundtable discussion in May on the "Integration of efforts of governmental and public organizations for local initiative development" where 22 representatives from local authorities, NGOs, initiative groups and communities participated. The results and experience from these 10 CAGs were shared and led to a productive discussion resulting in the creation of a Coordination Group on Social Partnership of Akhal velayt. This group, formed by representatives from NGOs and governmental structures, developed guidelines and a workplan. The first activity of the Coordination Group was to conduct a needs assessment in the four etraps of Akhal velayt. Next the Coordination Group began looking for a resources to solve identified problems. In addition to working together to address community needs, NGOs and government are now working together as equals. Q2/03

Major Achievement of Junior Achievement in Turkmenistan

It was difficult to present an example of participating of local Turkmen NGOs members in Advisory Board of International Organization till present time. "Junior Achievement" of Turkmenistan is one of the main developed and the functioning organization in Turkmenistan. 25 people (mainly teachers and trainers) are the members of the organization and about 8 people are the volunteers of the NGOs. The NGO's mission is to contribute transformation in market economy of Turkmenistan through local NGOs and youth generation educating in marketing, market economy and business planning. "Junior Achievement" is the target NGO of Counterpart Turkmenistan from 2000 year and from 1998 acquires services from Counterpart Turkmenistan in such areas as consultations, grants, information, and training. The leader of NGO is an experienced contract-trainer in conducting about 10 CT training modules from 1998 and participated in CT regional trainings as: Facilitation Skills Development and Financial Management. This year when "Junior Achievement International" conducted annual selection of 16 members for National Advisor Board worldwide, the leader of NGO "Junior Acheivemet" from Turkmenistan along with 2 other Asia countries representatives (from Shri-Lanka and from China) were identified for being a member. It is a big achievement of "Junior Achievement" and its leader Ayna Bayramova. Participation in the National Advisor Board's meetings will let to learn international experience and will introduce new technology in Turkmenistan, those would strengthen further sustainability of organization. Q2/03

New Volunteer Opportunities Created

The Lebap CSSC, seeking to improve volunteer involvement in NGO activities, recruited a team of 47 volunteers. The system of effective volunteer management developed by the CSSC is a process that includes volunteer recruitment, orientation, and creating incentives. Some of the incentives include: free English Language Courses; computer training; free access to the Internet; and rewards for excellent volunteers. The activities of volunteers vary tremendously and the idea of volunteerism has become widely adopted. In one case, a team of 9 volunteers has been actively involved in Lebap NGOs activities by organizing activities such as a Contest for Turkmenabat Best Embroider; two sports competitions for disabled children, a crafts fair to support a local orphanage, a Novruz Bayram holiday celebration for Aged People Center, a seminar on conflict resolution, and a film about NGO activities. Additionally the Lebap CSSC volunteers help clients to use e-mail, Internet resources, computers and other office equipment, search for information, and translate materials. Having originally started as just CSSC's helpmates, the volunteers are now capable of working independently developing and implementing new creative ideas and initiatives. To increase the effectiveness of the job being done, the volunteers work out the rules and procedures for them to distribute responsibilities and manage the process. Q2/03

Increasing NGO Sustainability

One of the main problems of NGOs in Turkmenistan is the financial sustainability, which extensively depends on lack of knowledge on this issue. To improve the situation, Counterpart Turkmenistan (CT) regularly conducts training for NGOs on "Project Design" and "Fundraising". As a result, many of local NGOs expand their activity through making subsidiary products, those help them to cover current NGO's expenditures and independently finance various activities for NGO's targets. For example, CT target - NGO "ARMA", receiving consultation, technical and informational support form CT, developed project on opening laundry and got a grant from Netherlands Embassy. Providing chargeable services for population, organization became able to pay for office rent and to cover other current expenses. NGO "ARMA" renewed conducting various activities for pensioners and then, therefore appeared opportunity for conducting new training for pensioners. In particular, was conducted a seminar on basic computer literacy for member of NGO – pensioners, have opportunity to receive services of laundry on preferential terms. Quantity of pensioners, who received services of laundry, consists of 40% from total amount of laundry clients. Q2/03

Connection with Donors Is Enlarging

Financial sustainability is one of the most important issues for NGOs and initiative groups of the Akhal velayt and Ashgabat city. One of the basic sources of NGO financing is grant pools. In Turkmenistan the number of donor organizations is limited, and the Ashgabat CSSC takes great care to assist NGOs and initiative groups in their search for potential donors by: updating their database of donor organizations; publishing monthly digests; hosting regular Informational Club meetings; facilitating meetings with donor organizations to familiarize NGOs with new grant programs and fundraising opportunities; and providing NGOs with consultations on projects design and proposal writing. In January the World Bank presented its small grants program and contest for innovative ideas with the assistance from the Ashgabat CSSC. Representatives of 42 NGOs were present and expressed great interest in the new program. Twenty organizations developed project proposals with consultative help from the Ashgabat CSSC, and five projects were supported by the Word Bank Grant Committee. Similar activities are carried out by the Ashgabat CSSC to assist the NGOs in project design and proposal writing for submission to the Democracy Fund of US Embassy, the British Embassy, the Fund of the Netherlands, Eurasia Foundation, and the Women's Global Fund. Q2/03

Heading Towards Sustainability

The economic transition has resulted in various problems, which can only be solved through joint efforts of community members and involvement of key organizations. The community of *Selmeli Kel* village of Ak Altyn Farmers' Union of Turkmnebashi etrap carried out two projects supported by Counterpart to provide the community with potable and technical water. The Dashoguz CSSC provided every kind of assistance to the community - at the initial stage of needs assessment and project design; and during project implementation with consultations, meetings, and training. As a result, the Rural Committee was founded. Community members became actively involved in project implementation, and established solid working relations with the local authority. The positive experience in local resource mobilization, fundraising, and grant management now helps the community find optimal solutions to other urgent problems. The Rural Committee developed a project proposal, approved by the British Embassy in Turkmenistan for $1,200. At present the community is preparing to start construction of a mill in their village. This project takes into account the interests of each of the community members and will be monitored by the Rural Committee. The approximate cost of mill services was also calculated, and the optimal schedule of mill working hours was worked out. The mill services expected to benefit to 300 village households. Q2/03

NGO Conducts Health Trainings

In the recent past NGO activities have not been taken into consideration by governmental departments and NGOs were not recognized as a viable resource or partner. Members of *Uchgun* participated in Counterpart trainings in Social Partnership, Facilitation Skills Development, and TOT and received consultations on project design and proposal writing from the Dashoguz CSSC. With these skills several members have learned to design and conduct special trainings on health protection using interactive approaches. Successfully project implementation by *Uchgyn*, including a sub-contract with UNICEF, has attracted attention from the management team of the Central Hospital of Turkmenbashi etrap of Dashoguz velayt. The Head of Hospital applied to *Uchgyn* with a request to conduct series of trainings for medical staff. *Uchgyn* developed modules for mini-trainings on breastfeeding and the prevention of infection diseases. *Uchgyn* trained 32 medical personnel who work with local communities of three villages. Over the next few months, *Uchgyn* will conduct four more trainings. Q2/03

Community Mobilizes to Electrify Village

Involvement and commitment of communities in the processes of discovering primary problems and striving to solve them is still one of the main goals of civil society development in Turkmenistan. During the PCA process, which was conducted in Dashoguz velayat, Kunyaurgencheskiy etrap, *Cotton plant* village in 2002 by DCSSC and the NGO *Sarygamysh*, participants identified the primary problem and formed a Steering Committee to develop a plan to address the problem. They designed a proposal and received a CAG from Counterpart. The project sought to construct power lines 1.5 km in length in the village with participation and investment from community members, resource intake from the local factory and financial support from the local government. In addition with support from the factory administration, the community replaced 500 meters of high-voltage cable, through which electricity can reach the village. The positive results inspired the committee to continue to develop CAPs. The Steering Committee, in coordination with community members, organized work on construction of a footbridge. Before, had to walk 2 kilometers to get to work, now this distance is shortened to 500 meters. Q2/03

Lebap CSSC Members Participate in British Exchange Program

The start up of any public organization brings a number of problems and issues such as financial sustainability and professional growth. The Lebap CSSC provides information, including news postings by e-mail, about donors agencies, conferences and activities of international organizations. To find appropriate information, the Center's volunteers contacted organizations from around the world. They were invited by organizers to attend the Summer School of Great Britain. Volunteers from 50 countries will attend this event to exchange experience. By joint attempts of Lebap CSSC staff and volunteers a project application was developed and the Embassy of Great Britain approved the proposal with $1,950 to finance two volunteers to attend the Summer School. Also part of the proposal was the purchase of a video camera to document the activities of the volunteers and local NGOs to present at the Summer School and to document the Summer School to present to Lebap organizations. Q2/03

Saving the Caspian Sea Together

The limited access to grant funds of various donors is a typical problem for NGOs in Turkmenistan, as they lack the information and skills to communicate with donors and prepare grant applications. Under the World Bank Caspian Environment Program program, Counterpart and Flora and Fauna International conducted a special training on Project Development and Proposal Writing for ecological NGOs of the Caspian Region's five countries. Counterpart Turkmenistan organized and conducted the training course in Ashgabat in June 2002 for 21 NGO and government representatives. The participants obtained basic skills in preparing grant applications and project design and building effective working relationships with donor agencies. Five organizations from Turkmenistan that participated in the training applied for grant support from various donors. The organization *Turkmen Maritime Lines* was awarded $70,000 through the World Bank Small Grants Competitions to implement the project "Reduction of Threats to Biodiversity in the Turkmenbashi Bay" in close cooperation with local ecological NGOs. Q1/03

Water User's Association Expands Their Menue of Services

Counterpart has worked with the Water User's Association in the Dashoguz region on the goal of sustainability for over two years. As a result of the grassroots approach and the effective social partnership with the governmental structures of the village, etrap and region levels, the organization now successfully provides drinking water delivery to 14,000 people living in 44 villages of Turkmenbashi etrap. In January 2001 after the conclusion of the Counterpart Support Program, the Association registered with the Ministry of Justice of Turkmenistan under the name of *Sarygamysh* and started working independently. *Sarygamysh* continued to cooperate with the Dashoguz CSSC – participating in training, and other activities and receiving consultations on a regular basis. Once the WUA localized, its members, with the help of Dashoguz CSSC, initiated a process of identifying new donors and other sources of financial and technical support. In the course of the organizational strategic planning, *Sarygamysh* identified the demand-driven goal as the expansion of the services provided by the organization in order to reach people in more remote areas. One of the options for effective realization of this strategy was to purchase a water truck. To accomplish this goal, *Sarygamysh* turned to Dashoguz CSSC for help and technical support. The CSSC assisted the organization in identifying possible donors, establishing and maintaining negotiations, developing the proposal, and recently the British Embassy in Turkmenistan allocated $7,000 to purchase the water truck, which is used to serve more than 3,000 people in seven communities on a regular basis providing each member with an average of 5 liters of water per day. The system of self-sustainability developed by Sarygamysh included a membership fee, which is used to meet different goals identified by the board of Sarygamysh and to finance truck repairs. Q1/03

NGO Increases Cooperation with Governmental Organizations

The lack of ecological education among students, especially in the application of new techniques and approaches, is a common problem. For NGOs that could address this problem, the absence of an official registration as required by all governmental organizations is a major obstacle. The NGO *Yashyl* developed and conducted a series of classes on Ecological Games, with Counterpart funding, to increase and improve children's knowledge and practices in the field of ecology. As a follow-on, the NGO conducted a course of workshops on "Team Building and Leadership Skills Development" in several Ashgabat secondary schools. The topic piqued their interest and resulted in growing popularity of the NGO. The city schools administration started inviting the NGO to conduct similar workshops for students in other schools. The NGO has conducted about 20 workshops in different secondary schools. Thanks to the skills obtained through the Social Partnership training of Counterpart, the NGO *Yashyl* successfully established sustainable partnership relationships with the school administrations, and the NGO continues to expand the scope of its activities. At present the NGO just completed a three-month work plan to work with the administrations of Ashgabat schools # 6,7,18 and 44. Q1/03

Turkmen Artisans at the World Market

Reviving the quality of and demand for Turkmen culture and crafts is a difficult process. Turkmen artisans need support to find, develop, and subsequently sell lost arts. Production is extremely time consuming with sales often at low prices. The association *People's craftsmen, trade and decorative souvenirs NUPHIS* is targeting these problems. The association consists of 30 regular artisans and another 40 whom periodically apply for help. Due to participation in Counterpart trainings such as Association Development and Small Business Development, *NUPHIS* is now able to unite artisans, promote experience exchange, and further the professional development of members in areas such as intricate-design, weaving, dyeing, and decorative design. *NUPHIS* is a member of the Central Asian Association for Craft Support and uses the Ashgabat CSSC to communicate with other members. The effective interactions allowed *NUPHIS's* members to participate in three international and two local Craft-Fairs, participants of which earned $160 to $300. Two representatives of *NUPHIS* attended trainings held in Kazakhstan and Tajikistan on craft development. UNESCO/Kazakhstan values the high professionalism of Turkmen artisans to such an extent that they will soon publish the book by L. Kiseleva entitled The Technology of Natural Dyeing. Q1/03

Organizational Professionals Contribute to Development of Hometown

The lack of strong relationships between public and state organizations continues to be a hurdle for public organizations trying to provide services, especially when approvals are required by NGOs from compliance agencies. *Family, Mercy and Health* of Abadan town gained skills in community work through trainings in PCA, Facilitation Skills and Social Partnership. The NGO, with direct support from Counterpart, successfully conducted PCA exercises in target communities and led the implementation of a community project that resulted in a well-designed play space for children. Through the process, the NGO established good relationships with government and commercial organizations. The Hakimlik acknowledged the positive experience working with the NGO and their ability to generate real results and, consequently, invited the leader of the organization to serve on the Committee for Municipal Improvement. Committee members include representatives of leading government organizations. The NGO suggested a plan for the Committee to implement activities with community participation and, as the sole community representative on the Committee, started to work on involving 17 local commercial and state enterprises in the Committee's activities. Q1/03

The Fruits of Mutual Understanding

The low level of legal education and knowledge of rights creates a serious problem for refugees defending their rights and interests. Refugees often encounter such problems as high costs for medical and household services, difficulties obtaining registration and licenses, and trying to find employment. The NGO *Medet* recently focused on providing all possible assistance to refugees and identified the urgent need for lobbying on their behalf. Applying the skills and theoretical knowledge obtained during Counterpart trainings in such skills as Advocacy, Conflict Resolution, and Facilitation Skills Development and using informational resources and other technical support from the Lebap CSSC, *Medet* carried out a number of activities for the promotion of rights and interests of refugees in Turkmenistan. They facilitated several meetings and round tables with the purpose of clarifying the status and rights of refugees. Among the participants were refugees, consular service representatives and local health care providers. The refugees obtained a better understanding of what rights they have and how they can be applied to living; and governmental organizations managed to make improvements to their work, making it more effective and oriented towards the needs of refugees. As a result, out of 50 families, 80 refugees are now treated as local citizens in heath care institutions and unregistered refugees now receive a living license and pay the same apartment fees as local citizens. In addition, refugees acquired access for better employment opportunities. Q1/03

Successful Outcome Awakens Initiative

Infrastructure development in remote rural areas is a typical issue, one that is complicated by the lack of financial and human resources. Mobilizing local communities to solve priority problems is critical to overcoming these constratints. In July 2002 the Dashoguz CSSC and the NGO *Sarygamysh* conducted PCA exercises in two agricultural villages in the Dashoguz velayat. The top issue identified was repair of the electrical main. A steering committee comprised of local citizens designed and managed a project to repair a 2.5 km stretch of high voltage main. The project was implemented with the participation and contribution of the local community, the support of local governmental, and financial support from Counterpart and the joint-stock company *Gok Gushak*. During the implementation process, the neighboring community *Seylek* was interested in the outcome and expressed their willingness to organize similar repair efforts in their village. With the help of the steering committee, whose members obtained specific skills and knowledge as a result of training and technical assistance from Counterpart, *Seylek* organized 70 local people in the decision-making process, collected funds, and restored 600 meters of electric main. Ten new households in *Seylek* now have access to electricity. Q1/03

Developing Local Communities and Establishing New Values

In many rural Turkmen communities, infrastructure repair and social cohesion are in need of urgent attention. The Initiative Group *Altyn Cheshme* of Gawers etrap facilitated the process of uniting the members of a local community in order to solve the top-priority problem of water delivery and supply. The Ashgabat CSSC, in cooperation with community representatives, conducted a PCA to identify the needs of the community and their resources. Additionally, the CSSC provided regular consultations on project design and implementation. The successfully completed CAG from Counterpart met the defined needs of the community, which became more proactive and involved. The process was initiated to ensure joint decision-making in the community, engender a sense of group responsibility and ownership, foster a deeper understanding of the concept of volunteerism, and develop respect for charitable activities for the benefit of everyone. As a result, community members voluntarily carried out additional charity activities. On New Year's Eve, the Initiative Group organized a charity event for orphans including a talent show, prizes and presents. Warm clothes, sports equipment, and toys were purchased for the 700 children, with funds donated by a local farmer. Q1/03

NGO Promotes its Activities Through the Media

The Turkmen media has paid very little attention to the activities of NGOs. The Turkmen Association of Journalists *Shamchyrag* has been making efforts to expand the scope of its activities at a regional level. They have encountered various organizational and financial difficulties. *Shamchyrag* finalized an action plan that reflected counseling in organizational development from Counterpart, interviews of clients, beneficiaries, and key organizations, and an organizational development audit. Resources for expanding the Association's activities were identified, 300 local velayats journalists were assembled and trained, and a project was developed and successfully implemented. The Association's membership increased to twenty-five journalists. Four seminars on journalism were organized and conducted for thirty journalists and thirty NGO representatives. As a result, 25 NGOs in the Balkan, Mary, and Lebap velayats improved the quality of their informational materials and secured regular exposure through the local press. Public awareness about social issues and problems increased two to threefold. The velayat NGOs noted an increased interest in their work and reported an additional 150% increase in the number of visitors. Q1/03

Ecological Education to Rural Schools

The teaching of effective ecological techniques to both schoolchildren and community members in rural schools is considered a top concern. Unregistered NGOs have difficulty in providing modern and up-to-date knowledge and in offering their services because the government supervises educational activities and does not recognize the NGOs. *"Commonwealth of Eco NGOs of Turkmenistan"*, which uses regular consultation provided by Counterpart Turkmenistan, worked out an Organizational Development Plan which included actions aimed at activating cooperation between donors and governmental structures and effective promotion of their services in ecological education. Within two months informational bulletins were distributed among NGOs, donors, and governmental organizations via Email and hard copy. In order to demonstrate the organizational potential, the NGO invited donors and representatives of governmental institutions to participate in all of their activities during which 2 films on the NGO activities were shown. As a result, OCSE invited the *"Commonwealth of Eco NGOs of Turkmenistan"* to be a partner in proposal development and implementing the pilot project on "Increasing the awareness of secondary school children in rural areas on environmental issues" at a total of $7,000. A seminar for the faculty of Gawers region schools was held in partnership with Akhal velayat Department of Education. A film was shown and then trees were planted in the school alleys. The NGO is also planning to carry out their activities in 2 other regions and also to start work on 2 special books on Ecological issues in Turkmenistan. Q4/02

NGO Adapts to Environment

Frequently, NGO "Begench" is not able to implement the planned activities with teachers and pupils, because state structures do not always understand the work of NGOs. Taking that into account, the NGO "Begench" changed its organizational strategy by applying knowledge gained at Counterpart's training on Social Partnership. It conducted several seminars on ecological education with some elements of their activity presentation for school teachers and school psychologists. The seminars were attended by the Deputy of the Ministry of Health and Medical Industry of Turkmenistan and other officials. These seminars produced positive resonance and the decision was made to found a methodical center, which would be jointly coordinated by the NGO "Begench" and the Education Department. The main purpose of the center was to facilitate experience and information exchange between teachers and educational administrative workers. Now the center is successfully functioning and employs seven members. Recently the center organized a seminar for psychologists of 18 schools. The seminar was devoted to maintaining the effective relations with school administrative departments. During this seminar school psychologists' action plans were resized. Owing to the high professional level of the activities arranged and carried out, NGO "Begench" obtained trust and established a good working relationship with state officials. This will have a positive impact on the NGO's further work. Q4/02

Journalists Working for NGOs

Hardly any NGO in Turkmenistan uses long-term planning and marketing to help in identifying key beneficiaries and their basic needs. The association of Turkmen Journalists "Shamchyrag" with Counterpart assistance in Organizational Development worked out an OD plan that included the goals of active fundraising and PR in accordance to the NGO programs and activities. A survey conducted through questionnaires distributed among NGOs made it possible to identify the key needs of the NGOs in regards to skills in the development of informational materials. A new module on the basics of journalism had been elaborated and the pilot seminar was conducted for 18 NGO representatives. In the new project, funded by US Embassy Democracy Fund, the NGO "Shamchyrag" has geographically expanded the field of their activity through net development and by establishing four branches of the organization. Four new seminars on journalism and conflict resolution have already been carried out on the basis of these branches. The review of Turkmenistan mass media development in the period of its independence by two "Shamchyrag" members for a book by Richard Stephen, Director of Kyrgyzstan Summer School of Journalism, professor of Dakota University, provided the opportunity for the NGO to establish and sustain working relationships at the international level. Q4/02

Success Through Cooperation

Turkmenistan is a mostly rural, agricultural society. A lack of know-how and experience had prevented the skill of beekeeping from being used as an agricultural practice particularly in Dashoguz velayet. In January 2001, a group of 7 enthusiasts established the *Dashoguz Beekeepers Club* having actively participated in the training provided by Dashoguz CSSC, namely Association Development, Strategic Planning, and Using recourse of Internet. From these consultations this organization built a close partnership with local Hiakimlik's agriculture department and was able to obtain information about the regions with flowering plants where beekeepers could install their beehives. A database was created to keep track of each beekeeper. The club organized an education course for those interested in beekeeping. Also, through a close relationship with Winrock International's "Farmer to Farmer" project this organization learned and began to utilize concrete technical and scientific methodologies to increase the efficiency of the beekeepers. As a result, membership has increased to 30 beekeeping farms that employ about 90 people. Each member farm increased the quantity of honey harvest up to 5-6 times in comparison with last year. The impact has been a 25% decrease in the price of honey at the local market. Q4/02

Helping Refugees

Refugees face a number of difficulties including lack of functioning socio-economic mechanisms, indefinite status as refugees, and unawareness in their rights. Lebap CSSC organized and carried out a round table called *"Taking Care of Refugees is the Responsibility of all People Worldwide"*. Local authorities, representatives of UNHCR, local NGOs and refugees themselves participated in this round table. The participants discussed the issues of human rights for refugees and involvement of local NGOs and corresponding governmental and international organizations in assisting the refugees. The participants of the round table distributed the duties among themselves and created an action plan. For now, the refugees can get medical aid in the local central hospital free of charge on a regular basis even if they don't have the required documents. They can also apply to Lebap velayat khakimlik for advice and consultations. The NGO "Medet" implementing the project supported by UNHCR has trained 80 refugees in computer literacy and English language free of charge. The NGO "Nargiz" has organized a summer camp for 30 children from refugee families. Q4/02

Rural Committee's First Successful Negotiations

A top priority social problem for the remote communities of Dashoguz velayet is the limited supply of drinking water. Inhabitants of 3 villages of Akdepe etrap, Land Renters union (former kolhoz) "Taze Yol" and "Yomutdurdyeva" of Dashoguz velayet communities went through the process of PCA organized by Dashoguz CSSC. The issue of drinking water supply was raised during PCA. An Action Plan was developed for completion and repair of an unfinished Water Supply Facility through community mobilization. With support of Dashoguz CSSC the elected community *Steering Committee* elaborated the project which been approved by Counterpart Turkmenistan. Local authorities (hiakimlik) expressed their understanding and willingness to support the planned works of completion and repair. The implementation of the project was hindered by Agro Technical Garage which been situated on the territory of the unfinished Water Supply Facility. The head of the Farmer's Union refused to meet the request of committee and move the garage to another place. The *Steering Committee*, empowered by community members, appealed to a higher Authority, Etrap Hiakimlik, with a request of assistance to fulfill the project. Dashoguz CSSC consulted members of the committee on facilitation of negotiations and organizing the advocacy campaign. Then the *Steering Committee* negotiated this issue with hiakimlik. As a result, the hiakimlik issued an order and the territory was given to the committee for further completion of the project. Q4/02

The Distance Between Countries Grow Smaller

The introduction of a visa system between Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan and the high cost of obtaining a visa made it more complicated for the Kazakh Diaspora of Turkmenistan to travel to their Motherland to sustain the connection with the relatives and to satisfy their cultural, spiritual and educational needs. The NGO *Kazakh Cultural Center "Elimay Turkmenistan"* applied to the MFA of Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan with the suggestion to simplify the Visa obtaining process of Kazakh and to decrease the cost. The NGO also organized the campaign to gather the signatures of Turkmen citizens of Kazakh nationality and background supporting their suggestion. Ashgabat CSSC provided the NGO with technical assistance and informational support (Email, internet, fax machine usage, making international and other phone calls, copying of documentation, providing necessary information on organizing and holding advocacy campaigns, etc). The response to the application of the NGO by the MFA of Kazakhstan was to cancel the consul dues for Kazakh Diaspora representatives, having preserved payment only for factual expenses. The Chairman of the Central Bank of Turkmenistan issued the permission to convert the Turkmen currency for visa expenses payments. Now the entry visa to Kazakhstan costs $5, which is 5 times less than before. As the result, ethnic Kazakhs have the opportunity to visit Kazakhstan more often now. In addition, the number of young people admitted to Kazakhstan Higher Educational Institutions increased by 100%. Q4/02

Preservation and Development of Cultural Heritage

Within the last decades many facets of cultural heritage of Turkmen people have almost disappeared. Government services aimed at the revival and development of ancient crafts do not function effectively and do not always coincide with the needs of the artisans. The NGO *"Zemin Lyalesi"* of Balkan velayat in the course of implementing a project supported by Counterpart on Small Business Development among Women identified artisan women as a new target audience. Thanks to the skills gained at Counterpart PCA training and regular consultations on community outreach, *"Zemin Lyalesi"* assisted these women, who work at home and make different kinds of carpets, in setting goals and identifying ways of achieving them. The members of the initiative group of ancient crafts revival found 10 forms of carpet as well as the historical background of each for production. Local authorities invited 4 of the women to participate in the Republic carpet exhibition. The work of one of these participants won first place and others were awarded prizes. The representatives of State Concern "Turkmen Carpets" visited the winner to learn how to produce this type of article. Q4/02

New School is Constructed

The conditions of refugee children in Lebap velayat border zones do not provide favorable conditions for getting education due to remoteness and overcrowding of the regional schools as well as lack of transportation. Since summer 2001 Lebap CSSC has carried out a number of meetings for PCA with the community representatives of border settlements, Etbash and Shormeydan villages of Atamurat etrap in Lebap velayat. Based on the assessment of needs and resources of the communities, goals and objectives were set and an action plan developed. Owing to the consultations provided by Lebap CSSC the communities developed 3 projects that were supported by UNHCR and Counterpart. The community elected a *Steering Committee* to maintain management of the projects implementation. The community managed to mobilize its own resources as well, and the contribution of the community doubled the initial amount of the grants. Local governmental institutions such as Velayat Khakimlik and Velayat Education Department were involved in the building of the school providing specialists and needed construction materials. On December 2002 the ceremonial opening of the new school for 180 refugee children of two settlements took place in Etbash village of Atamurat etrap. The first bell had rung and the kids started their journey in the Wonderland of Knowledge. Q4/02

Community Decision-making Insures Better Water Supply

Since Fall of 2001 the 14,000-member NGO Sarygamysh has identified the need to improve the system of water delivery, storage and distribution in their community. The constant and timely water provision of target communities by *Sarygamysh's* four water carters depends on the price changes for spare parts and petrol at the local market. The governing board of the NGO recommended the executive staff review the financial plan taking into account the price changes at the local market, and it was suggested to increase the payment for water delivery to participating communities. Having received consultations from Dashoguz CSSC, the NGO developed a strategy for improving the financial management of the organization, and three types of expense calculation for water delivery service were worked out for the NGO Members' General Council to consider. In May 2002 the NGO General Meeting took place with representatives from 44 member communities participating. Participants decided on the type of calculation and agreed to introduce it gradually and start using this new calculation from August 2002. This part of the strategy for improving the financial situation and management was accomplished successfully. The monthly income increased, from 18,000,000 manats ($3461) to 27,000,000 manats ($5192), and the current water delivery system is improved and more sustainable now. Q3/02

Information Is Power

Lack of information and limited access to information and communication resources is one of the greatest obstacles for third sector development in Turkmenistan. 90 NGOs have free access to Internet and use e-mail through Counterpart's server, which enables them to provide appropriate information to clients, find partners and donors, arrange activities and participate in seminars and conferences.

- As a result of access to Internet and e-mail, more than 60 members of the NGO *Unicum* and students of several Ashgabat schools participate annually in an international electronic intelligence tournament (15 tournaments). Collecting information from websites and communicating via email, *Unicum* found partners and donors and managed to take part in five intellectual games, where 10 different states were represented.
- NGO *Anna* using e-mail, applied for a grant to the Women Global Fund and their project was subsequently approved. Owing to this grant the NGO has managed to open the Support Center, where 5-8 refugee women receive consultations every day.
- NGO *Cheshme* maintains close contact with partners, finds and distributes ecological information for more than 30 schools and 18 NGOs, who in turn use it for educational ecological activities and publications. Q3/02

Working Together Means Working Better

Receiving organizational development consulting through Counterpart, the *Economic Educational Center* identified a number of projects to be implemented and recognized the need to establish a network of organizations focused on economic education. After identifying interested organizations, the *EEC* united 14 commercial, state and public organizations in a coalition to review economics curriculum, with partial involvement of advisers from *Junior Achievement Kazakhstan*. As a result of the coalition's six-month working group sessions, the *EEC* piloted six economics classes in Turkmenabat, Dashoguz and Ashgabat and trained more than 60 young people. Additionally, thirteen coalition members were trained using an innovative economy-to-youth teaching technique. The *EEC* presented the new curriculum at a national forum of 80 young entrepreneurs and economists. The representative from the School Reforms Department of the Ministry of Education noted the professional quality of the materials developed by organizations and indicated that they will be the basis for the development of new school programs. The national forum and the achievements of the *EEC*-led coalition were covered in the newspaper *Neutral Turkmenistan*. Q3/02

Pensioners are a Force

Many urban pensioners are single and have limitations that preclude them from engaging in many activities. While able to contribute intellectually, there are few opportunities for them to do so, as there are few NGOs focusing on pensioners' needs. One NGO, *Arma*, has been focused on pensioners' needs. With targeted support from Counterpart, *Arma* has focused on organizational development. In order to expand the number of beneficiaries, *Arma* developed a strategic plan and identified a strong partner, the National Red Crescent Society. After participating in several partnership meetings, the Society founded *Arma* clubs in all five velayats to unite pensioners, provide them with consultations, and encourage them to participate in different activities for themselves and for other people. The clubs arrange regular roundtable discussions with interesting people and organize seminars on specific topics (pensioners' rights, pensions benefits, and medical insurance). Very often schools recruit the pensioners as volunteers to conduct classes on ethics and first aid. 15-30 pensioners a week visit each club; 30-70 pensioners participate in the clubs' activities every month. This active involvement of pensioners in society makes them feel deeply satisfied as they realize that they are needed and can still contribute to society. Q3/02

NGO and Clients Make Change Together

The low level of legal education and lack of information on legal issues are the main reasons people are not aware of their rights and cannot protect them. The situation is aggravated by the fact that legal services are expensive and people with average or low income cannot afford it. Having been trained at such Counterpart seminars as Advocacy, Team Building, and Conflict Resolution, the NGO *Khemmayat* learned about lobbying and ways to promote rights. In addition to providing juridical consultations to clients, *Khemmayat* assists and guides clients in ways to advocate for their rights and interests. As a result of these efforts:

- One mother of five lost her husband, the sole provider for the family, in a work-related accident. The organization for which he worked provided no support to her. She turned to *Khemmayat* and managed to receive compensation at the rate of 105 million manat (20,000 US Dollars); moreover, the Ministry of Social Security and Ministry of Defense are now paying monthly allowance for her children.
- As a result of an industrial accident, one gentleman experienced a 70% decrease in his eyesight. However, the administration refused to meet his legal right for benefit payments. He appealed to *Khemmayat* and together they succeeded in getting the employment injury acknowledged and compensation was paid. Further, the gentleman was re-hired by his organization and given a job that corresponded to his physical abilities.
- One woman was forced to quit her job at an industrial plant when she became pregnant. She applied to *Khemmayat* and was reinstated to her previous position. Q3/02

NGO Advocates the Rights of Businessmen

The development of small business in Turkmenistan started from the first days of independence. Since this is a new field of activity in the country, the early businessmen confronted numerous problems. The NGO *Informational and Educational Center Zemin Lyalesi* provides technical support for Balkan velayat entrepreneurs. A group of entrepreneurs turned to the Center for help and support – the Housing and Communal Bureau (GEK) closed fifteen shops owned by the members. The negotiations of the businessmen with GEK representatives and local authorities didn't yield any positive results. Owing to Counterpart technical support and participation in such trainings as Small Business Development, Advocacy, and Conflict Resolution, the members of *Zemin Lyalesi* managed to put skills into practice. *Zemin Lyalesi* consulted with the entrepreneurs on their rights, arranged several meetings with hyakimlik and Public Prosecution Office representatives, and finally succeeded in getting all the shops reopened. As a result more than 700 people have access to food and goods. Q3/02

Community Gains Control Over the Irrigation Water

The irrigation system in Central Asia requires water pumps and check-gates to control and manage water delivery to the fields. Construction and maintenance of such facilities is a problematic issue for land renters in rural communities of Turkmenistan. Counterpart grantee the WUA *Bereket*, founded to support 163 land renters, has constructed four check-gates along the water canal, thereby improving the existing water distribution system and making water delivery possible for larger territory.

- The new system has been functioning for two years as a result of active involvement of all members of the farmers' community to manage the pumps and check-gates and to clean the canal.
- This new irrigation system enabled the farmers to extend the square of cultivated land from 200 to 400 hectares, thereby helping the 163 member-families increase their income.
- Having joined efforts, the farmers arranged the negotiation with the head of local authority - *Archin*, who granted them the permission to use the edge plots of the fields for their own benefits. Q3/02

Communities Work Together and Reach Higher and Higher

Involvement of citizens' participation and initiative development as well as community mobilization in identifying its own needs and the ways to meet them was and remains one of the top priority issues in Turkmenistan. After receiving training and consultations from the Ashgabat CSSC on community outreach and PCA facilitation, the NGO *Meyletinchi*, which focuses on volunteer development, initiated and carried out PCA exercises with 565 inhabitants on Navoi Street. As the result, the residents designed and received funding from Counterpart for a project to refurbish the adjacent land and maintain it with an emphasis on proper sanitary conditions. The participatory methods used promoted community mobilization and joined representatives from different sectors of society. Each group made significant contributions to the project -- $2,000 from the community, $4,800 from the local khakimlik and $3,200 from *Meyletinchi*. The experience of the community led to the creation of a community action plan aimed at solving other problems and meeting other needs of the community. Q3/02

Knowledge is Power

The process of providing of high quality educational services always requires materials, information and professionalism. After reforms in the Turkmen secondary school system, school students can learn foreign languages only in specialized schools. The NGO Center of Languages, Culture and Health *Medet* has become one of the most popular educational centers in Lebap Velayat. The Center is not able to provide services to all their clients willing to attend courses bacause of the lack of workbooks. They prepared 40 copies of the workbook "New American Streamline" and "Teacher's Book" for the 10th level using the Lebap CSSC's copier and the help of Lebap CSSC volunteers. As a result, over a two-month period the number of students attending English courses increased from 200 to 280. Now every student can use a workbook individually, whereas in the past students had to share. Also over the last 2 months, the number of free attendees increased from 50 to 70 students: 18 are refugees (Afghan and Tajik), 7 disabled, 7 orphans, 8 children from poor families and 10 are from families with many children. To work with new groups of students the NGO hired three new English teachers who were previously unemployed. Q2/02

Working With Citizens To Defend Consumer Rights

The quantity of staff of Turkmen NGOs in accordance with local legislation usually is near five people. With such limited human resources an organization is not able to provide services for large quantity of people who is applying for assistance. The NGO *My Rights*, engaged in the process of organizational development with Counterpart, recently attended the Counterpart training "Volunteer Management", and identified new objectives and approaches for service delivery. The organization has limited the number of staff and actively started to work with volunteers. Over the past six months, 25 volunteers have been recruited and trained to teach 18 interactive training modules on basic knowledge of consumers' rights. These volunteers were instrumental in leading consumers to demand resolution of more than 66 problem situations and issues, such as restitution of products with bad quality, receiving good quality of service, replacement and restitution of damaged goods, and the monitoring of sale procedures and rules used by vendors. The process of consumer problem solving continues through training and consumer participation. Consumers continue to defend their rights using practical informational booklets and newsletters published by *My Rights*. Consequently, the NGO has successfully expanded its service and client base through effective planning and organizational development with from Counterpart. Q2/02

NGOs of Two Countries Unite Efforts

The neighboring territories of Dashoguz and Khorezm of Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan respectively are still getting used to the relatively new international border between them, which is causing a variety of social problems. Some NGOs have had earlier cross-border contact and carried out joint work in these frontier territories, but these contacts are individual and short-term in nature. There was no steady or long-term partnership of organizations to strengthen NGO influence on issues such as ecology, women's empowerment, craftsmanship, and public health. *Khorezm* and *Dashoguz CSSCs* organized a number of meetings between 10 Uzbek and 14 Turkmen NGOs in September 2001 and March 2002. At these meetings the NGO representatives exchanged information on past accomplishments and current projects, exchanged promotional materials, shared ideas on future projects, visited offices of some NGOs, and participated in some NGO activities. As a result, several Uzbek and Turkmen NGOs developed a basic outline of future work and agreed upon further joint actions in the fields of ecology, female and child/youth empowerment. The *Dashoguz Ecological Club*, having been invited by the *NGOs Center of Ecology and Health* and *Ihlos*, held a seminar on Game Ecology for 30 high school teachers in Shavata city, and hosted a roundtable with local authorities. During the roundtable, plans were made to provide this interactive training in Game Ecology to all area biology teachers. The positive experience of teamwork of the organizations of two countries has enabled the development of a project to run a Summer Ecological Camp for children in August 2002 in Khorezm with joint participation from the NGOs and support from the local state structures. Q2/02

Local NGOs and Donors – A New Stage of Relations.
Counterpart grantee *Women's Resource Center* (*WRC)* of Turkmen State University developed strategic plans and long-term action plans for organizational development. Based on these plans, *WRC* improved its public relations activities as well as relations with donors. *WRC* conducted a series of meetings with UNFPA in which they proved to the donor that resources intended for NGOs have to be used more effectively. As a result *WRC* has signed a contract with UNFPA for $2,180 to conduct a series of seminars entitled: *"Methods of Improving the Activity of Women's Informational Centers and Resource Centers Working in the Area of Reproductive Health"*. Using interactive methods learned in Counterpart training seminars, *WRC* has already conducted 3 seminars in Turkmen language in Mary, Ashgabat and Busmein for 80 participant members of resource centers and initiative groups. Q2/02

A New Level of Relations Between NGOs and International Organizations
It is not the practice for international organizations to coordinate with Turkmen organizations for program implementation. The theme and content of activities conducted by international organizations are typically identified and implemented without consideration of local conditions. In framework of a Counterpart grant, the NGO *Bosfor* conducted six seminars on different legislative issues for 130 participants seeking to educate people about the latest legislative acts. Due to well-performed public relations activities, such as distribution of information materials, international organizations such as ABA-CEELI and ISAR expressed an interest in using *Bosfor* to organize and conduct a conference. As a result, *Bosfor* participated in the development of the program and facilitated a conference on gender issues and a seminar on ecological law for 90 people. Q2/02

Volunteer Initiatives As A Way For The Civil Society Development
Since November 2001 the *Lebap CSSC* started involving local volunteers to work with NGOs. The number of volunteers gradually increased from 3 to 18. The increase in people working at the Center every day, combined with the lack of office equipment and space, contributed to weak coordination of service delivery by volunteers. The *Lebap CSSC* evaluated the volunteer's needs and the volunteers created their own goals and objectives, with corresponding indicators, for the coordination of volunteer service in the Lebap Region. In order to reach these goals, they needed financial support. With the help of the *Lebap CSSC* the volunteers wrote a project proposing the creation of a Lebap Volunteer Center to work as a "bridge" matching NGOs and volunteers throughout the region. The proposal was sent to the US Embassy Democracy Commission and in May was funded with more than $6,000 for one year of work. The Center is cost-sharing space in the new, larger *Lebap CSSC* office building. Now NGOs, local institutions and prospective young volunteers can address the new center directly. Q2/02

Organizations From All Social Sectors Partner To Benefit Nature And Society
Counterpart grantee *Commonwealth of Eco NGOs* has been conducting a two-month nature protection and ecological action project directly applying knowledge and skills gained from Counterpart trainings such as "Informational Campaigns/Social Marketing" and "Social Partnership". Together with the Ministry of Nature Protection, the NGO conducted research on potential project partners and determined methods to attract their participation in project realization. Additionally, in collaboration with the Ministry of Nature Protection, a plan of activities was designed, including ecological actions and information campaigns. As a result of this joint effort, 15 partners were attracted to implement the project, representing the three sectors of society, such as: Archibil Hakimlik, the Institute of Desert and Plants, the Ministry of Autotransport, several public organizations, and the business firm Allegro. 220 volunteers from 15 organizations took part in cleaning up more than 2,000 meters of foothills. More than 3 million manat ($600) was collected for conducting the ecological actions, and more than 1,023 people of Akhal velayat - schoolchildren, workers, government structures employees, students – were provided with practical information and participated in discussions and interviews on nature protection in Turkmenistan's public park spaces. Q2/02

With Care of Raising Generation

The *Informational Legal Center at Women Union* of Turkmenabat city, is working on a project supported by Counterpart to address youth idleness. Using knowledge in community mobilization, they conducted a number of explanatory meetings on lawful questions, during of which they identified the problem of teenage idleness during the summer break. To resolve this problem, they hosted a roundtable with representatives of Hakimlik, JETA #5 (Public Utilities Department) and people living in adjacent territory. As consequence of the meeting, participants decided to create study groups on interests of children, for which JETA provided space and the people from the adjacent territory cleaned and repaired the space for use by the youth. At the youth center, a volunteer trainer conducts trainings on volleyball, badminton and football for 30 children. Q2/02

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. Q1/02

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*. Q1/02

NGO Promoted Interests of Local Community

Regular deliveries of potable water to remote etraps of Dashoguz velayat from a water plant in Turkmenbashi etrap have been a long-standing problem for the villagers. A 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. Q1/02

Chesme and the Ministry of Education Work Together

In February, Counterpart grantee *Cheshme* 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. Q1/02

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. Q1/02

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. Q1/02

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. Q1/02

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 Ashagabat 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 have been accepted to the specialized school for children with ICP. Q1/02

Association is the Way to Sustainability
The issues of financial sustainability and fundraising are always a problem for Turkmen NGOs. The lack of funds and the small number of donor organizations working in Turkmenistan restrict the opportunities for NGOs to find resources for new programs or projects. In July, the *Commonwealth of Ecological NGOs of Turkmenistan*, consisting of 45 organizations, began working with Counterpart on their organizational development. After a full organizational assessment, problems and priorities were identified and a sustainable strategic plan was devised. The Eco-Center, which is the executive body of the Commonwealth, conducted consultations on proposal writing and goal setting, and organized several meetings for velayat's NGOs and ISAR's representatives. As a result, 7 of velayat's Turkmen NGOs and members of the Commonwealth received grants to implement ecological projects from ISAR. Q4/01

Humanitarian Aid Distributed by Volunteers
Conducting large public events or projects for NGOs is usually accompanied by a lack of professional human resources. As a result, NGOs often do not attempt to organize large-scale activities. Counterpart grantee, *Center of Social Adaptation Umyt*, attended two rounds of the advanced Counterpart training Volunteer Management to help them avoid this situation with their humanitarian relief distribution. Equipped with new approaches in working with volunteers, the members of *Umyt* developed a 3-month strategic plan for working with volunteers. Twenty-five volunteers from a pool of 50 interested people were selected and taught to unload and distribute humanitarian goods. During July and August *Umyt* volunteers unloaded two containers of humanitarian goods received from Counterpart Humanitarian Assistance Program (CHAP). These humanitarian goods quickly reached 1,895 poverty stricken or disabled people. Q4/01

Expansion of Civic Education
The demand for civic education in local schools is not being met by the existing education system in Turkmenistan. In order to respond to this need, Counterpart grantee NGO *Civic Dignity*, supported by the OSCE and Canadian Fund of Local Initiatives, developed 2 manuals and issued 5 bulletins on democracy and ethics within the last six month. Using interactive methods of teaching Civic Dignity conducted more than 10 seminars for teachers of Ashgabat, Dashoguz, Mary and Turkmenabat. As result, the NGO was invited by local schools to conduct its trainings for students. At the present time, more than 600 school students have attended the *Civic Dignity's* trainings. Q4/01

Women's NGO Expands Its Services
In Turkmenistan women are traditionally given fewer social and professional opportunities than men and are primarily engaged in housekeeping and childcare. Efforts have been made to expand the opportunities of women, but these efforts are often short term, not wide spread, and target few people. Counterpart grantee *Ene*, with a mission to raise women's social status through public awareness of women's issues, participated in several trainings at the Dashoguz CSSC, including Project Design and Fundraising. As a result, *Ene* received $7,660 in funding from the US Embassy Democracy Fund grant program to shoot two videos about the work of *Ene* and the *Women's Resource Center* of Dashoguz velayat. Q4/01

Pensioners Take Action
The absence of the practical implementation and enforcement of existing laws is a major problem in Turkmenistan. Members of the NGO *Arma* after participating in Counterpart's Advocacy training developed a training module on Implementation of the Law on Pensioners of Turkmenistan, which covered topics such as stakeholder analysis, problem identification, and promotion of human rights. The training was conducted for 30 pensioners. An action plan for promoting the interests of pensioners was developed during the training. A number of pensioners filed an appeal with the local social welfare department of Ashgabat Khakimlik for their pension amount to double. The appeal is still pending. Currently, the NGO is working to develop follow up trainings for those who want to continue advocating on their own behalf. Q4/01

Culture without Borders

Awara is an independent theatre organized by local Turkmen artists to support the Turkmen cultural revival and the creative potential of Turkmen artists. The participation of *Awara* members in a series of Counterpart organizational development trainings and free e-mail and Internet access through Counterpart Ashgabat Resource Center, enabled *Awara* members to establish a partnership with the Theater-*An-Der-Ruhr* from Mulgeim, Germany. As a result, *Awara* was invited to the *Silk Road Festival* in Germany to perform the play "King Lear". At the Festival, *Awara* was awarded the international actors prize of 7,000 DM, which they used to buy a car so they can travel throughout Turkmenistan to perform their plays. The German Embassy in Turkmenistan supported the successful partnership and assisted *Theater-An-Der-Ruhr* in touring Turkmenistan and performing the play "Caspar" during the summer of 2001. Q4/01

Dashoguz NGOs Succeed in Recruiting Volunteers

Volunteerism is a relatively new concept in Dashoguz velayet and the local population does not always understand the idea of volunteerism. Developing a volunteer movement is one of the priority goals of the Dashoguz CSSC. In February 2001, the CSSC began seeking, recruiting and training volunteers. The CSSC created a special room, equipped with computer and Internet access, in order to work more effectively with volunteers. Since creating the room, 10 people have been recruited as regular volunteers of Dashoguz CSSC and they have spent more than 574 hours assisting NGOs on Internet research, typing text into the computer, video and photo shooting, and using e-mail and the fax machine. During this period, 4 volunteers from the Dashoguz CSSC were hired by NGOs. CSSC volunteers also prepared projects for 6 NGOs and as result one organization received a grant from ISAR. Volunteers are currently organizing and conducting Discussion Clubs, trainings, and round-tables for Dashoguz NGOs. The volunteers helped to organize more than 20 events. Q4/01

NGO Uchgun Provides Health Education

Issues of personal hygiene, proper sanitation, and potable water are critical for adequate child survival and development. In Turkmenistan, personal hygiene is not included in the formal school curriculum and there is a lack of educational teaching materials and tools. Counterpart grantee and subcontractor *Uchgun* has emerged as a leading health expert and educator of teachers and students in the Dashoguz rural region. As a result of subcontracting with Counterpart to implement the UNICEF financed Water, Hygiene and Sanitation projects, *Uchgun* has conducted 17 trainings for 226 participants over the last four months. The NGO developed handouts and leaflets on sanitation and hygiene in the local language for these trainings. Q4/01

Community in Action

The administration of local schools in Turkmenistan is managed solely by local education departments. Parents and teachers have no formal ability to influence school management. As a result of the facilitation of community meetings in School #3 of Darganata etrap of Lebap velayat by the Lebap CSSC staff, a Parents and Teachers Association to promote safe education facilities to more than 400 students was formed. The association developed an action plan to solve the priority problems encountered by a local school. The first implemented project, Clean Water for Everybody - supported by Counterpart, empowered the association to mobilize local resources to build a school lemon tree green house. The income from the green house will be spent for improving the facilities at the school. Also, a group lead by the school nurse developed a training module and began conducting hygiene and sanitation classes for students using an interactive methodology of teaching. Q4/01

Reproductive Health Issues Unite NGOs and Government

Following the introduction of a system of Family Medicine in Turkmenistan in 1998, there has been a growing need for family physicians to respond to a variety of questions and concerns related to reproductive health. Unfortunately, access to information is limited to a few top doctors and rarely made available to lower level staff. During a four-month period *Nesil* organized, in collaboration with UNFPA/Government Centers of Reproductive Health, seminars for family physicians and nurses on reproductive issues. As a result more than 80 practitioners from governmental institutions gained additional skills in reproductive health and 400 members of the NGO's constituency took part in the actions /activities where they received and disseminated information on reproductive health. Q3/01

Increased Donor Support Expands Environmental Education

Since ecological education has been removed from the school curriculum in Turkmenistan, there are very few sources of information regarding the environment available to the general public. This vacuum of information leads to an overall lack of environmental consciousness amongst the population, and most specifically, youth. In response to the problem, the NGO *Geo* of the Dashoguz region introduced a variety of methods to educate the population about the environment. To increase funding for these activities, *Geo* used skills gained in Counterpart seminars in areas such as project design, strategic planning, and fundraising to increase donor support. For example, at one recent roundtable *Geo* sought support for a new children's ecological puppet show. As a result, they received a $3,500 grant from ISAR. With these funds *Geo* has conducted four performances for sixty children from two different schools. Based on the receptiveness of students, teachers, and school directors *Geo* plans to take the show to another 10 public venues in the coming months. Q3/01

NGO Improves the Sanitary Conditions of a Refugee Village

Babadurmaz settlement, where 1,200 refugees from Tajikistan are currently living, is a small community with straw roofed houses supported by slanting walls. Very often families do not have separate places for their animals so the animals are kept very close to the houses. People collect their drinking water from drainage ditches and have no means or skills to clean the water before it is consumed. As a consequence, infectious disease morbidity is very high in the settlement. The NGO *Keik Okara* focuses on working with these refugees and, during a three-month period, conducted regular trainings on water and sanitation and infectious disease prevention among the residents of the settlement. In order to make their program more effective, the NGO involved local authorities and health workers. The NGO's work became more effective after they were awarded a grant through Counterpart, were provided with trainings in community health and communications, and participated in a workshop arranged by Counterpart on how to develop a module and adopt it for their focus group. This grant and the additional training resulted in: the formation of a committee of three Babadurmaz residents to work to control the condition of the ditch water, local health workers organizing and participating in further community trainings, and the local sanitary service providing the population with means for disinfection. These steps have helped to improve the health and lives of Babadurmaz residents. Q3/01

NGO Finds Corporate Sponsor to Teach Kids Respect for Nature

In Turkmenistan there is an insufficient number of International Companies with a policy corporate giving. Even when international organizations have financial opportunities to help local communities, they frequently do not receive concrete ideas to solve problems. Versed in Fundraising training through Counterpart, the NGO *Yashil* carried out a market analysis of potential fundraisers for a planned summer camp and series of ecological lessons for children from 3 cities in Turkmenistan. The NGO had participated in a joint Counterpart/Exxon-Mobil Contributions Project activity and had a good reputation in the framework of that project so they approached Exxon-Mobil to fund their camp. Counterpart staff assisted in the design of their eventual proposal that was subsequently approved by Exxon-Mobil in the amount of $3000 dollars. As a result, in August 50 children participated in the event and Exxon-Mobil has pledged to assist with similar programs in the future. Q3/01

School Sanitation Project Links Parents, Teachers and School Administration

The sanitation and hygiene conditions in many rural schools of Dashoguz are very poor and lead to a high rate of water borne diseases and mortality. Counterpart is subcontracted by UNICEF to implement the Watsan IV project in schools and has provided methodological and technical assistance School Hygiene and Sanitation Committees in over 130 schools. The WatSan team was trained in participatory methodologies in conjunction with the community outreach division in order to design and implement a process to catalyze parent/teacher committees in targeted schools. The result was the inclusion of parents and community members in both the technical design and budget calculation for the latrine renovations. Currently, in contrast to the past, committees are strategically involving parents with the necessary skills to achieve all aspects of project development from budgeting to accounting to construction. The school committees serve as example in the rural villages of group decision-making that results in concrete improvements to schools. The community outreach focus bridges the gap between local authorities and committee members. Committee involvement in design has improved accountability and maintenance of improvements, prompting the hakimlik of Ylanly to furnish a building to one of the schools. The structure will be torn down and the materials will be used to build a much needed new latrine for the school. Q3/01

"Lukman Hekim" means "Responsible for Health"

When a government is facing transition, it is possible for some of its programs to be lost or forgotten. This was almost the case with Special Kindergarten/School #43 in Ashgabat, which has worked with and provides overnight care of children with cerebral palsy. When September 2001 approached, there were no new students enrolled at the school. *Lukman Hekim*, an initiative group of young medical workers from the Medical Institute attended Counterpart's training on "NGO and Community" and consulted with the Resource Center Manager and target NGOs to learn how to work with clients. As medical workers, members of this group had been asked several times whether or not a program for disabled children existed in Turkmenistan. The group found information about School #43 at Counterpart's Ashgabad Resource Center. Using the skills acquired through Counterpart training, *Lukman Hekim* worked during the summer of 2001 to identify 17 children with cerebral palsy, conducted consultations with these children's parents, and gave recommendations regarding school enrollment. As a result, 10 of these children are now attending kindergarten, and 7 others have entered the first form. The members of the initiative group organized a ceremony at the opening of 2001-2002 school year and gave gifts to these children to celebrate this exciting beginning. Q3/01

Education enlarges Organization's Horizons

The notion of organizational development is quite new for Turkmen NGOs that have a tendency to focus exclusively on service delivery for beneficiaries while neglecting their own internal organizational needs. In June, Counterpart conducted a full assessment and analysis of organizational capacity together with members of *the Center for Economic Education and Young Entrepreneurs - Junior Achievement.* They jointly developed a capacity building plan that emphasized the strengthening of human resources and professional skills of the organization's members. Included in the plan were activities to enroll members in training courses conducted by international organizations such as: Pragma, Counterpart and Karana. As a result, *Junior Achievement* boasts 8 trained members in: market economics, marketing, human resource management, financial analyses, international standards of accounting, business and financial planning. The Center has already conducted 6 new courses for over 100 students. Their premises are often rented by the above-mentioned organizations for their training programs and Junior Achievement members are sub-contracted as trainers bringing resources to their NGO. The relevance of courses, professionalism of trainers and optimal marketing approach in organizing the courses improved the financial sustainability of the Center through the input of trainers' salaries and logistical support to their partners. Q3/01

Improvement of the Self-Maintained Water and Hygiene System in 10 Schools of Darganata Etrap
Counterpart's Community Outreach team and staff of the Lebap and Mary CSSCs responded to requests from the Lebap Hakim to assist the Hakimlik with a community infrastructure problem in a northern county with poor water conditions. The *WUA Saragymysh* was sub-contracted to provide consultants to assist in the community outreach activities. The project began with a meeting with local community representatives regarding the sanitation and hygiene conditions in the schools of Darganata etrap, a project in which both the local government and local educational department took special interest. Decisions were made to include 10 secondary schools and communities in the Community Action Planning process. Project successes included electric water pumps being installed complete with storage houses to protect them, toilets renovated in all schools, lighting systems installed, and water pipe lines installed. A total of 5352 people benefited from the project. As a result of these experiences, the project committee members acquired skills in leadership, decision making, working with mass media, and ownership responsibilities. Q3/01

One Step Closer to NGO-Government Contracting in Turkmenistan
The NGO *Sarygamysh* was established through the Water Users' Association Project implemented by Counterpart between July 1999 and January 2001. The now independent and registered as a "charitable cooperative" it provides delivery of safe drinking water on an affordable fee-for-service basis to its 12,000 members of the Turkmenbashi etrap in Dashoguz velayet. Recently the velayet hyakimlyk in Dashoguz city ordered the USAID-funded Reverse Osmosis Plant to not fill the 4 water trucks operated by *Sarygamysh*. The NGO appealed the order to the etrap hyakimlyk, which overruled the velayet order, as it would put thousands of residents at risk in this year of drought. The written and stamped overruling is a testament to the vital role Sarygamysh is playing in the welfare of its members and endorses the quality of service that this member-owned and-operated organization provides. Q3/01

For NGO *Triera* Motion is Life
People with hemophilia and hematology diseases in Dashoguz have limited access to resources to help them improve their health condition. The absence of save places for and types of exercise leads to a passive lifestyle for most people suffering from such illnesses. The fear of pain, trauma, bleeding and other injuries further isolates them. *Triera* is a membership organization drawn from this category of disabled. They identified the absence of specialized sporting clubs and health complexes as one of the primary reasons for the social isolation and lack of physical exercise of hemophiliacs from early childhood onward. As a result, they designed a project called "Motion is Life" to create a specialized health complex for this target group which would also rehabilitate them in active society. The proposal was translated by the Dashoguz CSSC that organized a meeting between the NGO and Charity Know How Fund/New Zealand Embassy Moscow which subsequently approved a grant of $3,510 to the NGO. The funds will enable the NGO to develop and conduct physical training courses for 300 people over the next year. The Members of Triera have received instruction that will certify them as trainers for this disabled group. The first group of 25 children with hematology diseases has completed the initial series of classes and parents have noticed demonstrated improvement in their health that they attribute to the good work of the NGO. Q2/01

NGO Brings Consumer Information to Turkmenistan
Most people in Turkmenistan have very little access to information regarding their rights as consumers. When information becomes available, there is no consistent mechanism to ensure that it will be accessed by a broad segment of the population. The NGO *My Rights* was recommended by Counterpart to participate in their International Conference titled "Consumer Research: Genetically Modified Food Products". Upon returning to Turkmenistan, the members conducted an analysis of the Turkmenistan market in which they concluded that residents of the capital do not know that many of the food products they consume on a daily basis have been modified with a variety of chemicals. To address this issue, *My Rights* carried-out the following public outreach activities:

- Held a meeting with 10 specialists from the Ministry of Trade in which the Ministry agreed to jointly develop a set of regulations specific to the importation of genetically modified items.
- Distributed 60 informational bulletins around Ashgabad, copies of which were also placed in Counterpart's resource center which distributed an additional 120 copies
- Conducted a mini-seminar on the topic for members of 14 NGOs who later transferred the information to 420 members of their constituency groups.
- In two months, information was distributed to 624 members of 30 NGOs. Q2/01

CBO Bereket Helps to Increase the Profit from the Cotton Harvest

The drought in Dashoguz has had a tremendous impact on agricultural production. Standard gravity irrigation has had several limitations including cost of pumps, repairs, and ineffective water utilization, resulting in low output and low income to community members. The CBO *Bereket* was organized by community members to resolve this issue. They received a small grant from Counterpart to build check gates and a turnout irrigation system that improved the efficiency of water utilization and brought a more secure water supply to the fields. As a result of the project, 873 hectares of sown area are irrigated by the modified system. The community manages the system using group decision-making learned through steering committees from the Water User's Association project. The local government appreciates the efforts undertaken by the community and local authorities have commended the CBO for the water security achieved. As a reward, the government has given the communities a select cotton seed which could increase profit from the harvest by 30% in 2001. Already one hundred and thirty-four hectares of land rented by the members of CBO *Bereket* are planted with the seeds. It is anticipated that in the fall they will yield a benefit of more than 400,000 manats/ton of harvested cotton. Q2/01

NGO Finds Solution to Combat Water Shortage

In the year 2000, the lack of water in the Amu-Darya river, which is the primary water-way for the Dashoguz region, led to a lack of irrigation water for agricultural needs and consequently to low harvest output and high prices for products in local markets. The drought also severely reduced the amount of drinking water in rural areas. Most of the population has no other access to drinking water other than ditches and wells. It is predicted that this situation may recur for the next three years requiring immediate interventions to avoid a serious health and environmental disaster. The drought situation was a topic during a meeting of the "Discussion Club" of the Dashoguz CSSC. As an alternative way to access water, the NGO *Agrokhimik*, which works with farmers in Dashoguz velayet, proposed using underground water to irrigate farming fields in 20 farms. Following the discussion CSSC staff assisted the NGO in the design of a proposal for $3,860 that was subsequently funded by the Canadian Local Initiative Fund. Through the project 13 hectares of agricultural fields were irrigated impacting 20 farming households, and providing clean drinking water to 350-450 village dwellers living in the Tagta area. Q2/01

Gold Medal Raises Acceptance of Handicapped in Turkmenistan

Counterpart assisted the *Turkmenistan Special Olympics Committee* to prepare documents for 13 mentally handicapped members of Turkmen's floor hockey team to attend the Winter Special Olympics in Anchorage, Alaska. Once the complicated process of applying to the Games was complete, the organization was up against the obstacle of raising $20,000 for travel and accommodations. Through perseverance and fundraising, they were able to convince the Mayor's Office of Ashgabad City to sponsor the full amount of the trip, which culminated in a gold medal victory that was documented in three local newspapers and international press. The Turkmen press put handicapped athletes on the same page as Turkmenistan's boxing and wrestling champions at the Sydney Olympic Games. The victory has raised the status of disabled athletes and the leaders of the Special Olympics Committee have already pledged assistance to send athletes to next year's games. Upon return from the games, the team members were each awarded gifts of sports equipment from the Ministry of Education and the boarding school where they live and study was awarded a computer. Q2/01

Linking Resources to Support Children At-Risk

The Turkmen Ministry of Internal Affairs manages a temporary shelter for 30 abandoned children, street children, and runaways. The state then determines whether they can go back to their homes, or places them in orphanages. In the past, the shelter was closed with no access to people from outside. This practice isolated the children and stunted their development. A year ago, a group of NGO representatives from five NGOs learned about the shelter in a Counterpart training activity and decided to approach its Director to request permission to extend their activities to the at-risk children living there. Thus began a series of educational, psychological and medical visits to the children by a group of volunteers from the NGOs. The Shelter staff now embraces the assistance from the outside and recently celebrated "World Children's Defense Day" with an event co-sponsored by the *Red Crescent Society*. Additional sponsors included Counterpart, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ashgabad Hakimlik and four other NGOs. A staff member stated "We have about thirty children from 3 to 18 years old here and your kind support has made them feel like valuable members of society. The shelter is no longer a place where children are hidden from the outside." Now there is a structure of support consisting of six NGOs targeting children that voluntarily assist the shelter regularly through: counseling, instruction in methodologies for educating disadvantaged children, searches for families, provision of humanitarian assistance, and medical consultations. One NGO attracted $3900 from the Know How Fund following the event, resulting in the renovation of space to create a ceramic and painting workshop for the children. Q2/01

Uchgun Partners with UNICEF on Sanitation Education in Schools

Uchgun has grown from a small local CBO of three midwives in a rural village of Dashoguz to a full-fledged contracting partner with international organizations in less than two years working with Counterpart. Members have been trained in a variety of capacity building modules as well as Community Health, Developing Training Model of Water and Sanitation, and Training Methodology. *Uchgun* works in rural communities of Turkmenbashy etrap with poor drinking water and a high frequency of water born infectious diseases. The CBO conducts training on safe hygiene practices among villagers and high school students. This CBO developed capacity managing projects through two separate grants from Counterpart. Counterpart showcased their efforts during many donor community health roundtables last year resulting in a $1,500 Counterpart subcontract to implement a training component of the UNICEF "Water and Sanitation-3 Project". They conducted training in participatory self-management of school infrastructure and health and hygiene in 100 schools during 2000. This June, *Uchgun* was awarded its first direct contract of $1,200 from UNICEF to replicate their work in the "Water and Sanitation-4 Project". The are planning to conduct 13 training sessions at 20 schools, including 200 participants drawn from the Board of Education, school Directors, Steering Committees, and Parent Committees. *Uchgun*'s health training is unique in that it combines educational exercises with methodology promoting democratic decision-making and accountability for resources to its target groups. Q2/01

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

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

- Assistance to 17,300 members of large families, disabled and deaf people in Dashoguz velayet under the Food Provision Program for the Aral Sea Disaster Zone, in conjunction with the American Red Cross and the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Society.
- Electronic fundraising helped a disabled man to access sponsors who gave $3,000 towards an operation.

- Public information campaign on international humanitarian law for representatives of local government authorities and school directors throughout Turkmenistan. In all, 10 seminars were carried out for 60 participants drawing from resources downloaded from the Internet.
- Distribution of over 1,000 copies of informational materials about the activities of the Turkmen Red Crescent Society to international media sources.
- Coordination of 20 meetings of the National Red Crescent Society, including participation of 20 international representatives from 15 different countries in Europe and Asia. Q1/01

NGO Harnesses Resources for Fellow Eco-NGOs

Turkmenistan's Eco-NGO leaders are learning how to diversify their activities and attract resources to Turkmenistan. One Counterpart Contract Trainer from the *Commonwealth of ECO NGOs* recently visited Kazakhstan to take part in a Regional ISAR Expert Commission meeting. During her trip, she became acquainted with the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) based in Almaty. She used the skills gained in Fundraising training to invite the CIDA representative to Turkmenistan and they jointly planned a meeting of Eco-NGOs that took place the following month. During that meeting, CIDA solicited proposals for its small grant competition. As a result, seven of Counterpart's former grantees were assisted by the programming team to design proposals for CIDA's grant program. All seven proposals from Ecological NGOs were approved, bringing $12,780 in funds to Turkmenistan. Q2/01

Initiative in Action

During Soviet times, the term volunteer was applied to mandatory service, which has made the western concept of volunteerism a difficult concept for Turkmen NGOs. In order to address the need for more broad-based awareness of the role of volunteers in NGO work, Counterpart developed and conducted a new training module. Upon return from the Regional TOT on "How to Work with Volunteers in an NGO" training, Counterpart initiated a student *Volunteer Club* at the Polytechnic Institute of Turkmenistan. Within a month the Club was offered rooms to use free of charge from the Institute and began immediately to plan their first Fundraising Action - a "Charity Ball". The activity was planned and executed through volunteers and resulted in raising $110 from a combination of baked goods and handicraft sales. The *Volunteer Club* used the funds to purchase warm clothes and boots for children in the Ashgabat Orphanage. Five students from the Institute joined the club as permanent members. Q1/01

GEO Inspires Communities to Take a Stand on Litter

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

- A resolution on the Aarhaus Convention principles was submitted by the NGO group to the Ministry Nature Protection, listing violations of the convention, and recommending steps to end the violations.
- For the first time, NGOs, international organizations and representatives of the Ministry of Nature Protection arrived at joint decisions in an open public forum.
- The garbage dump on the highway was closed and the local municipal authorities are re-designing their strategy of waste management in the most effected etraps. Q1/01

WUA Moves Forward Through Successful Fundraising

Counterpart has spent the last two years fostering the establishment of the Water User's Association in the Dashoguz region. As a result of the grassroots approach and thanks to critical social partnerships with government structures at the village, etrap and oblast levels, the Association grew to a staff of 5, and now successfully provides service delivery to 33 water committees in 22 villages of the etrap, reaching over 11,000 people (1/2 of the etrap population). The Association graduated from Counterpart program support in January of 2001 and is in the process of being registered with the new name of WUA *Sarygamysh*. Once the WUA localized, its members began in-depth consultations with the Dashoguz Support Center to identify sources of funding that would allow them to continue their mini-grant revolving fund scheme. Within a two-month period, *Sarygamysh* drafted and revised project proposals for submission to various donors. As a result, the Canadian Embassy of Moscow (CIDA) sponsored them with a grant in the amount of $1,950 to provide mini-grants, enabling the WUA to expand its water delivery to more communities and to increase its membership base. This revolving fund is the basis of the current income-generation scheme of *Sarygamysh* and their successful project design and fundraising efforts reflect their commitment financial sustainability and expansion of services. Q1/01

Help to NGOs Seeking Practical Legal Information for Vulnerable in Society

During the past year, a unique initiative group began to participate in Counterpart's trainings. *Sahy* has organized around the needs of underprivileged members of society. The NGO discovered after working with the poor that one of their major needs is access to concrete legal information. To bridge this information gap, the NGO approached the Ashgabat Resource Center Manager with a project idea to develop a series of seminars in response to the most common legal questions asked by their constituents. As the Phase 3 grant program hadn't begun, Counterpart's programming team referred *Sahy* to the US Embassy Democracy Fund and assisted the group to develop a project proposal that was submitted to the Fund and subsequently funded. In the framework of the grant, *Sahy* conducts monthly seminars that incorporate the interactive adult learning environment they attribute to Counterpart training. Seven seminars have already been successfully conducted and *Sahy* has invited experts from different government structures to speak on concrete legal rights. The Russian embassy provides free space to hold the seminars on such issues as: housing codes; conflicts; labor code; migrant status; dual citizenship; Turkmen citizenship; passport changes and social services. To date, 152 people have received information and advice through the NGO's efforts. Q1/01

Dedicated NGO Helps Children Learn about Ecology

NGOs working in ecological education are many of the most professional and experienced Turkmen organizations. At the same time, many of them do not have developed membership structures, resulting in a stunted beneficiary base. Following Counterpart's constituency building training and a series of consultation visits, *Green Team* carried out four types of activities to attract volunteers. For example, through targeting pre-school and elementary schoolchildren *Green Team* discovered that no curricula related to ecological education exist in the current system for these age groups. In order to fill that gap, the NGO recruited 15 university students and 3 lecturers to volunteer their time to implement an ecology program in 5 Ashgabat pre-schools. The NGO simultaneously attracted 8 parents to assist in the program as volunteers, by involving them in the preparation of handouts, selection of themes and lobbying of school directors. Through these voluntary efforts, *Green Team* and volunteers organized and carried out three ecological holidays and contests at three nursery schools. They plan to continue to work through parents and teachers to extend the reach of these interactive eco-activities. Currently, the NGO is developing a membership structure scheme to help volunteers graduate to members. Q1/01

NGO as Alternative Energy Source
Isolation and lack of access to informational resources is one of the main problems facing residents of the small city of Seidi, Turkmenistan. The initiative group *Arzuv* decided to take on the challenge of bridging this information gap and received funding support from Counterpart for a computer, printer and modem as a first step towards increasing access to information. Over a six-month period, this initiative group, composed of teachers from the local high school, published and distributed 24 different types of newsletters, booklets, methodological materials, and fact sheets to more than 4000 people (25% of the total population). Thanks to the efforts of *Arzuv*, citizens from all walks of life received informational materials on such subjects as civic education, ecology, and drug abuse. The effect on the local population is evidenced in the subsequent involvement of over 600 people in two activities organized by the NGO, a drug abuse awareness campaign and an environmental protection action. These activities elicited the attention of the local hakimlik, the local department of the Ministry of Education and the Kugitanski Nature Preserve, all which pledged their interest in carrying-out future joint activities. Q1/01

Yashil Expands Constituency through Publication
The dissemination of information through media sources is a challenging task in Turkmenistan. Local NGOs have thus resorted to developing and mass-producing their own internal publications. Utilizing financial support from ISAR and technical training from Counterpart in "Public Education through the Media" and "Newsletter Development," the ecological club *Yashil* published a book of classroom lectures/exercises on Caspian Sea issues entitled, The Caspian Yesterday and Today in Turkmen and Russian languages. Eighty copies of the book were distributed among NGOs, Ministries of Education and Environment, Institutes, and schools in Ashgabat, Balkanabat and Dashoguz cities. *Yashil* has received favorable feedback from UNDP's Caspian and Biodiversity programs. It is now being used by these two programs as a practical base from which to train school children and was presented at the UNDP's Conference on Caspian Biodiversity. Due to the high demand for the content, ISAR has decided to print a second run of the book and is considering expanding the content to include information about other countries bordering the Caspian Sea. Q1/01

NGO Serves as the Bridge Between Community and Donors
Counterpart grantee *Ceik Ocara*, which targets refugee communities in Turkmenistan, has entered into a new stage of development. Together with UNHCR Counterpart has continually targeted this NGO with training and participation in regional events to build their skills in refugee focused activities. They are currently experts in assessment of refugee needs. Last year UNHCR received a request from the Medical Department of Lebap province to assist them to procure 30 types of medical equipment for five medical points in areas where refugees are settled. In response, UNHCR involved *Ceik Ocara* to reassess the refugee needs in those areas. After a stakeholder analysis was concluded among NGOs, medical points and refugee communities, it was decided not to equip the medical points as was requested but to redirect the request to the central medical hospitals in those areas in order for access to be broadened to more refugee communities. As a result, 17 items of medical equipment in demand among refugee communities have been delivered and will serve not only the refugees, but also the local population surrounding those refugee communities – thus fostering their integration into local communities. Q1/01

Mobilizing Local Resources to Expand Opportunities to Beneficiaries
The NGO *Family, Mercy and Health* learned through their own experience that it is very difficult to attract sponsors to finance long-term programs. NGO members who have worked with Counterpart indicated they have learned that it is necessary to develop resources beyond project-specific funding in order to enhance organizational sustainability. In September, the NGO launched a vocational training/fee-for-service program for orphans or children from vulnerable families. At the end of a three-month period, 40 girls and 60 boys were developing skills in woodworking and sewing. Currently, hand-made items prepared during classes are sold by the NGO and the profit is spent on materials for the workshops. Total input to organization was 8,425,000 manats ($1,589) over two-months. Highlights include:

- In two months, the workshop products have earned 625,000 manats ($117)
- The classes are lead by five specialists who have worked on a voluntary basis for the past two months resulting in an in-kind contribution of 4 million manats ($754).
- Over the two-month program, seven former volunteers and beneficiaries have become full-fledged members of the NGO.
- As a sign of organizational unity, NGO members and volunteers from the student groups voluntarily repaired all of the old furniture in the NGO's office saving the NGO $566.
- Members and volunteers renovated two of the NGO's offices, saving 800,000 manats ($151).
- Total input to organization was 8,425,000 manats ($1589) over two-months. Q4/00

Volunteer-base Improves NGO Outputs

Volunteerism strategies are rarely used by Turkmen NGOs, especially those in remote areas. For the past year, the NGO *Triera*, a Counterpart grantee, has been implementing a project to establish an information center for people with hemophilia and hematological diseases. With only a few permanent staff members, *Triera's* leadership was not satisfied with their ability to provide services to a large enough percentage of office visitors. Through consultations provided by Dashoguz Civil Society Support Center over a 5-month span, members of *Triera* built skills to recruit volunteers. As a result, there are nine permanent volunteers contributing time and resources to the NGO. These volunteers are engaged in the following activities to support *Triera*: preparing for meetings and round tables; translating, copying and distributing informational materials; attracting new members and identifying beneficiaries through community outreach; contributing to the NGOs newsletter, "Pulse"; and recruiting donors for blood transfusions and blood banks. As a result, the quantity of services provided by Triera has doubled since their project began in November of 1999. Q4/00

NGO's Initiate Social Partnerships and Share Experience

Though the third sector is young, Turkmen NGOs are gaining experience in incorporating relationships with government officials and institutions into their programmatic activities in the form of Social Partnerships. Among the NGOs with experience and skills forging such activities is Counterpart grantee *Cheshme*. In order to achieve their project objectives regarding the reintroduction of eco-education in schools, the first goal was to expand and strengthen the linkages and relationships with governmental organizations. Project objectives required permission for joint activities between 5 schools, the Department of National Education (GORONO), the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Environment. One the best examples of the project's successes is the joint drafting of a 9 month work plan of ecological activities for schools, completed by GORONO and *Cheshme*. In the workplan, it was agreed by the national government that the NGO and selected teachers would conduct six eco-educational measures – contests, lessons, seminars, and actions –in 50 schools. Thus, the NGO's project was expanded from 5 schools to 50 as a result of positive relationships with local government. Currently, there is no ecological curriculum in the primary and secondary school system, making the result of this social partnership one of the only examples of ecological curriculum at this level. Q4/00

Local NGO Promotes Third Sector in Balkan Region

Two years ago in Turkmenbashi city of Balkan Oblast there were only two known NGOs – one working with disabled and the other focusing on ecology. Since then, the *Ymut Center of Turkmenbashi City* has expanded its mission to include the promotion of initiative groups in the Balkan region, leading to the formation of at least seven new groups since 1998. Building on technical assistance provided by Counterpart, the Center has become the first Turkmen NGO to organize a national conference entitled: "NGOs in Turkmenbashi City and their Role in Democratic Civil Society." NGOs and initiatives groups, international organizations, businesses and local government structures jointly spoke about the role of civil society organizations and presented examples of social partnership in the Balkan region. This event reflects increased capacity building of the NGO organizer. Conference highlights include:

- 18 NGOs reported that they gained experience in fundraising from Counterpart, which contributed to their joint fundraising of approximately $15,000 over the last year.
- Three Counterpart Contract Trainers volunteered their time ($60) to facilitate the Conference, reflecting an advanced appreciation for collaborative activities to strengthen the sector.
- The Deputy Hakim in Charge of Social Welfare said that it is "very important for government to work with NGOs as they assist in the provision of social services to the disabled and retired people, relieving some of the pressure from government to satisfy the demand for services." Q4/00

Communities Pool Resources and Pass on Benefits

In order to alleviate the financial burden of building a community-owned and managed cistern in the villages serviced by the USAID water plant in Turkmenbashi etrap of Dashoguz, the Water Users' Association Project introduced a "mini-grant" program two years ago. The program focused on voluntary mobilization of community resources in the form of time, labor and cash. Now at its conclusion, 13,234 residents are enjoying a daily supply of clean drinking water that is stored and distributed fairly and safely at the village level. Over the course of the program:

- Local residents contributed more than $8500; the project contributed $17,500.
- 35 five-person water committees (175 volunteers) are actively managing their local cisterns and attending regular meetings at the village and etrap levels
- The 139 cisterns are maintained and supervised by 278 caretakers (1 primary caretaker with an alternate) on a daily basis. These volunteers unlock the cistern for filling by water trucks and are directly responsible for the accurate and safe distribution to local member residents. Q4/00

Local Archin Joins the Ranks

Although only 12% of the population of Turkmenbashi etrap gets its drinking water through the Water Users' Association (WUA) Project, local authorities and communities are quickly recognizing the utility of the association's activities to secure a safe supply of drinking water. Recently the Archin (Deputy Farm Chief) of one of the largest collective farms in the area called the WUA Project office repeatedly asking that a representative come and explain the purpose of the organization. Since then the WUA staff has held several community meetings in that village and residents are well on their way to successfully building a community serdop and receiving drinking water. This result is significant because:

- The Deputy Archin has stated that working through the WUA is the only realistic way of getting drinking water to the village;
- The Deputy Archin's call was in response to continued pressure by the village residents to explain why they were not receiving drinking water like other neighboring villages;
- The Deputy Archin himself sought out members of a nearby water committee to learn how they solved their drinking water problem and to get contact information about WUA; and
- After opening the first village meeting with WUA staff, the Deputy Archin then sat in the audience as a local resident raising his hand to ask questions, listening to local residents' concerns and allowing an open community decision making process to take hold. Q4/00

NGOs Team Up with Exxon-Mobile to Assist Schools

The insufficient degree of interaction between parents, teachers and children, and the lack of material resources in some schools and kindergartens inhibits innovative and interactive teaching activities. Counterpart Consortium in partnership with Exxon Mobil developed three projects in Ashgabad and Balkanabat cities to benefit child development and provide material resources to schools. Seven local NGOs were sub-contracted on the projects, to organize and facilitate periodic meetings with parents, teachers, and students from each school. As a result, each school formed a steering committee to oversee the development of supply requests and to take responsibility for the installation and monitoring of equipment use. After only one and a half months of work:

- 7 NGOs have improved their outreach to targeted communities and increased their constituencies.

- The sub-contracting fees on the project generated over $100 in fees for 7 NGOs.
- $33,000 in equipment and goods was presented to 14 schools, orphanages and kindergartens.
- Parent/Teacher Committees emerged to work on activities in 9 target schools.
- The Directors of five of the schools stated that without the involvement of the NGOs and the discussion generated by the steering committees, the choice of equipment would not have reflected the needs and there would have been no system for monitoring the use of the equipment.
- The equipment contributed to the effective development of over 1411 children in schools and orphanages in Ashgabat and Bakkanabat. Q4/00

Together to Development

There are approximately 50 ecology NGOs active in Turkmenistan, the majority of which are in the capital. These NGOs have identified the lack of interaction and coordination within their sector as a major constraint to the development of eco-NGOs. They noted cooperation with NGOs located in the regions as a particular problem. As a result of Counterpart training in Association Development and Project Design, as well as participation in meetings facilitated by Counterpart, 13 ecological NGOs joined forces in February 2000 to create the *Commonwealth of Ecological Noncommercial Organizations*. Using the Counterpart project design model, the Commonwealth received a grant from the Democracy Fund to open an information center and information clearinghouse for members of ecological organizations. As a result:

- More than 250 NGO members have received consultations and information on the third sector, legislation and ecology.
- 15 NGOs have received literature for their offices
- 6 NGOs have received consultations on ecological project design.
- Membership has doubled from February to December of 2000 to 30 member organizations. Q4/00

NGO Promotes Innovative Farming Development

The transition to a market economy in Turkmenistan is characterized by the need for new approaches to agricultural development. Turkmenistan's topography and environmental factors have lead to difficulties with crops such as field erosion and insufficient water. The initiative group *Farmer's Eco-School* has implemented a public education program for farmers in the framework of its grant. Two members of the organization were also certified as trainers, and have already begun to effectively practice their facilitation skills with their beneficiaries through the following types of activities:

- By holding 9 meetings with 200 people, the initiative group was able to assemble the local farming collectives to jointly discuss their problems and share resources to resolve disputes.
- After discussing materials distributed by the *Club*, 17 families decided to switch to new agro-technical and biologically safe methods of combating agricultural pests instead of expensive chemical ones. The group saved between $45-$75per hectare.
- 9 families rotated their crops between vegetables, wheat and cotton instead of the common practice of planting the same crop each year. The result was a yield increase averaging 45% this year. Q4/00

Resolving Ecological Issues Together

Turkmen NGOs face many challenges related to the opportunity to exchange experiences with their colleagues in the region. The communications system is antiquated and the visa regime in Turkmenistan strongly limits the mobility of Turkmen NGOs and foreign NGO visitors to Turkmenistan. *Cheshme*, a Counterpart grantee focusing on ecological education for the past 8 years, recently sent one member to visit the well-established Moscow based Russian NGO, *Social-Economical Unity*. The trip was planned within the framework of a Counterpart project and *Cheshme* was the only Turkmen NGO represented at the 6th International Conference on Ecological Education. As a result:

- The *Cheshme* representative entered the working group on Ecological Education in Institutes of Higher Education;

- *Cheshme* was included in a database on CIS eco-NGOs and is now receiving and disseminating ecological news to other Turkmen Eco-NGOs.
- *Cheshme* was awarded five rare books and other eco-education literature;
- *Cheshme* has established contacts with two renowned Russian universities and has identified projects for future collaboration. Q3/00

NGO Extends Credit to Worthy Projects

For the first time in Turkmenistan an NGO is working on a small micro-credit program. The American community in Ashgabad created a memorial fund for an American woman who lost her life while on assignment in the region and awarded Counterpart Consortium grantee, NGO *Keik Okara* with $800 to administer the projects developed by local communities to start their own businesses. The small fund is designed to target community initiatives that specifically relate to women and children. The fund includes 6% monthly interest of which 3% is an administrative fee for the NGO. The remaining 3% is to be folded into a revolving fund to continue the credit for other communities. In April 2000 four six-month project proposals presented by the local refugee community were supported as a result of the micro-credit solicitation announced by the NGO. Two groups of women-artisans received a total of $400 for two projects to produce hand-sewn clothing. $300 was awarded to a group to open a consumer goods shop and $100 was awarded to a group of Afghan refugee women to start a cafeteria. After only four months the local communities had already returned $200, which was disbursed to two additional groups of artisans. These results have solidified the American community's confidence in the NGO's competency to manage the micro credit program and they are now considering awarding them another grant for small business development ideas. Q3/00

Local Authorities Endorse WUA Activities

In a country where the government officially claims to be able to meet all the needs of it citizens, local authorities have come to recognize the benefit of social partnership, a cornerstone of the Water Users' Association project of Turkmenbashi etrap. The Association, which will become a localized operation in January 2001, is providing drinking water on a fee-for-service basis to 6,000 local residents with three water trucks received from USAID and the New Zealand Embassy. In a recent village meeting, the local five-person water committee asked their chairman of the farmers' union (the person who is responsible for the welfare of the all residents of the farm) why their community water cistern had stood empty for a month. His response clearly endorsed the role of NGOs in his community. He replied that the members of the community cisterns should choose the water users' association truck if they really want to receive drinking water. He said that government could not provide delivery because of the lack of trucks, spare parts and ability to meet the great demand. Such support from local authorities has contributed to a waiting list of 3,000 additional residents who would like to join the association to better secure a safe and clean supply of drinking water in their village. Q3/00

NGOs from Three Regions Link on Project Bringing Orphans to the Seashore

Inter-sectoral partnerships are one significant indicator of the level of development of NGOs. Turkmen NGOs are "young" and do not yet have sufficient experience building long-term partnerships and using strategic planning for this goal. The idea of organizing a Summer Camp for the children of the Nebitdag orphanage brought together six NGOs from three oblasts – *Gunorta* (Nebitdag), *Yashil* (Ahal), *Young Cheetahs* (Dashoguz), *Young Geologists*(Ahal), *Civil Dignity*(Ahal), and *Dzhan* (Ahal). After four months of thoughtful and coordinated planning efforts, the group of NGOs carried-out a two-week Summer Camp at the beach for 50 children from the *Nebitdag* orphanage. The group attributed their success largely to the networking and skill-building they learned through Counterpart Consortium trainings such as Social Partnership, Team building, Newsletter development, and Public Education through the Media. The Program that was developed for the Summer Camp consisted of four parts: ecological games; basics of civic education; journalism; and science activities. Q3/00

Management Board Organized by 26 Communities Advocating for Safe Drinking Water
Before the Water Users' Association Project began its work in Turkmenbashi etrap of Dashoguz velayet, there was no end-user involvement in the design and management of the delivery system for getting drinking water to local villages served by the USAID-funded Reverse Osmosis Water Plant. Over the past two months, residents in 26 communities selected a total of 45 delegates to attend a special Association meeting at which they elected by secret ballot a 9-person Management Board. The Board is the first of its kind in Turkmenistan for a public utility. The 2 women and 7 men will go through a five part orientation to better understand their responsibilities, rights and authority in the overall management of the Association which now operates three trucks serving more than 8,000 users. In November they will report back to the general meeting on what they have learned and what their vision is for the future budget, directorship and expansion opportunities of the Association. Q3/00

WUA Unites Villagers to Expand Access to Clean Water
Since the USAID-funded Water Plant opened in 1995, the 300 people of Gin Yandak located 50 km from the plant never received delivery of water. They were not even aware that they were entitled to a supply of 5 liters per person per day until they contacted the WUA staff to visit their village. After working with WUA, a group of 200 local residents built two community serdops but still did not receive water. Residents requested the WUA staff accompany them to the water plant to raise this issue directly with the management. The residents learned during the visit that the water truck to fill their cistern indeed left the water plant and entered the collective farm but was redirected to private cisterns by the local farm chief. The residents then approached the farm chief directly to make their case that their cistern should be filled first because they were involved in the WUA Project and had the backing of the water plant. The community now receives regular deliveries and the members of the local water committee have become very active in the Association. One of their committee members was elected to the Managing Board in early September. Q3/00

WUA Sets Standard for Safe Water Storage and Community Organizing
Safe and organized delivery, storage and distribution of drinking water in villages served by the USAID-funded reverse osmosis water plant has been a challenge since it opened in 1995. To help alleviate these problems at the community level, the Water Users' Association (WUA) Project opened activities in 1999. One component of the project is mini-grants to build cisterns that are community-owned (51%) and community-managed. To date 97 community cisterns have been built. Recently local health authorities adopted the WUA cistern design as their official standard because it keeps the water safe from contamination, does not freeze in winter, stays cool in summer and is replenished regularly. At a recent association meeting the attending health inspector identified the greatest factor contributing the success of the cistern design is the effective self-management of the cistern by the community members. As a result, the local health authorities are encouraging other communities to contact the water users' association staff to facilitate community-organizing activities in their villages. Q3/00

Unity Solves Problems
Counterpart grantee the *Water Users' Association Bereket* formed a year ago to support 163 peasant land renters who faced difficulties receiving enough water for their land because of the inefficiency of the existing water delivery system. Over the last three months, *Bereket* has constructed four check gates along the water canal, thereby improving the existing water distribution system and extending water delivery. As a result of this activity, a neighboring renter community of 93 peasant families joined the Association. The Association successfully received $5,708 from the US Embassy Democracy Commission in Ashgabat to extend the program begun under the Counterpart grant to accommodate the increase in membership – now 265 members strong. Women members of the Association, witnessing the achievements of the group, formed another group called *Chinar* to carry out activities on village water and sanitation issues. With the assistance of WUA *Bereket* they worked out their charter, strategy for next steps, fundraising, and constituency building. Q3/00

Putting Skills to Practice Pays Off

Financial sustainability is one of the most problematic questions facing Turkmen NGOs. Generally, NGOs attempt to attract financial and other support from international agencies, organizations or funds, and to a lesser degree from commercial and governmental structures. Special Olympics Committee and Social Adaptation Center *Umyt* of Turkmenbashi City are two unusual Turkmen NGOs who have learned to put their training to the test and practice their skills. Over the past year alone, these NGOs have jointly held 12 community meetings, 5 round table discussions and nine focus groups. Through these efforts, the membership of both organizations has increased fourfold. In the last 6-month period, 2 million manat ($385) was generated by *Umyt Center* and 9.5 million manat ($1,827) from Special Olympics. The number of volunteers in each organization also increased to 37 in the former and 43 in the latter. Q3/00

Turkmen NGOs as Implementing Partners of UNHCR

Three years ago there were no NGOs in Turkmenistan working on refugee issues. Since then, 16 organizations, which have been actively involved with Counterpart as grantees, have learned how to manage projects effectively and are currently receiving financial assistance from UNHCR for follow-on projects to expand their work under their original Counterpart grants to include refugees. In the past year alone, ten local NGOs have been awarded grants totaling $110,000 in areas of education, ecology, legal counseling, and reproductive health. Three of these NGOs have been contracted by UNHCR to conduct assessments in refugee communities for UNCHR health projects after receiving training in PRA from Counterpart. In addition, this quarter two NGOs have been accredited under the UNHCR CIS Conference (totaling 6 Turkmen NGOs with this status). Q2/00

Defending the Right to Be Like Others

At the end of 1998, the Orthopedic Factory of Ashgabad, which is the only Turkmen institution to produce artificial limbs, reduced its capacity by 50%. Production ceased in mid 1999 leaving 8,000 disabled people in Turkmenistan to seek alternative solutions for prosthetics. The Disabled Union, a grantee of Counterpart, received hundreds of visits and letters requesting assistance to locate sources for purchasing artificial limbs. The NGO began an advocacy campaign by writing letters to the Ministry of Health and Medical Industry as well as the Orthopedic Factory on behalf of its beneficiaries. The leaders met regularly with representatives from government agencies to lobby for reinstating the production of prosthetics. As a result of six months of campaigning, the Ministry of Health identified a funding base to justify a directive to the Orthopedic Factory to gradually resume the production of artificial limbs. This effort resulted in 7 disabled people from across the country have received new artificial limbs, saving them 75% off of the world market price to order such a prosthetic from Moscow. Q2/00

Modern Means of Communication Reach Turkmen NGOs

Technical and financial constraints as well as to the absence of strong technological skills have limited the access of most Turkmen NGOs to most modern sources of information and communications such as e-mail and Internet. For six months, Counterpart Consortium has been offering free e-mail and Internet connections to 48 Turkmen NGOs, including 17 grantees. With assistance from the Embassy of Great Britain's *DFID Small Grant's Scheme* Counterpart leased a line enabling 24-hour access to the Internet, thereby expanding NGOs' use of the Internet. Additional results include:

- Internet traffic has quadrupled since higher-speed connections have been installed on two servers.
- The number of NGOs using the Internet has doubled to 80 in a four-month period.
- As a result training sessions on e-mail and Internet use, 52 NGO representatives possess basic Internet skills.
- Through announcements on the Internet and e-mail listserves, 15 NGOs have participated in seminars and conferences abroad. Cyber-contact has also lead to the visits of 5 partners organizations from America, England, Russian and Kazakhstan and relationships have been established between Turkmen NGOs and 125 foreign groups. Q 2/00

Ecological NGO Wins State Trust through Promotion of Results

During the past four years the Turkmen ecological NGOs and initiative groups have gradually built positive relations with governmental structures. This was a result of the NGOs ability to continually demonstrate their comparative advantages, be well received by constituents, and their compatibility with government policies. As a result of their Counterpart Consortium funded projects, nine ecological organizations have shown a high level of potential and professionalism, enabling them to establish trust and credibility with government institutions. Various government representatives have heralded the concrete results of activities carried out by the NGOs as the foremost reason why various state structures are continually turning to NGOs to help them resolve issues. Public officials have referred to the professionalism of these NGOs, and their ability to effectively articulate the results of their work through roundtables and newsletters as the main contributor to a new "understanding" of NGO activities in the ecological sector.

- Over the past two years, ecological NGOs have executed 5 projects in partnership with governmental organizations that resulted in: two national conferences; one resolution presented to the National Curriculum Board; more than 15 roundtables and seminars; and more than 50 issues of newsletters reaching over 8,000 people.
- The Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources recently rewarded seven Eco NGOs with letters of acknowledgement and books on environmental issues for their outstanding public education activities on the protection of the environment.
- During a seminar on social partnership between Eco-NGOs and government, the representative of GORONO (Municipal government of national education) highly praised the activities of ecological organizations, citing specific examples of Eco-NGOs participation in the National Curriculum Development plans. She said that such interaction was unprecedented, considering the NGOs involved were unregistered, and also called for more public forums to discuss relevant issues. Q2/00

Making the Most of Internet Resources

It is critical for NGOs to take advantage of promotional and informational resources. Representatives from the NGO *UNICOM*, an organization dedicated to expanding access to trivia for intellectual competitions to teenagers in Turkmenistan, has participated in many training activities conducted by Counterpart Consortium including Information Resources of the Internet. One member became so interested that he was trained as a trainer in this module and has assisted over 30 other NGO representatives understand how to benefit from the Internet. As a result, the NGO now publishes the Web page What? Where? and When? through the *Association of Moscow Clubs* web site. This is one of the first Internet sites published by a Turkmen NGO, providing the NGO with an opportunity to share its newsletter online, to be linked with additional web sites and to be easily located by interested organizations and individuals. They are now aware of events and activities relevant to their activities, and have attracted ten more participants to the competitions of their organization. Organizations in St. Petersburg and Odessa are sending information to UNICOM for posting. The web page is one of 20 sites on the international "webring" at **http://www.chgk.msk.ru/history/2000/achg_press/gazeta.htm**. Q2/00

Counterpart Partners with local NGO on UNICEF program

NGOs and CBOs located in the regions of Turkmenistan were largely isolated from access to financial resources prior to Counterpart's start-up in 1997. With the opening of the first regional Support Center in Dashoguz in 1998, Counterpart was able to identify several potential organizations working in rural areas of the region. Special training sessions were organized to give the NGOs in Dashoguz a head start in project management and design. The proximity to the Water User's Project enabled Counterpart staff to become directly involved in training activities and transfer of skills to those few NGOs located in the villages targeted by the WUA project. As a result, one NGO, *Uchgun*, has surfaced as a capable project implementer and fundraiser. The initiative of this NGO is evidenced in its participation in such advanced trainings as fundraising, constituency building and newsletter development which resulted in the following:

- *Uchgun* sub-contracted by Counterpart in the amount of $1500 for the hygeine education portion of part 3 of the UNICEF Water and Sanitation Project.
- *Uchgun* was recently awarded a Peace Corps mini grant in the amount of $2000 to carry-out a dental hygeine project Q2/00

NGOs Reach Out Through Media

The ability to publish information regarding the activities of NGOs is a rare phenomenon in Turkmenistan, especially for non-registered organizations. Nonetheless, there is a strong effort made from the NGO sector to disseminate information on activities in order to broaden the public interest in NGO activities as well as to interest potential members and volunteers. Working under a Counterpart grant, the NGO *Green Team* has carried out an ecological education campaign that successfully utilized mass media outlets. The publications included 7 issues of informational booklets on 7 ecological themes distributed to over 1200 students; 5 issues of information bulletins distributed in Turkmen and Russian to over 500; people and a record 16 articles published in Turkmen newspapers over the course of their project. As a result of these publications the NGO experienced an: Increase in membership by 7 members; expanded beneficiary base, broadened to 18 schools in Ashgabad that receive publications; and expansion of NGOs activities to include ecological events in the Koitendag and Baherden regions of the country in addition to three kindergartens and one orphanage. Q 2/00

Ripples in the Lake of Civic Education

In Turkmenistan, although there is a growing public demand for civic education and information, there is yet no state program. In response, Counterpart grantee *Civil Dignity* has conducted 47 seminars on 14 civic education topics over the last 10 months. In total, the NGO conducted 20 more seminars than planned under their grant project to meet the demand from other NGOs and students to acquire information. 35 of the trainings were for youth and 12 for an adult audience, totaling 297 participants from four regions of Turkmenistan. 10 adults and 5 young trainers were trained as trainers and have already conducted 14 trainings for 196 participants. In addition, two initiative groups have formed in the cities of Dashoguz and Turkmenbashi in hopes of developing civic education in their communities. One seminar model was translated into Turkmen for free by a teacher who decided to extend the training to her students. She has used the materials to conduct four trainings for 34 participants from the Agro-business School in Turkmenabad and remote villages of Lebap velayat. Two NGOs in Ashgabad have also incorporated elements of the *Civil Dignity* training into their own activities. As a result of excellent work and outreach to its constituency, the NGO expanded its beneficiary base to three additional regions of Turkmenistan and recruited 15 volunteers to follow-up on civic. Q 2/00

NGO Becomes More Independent and Sustainable

NGOs in Turkmenistan have expressed great demand for increased skills in fundraising, project management and design; all of which are important building blocks for institutional development. These skills become more critical as the requirement for NGOs to demonstrate their financial sustainability grows. Grantee *Annageldy* has been working with Counterpart Consortium Turkmenistan since June of 1998 and has received a package of services including training in areas such as fundraising, project design, and development of a TTAP, with a focus on financial sustainability and fundraising. Having obtained those skills, the NGO applied to several donors for a grant funding, including the British "Know How" Fund, which granted them $9,000 for computer equipment, office furniture and some medical equipment for HIV/AIDS diagnostics. *Annageldy* used this equipment for their Ashgabad branch located in the Turkmenistan AIDS Center. As the result of this funding, the NGO has attracted three volunteers, and has expanded their constituency base by establishing a strong partnership with the Turkmenistan AIDS Center and the UNAIDS program in Turkmenistan. Q 2/00

Uzbekistan

Civil Society Support Expands

The number of NGOs and initiative groups in the *Djizak* region has increased over four times in the last two years (from 5 to 22) thanks to the activity of the Samarkand CSSC. To support the growing need for NGO support in *Djizak*, a support center for civic initiatives was registered in *Djizak* in May with considerable assistance from the Samarkand CSSC and the director of the new center is a Counterpart contract trainer. While a young organization, this new center already has strong ties within the community, with clients and partners including initiative groups, local government agencies, media, universities and NGOs. A sampling of partners includes: the Djizak Khokim's office and Khokim offices in Bakhmal, Gallyaaral and Djizak districts; a local business incubator; the Internal Affairs Office; the Prosecutor's Office and the Department of Justice of Djizak region; the local business Transport Company No 4; the social protection department; two local newspapers; Djizak regional television; and the ped-institute. The Center has agreements of cooperation with all these organizations; for example, 1) Transport Company No 4 provides transportation to staff of the Center 2) the social protection department provides the center with office space and installed a phone line, and 3) the ped-institute provides rooms for workshops and NGO meetings. Q2/03

Uishin - Social Center for rural women.

Community members in the remote Kashkadariya village *Beshchasma* identified the problem of unemployment among women as a priority problem and established an initiative group to develop a solution. Counterpart supported their project to train sixty women to sew and weave carpets. While implementing this project the initiative group registered as the NGO *Social Center Uishin*. One year after the completion of the project the NGO not only increased the number of girls-trainees, but also expanded its geographic coverage. Now girls and young women from nearby villages of Past Uishin, Yukori Uishin, Mirzatup and Chilchivut are involved in trainings. Eight trained girls set up a workshop to make carpets, others are making carpets at home having obtained a license. In all, eighty women have improved their economic situation and on average their monthly family budgets have doubled. The NGO began to work on psychological support of women to address the high rate of suicides among woman in this area. The community and the local authorities support the center's activity. The village council provided the center with four additional rooms for trainings and local residents helped with creating proper conditions for woman. Q2/03

Counterpart's first project in Djizak region has been successfully completed

The *Djizak* region is in the steppes of Uzbekistan is densely populated and inactive. Many objects of social infrastructure have worn out in recent years and need renovation, in particular water supply systems. Counterpart's CSSC in Samarkand has conducted a number workshops, including PCA, for the staff of the Khokim's Office and mahalla activists in the Gallyaaral district. At residents' requests the CSSC also conducted PCA exercises in the mahalla *Bakht* with all 3053 residents. The PCA identified lack of drinking water to be a priority problem. An Initiative group *Madad* was set up, to design a project to clean the well, lay pipes, and to install a pump. The project, supported by Counterpart, motivated mahalla residents and attracted new partners and stakeholders. For example, the poultry farm committed to provide electricity for the pump and to pay all associated costs. The community contributed resources to build a shelter for the well and the pump and to put additional pipes in to provide water to the school, Lyceum, kindergarten and market. A number of NGOs, media, and local authorities were involved in the project. Representatives of the Khokim's Office mobilized community members and the company *Vodocanal* committed to maintain the well and the pipes. The Mahalla committee will be responsible for collecting money from local residents for using water. This is the first NGO project in *Djizak* to improve infrastructure, which generated interest from the US Ambassador to Uzbekistan, who visited the project to see the results. Q2/03

First Steps to Integration

In Bukhara there are about 10,000 gypsies (lyulyu) living in isolation, 90% of whom are illiterate and unemployed. They survive on earnings from panhandling, fortune-telling and other small trades. City residents avoid them, and employers refuse to acknowledge them. The NGO *Etnos* is the first public organization committed to raising public awareness of the problems of lyulyus and to support their indigenous culture and creative work. *Etnos,* headed by a Bukhara TV correspondent, used consultations, trainings and technical support from the Bukhara CSSC to develop a project to produce a series of programs about the lyulyus and to establish an ethnographic ensemble. *Etnos,* with funding from Soros Foundation, has generated a number of results: 1) After seeing a program on the lyulyus, the local authorities approved requests for a plot in the cemetery after years of denying such requests. 2) *Etnos* with the help from business structures and local authorities organized New Year's celebrations in the lyulyus communities, during which adults and children enjoyed food and clothing from the city administration and public organizations and received presents for the first time in their lives. 3) An ensemble group was organized, who debuted on the local New Year performance on TV. Q2/03

Officials of Karakalpakstan Promote CSO Development in Villages

Many government representatives in the Republic of Karakalpakstan have limited experience with NGOs leading to great skepticism about third sector development in Karakalpakstan, in particular in rural areas. On March 14 the CSSC in Nukus conducted the workshop NGO and Community for government representatives, including 17 deputy khokims, 33 mahalla committee representatives, and nine members of the media. The workshop was conducted in Karakalpak, thus making it possible for rural participants to understand and participate. The participants were very responsive to the interactive training methodology used as well as the workshop materials prepared specifically for a government audience. The officials expressed their willingness to promote NGO development, in particular in rural districts. As a result four initiative groups were set up in four rural districts under the Karakalpak branch of the Uzbek Association on Reproductive Health. These groups are conducting education activity with the support of local authorities. Q2/03

Home nurses provide first medical aid in the villages

One of the acute problems in the countryside is the low level of first aid practices. To solve this problem the Center *Yangi Avlod,* supported by Counterpart, set up first aid center in the mahalla *Bekabad* of Urgench. This mahalla is 30 kilometers away from the district center. 52 women, residents of the mahalla, were trained to be home nurses. Over a six month period, 120 people visited the medical center for help. Home nurses were able to provide urgent medical aid in eight emergency cases. Statistics shows that children's mortality rate in the mahalla has decreases by 22% compared to the previous year, and the infectious disease rate has decreased by 10%. Q2/03

Twenty families in the rural mahalla Navoiy solved the problem of gas supply on their own

Twenty families in the mahalla *Navoiy* of Uchkupryuk district in Ferghana did not have gas in their houses. The Youth and Yomen's Center *Iftikhor* implemented a project, supported by Counterpart, resulting in the supply of clean drinking water to 110 households. The success of that project encouraged mahalla residents to become more active and start solving their social problems without assistance. 20 families in the mahalla mobilized their resources, purchased and laid the pipes and constructed gas-distributing points and now have gas to cook and heat their houses. Q2/03

The NGOs in Djizak region started to actively involve volunteers in their work

One of the hindering factors for the development of NGOs in this region is the lack of professional staff and limited resources. The Samarkand CSSC conducted training in "Work with Volunteers in NGOs" for NGOs in the region and achieved the following results:

- The NGO *Sevicnh* had no volunteers. The director not only lacked the knowledge to motivate volunteers, but also didn't understand how important the volunteers are. After the training *Sevinch* developed a strategy for working with volunteers and attracted four volunteers to its work.
- The leader of the NGO *Protection of Consumers' Rights* had been working practically alone. After the training six volunteers started working with the organization.
- The *Center for Public Education* was having the problems with the fluctuation of volunteers. They developed a strategy for motivating volunteers to stay over longer periods of time. To date five volunteers have been working in the Center for more than six months.
- The *Information Resource Center* made contracts with volunteers and defined in detail their duties and responsibilities, which increased the effectiveness of the volunteers work. Q2/03

Barkamollik Center Becomes Information Resource Center for Crisis Centers in Uzbekistan
About 30 Crisis and Trust Centers have been opened in the last three years in Uzbekistan. However, the Centers do not have qualified psychologists or methodologies for working with victims of violence. For three years *Barkamollik Center* has been working on capacity building of crisis centers. With the support from the USA Embassy and the Soros Foundation the Center published "Psychological counseling based on Virginia Satir's methodology" in Uzbek and Russian languages and trained 45 staff of 27 Crisis Centers to develop their skills in individual psychological counseling. Six of those Crisis Centers trained 500 staff and volunteers in the same methodology. The Soros Foundation, having recognized *the Center* as the leader in training specialists for Crisis Centers, invited it to be a partner in establishing an Information-methodological Resource Center for psychologists of Crisis Centers. The Resource Center developed and published six guidelines for psychologists and provided them to all Crisis Centers of Uzbekistan. Also 60 psychologists for Crisis Centers have been trained. The project monitoring demonstrates that about 300 people received qualified psychological help in ten Crisis Centers over the course of a three-month period. *The Center's* staff have been trained in practically all the Counterpart workshops and two of them are contract trainers with Counterpart. The Center regularly receives technical support and consultations both from Counterpart and the Tashkent CSSC. Q1/03

New Knowledge and Skills Obtained by Samarkand CSSC Volunteers Help them Find Paid Jobs
A common problem for NGOs is the lack of professional staff and shortage of resources, in particular, human resources. At the same time there are many unemployed among the young people. *Counterpart's Samarkand CSSC* involves young people in its activities in order to develop volunteer movement in the Samarkand region. A database comprising 22 volunteers has been created. The volunteers help in the work both of the CSSC and other NGOs at their requests. The CSSC volunteers participate in Counterpart trainings. They learn to work with clients, develop consulting skills, learn to work with computers and other office equipment. This allows them to provide qualified services to the CSSC clients. The experience and tangible skills obtained by volunteers helps them find paid jobs. Q1/03

Communication Expands the Silk Road
Narzullaev's Fund in Gijduvan (50 km away from Bukhara) with funding from Counterpart revives and develops such crafts as traditional Gijduvan ceramics and national embroidery. However, the craftsmen had great difficulties trying to sell their products, without adequate advertising and communication support. The CSSC in Bukhara provided *the Fund* with equipment (a computer and a scanner), taught the staff to use e-mail, Internet and other software, and helped to develop an Internet homepage that is hosted on www.bukhara.net. The CSSC also helped *the Fund* to develop advertisements and to correspond with business partners. As a result *the Fund* prepared an electronic album with photos of their goods and sent it to interested parties. A consignment of handicraft goods was sent to the artisans fair in Italy, where it was sold for $4,800. At present the representatives of *the Fund* are negotiating with partners from Great Britain and the US regarding a consignment of goods. As a result more updated communication venues, more than 50 artisans are accessing broader potential markets to sell their goods. Q1/03

NGO Representative Joins Plenum of Women's Committees in the Samarkand Region
Every local Khokim's office has a women's committee as part of its structure. The women's committees report to the Plenum of Women's Committees for the oblast. The Plenum determines the strategy of work on gender issues in the region. Up to now the Plenum of Women's committees in the Samarkand region was comprised only of representatives of governmental structures, offering a one-sided view to addressing women's issues. At the suggestion of the oblast Khokim's office, the Director of *International Rehabilitation Center UMID*, Bibisara Oripova, was made a member of the Plenum of Women's committees of the Samarkand region. This decision is in recognition of *Umid Center*'s achievements in solving the problems of rural women, particularly in preventing domestic violence and cases of self-burning. Q1/03

NGO Poisk Addresses Waste Issues
The problem of utilizing organic waste is a problem in the city of Samarkand. In this hot climate, rotting is prevalent and presents an ecological problem for the population. The situation is aggravated by the fact that no one organization, government or business, can solve the problem alone. The NGO *Poisk* established partnerships with the firm *Doim Tayer* and the governmental Committee on Environment Protection. The partners found a unique way to solve the problem – processing organic waste into fertilizer and feed for cattle. They developed a project, supported by Soros Foundation. *Doim Tayer* provides technical consultations and about $600 worth of chemicals to process the organic waste. The Committee on Environment Protection is responsible for project implementation on behalf of the government. Counterpart's CSSC provided consultative and technical support to the *Poisk* while designing the project and provided accommodation, organized a round table discussion and advised on the development of the project proposal. Q1/03

Women's Reproductive Health Awareness Increases in the Rural Areas of Ferghana Valley
The lack of doctors' training on issues of reproductive health, in particular, in far away and rural areas hinders providing quality health services to the local population. This problem is particularly acute in Ferghana valley. The medical rural *NGO Avitsenna*, established *The Regional Center of Social-Legal Support of Women and Teenagers. Ishonch*, Counterpart's focal grantee, conducted workshops devoted to nutrition of pregnant women, breastfeeding and other issues of reproductive health. 37 patients and two doctors from the maternity ward of the Central Rayon Hospital, the only one in rural Kuvinskiy Rayon, were trained. An information corner on reproductive health was created in the maternity ward after the workshop. The hospital management is in charge of updating the information. At present the two doctors trained provide trainings to the patients on a regular basis with the potential to reach more than 45,000 women and girls. Q1/03

Rural women in Shafrikan have regular earnings
Economic reforms in agriculture and reorganization of collective farms into shirkat farms have lead to reducing jobs and growth of unemployment. This was identified as a priority problem during PCA conducted in the villages of "Savrak" and "Shurobod" of Shafrikan district in Bukhara region. *The Initiative group* in these villages developed a project aimed to revive traditional "shafrikan" embroidery. The project was financially supported by Counterpart. The residents in both villages took an active part in the development and implementation of the project. As a result the Initiative group was registered with the Department of Justice as *Center for Support of Rural Population*. Embroidery workshop was opened in the building of the "Savrak" village council. About seventy women, trained to make traditional Shafrikan embroidery, were provided jobs and have regular earnings. The best of them took part in the annual fair of entrepreneurs "Tashabbus" where they won the first award. Thus, 70 families could enlarge their family budget by twice. The Bukhara CSSC helped with conducting PCA and developing the communities plan of action, regularly provided the NGO with information, consultative and technical support. The NGO leaders participated in Counterpart's basic workshops. Q1/03

The APLA Fund's Fundraising Campaign Meets its Goals

The main source of funds for NGOs is foreign foundations. The NGOs seldom use other methods of fundraising and many NGOs consider fundraising to be "begging". 250 disabled children get treatment in the Children's Neurologic Hospital of Tashkent, many of whom are from poor families in remote oblasts. The *Apla Fund* conducted the project "Christmas for sick children!" to allow these children to share in the celebration of Christmas. The *Fund's* volunteers launched a fundraising campaign including sending letters to various organizations and arranging meetings with representatives of business structures. The Embassies of Japan, Poland, and Ukraine contributed money about $300 and four private bakeries provided various confectioneries. The NGO *Falak Nuri* gave the children warm clothes. As the result of this action 250 disabled children received New Year's presents, ten disabled people earned money by wrapping presents, and the volunteers and staff of the *Apla Fund* earned valuable experience in fundraising. The *Fund's* experience was described in Counterpart's newsletter *Initiative* highlighting fundraising. The *Apla Fund's* staff participated in Counterpart's basic trainings, including NGO and Community, Social Partnership, Fundraising, and Work with Volunteers in NGOs. The *Fund* gets regular information and technical support and consultations from Counterpart's CSSC. Q1/03

TV in Djizak informs the population on NGOs

Djizak region is a steppe region of Uzbekistan with the densest and least active population. Only three NGOs actively worked in the region in 2001. In 2002 Counterpart started to conduct regular workshops for NGOs and initiative groups in the region. The editor of the private TV program *Bakhtiyer-Shakhboz* in Djizak region was an active participant in those trainings. They encouraged him to inform the community on regional social problems and NGO activities to address those problems. With the consultative support of the CSSC and funding from Eurasia, he developed 18 social video reels, which are shown daily on Djizak TV about 20-30 times. Muzaffar Usarov produced a program on PCAs conducted in the Mahalla *Eshlik* in the town of Djizak. The program included interviews with a group of analytical experts, trainers and workshop participants. He also recorded the workshop Strategic Planning. As a result, the population's awareness of NGO activities and the importance of the third sector has considerably increased, as evidenced by the number of newly registered NGOs in the region and the community's interest to their work. Now 15 NGOs and a number of Initiative Groups are actively working in Djizak. The level of training has expanded beyond workshops in NGO and Community and Project Design to more advanced trainings, which focus on sustainability. Q1/03

Women's Center Ikhlos Solves Rural Problems

Unemployment and a low standard of living are the greatest social problems in Uzbekistan, particularly in the rural regions. *The Women's Center Ikhlos* in Khorezm, with Counterpart funding, trained 60 girls in culinary and sewing skills. After the project's completion, six girls secured paid jobs and five girls registered themselves as private businesswomen (four of which have already received $450 in credit). Leveraging this success, the *Center* established partnerships with governmental and business structures, the local Khokim's office sold the NGO four one-storied buildings at a significant discount, and the joint-stock company *Belmotorservice* gave the *Center* two million sums (about $1,800 USD) for the purchase of the buildings and renovated them free of charge. The firm *Alenushka* provided a broiler and a refrigerated cabinet. Due to its strong capacity, the *Center* won two grants totaling $12,000 from Soros Foundation and the Eurasia Foundation to, respectively, establish regular culinary courses for women and train 100 women and girls (sixty of whom were trained under the Counterpart project) to develop a small business. The district department of public education cooperated with the *Center* to find clients for the baked goods, including five rural schools. The *Center's* leaders received basic Counterpart trainings and regularly receive support from Khoresm CSSC. Q1/03

NGOs in Kashkadarya have free access to the Internet and a Resource Center

The number of NGOs in the Kashkadarya region has grown from seven to seventeen in the last two years, yet they still lack a resource center to promote their development. To solve this problem, Counterpart's focus grantee *International Rehabilitation Center UMID* (Samarkand) took part in IREX's International Access and Training Program and won a grant to open a Public Access Center (PAC). As a result, NGOs in the Kashkadarya region have free Internet access for the next five years. They also have the opportunity to receive training in computer skills, including the Internet and web design. With the support of local authorities and businesses, *Umid Center* was able to expand the functions of the PAC and make it a Resource Center. The Khokim's office helped to reconstruct the building bought by *Umid*, to register it as a nonresidential property, and to equip the training hall. The renovation companies performed the work free of charge. International organizations conduct their trainings in the Resource Center and business structures rent the training hall for various courses. The international organization CHF agreed upon a six-month contract with *Umid's* branch to establish a Center within the CAIP program using the PAC premises. During the first four months of operation the Resource Center earned 70,000 sums, which were used to pay for administrative salaries, public utilities, and overhead expenses of the *Center*. Q1/03

Djizak region NGOs start working

Djizak is a steppe region of Uzbekistan with the smallest population density and the least activity. There were only 5 NGOs in the region in 2001 and they were mostly branches of pro-governmental NGOs, which were practically not working. At the end of 2001 the Samarkand CSSC conducted a presentation of Counterpart's Programs and began to actively work with initiative groups in the region. The Center conducted eleven trainings using Counterpart's basic modules for one hundred people in the town of Djizak and in three rural districts. The Center regularly gave consultations both on the telephone and through visits. As a result of this activity ten more NGOs have registered in the year 2002, two NGOs are in the process of becoming registered and there are five initiative groups. With the support from CSSC the organizations started to actively work to solve social problems and to develop democratic processes in the society. Thus, four NGOs and Initiative groups in Djizak have gotten grants from International funds which made it possible to set up a hot line for businessmen in the region, teach local NGOs methods of social marketing on local TV (with the support from Eurasia Foundation), conduct a campaign against home violence (under Soros Foundation supporting), and provide drinking water to 537 households in mahalla "Bakht" (with the support from Counterpart). Q4/02

260 children with development problems integrated in kindergartens

Mentally disadvantaged children are educated in separate special institutions resulting in isolation from society. Medical-Pedagogical Center for Rehabilitation and Social Adaptation of disabled children *FALAK NURI* developed a program to integrate mentally disadvantaged children into society beginning from early childhood. The Center established partnerships and made agreements with the Tashkent City Department of Education and its seven district offices. Through joint efforts the program was introduced in twenty-one kindergartens in Tashkent and at present 260 mentally disadvantaged children are educated with healthy peers. The Center managed to attract funds from twelve commercial entities and governmental organizations including the National Bank of Uzbekistan and the National Tourist Company to purchase equipment to provide the appropriate conditions for these children. Counterpart provided humanitarian assistance, which was used to equip the kindergartens, to support poor families, including the parents of mentally disabled children as well as to award volunteer teachers. As a result, 28 or 46 children with various mental disadvantages who finished kindergarten this year were completely rehabilitated and enrolled to general schools. The remaining children will go to special schools. The Center's program was approved by local authorities including departments on public education and is being introduced in six regions of Uzbekistan. The leaders of the *FALAK NURI* participated in practically all Counterpart's workshops and regularly receive consultations and technical assistance. Q4/02

Disabled children will attend school in their own town and use public transport free of charge
The nearest boarding school for deaf-and-dumb children in Kokand is located in the town of Kuvasai, 100km away. Parents of these children were rarely able to visit because of the distance and cost. The Children's Creative Center "Chance" with support from the CSSC in Kokand conducted PCAP among these parents and the need for a school directly in Kokand that would accommodate these children was chosen as the top priority. The "Chance" Center with the financial support of Counterpart implemented a six-month project, which taught 18 of these children to read and write and 12 of the parents to use sign language. In the course of the project the parents and the "Chance" Center staff combined efforts and resources to conduct a campaign to promote the opening of a school for deaf children in Kokand. They negotiated the issue with the Regional Public Education Body and the Regional Khokim's Office. A commercial was made and shown on local TV. Some schools volunteered to accommodate classes for deaf-and-dumb children but the Public Education Body could not provide teachers. It was easier for officials to advise that the children continue going to the boarding school in Kuvasai. The "Chance" Center and the parents kept on looking for opportunities and contacting various educational institutions. They contacted the school for blind and deaf children in the town of Margilan, which led to the opening of a branch of Margilan School in Kokand. The music school in Kokand provided four rooms and the school in Margilan provided two teachers for deaf-and-dumb children. Nineteen children can now go to school in Kukand and stay living with their parents. The "Chance" Center also conducted a campaign to give the children free public transportation tickets for them to be able to attend school. The Center prepared letters on behalf of the parents and arranged a meeting for the parents with the transportation company authorities. As a result of this work the transportation company made a decision to provide 19 deaf-and-dumb children with free monthly tickets for public transport for a period of one year starting from November 2002. The "Chance" Center staff took part in Counterpart's trainings, in particular, advocacy and received technical and consultative support from CSSC in Kokand. Q4/02

NGOs Coalition in Navoiy region managed to protect rural libraries.
The local government in Navoiy region followed the decision of the national government and decided to start privatizing libraries within the framework of a general plan of privatization. However, the Association of Library Workers in Navoiy region did not have means for privatization, while potential owners did not see ways to materially benefit if they kept the libraries. Thus, people in remote rural districts were going to be deprived of access to a library and basically their only source of information. This problem was identified as a priority by *the Center for Social Partnership "Tashabbus*" when conducting PCA, supported by Counterpart. The *"Tashabbus"* Center together with the Regional Department for Culture and Education, the Regional Association of Library Workers, Information Resource, and Legal Centers created a coalition. The coalition developed a plan of action and conducted a large-scale action to protect the rights of library users. Two hundred questionnaires were distributed and collected in the three rural districts of Navoiy region. The respondents spoke against closing down the libraries. The coalition members consulted the lawyers from the Regional Department on Privatization. All the documentation related to the campaign including the questionnaires and the coalition members' request arguing the need to stop the privatization of library buildings were submitted to the regional Khokim's Office. The regional Fund "Mahalla" supported the activity of the coalition and proposed that library buildings should be placed on the balance of mahalla committees making a commitment to maintain library funds. As a result, the regional Khokim's Office issued a decision that the State Committee on Property should stop the privatization of library buildings in rural districts as well as in the whole region. Thus more than 150 libraries in ten districts of Navoyi region could keep their buildings and funds and about six hundred library workers could continue their professional work. More than 650 thousand residents (out of a population of 1.3 million) will continue using libraries. The *"Tashabbus"* Center and the Association of Library Workers participated in Counterpart's workshops, in particular on "Advocacy" and "Development of Coalitions". These organizations regularly use the services of CSSC in Bukhara. Q4/02

The parents led by the "Ayel" Center were able to cancel the decision to close the school
The district department of education issued a decision to close school No. 35 in Samarkand and give it to the sports college. School No. 35 has a good collection of teachers and is well equipped. It is the only school in Samarkand that teaches Russian language pupils. Closing the school forces the 750 pupils to go to neighboring Uzbek language schools that can only accommodates 400 pupils. The teachers contacted the appropriate institutions many times requesting the school remain open but were not successful. 200 parents got together and created an initiative group but were not successful either and turned to the CSSC in Samarkand for assistance. The Center advised them to involve the *Ayel Center, Resource for Women and Children.* Together they developed an advocacy campaign. Journalists from regional and national newspapers and TV were informed of the situation so that they could contact the Khokim's Office. Appeals from parents to district, city and regional departments of education were prepared. Members of the initiative group sought the advice of the ombudsman and followed his recommendations for further action. NGO leaders were consulted by the lawyer from OSCE. The Initiative group made contact with the director of the Information Analytical Center under the regional Khokim's Office, who promised to promote solution of the problem within the Khokim's Office. An appeal was prepared and submitted to the regional Khokim's Office. Letters to the Ministry of Public Education and OSCE were also prepared, but in the end they were not needed. On September 3, 2002 the city Khokim promised to cancel the decision to close the school. Q4/02

The coalition in Navoyi region managed to get privileges for businessmen
Though the government of Uzbekistan promotes the creation of private business, the development of small and medium size businesses is hindered by a lack of support. This problem was identified through PCA exercises conducted by the Center for social partnership *Tashabbus* with support from Counterpart. *Tashabbus* initiated participation of the community in seeking a solution for this problem. A coalition was established including leading service-based businesses, legal service providers, the Office of the State Committee on Property, the Justice Department, and the Navoiy Regional Union of Businessmen, which provides services to associations of businessmen. The coalition studied opportunities to provide additional privileges to service-based businessmen by adopting regional legal acts. A draft act was developed and coalition members promoted the idea among the decision makers. As a result of three months work, the Khokim issued a decree to provide privileges to all service-based businessmen irrespective of their membership in trade unions and associations. Thus, about 2000 legal persons got 50% discounts for public utilities and 50% discounts for property tax. Another decree was issued that provided privileged credits and accommodation to various services in Navoyi region. The staff of *Tashabbus* participated in Counterpart trainings such as Advocacy and Coalition Building. Q4/02

Disabled Children in the Public Eye
One hundred ninety-eight children (198) with poor eyesight live in the boarding house of the Niyoz-Botir community of Asaka district in Andijan region. PCA conducted by the *Fund for Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually impaired children, "Panokh Shulasi"*, in Andijan region with Counterpart's support has shown that need for a bathhouse was one of the most vital problems in the boarding school. In order to bathe, the children had to walk three kilometers to the bathhouse, located in the neighboring collective farm, twice a month and wait there for hours to be able to take a bath. The children often caught colds. The local authorities were indifferent to numerous requests from the boarding school to build a bathhouse. The project to construct the bathhouse aided by the Fund *"Panokh Shulasi"* and by Counterpart, stroke a deep chord in the hearts of local citizens, authorities, business entities. As a result, the regional Department of Public Education contributed 750,000 ($680) instead of a promised 400,000 soums ($360). House utilities shop of the community provided 50,000 soums ($45) to purchase paint for the boarding school. The battery farm built new toilets for the children spending 2,500,000 soums (more than $2,200). Shirkat farm Bobur contributed 30,000 soums ($27) for the presentation. As a result of these activities, all children of this boarding house are now able to take baths on site. Q4/02

Schools and kindergartens in Kokand have become accessible for disabled children
There were no schools and kindergartens in Kokand accessible for disabled children. Therefore children with various disabilities could not attend schools and kindergartens located near their homes but rather had to attend special schools and boarding schools far away. An Initiative group comprised of educators and parents with disabled children conducted PCA, made a joint plan of action and developed a project, which was approved by Counterpart. As a result of this activity five schools and four kindergartens were made accessible for disabled children by widened doorways and ramps being built. The Initiative group together with school and kindergarten teachers and medical workers widely informed the residents about the improvements for disabled children and sought out children who would benefit. Before the start of school year the Initiative group organized workshops for parents, teachers and medical workers. The participants discussed psychological aspects of joint education between healthy and disabled children. As a result thirty-six children with various disabilities came to schools and kindergartens on the first of September. Members of the Initiative group participated in Counterpart's workshops, received technical and consultative support from CSSC in Kokand. They also received a grant from Counterpart. Q4/02

Businesswomen Use Strategic Planning for Stronger Programs
The *Businesswomen's Association in Kokand (BWA)* has been working under Counterpart's Focus Grant Program since 2001. In addition to a Focus Grant, Counterpart provides OD consultancy to the NGO every six months. During the initial OD assessment, it was clear that *BWA* has many programs and directions that aren't linked to a clear mission. Also, the NGO staff was not working effectively in absence of the leader. After getting recommendations from Hub consultants, *BWA* developed a system for monitoring each program. The staff is able to work without the leader; analyze work performance and plan activities independently. Now each program includes stakeholder involvement. Each program implemented by *BWA* is now clearly linked to a strategy or vision. As a result, *BWA* has developed programs for next year that are their priority, not those of donor organizations. Q3/02

New Direction for Development
The Interregional Rehabilitation Center Umid in Samarkand has been a Focus grantee of Counterpart since 2001. This NGO helps and focuses on battered and suicidal women. As with other Focus NGOs, Counterpart provides OD consultations to Umid Center. The NGO was implementing programs designed mostly for adults. OD consultants developed new directions and goals for development with NGO staff. One of the priority areas was to work on youth programming. The NGO planned and has taken necessary actions in order to develop this category. As the result, the following positive changes were identified at the last OD consultancy:

- The Internet Access Center for NGOs and youth was created within the Karshi Branch of Umid Center with support of IREX;
- The School of Life for young ladies was created within Umid Center in Samarkand; and
- The Center Nekuz, which is a partner of Umid Center in Karshi, has refocused its activity to the youth issues and started actively work on it. Q3/02

Avitsena Evaluates Pediatric Care in Bukhara
Reforms in the health protection system are under way in the Republic. However, there are still quite many problems to be solved. The Departments of the Health Ministry in the regions regularly conduct evaluations of institutional performance, but since there are no independent experts, these evaluations tend to lack impartiality. Therefore, the Bukhara regional Department of Health requested the *Association of Children's Doctors Avitsena*, with its strong and impartial image, to evaluate the state of pediatric services in Bukhara region. In May 2002 *Avitsena*, Counterpart's focus grantee, collected data from more than 100 pediatric institutions. *The Association* presented findings of the collected data analyses at a roundtable with participation of representatives of various health organizations. The roundtable examined causes of the poor state of pediatric services and developed an action plan seeking solutions for identified problems. In accordance with the action plan:

- The working space for providing medical services to the population in Gijduvan children's hospital has been expanded from 60 person/days to 120 person/days.
- A training/medical center is being set up in the district of Peshku in collaboration with Project Health (Ministry of Health), the Bukhara regional Department of Health, the Bukhara Medical Institute and the World Bank. The Center will provide medical services to 1500-2000 patients and trainings to 70-80 doctors, enhancing their knowledge and skills. *Avitsena* is entrusted with coordinating and monitoring this process.
- *The Association*, in cooperation with Project Hope, has developed curriculum for medical staff retraining (about 6,000 persons), to be conducted in October 2002. *Avitsena* will do this training.
- The regional Department of Health appreciates the professionalism of the work done by *Avitsena* and invited *Manzura Klycheva* of the Association to fill the position of Principal Pediatrician for the Bukhara region. This is sure to strengthen the Association's status and promote pediatric services in Bukhara region. Q3/02

The NGO Istikbolli Avlod Conducts Anti-trafficking Campaign

Mass media and the authorities in Uzbekistan do not pay much attention to the problem of prostitution and the very real issues of trafficking of women and children. The population, namely young women, is not aware of the mechanisms of trafficking and its consequences. These problems have been identified to be of priority after the NGO Istikbolli Avlod conducted PCA exercises in the Chilanzar district of Tashkent. Based on the results of PCA the NGO has developed a program of activities with young people. The NGO is now actively engaged in fighting trafficking.

- With the support of Internews-Uzbekistan Istikbolli Avlod is conducting an information campaign aimed at preventing trafficking. Since August 2002 the organization has been airing weekly 20-minute broadcasts on the governmental radio channel Radio Eshlar (Youth Radio). The NGO collects the information relating to cases of trafficking from people, prosecutors' offices and governmental institutions in the five cities of Uzbekistan. The NGO also analyzes citizens' and authority's attitudes toward the problem.
- In the other project, supported by the Embassy of the United States of America, the NGO is conducting 40 workshops in local schools explaining the causes and consequences of trafficking.
- The NGO's reputation is growing as a result of their successes. Consequently, the Migration Center in Tajikistan informed Istikbolli Avlod about three girls who escaped Bangkok and fled to Tajikistan. The girls did not have any documents and couldn't get back to Uzbekistan. The NGO contacted Uzbekistan's customs office, obtained all the necessary documentation and helped the girls to return to their homeland. Q3/02

Umidvorlik Center Is Actively Involving Volunteers

The Center for support of disabled children *Umidvorlik*, Counterpart's focus grantee, couldn't effectively implement its programs on rehabilitation and integration of disabled children using only its own staff. Therefore the *Center* developed its activity in order to involve the community in its work.

To address this:

- The *Center* has spoken on air four times in the last six months informing the public of its activity. These broadcasts have brought people with offers of help to the organization. For example, Wilhelm Sabelfeld, the owner of a small shoe workshop, offered help and started training five disabled teenagers in shoes repair and cobbling. Two of these children have learned this trade.
- The *Center* trained disabled children's parents in mini-trainings on NGO and Community and Fundraising. After that five parents have become volunteer-fundraisers. They have already been able to raise 300,000 soums (about 270US) and to get contributions of various goods costing about the same.
- Twenty volunteers from communities actively work at *Umidvorlik Center*. Q3/02

Client's Satisfaction Is Our Success

The Kokand Support Center one of the oldest and most experienced Centers. It was established four years ago with support of Counterpart. Over the years the number of clients (NGOs, Mahallas, Initiative Groups, etc) has increased greatly. The previous OD assessment of the CSSC revealed that clients were not satisfied with the system of consultation. Since the CSSC only has three staff, they were not able to meet the needs of clients in a timely way. Some clients started to complain that they couldn't approach CSSC staff, since they seemed to be very busy. The OD consultants gave this feedback to the Center and recommended they develop an appointment or registration system for consultations of clients. At the recent OD assessment, discussions with clients revealed that the situation has positively changed. Clients are calling the CSSC and making appointments to meet with CSSC staff, who are now able to plan their time more effectively. Q3/02

Ecological ABC Published by Contact Recommended for Higher Education

Children's low level of knowledge of environmental protection and the lack of appropriate information resources and courses on ecology have led children to be irresponsible with respect to the environment. The environmental public organization Contact prepared, with funding support from Counterpart, a publication of ecological ABCs for children and parents entitled The Environment and Safe Life. 580 copies of the ABCs were published with financial support from the Tashkent City Committee on Environment Protection, Counterpart and the State Fund on Scientific and Technical Information. The Ministry of Public Education has approved pilot testing of these books in fifteen schools in Tashkent. The textbook received good evaluations from ecologists, pupils, teachers and parents. After the Expert Council of the Ministry of Public Education approved the publication, it was recommended for use as a textbook for all schools. The State Committee on Environment Protection and the International Fund Ecosan expressed their willingness to pay for the translation of the book into Uzbek. UNDP has included publishing 5,000 copies of the book in Uzbek in its plan for the forth quarter of 2002. By 2003, 6000 children will be using this book. Q3/02

Summer Camp for Homeless Children

There are about three hundred homeless children in Samarkand not going to school and begging in the streets. These children are potential criminals. The Samarkand Crisis Center Source with a target group of 75 homeless children conducts public campaigns to raise awareness about the problem. Having conducted a charity action in the spring of 2002 Source organized a summer camp for 25 homeless children in August. A businessman provided his country house in the village of Khishrow of Samarkand district. Samarkand region's Ombudsman arranged medical examinations of the children and a volunteer nurse cared for them and dispensed free medication. The Red Cross Society and the Samarkand Hosiery Factory provided the children with clothes. Samarkand's regional commerce administration and the Samarkand bread-baking plant supplied the summer camp with foodstuff. Counterpart's Focus Grantee Umid Center and Samarkand region's Ombudsman provided one-time humanitarian assistance in the form of food products. Psychologists from the Tashkent Crisis Center on Rehabilitation of convicts returned from juvenile institutions in cooperation with the Association of Sociologists and Psychologists of the Samarkand region organized a course on psychological rehabilitation of the children. The International Management Training Center treated the children with sweets and fruits. Volunteers from Source regularly gave their time to the children. As a result of this activity the children's behavior and attitudes have started changing. Four of the parents observing the changes happening to their children gave up drinking and got involved in the camp life. This summer twelve children received IREX certificates on computer literacy. Source gained valuable experience in establishing partnerships for seeking solutions of social problems. This experience is the necessary prerequisite for the Center's further successful activity as well as for setting up a permanent rehabilitation center for homeless children. The leaders of the Center participated in Counterpart's trainings, including workshops on advocacy, fundraising and others. They regularly get consultations and technical support. Q3/02

Initiative Contributes to the Development of the Third Sector

There is a significant lack of information in Uzbekistan on third sector activities both in the country and around the world. The majority of NGOs do not have access to global information resources. Since July 1998 the only available publication was Initiative, a monthly bulletin issued by Counterpart in Uzbek, Russian and English and distributed all over the country. The circulation is 1050 copies distributed through CSSCs and at various workshops. The number of electronic version subscribers has grown eight-fold in the last two years and has reached 120. The publication of the bulletin influences the lives of ordinary people. Only a year ago Raisa Makhmudova, resident of Khorezm region, worked as Chairperson of the Defense Support Society and at the same time owned a private business fixing diesel engines. She had no idea of what NGOs were. It was quite by chance that she read Initiative, which encouraged her to contact the Urgench CSSC and participate in Counterpart trainings. He life changed radically. She passed her business on to her children so that she could work full time in the third sector with her organization, Women's Center Ikhlos. The Center's projects aim at solving unemployment issues. As a result of a Counterpart funded program, 60 young women were trained by the Center, 51 of whom are working and make regular earnings. Ikhlos Center has become one of the most active NGOs operating in Khorezm region thanks to the outreach of Initiative. Q3/02

Media as Catalyst for Sustainability

During regular OD consultations with the Focus NGO Umid Rehabilitation Center in Samarkand, challenges in the development of the organization were identified. One of the weaknesses was less work with media through which the NGO could promote and develop its activities. OD consultants reviewed and recommended possible directions for development with Focus NGO. One of these options was to develop PR activity, which includes working with media. Umid Center has taken actions to activate its engagement of the media. As the result, the number of publications and programs on TV about the NGO has increased. As a result of media coverage, the number of clients of Umid Center and in its branches has increased and ordinary people have started making donations (goods & clothes) to the NGO's shelters. Q3/02

The Network Strengthens and Expands

Since establishing the Uzbek network of CSSCs, most of the key decisions and communications have flown up and through the Hub Office in Tashkent. All consultations and recommendations for the Centers were made by Tashkent. There has been little direct contact between the Centers themselves. During the April network meeting the Hub Office suggested the CSSCs exchange experience more frequently among each other and plan their activity according to the needs and possibilities of the partners working on the adjacent territories. This makes the most sense as CSSCs can provide each other with more practical information. Since that time the Support Centers, having full confidence in one another, have been in more frequent communication with each other. They discuss things such as problem solving, support for meeting program indicators, and regional issues. By maintaining close relationship with the partners of the network and performing the joint activity, the efficiency of the partners in the network in their organizational development increases. For example, Urgench and Nukus Centers have united their trainers in one team and jointly carry on their development. Q3/02

Government as Donor

NGO Umid Center is receiving intense OD consulting from Counterpart in addition to the Focus Grant they have been implementing since 2001. Every six months, OD consultants visit the NGO, analyzing the current situation, and giving feedback and recommendations for capacity building. During one of the OD sessions, consultants identified the challenge that the NGO was not putting much effort on partnership with government organizations. Consultants recommended the NGO actively involve the government in their activities and establish partnerships with them. Umid Center has planned the necessary action steps in order to work on this issue along with coming six month. As a result:

- Khokimiyat (Mayor) of the Samarkand Oblast has offered a new office for the NGO;

- Khokimiyat of Surkhandarya Oblast has offered office space for Umid Center's branch;
- The Samarkand Department of Ministry of Justice to register Umid Center at the National (Republican) level;
- The Surkhandarya Department of Ministry of Justice provided office space, registration of a Branch, and lawyers on voluntary basis. Q3/02

Association of Librarians Is on Fire!

The heating system of the Fergana regional library was damaged while being repaired five years ago. In addition the roof of the building (1700 square meters) was worn out and leaked. Cold and moisture ruined about 10,000 books. These problems were identified as most vital during PCA conducted by the Fergana region's Association of Librarians in January 2002. The roof was repaired with Counterpart funding. To find a solution for the heating system the library decided to involve journalists to attract public attention to the problem. As a result four articles were published in the most popular and widely circulated newspapers, such as Narodnoye Slovo ("Books do not warm up in a cold library") and Pravda Vostoka ("A library, a reader and a book.") The Association members appealed to the regional Khokim's Office with the articles to support their request. The Khokim's Office allotted 29 million soums ($22,300) to the Association to construct the boiler room and install the heating system. Q2/02

Counterpart Assists NGOs In Donor Searches

The major source of funding of Uzbekistan's NGOs is grants from foreign donors, as other funding sources, such as social contracting and corporate donations are not legally regulated. This source is limited as there are few foreign donor agencies in Uzbekistan and NGOs lack information about overseas donors. Vildana Malyan, Counterpart's Information Manager, has been searching for and collecting information about foreign donors who support NGOs but do not have representation in Uzbekistan. Such information is published in the Counterpart newsletter *Initiative*, disseminated through the mailing list "News for NGOs", as well as distributed during meetings and consultations. Thanks to such information many NGOs have applied for funding to overseas donors. A few examples of grant support received by Uzbekistan NGOs in 2002 include: 1) *Ayol Center-Resource for Women and Families* (Samarkand) received $9,000 from the Global Fund for Women, USA for education in women's reproductive rights; and 2) *Charity Center Mekhr-Sakhovat* (Kokand) received from the Canadian Fund $4,000 to develop a club for the elderly. Q2/02

Uzbek NGO Protects Ecological Rights in Court

It is quite often that the state bodies do damage to the environment without any consequences. For example, a collector to remove wastewater from fields of the Amu-Darya was dug through the territory of the Karakalpakstan National Park Badai-Tugai. This collector has led to vanishing rare kinds of flora and fauna and affected the drinking water to communities that live downstream. Also, the legislation prohibiting any economic activities on the territories of national parks has been breached. *The Aral Sea and Amu-Darya Protection Union* has submitted to the economic court a claim for infringement of ecological rights of Karakalpaks against the Ministry of Rural and Water Management of Karakalpakstan. The NGO conducted an ecological examination in which experts from the State Committee on Nature Protection confirmed the negative impact of the collector on the environment. Four hearings have been held, but still the courts have decided in favor of the Ministry, citing two reasons: 1) the NGO is not entitled to bring the action against the Ministry and 2) putting the collector outside the Park will cause essential damage to the economic activities of Juzhnoaralsk Region of Karakalpakstan. *The Protection Union* is going to appeal this decision. While this issue will likely be held up in courts for a long time, the precedent has been set for an NGO to be the petitioner in judiciary practice. This has been a resounding movement among the public of Karakalpakstan. The court hearing has shown the role of NGOs for solving regional problems. *The Protection Union* has been a target NGO of Counterpart, receiving consultations and participating in all seminars, including Advocacy. Q2/02

On the Way to Sustainability
Faced with no local organization committed to developing civil society in the Samarkand region, Counterpart established a branch Support Center in Samarkand last year. During OD assessments it was suggested that the Support Center register as a separate organization rather than a branch, to facilitate working with a variety of donor organizations. After a series of consultations, the Support Center selected 11 people as founders and jointly developed the Charter. The Hub Center OD consultant assisted the Support Center in revising and improving the Charter. As the result of these activities, the Support Center was able to quickly register. Now the Support Center is working with international organizations providing services, such as training and roundtables, for a fee. Q2/02

Ray of Light is Falling on Khorezm
After a deep feasibility study, Counterpart has partnered with NGO Al Khorexmy-Vambery to work as a Support Center partner in Khorezm oblast. At this moment, there were only 10-15 NGOs functioning and the weakly developed third sector. Counterpart's OD consultants put all the efforts for setting up the Center within NGO Partner and built it's capacity for development of a third sector in Khorezm. During the OD assessments, it was suggested that the Center would provide basic services to the community such as training, roundtables and consultations on how to establish an NGO. As a result, during one year, the number of NGOs has greatly increased from 15 to 54. The Center contributed to the establishment of most of these NGOs in the region by providing a series of consultations, intensive training programs and presentations among the communities. Q2/02

Volunteer Is The Right Hand Of Center
The newly established Support Center in Samarkand was at a very early stage of development, with an insufficient number of employees to serve the growing number of clients in the area. NGOs were keen to use services of Support Center and there was an increasing demand for them. However, it was quite difficult for only three people to serve the increasing client demand. A number of clients began to complain by saying that Center does not provide services in timely manner and does not pay attention to newly established NGOs. OD consultants identified this problem during an NGO roundtable. Having this information, the consultants advised the Support Center to involve volunteers in their activity to improve client service. This suggestion was included in the Strategic Plan of the Center as one of the main objectives. The Center has taken several actions in order to attract volunteers, including developing a special questionnaire and distributing it among University students. As a result, the Center recruited 15 volunteers for the Center. Additionally the Center conducted an assessment of NGOs with the purpose of identifying their needs in volunteers. A database of volunteers was created so the Center can match volunteers to NGOs. Q2/02

Crisis Center Source Unites NGOs and Government to Save Kids
The number of homeless children in Samarkand has been growing, with unofficial data showing more than 300 street children. The present governmental system in charge of these children has grown out of date and is inefficient. The Crisis Center *Source* with a target group of 75 children has been working with homeless children for four years. Counterpart's CSSC in Samarkand helped *Source* develop an advocacy campaign to increase public awareness of the problems and find partners to address the problem. The second phase of the advocacy campaign – a conference - was held in May. *Source,* in collaboration with the CSSC and Counterpart's focus grantee Interregional Rehabilitation Center *Umid,* conducted the event with and for homeless children. Event activities included a roundtable discussion of 14 NGOs and 15 government representatives, which resulted in a joint program of action. As such, the Temir-Yul district's Khokim will provide space for the *Center*; militia officers will provide legal protection for children; *Trust Center Sabr* and *Association of Sociologists and Psychologists* will conduct psychological trainings; nad the *School for Gifted Children* will educate these children. Samarkand region's Ombudsman has become the *Source*'s principal partner and will support them in every possible way with its business and government contacts. Q2/02

Representatives of the Three Sectors Meet for the First Time
It has been difficult to promote concepts such as social partnership in the remote Navoiy Region, which only had five NGOs in 2000. Counterpart's Bukhara CSSC intensified its activity in the Navoiy region, organizing regular trainings, meetings, roundtable discussions and presentations of Counterpart's programs. This fostered the creation of seven new NGOs and promoted the work of initiative groups. In April the Center hosted an NGO Fair focusing on social partnership. The Fair was used as a mechanism for NGOs to establish contacts and develop partnerships with governmental and business structures. Seventeen NGOs, and 35 representatives of local administrative bodies, governmental institutions, mahalla committees and mass media took part in this event, initiated by the *Center for Social Adaptation* and held with technical and consultative support from *Bukhara CSSC*. It was the first time that representatives of the society's three sectors met face to face. As a result, they've agreed to meet quarterly to develop joint projects to address problems in the region. Q2/02

Young Women of Uzbekistan Rayon of Ferghana Valley acquire New Professions
In the period of economic transition many residents of the Uzbekistan Rayon of Fergana Valley, especially young women, have been unemployed. Many of them have professions that are no longer in demand. Unemployment among young women was identified as a major problem through PCA exercises conducted by the Center of Socio-Economic Protection of Citizens and Entrepreneurship Development Moshkhur. The Association of Businesswomen of Kokand, Counterpart focus grantee, and NGO Khairikhon, also a Counterpart grantee, assisted the Center in this appraisal. Counterpart trained both NGOs in PCA methodology and CAP development. According to CAP, to resolve the problem Moshkhur requested the Rayon Hokimiat assist in setting up a sewing training workshop for women. The Hokimiat responded positively and involved local Labor Exchange into the project. With joint efforts of all interested parties, they opened a sewing workshop, which provides 3-month training in sewing to young women. Moshkhur provided the space and three looms, the Hokimiat selected three trainers and organized three training groups of five people. The Labor Exchange paid salaries to the trainers and stipends to the trainees. Having completed the training course, women are now working at home and contributing to family budgets. The Center has started training new groups. Q2/02

Play Ball!
One of the causes of increased crime, alcoholism and drug addiction among youth is the lack of recreational activities. Young people in the Gijduvan district of Bukhara cannot participate in sports since the available sports grounds are in bad state. An initiative group of young people Rural Sport came to the Bukhara CSSC for help in solving this problem. The CSSC helped them conduct a PCA and develop an action plan. The initiative group arranged meetings with managers of shirkat farms (former collective farms), local authorities, and community leaders to discuss the issue of fundraising. As a result, shirkat farms, with the approval of local authorities, allotted 50 million soums (about $38,000) to renovate rural sports grounds. The initiative group mobilized local youth to voluntarily do the renovations. Now there are 13 sports grounds equipped with modern services and utilities for all to enjoy. Q2/02

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). Q1/02

Domestic Violence Discussed Openly

The solution to the problem of domestic violence is important for women of Uzbekistan as a traditional way of life, gender stereotypes determine her a minor, which infringes her rights and interests. During August, 2001 - January, 2002, the 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 a 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 has been drafted to protect women from domestic abuse. Q1/02

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. Q1/02

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. Q1/02

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 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. Q1/02

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. Q1/02

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 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. Q1/02

Karakalpak regional NGO's network develops the draft of "Law on Charity "
Uzbekistan's lack of favorable legislative base for carrying out charity activities constrains 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 Olii Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan on democratic institutes, non-government organizations and self-governance bodies. With funding from AED and the Olii 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 down", - the Chairman of Olii 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. Q1/02

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. Q1/02

Legal Assistance for Underprivileged Groups Among Kokand Population
The interests of underprivileged citizens have been largely neglected at legal trials and their cases have often been lost, as they could not afford the services of competent lawyers. When the *Center for Legal Protection and Information Mezon* was developing a project proposal for protecting the legal interests of Kokand's underprivileged population, CSSC provided it with information, consultations and technical support. The CSSC also assisted the NGO in establishing contacts with the Open Society Institute who eventually supported the project. As a result of the project, three qualified Kokand lawyers have begun providing free legal consultations to underprivileged groups in Kokand. From July to October 2001, 247 individuals received free legal consultations, and the lawyers took 47 appeals to court. To date, 6 trials have been completed and the beneficiaries of this free legal service have won all of them. Q4/01

Improved Access for Samarkand's Disabled Residents
Despite the fact that there are 94,000 disabled people in the Samarkand Oblast and a *Social Protection Law* stipulating that all public buildings and transport must be wheelchair accessible, the region's infrastructure is not well developed for disabled people. The *Hayot* (*Life*) *Center* for the support of disabled people in Samarkand, which serves approximately 400 members, organized a campaign to promote disabled people's freedom of movement. The Center, whose leaders have attended numerous Counterpart workshops in Project Design, Strategic Planning, and Advocacy and whose director is a Counterpart trainer, assisted in drafting legislation that ordered all shops, transport stops, banks, and public buildings to be provided with ramps. Members of the *Center* then followed up on the implementation of this order. Now all buildings in public use have ramps and the deputy khokim of transportation has agreed by early 2002 to purchase several buses with devices for lifting wheel chairs. The project is sponsored by the World Bank and will be implemented by the city khokimiyat. The final phase of this process will be to build toilets accessible for disabled people. Q4/01

Zarafshon Taronalari Works With Local Government to Assist Disabled

According to official data, there are more than 94,000 disabled people in Samarkand region. Disabled People's Creative Association *Zarafshon Taronalari* (*Melodies of Zeravshan*) promotes and supports the development of talented disabled people's. The Association works closely with local government bodies in order to secure disabled people with social protection. As a result:

- On December 3, International Disabled People's Day, the Association in cooperation with Khokim's Office as well as other government and private organizations conducted a marathon to collect money for disabled people.
- The Association set up an oriental music ensemble *Zarafsahon Taronalari*, comprising 15 disabled musicians and singers. Regional Khokim's Office allocated 1m sums ($700) to purchase music instruments and costumes.
- Khokim's Office supports the organization of charity concerts in the districts of the region of this ensemble.
- The local government also presented disabled people with ten wheel chairs.
- Collection of means for supporting the Association's activity is under way. Most of the 25 members of the Association have participated in Counterpart's basic workshops such as NGO and Community and Advocacy and regularly take part in round tables and meetings organized by Samarkand CSSC. Samarkand CSSC takes an active part in offering diverse support to this NGO ranging from technical support to consultations in writing letters, complaints and appeals to state authorities. Q4/01

Kokand Businesswomen Association increases Membership by 40%

Attracting members and enlarging activities is a habitual problem among Central Asian NGOs. The Kokand branch of *Businesswomen Association* began operations 1994, but individual membership had never exceeded 100 persons. In January 2001, the Association was awarded a Counterpart focus grant and has received technical and consultative assistance from Counterpart. The Association's leadership has been trained in both basic and advanced modules including Project Design, Coalition Development, Facilitation Skills, Volunteer Management, and PCA. This year, the Association has developed a strategic plan for capacity building, including expanding the organization's activities and attracting new members. The programs on volunteer development, community mobilization for addressing social and economic problems in the region, and educational and youth programs, have been especially attractive to the population of Kokand and the adjacent regions. The image of the Association has improved and as a result, 50 new members have joined Association this past year. Q4/01

Four NGOs Initiate Activities in Rural Khorezm Region

When Counterpart established the Center for Support of Civil Society in Khorezm (March 2001), there were no NGOs in the rural Shavat district of Khorezm region. Moreover, people were not aware of the importance of the non-commercial sector as a component of civil society. The first NGO - Women's Center *Ikhlos* - was set up and registered in July 2001, after the organization's leader, Raisa Makhmudova, participated in Counterpart's basic workshops and got consultations from the Khorezm CSSC. The Women's Centre *Ikhlos* then established a partnership with the local khokim's office and started promoting its work in the district newspaper *Shovot Istikboli* (*Prosperity of Shavat*). This exposure increased the awareness of NGOs and their role in society. *Ikhlos* also contributed in setting up initiative groups in the district. The *Ikhlos Center* replicated Counterpart workshops NGO and Community and Project Design for initiative groups and their constituents. This facilitated the creation and registration of *Women's Health*, *Ecology and Health*, and *Center for Youth Support*. These new NGOs will have a combined constituency of approximately 2000 people. Counterpart played an active role in the establishment of these NGOs by providing office equipment and information and consultations on various issues. Counterpart also provided financial support by awarding a $1,700 grant to Women's Center *Ikhlos*. Q4/01

Bukhara Center of Information and Culture Conducts Non-violence Campaign
Violence against women and children remain a major problem in many Uzbek communities. *The Bukhara Center of Information and Culture*, a Counterpart partner, initiated the campaign *Human Rights - No Violence* in Bukhara and Navoiy districts of Uzbekistan. 10 NGOs and 1,500 people took part in the campaign one way, or the other. 950 participants attended 19 seminars on reproductive rights, women's rights, and problems of violence were conducted. Two thousand copies of handouts on human rights were distributed. Five volunteers from the *Center for Social Adaptation of Women* in Navoiy region were trained to work on telephone hot lines. Twenty-three doctors and nurses in Navoiy region were trained to work with victims of violence. Three charity actions were conducted during which two children's homes in the town of Navoiy and 150 disabled people received support; toys, school materials and presents. This campaign was broadcast on the TV program *Ayel Mukaddasi (Saint Woman)*. The campaign helped NGOs to work together with other groups in the community and to attract public attention to the problems of violence. The number of female victims of violence hot line callers to *Crisis Center Oidin Nuri* increased from 3 calls per week to 3 calls per day. A new violence hot line was created in the town of Navoiy. Q4/01

Ikhtisodchi Ayel Association Organizes Business Training for Rural Women
Uzbek women, particularly in rural areas, disproportionately bear the brunt of economic hardship and rising unemployment. To address this issue the leaders of the Samarkand Association *Ikhtisodchi Ayel* (Women in Economics) convinced the management body of the state program on microcredit (implemented by the State Employment Fund) to train and provide assistance to unemployed rural women in order to improve their financial situation. The Association *Ikhtisodchi Ayel*, in collaboration with the *Republican Committee of Women and Employment*, organized interregional courses on writing business plans and microcredit. Fifty rural businesswomen, from three rural districts in the Samarkand Region, have received business training. Twenty of the trainees have received a total of $1,200 in microloans to start small dairy and cattle farms or farms to process agricultural products. Many of the women-farmers intend to employ family members and people from the community. Moreover, training participants from the Urgutskie District have recently opened their own Business Center. The leaders of The Association *Ikhtisodchi Ayel* have been participating in Counterpart's workshops since 1996, in particular they took part in the seminars Project Design, Strategic Planning, Financial Sustainability and Development of Small Business. They regularly get technical assistance and consultations from Counterpart. Q4/01

Khunarmand Association In Namangan Region Trains 19 Young People In National Ceramics
Unemployment among the young is an acute problem in Namangan region. *Khunarmand Association* joined with Counterpart to support and train young people in their national handicraft. Following the Namangan CSCS's recommendation the Association held a round table discussion at which the members discussed problems of unemployment among the young. Master Nigmat Soliev, member of the *Khunarmand Association*, after participating in Counterpart's workshop on Volunteer Management agreed to train a group of young people in ceramics for free. Members of the Association's Art Board selected 19 gifted young men from the local population for the training. Once every three months the Association will organize exhibitions of the trainees' works in order to exhibit their achievements. Upon finishing a one-year course 19 trainees will have a skill and a better chance of finding a job. They will also become privileged members of the Association (membership fees will be waived) and will be given a recommendation letter, which will assist them in getting new job. Some of the students are planning to open their own workshop after they finish the course. The Association members have been trained at Counterpart's workshops, in NGO and Community, Project Design, Financial Management of an NGO, and Fundraising. Knowledge they received in their trainings and workshops will assist them in finding ways to solve unemployment among youth in the community. Q4/01

Residents of Navoi Mahalla Develop Community Action Plan to Resolve Irrigation Problems
Because of nearby housing construction, a one kilometer-length irrigation channel in mahalla Yangi-Arik was filled in. As a result, 186 residents were cut off from their irrigation water supply for their farms. The blocking of the channel threatened to flood 10 adjacent households and a garbage dump. This was a priority problem identified during a PCA conducted in September 2001 by the initiative group *Tashabbus* with participation of the mahalla residents, the mahalla committee and local authorities. Participants developed a community action plan (CAP) to resolve the problem. The initiative group *Tashabbus* was successful in involving three governmental agencies in the action plan. The three agencies developed a technical project for construction of a new irrigation channel and allocated the necessary technical and human resources. The mahalla committee also mobilized 20 mahalla residents for the construction work. The mahalla residents now have irrigation water for farming, the flooding of houses was prevented, and the mahalla community has cleaned up the territory around the garbage dump. Counterpart trained the initiative group *Tashabbuss* in PCA and CAP, provided consultations in community needs appraisal and action planning, as well as in attracting stakeholders to problem resolution. Q4/01

Khorezm CSSC Volunteer Assists NGO Development in Khiva Region
Few NGOs are operating in the peripheral regions of Uzbekistan. As of May 2001, there were only 2 NGOs in Khiva-city and Khiva Oblast. Karamat Irniyazova, the head of Khiva Branch of NGO *Al Khorezmi Vamberi* has been trained in Counterpart basic and advanced modules including NGO & Community, PCA, Project Design, Fundraising, Public Education Through the Media, and Volunteer Management. She volunteered to represent Khorezm CSSC in the Khiva region and to provide local training, consulting, and access to information. Using the knowledge the volunteer received through Counterpart training and advice from the Khorezm CSSC, she provided local initiative groups with consultations on NGO registration, project design, and facilitated PCA and CAPs in the communities. From August – October 2001, Karamat Irniyazova gave 147 consultations to 48 representatives of NGOs and initiative groups. As result, 2 NGOs were registered, 10 initiative groups were established and 4 initiative groups conducted PCA and developed CAPs, which received Counterpart grants. Q4/01

NGOs Initiate Activites in Most Remote Region of Uzbekistan
The Surkhandarya region of Uzbekistan, bordering Afghanistan, is the most remote and socially and economically undeveloped region of the country. Until recently, the majority of international organizations working in Uzbekistan have ignored this region and Uzbek NGOs have only recently initiated activities in the region. In 2001 the leaders of The Surkhandarya Center of Spirituality and Enlightenment were trained at a series of Counterpart workshops including NGOs and the Community, Project Design, and Participatory Community Appraisal (PCA). These leaders also received consultations from Counterpart on organizational development. The Surkhandarya Center then used information gleaned from Counterpart's trainings and consultations and assisted another regional NGO, Ayel va Zamon, in conducting a PCA and to identify their clients' priority problems. Ayel va Zamon has since implemented a UNHCR funded project to purchase textbooks for refugee children, organize language and history courses for 45 people from Afghanistan, and repair and furnish a classroom. The NGO plans to open carpet making and beadwork workshops next year. Q4/01

The Residents of Rural Mahalla Navoyi protect their Interests
Industrial enterprises quite often are sources of environmental pollution. Citizens and local authorities mostly do not take any actions to change this situation. The canning factory in the rural mahalla *Navoyi*, outside of Kokand, discharged wastewater into the mahalla streets, thus flooding yards and basements. The Women and Youth Centre *Iftikhor*, having participated in Counterpart seminars "NGO and Community", "NGO Management" and "Project Design" and having received consultations in advocacy as well as having participated in 10 workshops on human rights, approached the district Khokim's Office to find a solution for the problem. As a result the district Khokim's Office allocated finances to build a sewage system for the canning factory. Now 151 homes are out of harm's way. Q3/01

NGO Representatives are Elected to Local Governing Institutions

Traditionally NGO leaders have not had the support of the local populations to stand as local government representatives . Lately NGOs have been working more actively with communities and citizens have started seeing them more and more as representatives of their interests. As a result of this trust, three NGO representatives have recently been elected to local governing institutions :

- Ulmasoi Sattorova, social worker in *Bakhrin* kishlak of Samarkand region, belonging to Interregional Rehabilitation Center *Umid*, Counterpart Focus NGO (Samarkand), has been elected as Mahalla Committee Chairperson. There were 3 candidates for the post, but 96% of electors voted for Ulmasoi Sattorova.
- Birigul Safarova, Umid's representative in *Nekuz* kishlak, located in the most remote part of Kashkadariya region, has been elected as Women's Committee Chairperson in the mahalla as well as a conciliation commission member.
- The Chairperson of the Center for social-economic development of women *Kamalon* in Kokand has been elected secretary of Mahalla Committee No 42.
- Counterpart contributed to the development of "Umid" and "Kamalon" through trainings as well as providing these organizations with technical and consultative support. The leaders of these NGOs along with most of the staff participated in a majority of Counterpart trainings. Q3/01

"Golden Heritage of The Aral" awarded Public Service Contract

Financial sustainability for Uzbekistan NGOs is a primary concern, as the majority of funding comes from foreign donors. The NGO *Golden Heritage of The Aral* opened workshops in Nukus and Muynak, and has been training unemployed women and women from low-income families in traditional handicrafts, such as embroidery, carpet weaving and sewing. With support from the Open Society Institute worth $9,200, the NGO bought 5 carpet-weaving looms and raw materials. The workshops manufacture 10 production items, including bags, eyeglass cases, purses and carpets. This production activity has secured permanent jobs for 60 women in Nukus and Muynak. The NGO has managed to draw the interest of governmental agencies to its production and in 2000-2001 was awarded a public supply contract by the Ministry of Culture of Karakalpakistan worth 5 million Uzbek sums ($5,000). The NGO manufactured 96 women's and men's embroidered national dresses for performances dedicated to The Independence Day of the Republic of Uzbekistan. Thanks to the profit the organization purchased more raw materials and gave the craftswomen a salary increase. As a target NGO of Counterpart in Phase II *Golden Heritage of the Aral* was trained in the basic training modules, including "Fundraising", "Project Design" and "Financial Sustainability of Small- and Medium-Size Enterprise", and has received regular technical support and consulting in organizational development. Q3/01

Center of Social-legal Information "Status" Protects the Rights of the Disabled

One key problem for the disabled community is the lack of awareness of current laws affecting them and inability to use these laws to their fullest. Counterpart grantee *the Center of Social-legal Information for Disabled People with Spinal Problems "Status"* provides practically all disability organizations of Uzbekistan with legal information and also helps them to protect their rights. Over the past two years, 750 disabled people have received consultations. As a result, 160 people improved their standard of living by obtaining privileged charges for communal services, securing pensions, allowances and treatment, the installation of telephones, or guaranteeing free transportation. 18 NGOs and 14 training-productive enterprises that employ disabled persons are regularly informed about all the changes in legislation. A card-catalogue and a computer database of 680 disabled people have been developed and are used by other NGOs. In July 2001 the Center received grants from Soros Foundation and the Embassy of the United States of America totaling US$20,000 to train disabled people in methods of protecting their rights. Counterpart supported the Center's project and sent a letter of recommendation to the Embassy. Q3/01

Four Tashkent NGOs united to Combat Drug Trafficking among Schoolchildren
NGOs in Uzbekistan rarely cooperate in addressing social problems; they act one by one, seeing one another as competitors. Four Tashkent NGOs received support form the Swiss Embassy in the amount of about $7,000 for a joint project. *Kids and Adults, "Kuzmunchok" Children's Benevolent Fund, "Ikbol" Youth Center*, and *KRIDI* of Bektemir District will carry out the project in 6 schools in the Tashkent Oblast, where there has been a sharp increase in rates of AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases, and drug abuse. Involvement of schoolchildren in the project implementation through public performances, brochures, flyers and posters makes the project noteworthy. Twelve children will be trained as trainers to provide "kid to kid" training. Four NGOs plan to replicate the project with the aim of enhancing outreach. The leaders of all 4 NGOs participated in Counterpart's training program and were trained in "Coalition Development", "Fundraising" and "Project Design", as well as received technical support and consultations. NGO *Kids and Adults*, the chief project executor, was Counterpart's target NGO in Phase II. Q3/01

International and Local Support for Disabled and Underprivileged Children in Kokand
The number of children's clubs and fine arts studios has significantly dropped lately. The remaining ones have become commercial and are not accessible for underprivileged and disabled children. The *Center for Rehabilitation and Integration of Disabled Children "Iktidor"* in Kokand, after consultations with the Kokand CSSC and participation in Counterpart's workshops on fundraising and project design, was able to receive a grant from Save the Children Fund (UK). The Center established a studio, where 30 underprivileged and disabled children are learning to make tapestries, draw and model clay. The Center was able to attract the authorities' attention to its activity. To make the disabled children's talents known, the head of the region (khokim) purchased a tapestry (2x3m) for the sum of 250,000 sums (about $250.00) and had an album with samples of the products sent to the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan on the occasion of Independence day. The money was spent to buy materials for the studio and sewing devices so those children could also learn sewing skills. Q3/01

Rural Physician Post Has Been Opened in Manak Kishlak
Many of Uzbekistan's rural inhabitants do not have access to medical services where they live. In order to get emergency medical help the inhabitants of the Manak kishlak (about 15000 residents) in the Andijan region went to the Khadjaabad district centre located 35 km away. Chronic diseases were not treated, nor were prevention examinations conducted. Members of *Madad Trust Center*, a Counterpart grantee, discovered these problems during seminars on prevention of anemia for women. *Madad* and the kishlak residents approached the Khadjaabad district Khokim's Office and convinced them to establish a rural physician's post. The post was opened in mahalla "Nishobbuyi" for 5000 of its residents. For that the Khokim's Office provided resources to restore a three-room accommodation given by the collective farm. The local health office finances the work of staff comprised of a doctor and a nurse. Later Khokim's Office opened 2 more posts in this kishlak. Leaders of *Madad* participated in main Counterpart trainings and were consulted on advocacy. Q3/01

Health Practicioners Implement PCA
Reforming of the primary heath care system proposes first of all, providing the population with information about the most widespread diseases. However, public events aimed at informing and educating the population were not successful. The *Association of Tuberculosis Patients*, trained in PCA methodology by Counterpart, initiated an assessment to determine how to involve both the population and medical tier-workers in TB information campaigns. In order to share the experience the Ministry of Health Care of the Republic of Uzbekistan invited the President of the Association to participate in the International Conference " Development of the Primary Health Care and Family Medicine" in September. The Conference is held by the Ministry of Health Care of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Department for the International Development, UK and Zdravplus (USAID). Q3/01

Six NGOs Created in Rural Areas of the Fergana Oblast

Rural residents tend to be the more passive, poorly informed and socially inactive segment of the population in Uzbekistan. There are practically no NGOs in rural areas, and people are mostly unaware of events that take place in the world. The Kokand CSSC and Counterpart Focus NGO the BWA involved representatives of rural populations in participation in seminars and training, as well as provided them with consultations. As a result, the following six NGOs were registered over the past 5 months in 5 kishlaks (villages) and settlements of Uzbekistan:. the *Center of Business Development and Legal Support for Rural Business and Craft Women;* the *Center of Social-Economic Protection of Population and Business and Family Business Development;* the *Center of Business Development and Social Protection of Women; The Trust Center; the Center for Support of Women and Youth Initiatives in Villages;* and the *Club for Teenagers*. By conducting various trainings, these NGOs started to actively involve residents in solving rural social problems. Two NGOs were supported by Counterpart to solve problems related to land irrigation and waste removal in the village territory. Q3/01

Atamakan Charitable Fund Solves Water Shortage Problem

A shortage of water caused by the ecological crisis of Aral Sea basin has been the source of many social problems in Karakalpakstan, including poverty, unemployment and migration. A grantee of Counterpart, *Atamakan Charitable Fund*, with financial support from USAID of $25,000, has installed 65 manually operated water pumps in Khalkabad town of Kegeyli Rayon. The pumps will provide 90% of the town' population (10,500 inhabitants) with drinking water, as well as water for a range of economic needs, such as irrigation. To address the issue of water shortage in other areas of Kegeyli Rayon, *Atamakan* has started 12 initiative groups. Projects of 4 of them, *Bozuglan*, *Sharapat*, *Jalpak-Jab*, and *The Society of The Blind*, have received grant support from Counterpart. Q3/01

NGO *Shagala* Introduced 300 children the Convention on the Child

It has been ten years since Uzbekistan ratified the Convention on the Child, however both the adult population and children know a little about the rights declared in the document. A Counterpart grantee, *Shagala Center* in Karakalpakstan, has developed interactive training seminar "The Labyrinth of Rights" on the basis of the Convention. The NGO conducted seminars in an international summer camp and in 5 towns for 300 children of Karakalpakstan. *Shagala* has engaged various governmental agencies and business organizations in the project. For instance, the Town Khokimiyat provided premises, the Ministry of People's Education made the lists of participants, who were mostly children from low-income families, *Nukus-Su*, a firm, supplied soft drinks for the seminars, and *Makintosh* Restaurant allocated 10% of its profit for office expenditure and cultural events of the project. NGO *Perzent* took part in the development of the training module and gave advice to *Shagala* in the course of training delivery. The training has stimulated children to social action, has enhanced legal awareness and changed their world outlook. Q3/01

The Khorezm Civil Society Support Center Receives Support from Local Authorities

NGOs, especially Civil Society Support Centers, traditionally have a hard time finding suitable office space. Counterpart's partner NGO *Al Khorezmi-Vamberi* had offices in the center of town , in the oblast *khokimiyat* (local executive authority). Unfortunately the offices consisted of only the one room and were not adequate for running a CSSC *Al Khorezmi-Vamberi* requested additional space from the *khokimiyat.* The *khokimiyat*, realizing the importance of the development of NGOs in the region, made available an additional three rooms and moved the people previously working in these offices to other locations. Further, the *khokimiyat* suspended its usual practice of disallowing reconstruction of load-bearing sections of administrative buildings and let the NGO undertake significant remodeling to accommodate the needs of this new CSSC. As a result, the NGOs of the Khorezm Oblast now have a convenient place to convene and the CSSC has greater potential to build social partnerships between government bodies and NGOs in the region. Q2/01

First Civil NGO Forum with Participation of Government Officials in Karakalpakstan
Governmental structures mainly do not trust NGOs and do not see them as partners in seeking solutions for regional socio-economic problems. From January to April 2001 the Nukus organization *Renaissance* conducted four roundtable discussions: *Social Partnership is a Crucial Factor for NGOs Sustainable Development*; *Implementation of the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Non-governmental Non-commercial Organizations"*; *Problems and Difficulties in NGO Development in the Republic of Karakalpakstan*; and *NGO Development Strategy in Karakalpakstan*. These roundtable discussions resulted in conducting the Civil NGO Forum of Karakalpakstan. At these meetings 69 NGO representatives, 8 Deputy Ministers of the Council of Ministers of Karakalpakstan, the Chairperson of the Commission on Public Associations of the local Parliament, and representatives of business structures and mass media jointly developed the strategy for Karakalpakstan NGO development and the priorities for their activity in the coming three years. The meetings contributed to mutual understanding and cooperation between NGOs and governmental institutions. Renaissance leaders have taken part in Counterpart workshops, and are regular recipients of consultative and resource support. Q2/01

The Women and Society Institute Helps Solve Unemployment Problems
Women are hardest hit by the scarcity of jobs in Uzbekistan, due to their lower socio-economic status and lack of relevant knowledge and skills. The NGO *Women and Society*, under the auspices of the TASCIS LIEN Project (a project implemented by Internationaler Bund, Counterpart Deutschland and Counterpart Uzbekistan) organized a series of eight seminars in eight cities and rural areas from November 2000 to March 2001. 143 unemployed and needy women participated in Counterpart seminars in “Small Business Development,” “Project Design” and “NGO and Community,” which had been designed to meet the specific needs of the audience. As a result of the skills transferred:

- Four participants wrote and submitted grant proposals to international organizations;
- Two participants from the Tashkent Oblast settlement of Keles opened a small bakery, and one received a license to open a pastry shop;
- Three participants from Tashkent found work and ten pooled their assets to open a tailoring shop;
- Two participants from Fergana opened their own store, while another received a loan to start a farm;
- Five participants from Termez opened a customized tailoring business and the local center for social adaptation opened a hairdressing salon; and
- One participant from Gulistan in the Syrdarynskaya Oblast opened a cafe, and another received a loan for women entrepreneurs. Q2/01

Federation of the Consumer’s Right Protection Societies Protects Co-partnership Rights
Private housing in Uzbekistan comprises 98% of the total housing space. Real estate owners, in accordance with the law of Uzbekistan adopted in April 1999, can set up co-partnerships. Due to the population's legal illiteracy and general lack of awareness co-partnerships are mostly created under pressure from government functionaries, without citizens' involvement. Counterpart grantee, the *Federation of the Consumer’s Right Protection Societies* led a campaign to promote the law, which included conducting seminars, meetings, and organizing regular radio and TV programs. Having received 200 complaints from citizens the *Federation* studied CIS experience in setting up co-partnerships and developed proposals which were taken into consideration in the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers, issued in April 2001. With the support from Eurasia Foundation two books in Uzbek and Russian were issued and distributed: "Collection of Legislative and Normative Acts for the Real Estate Owners Co-partnerships" and "Guidebook on Setting up Co-partnerships". Thanks to legal and consultative support from the *Federation* twelve co-partnerships in Tashkent were able to oppose to local pressure and protect their rights. For example, apartment owners in neighborhoods No 13 and 19 of Chilanzar, in accordance with legislation, were able to have their houses renovated prior to setting up co-partnerships. Q2/01

Kokand Center Generates Public Awareness of Elderly Issues
Due to migration of the Russian speaking population from Fergana Valley a lot of elderly people are abandoned by children, helpless, rightless, and very often homeless. The Kokand Center *Mekhr-Sakhovat* supports these people. As a result of Counterpart support and workshops the *Center* has been able to generate the following successes over the past two years:

- 1,621 persons have received consultations
- 86 people got legal advice, in particular on reestablishing the right of housing and on getting pensions
- 46 individuals on the poverty line are under regular care of the *Center* including many homeless who come for temporary shelter and 10-12 people who get their daily meals
- Mahalla committees, governmental structures, and local residents support the *Center's* work. The Khokim's Office provided the *Center* with a spacious building in the center of town.
- A local bakery provides the *Center* with four loaves of bread daily for charity lunches.
- Local TV studio "Mulokat" produced and released a social visual "Abandoned Old Age". Q2/01

Umidvorlik Center Trains Families with Disabled Children to Protect Their Rights and Interests
Disabled people in Uzbekistan are typically isolated from society and dependent on specialized educational institutions and closed public organizations. Counterpart focus NGO the *Center for Support of Disabled Children Umidvorlik* conducted two workshops for 66 participants from NGOs working with disabled people. In the first quarter of 2001 the *Center's* lawyer, psychologist and sociologist provided 215 consultations. The *Center's* activities foster the development of new attitudes and thinking, encourage initiative and persistence in improving quality of life, and help disabled people and their families allay fears when dealing with government officials. As a result of the *Center's* activities, individuals are empowered to change the system for dealing with the disabled one person:

- Olga Saporojchenko is the mother of a disabled child and was able to get free driving training, as she is responsible for getting her child to doctor's appointments. Olga also enrolled her child in computer and English language courses for free and got government relief on prescription costs.
- Elena Anpilogova is a 23-year-old disabled girl who now attends auxiliary classes at high school, thanks to the persistence of her parents, who lobbied the Ministry of Public Education of Uzbekistan for permission. Q2/01

Karakalpakstan NGO Atamakan Organizes Children's Leisure and Provides Information
Most of the children from low-income families in the town of Khalkabad in Karakalpakstan do not have textbooks and do not read newspapers or journals because they cannot afford to buy them. Further, their free time is not organized, leading to delinquency in many Karakalpak youths. Counterpart grantee *Atamakan* participated in Counterpart 's Project Design workshop and able to get a grant from the international organization ISAR. The grant was used to start an ecological museum on the premises of school No 19 of Khalkabad. The museum aims to be the center for ecological education of local residents. The members of the school's ecological club, having aquatinted themselves with the work of museums in Samarkand, Bukhara and Khiva, are setting up a museum library. The grant money also enabled the school to subscribe to seven newspapers and journals and to purchase textbooks on history, geography and biology. Q2/01

Volunteers of Kokand CSSC Have Paid Jobs
Unemployment, especially among the young people, is one of the gravest problems in the Fergana Valley, the most densely populated region in Uzbekistan. The Kokand Civil Society Support Centerhas been actively involving young people in its activities. Further the Center has been developing the volunteer movement in the Fergana Valley,. Volunteers at the CSSC have been trained at Counterpart's seminars, have gained experience in providing services to the population, have developed computer skills, and have learned to work with contemporary office equipment, all of which have helped them get the following:

- Volunteer Gulasal Khamdamova is now a full-time member of the CSSC staff.

- Volunteer Viktor Sechkin has become a member of the Fergana Region branch of the *Society for Protection of Consumers' Rights*.
- Volunteer Sanjar Olimov has started working as a receptionist in the private firm *Dilorom.*
- Volunteer Dmitriy Kvan is now implementing an economic program in the Association of Business Women of Kokand.
- Volunteer Maftuna Madaminova started working in the NGO *Kamolon*. Q2/01

The First Guidebook on NGOs in Uzbekistan

Lack of information about NGO activities in Uzbekistan prevents greater cooperation and information exchange. The NGOs *Tashkent Center for Social and Humanitarian Research* and *Association of Businesswomen of Uzbekistan* published the first guidebook on women's organizations in Uzbekistan, with the support from Soros Foundation. Counterpart's database of NGOs was a primary source of information in researching organizations to include in this guidebook. 1000 copies of the guidebook are available in one of three languages (Uzbek, English and Russian). It contains information on 58 registered women's NGOs, 14 NGOs doing projects for women and 15 women's newspapers and journals. It also includes information on the development of women's NGOs in Uzbekistan. All Counterpart CSSCs have been provided with copies of the guidebook. The Tashkent Resource Center has sent it to six regional organizations of Russia and Central Asia, including The *Institute for Civil Society Problems* (Moscow) and the *Siberian Civic Initiatives Support Center*. The guidebook will be instrumental in the development of partnerships between Uzbekistan NGOs and those of other countries. Q2/01

First NGO Registered in Margilan in the Fergana Valley

Margilan, unlike other towns of Fergana Valley, is famous for its conservatism and adherence to religion. Therefore setting up and registering the first NGO there has become an important event not only in the town but in Fergana Valley as a whole, since it was evidence of the growing activity of initiative groups in local communities. The first NGO in Margilan is the *Centre for Social and Economic Support of Women - Begoyim*, set up in the mahalla *Arik Buyi*. The *Center's* mission is to improve the social and economic situation of the mahalla's more than 1000 women. Having surveyed, in cooperation with mahalla residents, the most vital problems of their community the *Center* is at present engaged with the provision of drinking water to 541 households of the mahalla. The *Center* has also taken steps to start a "hot line" in order to provide psychological support to the most vulnerable groups of people who found themselves in situations of crisis. Counterpart actively contributed to strengthening the potential of this organization, providing training to its members at seminars, giving them consultative and technical support, and developing their skills and the skills of mahalla residents in identifying and solving community problems. Q2/01

Women from Kokand save their Mahalla's Fruit Garden

As a rule, women in Uzbekistan do not play an active role in the resolution of local problems. Counterpart grantee the Mokhlaroyim Center for Socio-Economic Support of Women is training women of Kokand's Davronbek Mahalla No. 1 to be more active, by means of seminars, roundtables, business clubs and other advocacy-centered activities. As a result, the mahalla's women took it upon themselves to form a women's commission, bringing together women activists from 19 of the mahalla's streets. Together with the mahalla committee, the Commission not only looks for solutions to family problems, but also lobbies the interests of its residents. For example, local railway management decided to create a railway freight transfer yard in the location where the mahalla's fruit garden had previously been located. The management suggested that the mahalla's residents cut down the trees and move the canal, the water from which had been used to irrigate the trees, to another place. The Commission voiced their disagreement with the destruction of the garden, wrote an official letter and met with railway management. In the end, the garden and the irrigation canal were saved and are at the disposal of the 700 houses of the mahalla near the garden. Q2/01

A TV Film on NGO Activities Supported by Local Government

Television is one of the most effective and expensive ways of advertising. The costs are prohibitively expensive for NGOs. At the end of 2000, at the initiative of the Nukus CSSC and with support from Parliament and the Government of Karakalpakstan, the local TV station made a 40 minute film in Karakalpak highlighting the activity of Counterpart's Nukus CSSC and five NGOs of Karakalpakstan (the *Disabled People's Society*, *Golden Heritage of the Aral*, the *Center for Public Research*, *Perzent Center*, and the *Union for the Protection of the Aral and the Amydarya*). The Nukus CSSC manager Palmurza Khojabekov consulted on the film. The production and release of the film cost US $1,025, with the government covering the majority of the costs ($911). A copy of the film was provided to the *Oliy Majlis* Committee on Democratic Institutions, local NGOs and local self-governing bodies of the Republic of Uzbekistan to be shown during the hearings on the implementation of the law of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Non-governmental Non-commercial Organizations in Karakalpakstan. Within months of the release of the film on local TV, ten new NGOs and initiative groups were created and started to actively participate in solving social problems at local level. Q2/01

Khayet Center in Samarkand Helps One Disabled Woman Fight for Her Rights

In Uzbekistan women often lack rights even in their own families. For example, one woman found herself on the streets with her two children so that her husband could move in his new wife. According to Uzbek legislation she couldn't claim her share of space in the house, which was built jointly with her husband, because all the house documentation was in the name of her husband's brother. This woman was a member of the *Khayet Center*, which protects the rights of the disabled, because she was nearly blind. Members of the Centre helped her initial grief and depression over her situation and provided legal advice on what she should do next. She collected testimonies of her 38 neighbors which documented her involvement in the construction of the house. Armed with these depositions, she sought and gained the mahalla committee support. The next step would have been to go to court, but the tide of public opinion forced her husband to give her and the children the ground floor of the house that they had built together. Counterpart has a long history of supporting the *Khayet*, including providing trainings on Advocacy, which helped *Khayet* members develop a strategy on advocating for disabled woman's rights. Q2/01

The First Youth Club Registered in Bukhara

The youth in Bukhara are apathetic about civic involvement because they have no real active civic and social position in Uzbek society. In 1999 Counterpart partner the Bukhara Information and Culture Center (BICC) initiated the establishment of a *Club of Young Leaders* and trained them in Counterpart modules such as "Communication Skills," "Facilitation Skills," and "Conflict Resolution." The organization increased its profile after the successful implementation of four city-wide activities – the "Day of youth service," "Day of the Earth," "Day of Children Protection," and "Youth Against Narcotics". A 300% increase in membership over one calendar year compelled the *Club* to be registered as an independent organization. The spectrum of the *Club's* programs is wide – from civil society to psychology and including ecology and cultural heritage of the past. By casting this wide programming net, the young people of Bukhara can unite according to their interests and gain a better understanding of themselves and their own unique personalities. Q1/01

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

After attending Counterpart's training in project design, the *Association of Rural Primary Medicinal Organizations* successfully submitted a proposal to the Embassy of New Zealand in Moscow. Supported with $5,350, the *Association* will implement a project aimed at propagating a more healthy way of life among children between the ages of 7-17 years old. 3,700 children from three districts and two towns in the Fergana rayon took part in 12 actions where knowledge of a healthy lifestyle was presented through tales, songs, poems, and puzzles. Professionally written, they have been collected in manuals and textbooks that are now used with great effect by schools in the Fergana region. Q1/01

NGO Helps to Develop Small Business

Last October the chairman of the small enterprise *Bekchanboy*, Saidnazar Bekchanov, participated in a Counterpart workshop on project design, arranged by the International Scientific Society *Al Khorezmi Vamberi*. After the seminar Mr. Bekchanov decided to open a mini-farm for rabbit breeding and consulted with *Al Khorezmi Vamberi* before deciding to rent two hectares of land. He was refused by the chairman of the farmer household who referred to the resolution of the district Khokimiyat, which states that farmers cannot rent less than 10 hectares of land. Using skills developed through advocacy training from Counterpart, *Al Khorezmi Vamberi* submitted an economic feasibility study of the non-profitability of not renting the 10 hectares of land to the district Khokimiyat. Based on this study, the local authorities allowed *Bekchanboy* to rent two hectares of land. Together with *Al Khorezmi Vamberi*, *Bekchanboy* developed a business plan for the rabbit-breeding farm. As a result of *Al Khorezmi Vamberi*'s skills, as acquired through Counterpart support, the farm is now successfully functioning, there is great demand for the products, and four people are employed on the farm on a full-time basis. Q1/01

NGO Solves Problem of Leisure time and Employment of Youth

One of the problems the Khorezm region's educational organizations face is a shortage of funding from the state. As a consequence, leisure time and employment of youth become one of the serious problems of the region. As a result of attending the Counterpart training in project design held last October, the organization *Almaz Limited*, a member of the BWA of the Khorezm region, was funded by the German Association of Craftsmen and Businessmen to create a training workshop to teach teenagers basis of craftsmanship. From the beginning about 200 teenagers were trained. Within the framework of the project a workshop was opened and equipped with necessary materials for training up to 50 teenagers. *Almaz Limited* plans to offer courses for a fee to train teenagers in handicrafts. As a result of this project *Almaz Limited* was able to secure materials and equipment to enhance longer term sustainability. Q1/01

Development of Private Tour Business in Bukhara

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

- One of the members opened a restaurant with a wide choice of vegetarian courses. The restaurant is very popular among tourists, including foreigners. Presently there are orders from 10 firms for 2001.
- *Association* and BICC developed a 2-day training on "Hotel Management" which covers the basics of marketing, market analysis, client profitability and service culture. The training resulted in an increased in the standards of service among hotels in Bukhara. The city and the state national company *Uzbektourism* have indicated the need for such training in 25 private hotels. Q1/01

Uzbek Association of Reproductive Health (UARH) Operates in Eight New Regions

In a short period of time the *Uzbek Association of Reproductive Health* has established branch offices and extended its activity to eight of the twelve more densely populated regions of Uzbekistan. Effective work with governmental and local authorities, health organizations, mahalla committees, and women's councils has resulted in a joint partnership with the *Republican Reproductive Health Center of the Health Ministry of the Republic of Uzbekistan* and the *Women's Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan*. The Strategic Agreement governing long-term activities under this partnership includes: 1) information exchange; 2) conducting joint actions and measures, meetings, conferences, round-tables etc.; and 3) mutual training of personnel. An annual plan for joint activity has been made up for six regions of Uzbekistan. According to this plan, measures will be taken to protect citizens for a free and informative choice concerning their reproductive and sexual health, the quality of medical workers will be raised, and the quality of medical service in the sphere of reproductive health will be improved. Counterpart provided assistance in the formation of *UARH* and has provided ongoing support to *UARH* in four regions of Uzbekistan. Q1/01

A Volunteer Center Now Operating in Samarkand
After the conference *Perspectives of volunteerism development in Uzbekistan*, conducted by Counterpart in partnership with Global Training for Development Project, a Volunteer Center (clearinghouse) has been created in the crisis center *Umid*. This is the first initiative to unite volunteers. At present there are 32 volunteers in the database. Most of these are women - beneficiaries of *Umid* who disseminate information about NGOs. Many of them were educated as trainers by *Winrock International. Umid* services three regions in Uzbekistan – Samarkand, Kashkadarya and Djizak. Three doctors periodically make consultations free-of-charge and operate on burn victims, four teachers educate children in shelters, three correspondents (TV, radio and newspaper) write about the activity of *Umid* free of charge. The flow of volunteers contributes exponentially to the number of people who are helped. Q1/01

Volunteers Receive Paid Jobs in City of International Tourism in Uzbekistan.
In 1999 the Bukhara Regional Center for Information and Culture organized training for a Club of Young Leaders in the following issues, developed using Counterpart methodologies: Setting Goals, Planning According to a Logical Structure, Conflict and Mutual Relations, and The Art of Communication. Six of these individuals became volunteers for the Center and participated in special Counterpart trainings, including a conference on "Perspectives of Development for Volunteer Initiatives in Uzbekistan" conducted with assistance from USAID/GTD. Local private hotels are now turning to the Center as a resource for recommendations of qualified specialists. Three volunteers have been hired by two private hotels and two other hotels have made inquiries for three more candidates. Q4/00.

Open Library Negotiates New Space and Expands Outreach
For the past three years the Counterpart-supported Open Library of Legal Information has provided legal information through its office and on the Internet. The Library is located on the second floor of the Institute of Law; access is limited by the Instituete's administration. The NGO made several failed attempts to renegotiate its space with the Institute. As a result of TTAP exercises, the organization reorganized its Board, including the addition of Counterpart staff member Oybek Boltaev. The new Board was able to convince the Institute to provide the Library with another room. Now the NGO is located on the ground floor of the Institute, in a room that has a separate entrance. The NGO is now able to provide access for the disabled and diversify the client base. Now the disabled, pensioners, housewives and other members of the community visit the Library in addition to the regular student visits. Since the library moved to the new space the number of visitors increased from 225 in September to 686 in October. The NGO's membership has also increased from 21 new members per month to 54 persons per month in the new locale. During the first two years of operation the NGO attracted 447 members. The organization has signed on 108 new members in the first two months as a result of increased visibility and access. Q4/00.

NGO Resource Helps Public Library Expand Legal Resources
One of the main problems of libraries in Uzbekistan is the lack of current resources and access to the latest information in specialized topics. To search for alternatives for addressing this problem, Dilorom Shukurova, a member of the *Republican Association of Librarians* consulted with Counterpart's Tashkent Resource Center. Counterpart identified the training, during which Ms. Shukurova learned about the Open Society Institute (Soros Foundation) *Pushkin Library Project*, which aims to support long-distance regions of CIS through distribution of specialized texts. Ms. Shukurova was able to reach an agreement with the *All-Russian Library of Foreign Literature* for the inclusion of the Fergana Library in the project. According to this agreement the Fergana Library is eligible for a 75% discount on the purchase of Russian-print, new editions and publications on jurisprudence. The first consignment in the amount of $1,000 allowed the Library to purchase 300 books that reach a student population of 1200. The Fergana Library is the only library in Uzbekistan that has this privilege, thus allowing students of legal educational institutions in the Fergana Valley to access the latest information. Ms. Shukurova has provided information to the Tashkent Resource Center about these new materials, which in turn is highlighting this resource through its monthly bulletin, *Initiative.* Q4/00.

Charitable Center Mekhr-Sakhovat Expands Support
At present one of the most pressing social problems is the near starvation existence of the poorest of people in Kokand. After having participated the Counterpart seminar on Fundraising and having received technical assistance from Counterpart in how to write applications to sponsors, the administrator of the Charitable Center Mekhr-Sakhovat (Mercy) approached the manager of the Kokand meat-cutting factory for financial assistance. The manager of the factory paid for air time at local TV station Mulokot, which the NGO used to address potential sponsors throughout the city. This appeal was well received and contributed to an expanded sponsorship base of both corporations and individuals. As a result, the NGO receives and distributes the following products for free on a monthly basis: 20 kilos of dairy products granted by a dairy factory; 20 kilos of bread and pastries from a local bakery; and 4-5 kilos of meat from the meat-cutting factory. Q4/00.

Growth in Women's Activism in Fergana Valley
Women living in villages and rural communities near Kokand are unaware of their legal rights and are thus unable to protect these rights. The Business Women's Association (BWA) of Kokand has been working to expand their programs to increase women's knowledge of their legal rights, of economic opportunities under modern economic conditions, of healthcare, and of education for children and adolescents. Through technical assistance and training in "Project Design" and "Social Partnership" and prior experience as a Counterpart grantee, the BWA developed the "New Opportunities for Women" project, which received funding from Winrock International. As a result, 27 women's initiative groups formed, with each group consisting of twelve to fifteen women; a resource center arose under the auspices of the BWA to support initiative groups' development; and monthly meetings were organized for information sharing. Follow-up funding has been given to three of the initiative groups for seminars on women's legal rights. Q4/00.

NGO Participates in the National Strategy for Sustainable Development in Uzbekistan.
At present, governmental organizations are not receptive to the introduction of new curricula, technologies, and NGO experiences in the Uzbekistan educational system. The NGO "For an Ecologically Clean Fergana" developed a program for comprehensive ecological education for students from kindergarten through high school, taking into consideration community needs. Additionally the NGO developed a plan for retraining industrial specialists. As a result of consultations with Counterpart, including a TTAP and training in "Social Partnership" and "Advocacy," the NGO's program was included in the Macroeconomics Ministry's National Strategy for Uzbekistan's Sustainable Development and approved as a compulsory discipline. In November 2000 the Ministry of Education and the State Committee of Nature had a meeting to discuss program specifications. This long-term partnership between NGOs and these ministries will facilitate the introduction of non-traditional educational tools based on interactive methods. Q4/00.

The Number of Associations of Professionals in Fergana Valley is Increasing.
The protection of rights and professional interests of people of different groups is a significant problem in Uzbek society. As a result of Counterpart support through the Kokand Civil Society Support Center, the following new professional associations have been established in Fergana Valley: the *Association of Educational Workers*; *Association of Doctors/Endocrinologists*; the Fergana and Namangan branches of the *Society of Consumer Rights Protection*; the Fergana, Namangan, and Andijan branches of the *Uzbek Association of Reproductive Health*; the *Association of Librarians*; and the *Association of French-Speakers*. Counterpart is providing ongoing assistance and consultations on project design to these associations, for example: the Association of Endocrinologists is providing training in goiter prevention, where Counterpart helped provide training to 540 people from four mahallas; the Association on Reproductive Health is training 400 women and 600 adolescents in birth control methods in accordance with a Counterpart funded initiative; and the Association of Educators is creating a database of disabled children in 60 mahallas in Kokand with advisory assistance from Counterpart. Q4/00.

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Soros Foundation and USIS Support Educational Programs for Young People of Uzbekistan
One of the largest deterrents to enhanced programming for the NGO *Family and Children* is the lack of resources to address specific social problems, such as prostitution, drug abuse, and sexually transmitted diseases. As a result of Counterpart training and consultations in Project Design and Fundraising, *Family and Children* has successfully received support from two international organizations–USIS and the Soros Foundation–to implement innovative programs to address social problems. As a result of these programs:

- *Family and Children* is educating 1,500 school children at ten Tashkent high schools and 800 Tashkent university students on social problems such as prostitution, drug abuse, and sexually transmitted diseases. The program's messages have been well-received by the students, prompting remarks such as "They are finally talking about this with us" and "My friend's attitude to me became kinder and more understanding."
- Long-term cooperation with Uzbekistan educational institutions has been established as a result of the interest of students and teachers generated through these programs.
- 56 young women in the Kokand women's penal colony are receiving education and support in the areas of diagnosis, treatment and prevention of sexually transmitted diseases. Further, these women are being taught vocational skills such as hairdressing, cooking, and basic computer skills. Q4/00.

NGO Network Hamkor Unites 70 Uzbek NGOs
In spite of the growing activity and increasing number of NGOs in Uzbekistan, NGOs in Uzbekistan do not have sufficient interaction with one another. They are poorly informed about their colleagues' activities and areas of mutual recourse. As a result of Counterpart training and ongoing support, the leaders of the most powerful NGOs in Uzbekistan worked together to create Hamkor – an NGO network in Uzbekistan. The initiative group included leaders from the following NGOs: *Business Women's Association*, Tashkent; *Ael Resource Center for Women and Families*, Samarkand; *Fergana Regional Center fro Social and Legal Support of Women and Children*; the *Sabo Center for Women and Children*, Tashkent; *Renaissance Association*, Nukus; and the *Association of Auditors and Accountants*, Tashkent. A chairman, who is elected every four months, and three coordinators who lead the strategic directions run *Hamkor*. Through this network, NGOs in Uzbekistan will be able to share resources, exchange information, promote the development of new NGOs, implement common programs, solve similar problems, and raise funds for larger projects. The functioning of this network of more than 70 NGOs fosters more stable civil society development in Uzbekistan. Q4/00.

Uzbekistan NGO Becomes the First CIS NGO accepted to IFAC
To attract foreign investments in to Uzbekistan, the government has been reforming the accounting and auditing system to conform with international standards. In May 2000 the *Association of Accountants and Auditors of Uzbekistan*, a Counterpart grantee and former target NGO, became the first NGO in the CIS to be accepted as a member of the International Federation of Accountants. IFAC is a world leader in development and introduction of international accounting standards and with membership Uzbekistan NGO now has the rights to publish and distribute international accounting and auditing norms. Q3/00

NGO Secures Finance for 5000 Publications of its Handbook

The *Center for Culture of Health Preservation*, a Nukus NGO, has been promoting the idea and practice of preventive health as means of cheap health care for the population of Karakalpakstan. To promote the idea more broadly the NGO developed a handbook of methods for preventative health care, but could not afford to publish it. Counterpart has provided the NGO with numerous consultations and training in fundraising. For several months the NGO approached a number of local state and joint-stock enterprises and obtained an amount equivalent to $2,000. This amount enabled the NGO to produce 5,000 copies of the 64-page handbook in the Karakalpak language. The book will be disseminated throughout Nukus and Karakalpakstan, and any income generated through book sales will cover the expenditures of health care seminars for schools, universities, mahallas, and others. Q3/00

Counterpart Teaches NGOs how to Save Money

The questions posed to Counterpart by NGOs indicate that they are not aware of the tax incentives for non-profit organizations provided in Uzbekistan legal regulations. Knowledge acquired at Counterpart seminars on Taxation and Accounting and through regular consultations with Counterpart has advanced effective financial management of NGOs allowing for maximum available tax relief. Some examples of successful financial management include:

- According to a decree by the Cabinet of Ministers of 1998, all individuals working with grant support of international organizations and having a special approval by the State Committee on Science and Technology, are exempt from income tax. Unaware of this decree, NGO employees have been contributing 40% of their monthly salaries toward overpayment of the NGO salary fund. For example, *Mekhri Women's Society* lost .5 million sums from 1999-2000 and *KRIDI* has paid income tax for three months in 2000. Now NGOs have learned how to seek the approval by the Committee and to take into consideration all tax relieves – they save money.
- NGO *Mekhri* was looking for optimal means for financial sustainability and planned to register its *Training and Consultations Center for Women and their Families* as a limited liability enterprise. Counterpart seminars revealed apparent tax advantages for registering this entity as a subsidiary, which *Mekhri* has done to ensure more advantageous financial management. Q3/00

Helping Development of NGOs in Fergana Valley

The lack of NGOs in Fergana Valley has been a big impediment to undertaking development activities in this region. There are fewer NGOs to help communities solve problems, particularly those related to disabled children, reproductive health and the protection of consumer rights. The Kokand Support Center has been working to address this problem and has encouraged the formation of new NGOs in the region. Through the NGO Development Program trainings, consultations and technical assistance, three NGOs have opened branch centers in other cities of Fergana Valley – the Center for Disabled Children *Umr*, the Uzbek Association on Reproductive Health, and the Consumer Rights Protection Society. These NGOs have started their activities in Andijan, Fergana and Namangan in the framework of their mission. Q3/00

Helping People to Help Themselves

Many families from the Aral Sea region migrated and settled in small villages in the outskirts of Nukus in search of a livelihood. A social survey and PCA research exercise conducted by the Public Research Center Nukus, with the cooperation of the Nukus Civil Society Support Center, in *Koskol* and identified unemployment as the main problem. The CSSC staff helped the people of this village establish contact with local Hokimiyat officials to seek help in solving the problem of unemployment. The Nukus Support Center staff helped the people from the village form a committee to deal with their problems and take a leading role in dealing with government and other concerned officials. The committee has requested assistance to solve the unemployment problem, but other successes have resulted from their efforts with the Hokimiyat. The committee is working with officials from the Hokimiyat to plan construction of water and gas pipelines in the village. The Hokimiyat is considering the request of the committee to include the village in the city plan in which people will get more benefits from the Hokimiyat. Q3/00

Political Parties willing to Cooperate with NGOs

One of the factors slowing the sustainable development of NGOs in Uzbekistan is the lack of dialogue between government, political parties and NGOs. For some time, Counterpart Consortium has been promoting such dialogue through its emphasis on social partnership in seminars and roundtables on the issue. In July the national party, *Fidokorlar* (the Faithful), organized a forum entitled "Cooperation of Political Parties and NGOs" with the support several international donors including OSCE. It was initially designed to include only GONGOs, but Counterpart recommended a list of grassroots local NGOs for participation. The conference organizers accepted these groups and the resulting forum included representatives from four political parties, GONGOs and grassroots NGOs. The leaders of the parties declared their willingness to cooperate with NGOs to build a democratic civil society in Uzbekistan. The leader of *Fidokorlar* proposed to lobby the interests of NGOs in the government. This was the first move by political parties towards NGOs, and a promising step towards increased cooperation. Q3/00

Central Asian NGOs have united to improve the national accounting and auditing systems

To increase the professional status of accountants and to foster the introduction of international accounting and auditing standards in Central Asian countries, *The Association of Accountants and Auditors of Uzbekistan* has initiated the integration of resources in four Central Asian countries. In March 2000 the *Central Asian Board of Accountants and Auditors* was established through the joint efforts of the *Association of Accountants and Auditors of Uzbekistan*, *Chamber of Auditors of Kazakhstan*, *Chamber of Auditors of Kyrgyzstan*, the *Commercial University of Tajikistan*, and the *Tajik University of Law, Business and Politics*. Yuri Itkin, the Head of the Uzbekistan Association, was elected chairman for a 2-year term. The responsibilities were divided among the member-countries, who are now engaged in elaborating the procedures, principles and instruments for development of educational programs, adoption of professional ethics, promotion of international accounting and auditing standards in relevant countries and other activities intended to develop their economical and legal infrastructures. Q3/00

Facilitating Social Partnership

In the transition period in Uzbekistan, the economic condition of poor families across the country has worsened. This situation is exacerbated by the lack of employment opportunities and access to productive resources. The condition of the children of these families is beyond imagination, as they are deprived of the most basic of rights, and the social benefits program of the government is not able to support these families. The Nukus-based NGO *Fitness Center Kuuat* is working with the most destitute children in two areas of the city to provide them with education, food and clothing. *Kuuat* lacked the funding to support all of those in need. As a result of training in modules such as "NGO and the Community" and technical assistance from the Nukus staff, *Kuuat* successfully appealed to the local joint venture corporation *Uzdunrobita* for funding. With the grant of 230,000 sums the NGO has helped 150 children in the two areas procure schoolbooks and stationary to continue their education. Q3/00

NGO Produces Leaflets for State Health Department

One of the social problems in Uzbekistan is health education. Counterpart affililiate, the *Bukhara Informational and Cultural Center (BICC)* organized a training workshop for Bukhara women NGOs, health officials and other medical workers. The workshop on reproductive health and women's rights was conducted by the Tashkent NGO *Center for Women-Leaders*. After the workshop, the City Department of Health appealed to *BICC* requesting to develop and print a leaflet on sanitary education for the general public. *BICC* published 1,000 leaflets and has received payment equivalent to $80. The leaflets will be distributed by the Health Department to its clients – urban and rural populations. Q3/00

Bukhara NGOs Use Social Partnership Skills to Work Together

As a result of a Social Partnership seminar conducted for NGOs and government officials at the Bukhara Civil Society Support Center the following efforts of government institutions and NGOs have been consolidated:

- *Oidin Crisis Center* established connections with the Rayon Deputy Hokim. One of the first results of this relationship was to solve the problem of a disabled woman who had not receive her stipend from the makhalla committee;
- *German Cultural Center*, jointly with Bukhara State University, secondary school #4, and a German volunteer, organized a national holiday for German families. The leader of the Center remarked after the seminar: "… how effective it is to work with various non-profit and government institutions";
- *Bukhara Information and Cultural Center (BICC), Youth Club, Teenagers' Club, German Cultural Center*, and a Jewish school have united with the State Committee on Nature Protection, Children's Fund, and the *Ecosan* Environmental Fund to celebrate the Earth Day 2000. About 250 participants took part in races, a poll on environmental issues, and "subbotniks" (voluntary city clean-up days). Organizers were successful in their goal to create awareness of environmental problems in the region to the general public and local government. Zaynab Sali the leader of *BICC*, indicated the joint planning was collegial and easy, attributing success to the strength of the Counterpart training. Q2/00

Association of Journalists "Civil Society" Register in Uzbekistan

To eliminate the deficit of analytical and conceptual information about non-profit activities in Uzbekistan, journalist members of the Association of Journalists *Civil Society* are dedicated to increasing public awareness of the non-profit sector. The NGO encountered continuous impediments when registering the organization, since a GONGO association of journalists had already been in existence. The NGO started an aggressive public education campaign by writing articles about various issues of public concern and NGOs that dealt with them. Counterparts support to the Association included conducting: seminars in "NGO & Community" for potential members, a TTAP for the organization, and facilitating meetings for members to discuss the charter. As a result, the Association has registered and its members-journalists are able to represent the Third Sector, writing about NGOs in national and local papers and advocating for journalists' rights on the governmental level. Official standing also allows the Association to seek diverse funding sources, recruit new members and develop journalists' professional skills. Q2/00

NGO Seminars Boost Development of Women's Entrepreneurship in Bukhara Region

Low economic literacy of businesswomen in the Bukhara Region, as well as other parts of Uzbekistan, hinders the development of small and medium businesses run by women. The *Businesswomen Association of Bukhara Region*, a Counterpart grantee, has conducted 5 seminars on business education for 80 women-entrepreneurs in four districts and has provided consultations to 103 businesswomen. The monitoring and evaluation activities by the NGO showed the following results:

- 14 women have received bank credits;
- one woman organized sewing and hairdressing workshops for 24 women;
- one woman leased equipment and started construction for a agricultural product processing unit;
- ten hectares of land were obtained for farming; and
- one embroidery shop and one bakery were opened, each providing jobs to 5 women. Q2/00

KRIDI – A Skillful Fundraiser

KRIDI, Counterpart target NGO, has greatly expanded its funding base beyond the typical grant process by receiving in-kind contributions and discounts from local and international sources. The access and affordability of KRIDI services attract new clients and ensure a larger NGO constituency. The examples below demonstrate only few fundraising successes of NGO:

- World Concern is providing school accessories, garments, bed clothes, home-attendants for disabled children, and at-home training for children;
- *Engrach International Charity Foundation* is providing medical support, including dental treatments for disabled children and informational-training programs for disabled children and their parents; and
- The Institute of Asian Culture and Development is providing concessionary diagnostics, consultations and speech therapy for children, massage training for parents, and medicine. Q2/00

NGO Provided Wheelchairs to 23 Disabled in Karakalpakstan
The disabled population in Karakalpakstan is estimated to be the largest of all the oblasts in Uzbekistan. Federal funds and social departments are not able to meet the growing demand. A majority of the disabled lack wheelchairs and are confined to spending their time in one room. With training in fundraising skills from the Counterpart Nukus Support Center, the *Karakalpak Society for the Disabled* used Counterpart Consortium's donor database and wrote 17 letters of request to state institutions, embassies and donors. This resulted in $2,900 donation from the German Embassy in Uzbekistan, which allowed the Society to purchase wheelchairs from a local manufacturer to distribute to 23 physically disabled persons. Q2/00

A Karakalpak Disabled Benefit from NGO and Ministry Partnership
The Economic crisis has had a deplorable impact on the population of Karakalpakstan, and the disabled are among the most vulnerable. *The Vocational School of the Karakalpak Society of the Disabled* has been training disabled youth and adults in computer skills. At the Counterpart Consortium seminar "Social Partnership" the NGO became acquainted with a Ministry of Labor official. As a result of this partnership with the *Society*, the Labor Ministry of Karakalpakstan provided job placement in the second half of 1999 for 17 of the NGO's trainees. Q2/00

Department of Justice Becomes More Responsive to NGOs
The NGO registration procedure is officially limited to a two-month period, but usually takes five to six months. This delay is a result of lengthy review process of the NGO's funding documentation by officials from the Ministry of Justice. In December 1999 Counterpart Consortium and GTD/USAID conducted a workshop entitled "NGO Accounting and Transparency" to which NGOs of Fergana Valley and officials from tax committees and departments of justice were invited. At the workshop NGO leaders and state executives talked face-to-face and learned about each others concerns and problems, including the registration process. In the six months following the workshop three new NGOs were registered and three others have applied for registration to the Department of Justice of the Fergana Region. Documents were reviewed and applications were considered within the two-month period as outlined in the law. Q2/00

The First NGO Press Conference for the First Training and Consulting Center in Uzbekistan
Uzbek NGOs have been unable to fully utilize the media for publicity and promotion of services. *Women's Society Mekhri* conducted the first press conference to announce the opening of its Training and Consulting Center for Women and their Families. This Center is the first NGO-established, self-financing enterprise. *Mekhri* leaders applied skills learned at Counterpart's newly introduced seminar "How to Conduct a Press-Conference" and used funds from a Counterpart grant to conduct the press conference. In the two months following the press conference 11 articles about the Center were published in city and national press, which resulted in a 75% increase in calls from potential clients, women, children and makhalla representatives. Another unintended result was an increase in calls from those interested in working with the Center. The range of inquiries from potential staff is helping *Mekhri* refine the scope and demand of jobs, leading to more effective staff recruitment. Q2/00

Health NGO Educates Remote Rural Communities
For the past 10 years Fergana Valley residents have been severely susceptible to endocrine diseases. The most vulnerable have been the populations of the rural areas, especially women of fertile age. The Association of Endocrinologists of Kokand City has completed a project on health education in five villages. The *Kokand* NGO Support Center has provided technical support and consultation on project design to Abt Associates/USAID. Within five months, the NGO conducted 30 seminars for 1064 villagers, which comprised 841 women of fertile age, 33 pregnant women and 190 adolescents. An impact assessment poll conducted by the Center, revealed that 64% of those trained showed a marked increased in awareness of preventive measures, use of modern medicines and methods of treatment for endocrine illnesses. Q2/00

ICNL Impact Highlights

Kazakhstan

The Government of Kazakhstan approved the State Program of Government Support of NGOs
Finally, on March 17, 2003, the Government of Kazakhstan approved the State Program of Government Support of NGOs. This program has the status of the legislative act, and authorizes specified government branches to "work on creation of conditions for sustainable development of NGOs, as a part of civil society and to strengthen their role in resolving socially important problems based on cooperation with and support from the Government". This is an important first step towards the improvement of relations between NGOs and the government and, hopefully, termination of the constitutional prohibition against any direct or indirect government support to public associations. This constitutional prohibition has no international precedents. However, this is of course only the first step, and unless appropriate follow up legislation is adopted and implemented, the program will remain only a declaration of good intent. Q4/02

Free Assistance Provided to Twenty-four Local NGOs and International Organizations
Vsevolod Ovcharenko, ICNL's Legal Consultant in Kazakhstan, aided 24 local NGOs and international organizations in resolving legal questions and issues. In all, ICNL engaged in 36 consultations to these organizations on issues ranging from registration and taxation to dissolution and licensing. Consultations were provided to such organizations and institutions as the Embassy of Canada, USAID, Arizona-Kazakhstan Partnership, NDI, International Red Cross/Red Crescent Society, Counterpart International, Junior Achievement, Zdrav Plus, and local NGOs Zhalgas, ASTRA, and the Kostanai Association of NGOs. Follow-on projects based on these consultations are to include workshops on common questions of NGOs and single page fact sheets for NGOs. Q3/02

Regular Communication and Cooperation with Government and Parliament
In September, ICNL hired a new part-time representative in Astana, Sluzhan Ismailova, to serve as a liaison with the Government and Parliament, Ms. Ismailova regularly meets and makes contact with government officials and deputies, strengthening ICNL's knowledge base and promoting ICNL's ability to provide technical assistance to governmental and parliamentary bodies on issues such as: state social procurement, state youth policy, tax incentives for charitable donations, and micro-crediting. ICNL's representative obtains and disseminates the parliamentary agenda each Monday. On Wednesdays, ICNL obtains and disseminates the schedule for the plenary session. This information is provided to the public, and to USAID grantees such as Counterpart International and NDI, in an effort to increase awareness of these parliamentary proceedings and promote transparency. Q3/02

Government-NGO Social Partnerships
In light of the presidential message that was favorable to the Third Sector, a Conception of Government Support for NGOs has been drafted and is expected to be approved in January. ICNL has been providing advice and technical assistance to NGO leaders and government officials involved in the drafting process and has conducted analytical research of Kazakhstan legislation concerning government support and financing of NGOs. A principal barrier to such support has been the Constitutional prohibition on state financing of NGOs that does not exist anywhere else in Western countries or the NIS. While political will is necessary to remove this prohibition, ICNL continues to assist all interested parties in developing a legal framework for state financing of NGOs and NGO participation in the state procurement of social services in accordance with international good practices. In October, ICNL organized in Bishkek a seminar "Social Partnership: State-NGO" for Kazakh and Kyrgyz NGOs and government officials. For more detailed information on the seminar, see Kyrgyzstan Project Impacts. Q1/02

Government Concept on State Support of NGOs Has Been 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. Q1/02

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The New Tax Code Was Adopted
On June 12, 2001, the President of Kazakhstan signed the new Kazakh Tax Code, which will become effective on January 1, 2002. Once the new Tax Code takes effect, the system of benefits for nongovernmental noncommercial organizations in Kazakhstan will change considerably, since the new Tax Code provides for numerous new conceptual approaches regarding the taxation of NGOs. The new Tax Code will significantly improve the status of NGOs as compared to current legislation. Nongovernmental organizations together with ICNL took an active part in the creation of the Tax Code beginning with its earliest drafts. In large part due to coordinated and persistent work of ICNL and other NGOs with the drafters of the new Tax Code, most of the initial provisions, which would have significantly worsened the position of NGOs, did not make it into the final version. ICNL's efforts with

assisting NGOs to carry effective public campaign paid off with adopting a generally progressive tax code. One of the most progressive features of the new Tax Code is the income tax exemption for certain types of passive income earned by NGOs. Public associations, foundations, and associations (unions) of legal entities are not required to pay income tax on interest earnings from bank deposits or from debt securities (discount or coupon). This tax benefit for noncommercial organizations is a first not only for Kazakhstan but for all of Central Asia. This is a significant step towards the creation of a favorable tax environment for development of the NGO sector, since it will encourage, for example, the establishment of foundations that can finance their activities using the interest from funds in bank deposit accounts or bonds. Another important provision of the new Tax Code provides that organizations engaged in specified social sector activities will be exempt from income tax on earnings from economic activities related to these social sector activities. The benefit can be claimed only if an organization is exclusively engaged in an activity in the social sector. The Tax Code provides an exhaustive list of activities belonging to the social sector, including healthcare, education, science, amateur sports, culture, archives, library services, and social protection of children, the elderly, or the disabled. However, if an organization combines such activities with other activities that are not included in the list, the exemption is lost, and all income (including earnings from activities in the social sector) is subject to taxation. The third significant change to the Tax Code in favor of NGOs is the new tax rates for NGOs on property and real estate. Public associations, foundations, and associations (unions) of legal entities will enjoy a reduced property tax rate of 1/10th of the standard rate. Noncommercial organizations will also pay the land tax at a reduced 1/10 rate of the standard assessment. Q2/01

The Draft Tax Code has been approved by the Majilis

The lower chamber of Parliament, the Majilis, approved the draft Tax Code on March 16, 2001, and sent it to the Senate. ICNL highlighted problems with the initial draft tax code through public hearings. After persistent and arduous efforts by ICNL the drafters were persuaded that that the draft tax code as written did not clearly exempt non-commercial organizations engaged in economic activities dedicated to the social sphere. As a result, Article 126 was modified to include the preferential language. Q1/01

The President signed the Long-Awaited NGO Law

January 2001, the president of Kazakhstan, Nursultan Nazarbaev, signed into law legislation on non-commercial organizations. The new Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan "On Non-Commercial Organizations" (the NCO Law) is one of the few laws of Kazakhstan that was initiated by Parliament. The genesis of the law was in 1998 with the ICNL facilitated creation of an unofficial working group of lawyers, NGOs and parliamentarians. The drafting process of the NCO Law was initiated in 1999 by a group of deputies and submitted to the lower chamber of Parliament January 2000. The drafting of the NCO Law was an open and transparent legislative activity. The Law on Non-Commercial Organizations creates a more developed and detailed environment for non-commercial organizations in Kazakhstan. Before the adoption of the NCO Law a few provisions in the Civil Code and some specific laws such as the 1996 Law on Public Associations, 1996 Law on Political Parties, and the 1993 Law on Trade Unions primarily regulated specific areas of non-commercial activity. Of particular note in the new NCO Law are exemplary provisions that ICNL championed which define non-commercial organizations in terms of goals rather than types of activity, prevents the misuse of property or funds of a non-commercial organization upon liquidation, and adequately details conflict of interest rules that non-commercial organizations must follow in order to prevent misappropriation of property or funds by management. There are not any provisions in the NCO Law that will necessitate NGO's or non-commercial organizations to re-register or amend their bylaws. The NCO Law is a "framework act" governing non-commercial organizations rather than a law creating a new regulative regime. The NCO Law, in addition to the Civil Code, clearly defines and differentiates foundations from public associations and describes various types of foundations. Foundations were regulated by a few provisions of the Civil Code before the adoption of the NCO law. With the new law foundations are better regulated due to provisions that prohibit self-dealing and inclusion of specific conflict of interest provisions that were proposed by ICNL. Q1/01

ICNL The Draft Tax Code Still Remains the Hottest Issue in the Legislative Drafting Agenda
In the process of drafting the Tax Code in Kazakhstan, members of Parliament approved it in the Majilis, the lower Chamber, in December 2000. There will be further debate within Parliament. ICNL has been working and actively discussing the NGO taxation provisions with deputies of the Majilis their staff and various tax experts advocating changes for interested parties, primarily small businesses and nonprofit organizations. During the three month period, ICNL and its local partner NGOs conducted a seminar on NGO taxation specifically designed for members of Parliament, participated in live TV debates on the draft Tax Code organized for the Kazakhstani citizens, as well as conducted several meetings with a number of officials and organizations on this particular issue. In many respects it is ICNL's achievement that original provisions of the draft Tax Code regulating NGOs have been significantly improved from an unfavorable orientation (fall 2000) to a positive orientation (winter 2000-01). The most recent provisions allow tax exemptions of income generated from certain social services. These provisions were improved partly due to ICNL's efforts. The definition of a grant was improved to include foreign non-governmental public organizations and foundations. Q4/00.

Continues Fight for Tax Benefits and is Winning
The Ministry of Government Revenue has been drafting a new Tax Code. When adopted this new Tax Code will entirely replace existing tax legislation. For the past few months, the Ministry of Government Revenue has been changing the provisions of this draft Tax Code affecting NGOs. ICNL has been actively involved in the drafting process working directly with the drafters including the Minister of Government Revenue. The publicity surrounding the draft Tax Code and its frequent debate is a precedent for Kazakhstan. During the whole period of discussion, NGOs held several press conferences and debates on the draft provisions. ICNL is and continues to be very vocal in this debate. Q3/00.

Historic Vote -- First Successful "Deputies Initiative"
Prior to this year, all laws in Kazakhstan were initiated and drafted by the Ministries. The only role for Parliament was to approve such laws. Most observers labeled this unbalanced system a "rubber-stamp". To fulfill the proper role of Parliament, the Senate Legislative Committee, along with ICNL, initiated an NGO law (mentioned-above). If successful, this law will be the first law initiated, drafted and adopted solely by deputies - the first successful 'deputies' initiative' in Kazakhstan. As stated above, on May 24th, the lower house of Parliament adopted the NGO law. The law will now go to the Senate where it stands an excellent chance of passage and then onto the President for signature. It has already been established that the deputies would also like to draft the instructions to the law. This is usually done by the ministries but technically can be done by Parliament. So it seems that the deputies, proud of this historic achievement want to follow it to its end. The task will be charged to ICNL's current colleagues in the Senate/Majilis who have requested ICNL's continued support in the effort. Q2/00.

ICNL Participates in NGO Press Conference that Impacts Draft Tax Code
The governmental working group (mentioned above) finished the latest version of a new Tax Code and passed it on to the Government and public for review. This version even worsened the tax situation for NGOs. As such, the NGO community (a coalition of NGOs including the Fund for a Tax Culture) decided to organize a large-scale press conference. The press conference took place on June 28th and gathered mostly all republican and independent media. The main speakers at the press conference were ICNL as a representative of international community and expert in NGO legislation; Sholpan Baibolova, President of "Tax Culture Formation" Foundation – an NGO dealing with tax issues; and Valentina Sevrukova, the President of Confederation of Non-Commercial Organizations. Criticisms of the NGO community were highly publicized in print media and on national TV (Russian and Kazak). To overcome this, the government invited ICNL and local NGOs to participate in drafting provisions governing NGOs. Q2/00.

Lower House of Parliament Adopts New NGO Law
On May 24th, the lower house of parliament, the Majilis, debated and adopted the new NGO law. ICNL had the rare opportunity to be present in the chamber for this historic vote. ICNL contributed to the drafting of this law and initiated the law in partnership with the Senate Legislative Committee. Although, the Majilis did not adopt all of ICNL's recommendations, the adoption of the bill is a positive development. Firstly, the law will establish real foundations and further define the appropriate organizational legal forms of NGOs. Secondly, the law creates a solid framework for additional laws on associations, foundations and institutions. Q2/00.

ICNL Fights for Tax Benefits and Wins
As reported last period, the Ministry of Government Revenue proposed radical changes to the Tax Code that allowed tax exemptions to grant funds. These exemptions saved both local NGOs and international organizations 26% on each dollar spent on salaries. Although the magnitude of the changes is widespread, the lower levels of the tax authorities refused to implement or accept the amendments at face value and denied the benefits as applicable to various local and foreign NGOs. To combat this, ICNL met directly with the Minister of Government Revenue for clarification. The benefits are applicable and the decisions of the tax authorities were reversed. Q2/00.

Kyrgyzstan

Negative Provisions Eliminated from the Draft Amendments to the Civil Code
In April 2003 a special working group appointed by the President started working on reforming the Civil Code. Unfortunately, from what they proposed certain provisions could have been interpreted to: (i) prohibit NGOs from conducting economic activities directly, allowing these activities only by establishing a subsidiary; and, (ii) prohibit NGOs and political parties from receiving outside financial assistance (grants, donations etc.). The working group eliminated the confusing provisions from the draft after convincing arguments made by ICNL's expert who participated in the working group. Q2/03

Amendments to the Tax Code including tax privileges for NGOs signed into law
On December 16, 2002, the Kyrgyz Parliament passed the Law on Amendments to the Tax Code. The law was signed by the Kyrgyz President on March 8, 2003. The new amendments exempt humanitarian aid, grants, charity donations, endowments, membership and entry fees from income tax, and provide additional incentives for companies and individuals to support charities by increasing allowable deductions from 2 to 5% of a taxpayer's taxable income. The amendments also exempt supplies of goods and services provided by charitable organizations for charitable purposes from VAT. In addition, amendments improve implementation of existing tax code provisions by providing clear definitions of the key terms "charitable organization", "charitable activities", "membership fees", "entry fees", "grants", and "humanitarian aid". The amendments to the Tax Code represent the culmination of an extensive two year effort by the International Center for Not-for-Profit Law (ICNL), to improve the tax treatment of NGOs in collaboration with all the stake holders. These amendments are the product of joint efforts undertaken by NGOs, progressive parliamentarians and government officials, and international organizations.

In May 2001 ICNL, with financial assistance of the USAID's Global Program, held a Central Asian regional conference in Issyk-Kul which brought the attention of the Kyrgyz government and parliamentarians to the problematic issue of NGO taxation. The remainder of 2001 was spent effectively facilitating a participatory process of drafting amendments to the tax code, and educating NGOs, government and parliamentarians on good international practices of taxation of NGOs. And as a result, in early 2002, at the initiative of two Parliamentary Committees with the assistance of ICNL, a roundtable discussion on the need to revise the Tax Code provisions affecting NGOs was organized among NGOs, government officials and parliamentarians.

In February 2002 ICNL organized and financed a special workshop at the Issyk Kul where the official Working Group (including parliamentarians, senior government officials, tax experts, and ICNL) developed initial drafts of the proposed amendments. Subsequently, the IMF, Barents Group, and other international organizations had an opportunity to comment and contribute to the final draft submitted to the Parliament for the consideration. Finally, in April 2002 the draft amendments were discussed at a Public Hearing held by the Parliamentary Committee for Public Associations and Information Policy Affairs. Counterpart Consortium, including ICNL, conducted a National Advocacy Campaign using a series of roundtable discussions to direct support for the new amendments to Tax code just as the draft was coming to the Floor of the Parliament. However, not all the proposed changes to the tax code supported by ICNL were included in the amendments and, although this is a step forward, further work on improving the Tax Code and charity legislation is required to fully implement the aims of the reform. Q4/02

Parliamentary Committee Applies to the Government to Recall Resolution No. 315

On September 10 the Committee for Public Associations and Information Policy Affairs of the Legislative Assembly of the Jogorku Kenesh conducted an enlarged session to discuss Government Resolution 315 dated May 17. This resolution represents yet another attempt by the Government of Kyrgyzstan to impose state controls on the activity of NGOs. Like the last summer's Resolution 358, which was revoked after ICNL prepared a thorough commentary and NGOs raised a strong campaign in opposition, Resolution 315 seeks to amend the laws on Non-commercial Organizations and on State Registration of Legal Entities. The resolution provides new oversight powers to the registering body over the activity of non-commercial organizations, and imposes fines those that aren't registered. It also seeks to amend the law On Political Parties and requires reregistration of political parties. ICNL provided substantial technical assistance to the NGO community and parliamentarians and prepared a detailed analysis of the draft resolution. ICNL's local partner in Kyrgyzstan, held numerous meetings with members of Parliament, local NGOs, and USAID and its grantees, pointing out the inconsistencies with international law and good practices concerning the freedom of association and the ramifications of the Resolution's approval. After considering the matter, the Committee decided to apply to the Government with a request to recall Resolution 315. Q3/02

President Terminates Resolution No. 20

On May 25, 2002 President Akaev terminated Resolution No. 20 ("Resolution") of the Government of Kyrgyzstan "On Some Issues of Publishing Activities." The advice and commentary provided by ICNL's local expert helped NGOs and mass media representatives effectively address their concerns regarding the Resolution and its contradictions with domestic and international law, leading to its termination. Several provisions in the Resolution directly contradicted the Kyrgyz Constitution and provisions of international law protecting freedom of speech. The Resolution seriously threatened freedom of speech and the right to disseminate information. For example, the Resolution required the registration of all fax machines, copiers, scanners and other equipment that could be used for publishing activities and required prior certification for any publishing activity. Many Kyrgyz and international mass media organizations and NGOs protested against the restrictive Resolution. Forty-two roundtables discussing the Resolution and its effect on civil society took place throughout Kyrgyzstan, and ICNL provided written commentary and legal expertise regarding the Resolution and its conformity with domestic and international law. Over 800 representatives from the mass media, NGOs, and government officials of all levels participated in these roundtables and signed declarations against the Resolution. ICNL is proud to have participated in one of the most effective and successful advocacy campaign in Kyrgyzstan in recent years. Q2/02

Bill of Amendments to the Kyrgyz Tax Code Is Submitted to the Speaker

On June 10, 2002, the Bill of Amendments to the Kyrgyz Tax Code (the draft law "On Introduction of Amendments and Additions to the Tax Code of the Kyrgyz Republic") was submitted to the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of the Jogorku Kenesh, and will be submitted to the Government of Kyrgyzstan for review and approval before being included into the Parliament's fall agenda. ICNL worked closely with the drafters to ensure that the amendments took into consideration the particular tax issues related to the operation and financial viability of noncommercial organizations. The proposed amendments clarify the definitions of key terms; exclude humanitarian aid, grants, and other donations from gross taxable income; and exempt goods and services provided by charitable organizations from VAT as well as those provided to NCOs at or below cost or those provided for specified public benefit purposes. The amendments to the Tax Code were the culmination of extensive efforts by ICNL to improve the tax treatment of NGOs. A roundtable on NGO taxation in January was organized with the assistance of ICNL at the initiative of two Parliamentary Committees. In February ICNL-organized and financed a workshop at Lake Issyk Kul where the official Working Group (including parliamentarians, senior government officials, tax experts, and ICNL) developed initial drafts of the proposed amendments. Subsequently, the draft amendments were presented to the IMF, the Barents Group, NGOs and international organizations. The draft amendments were subsequently discussed this past spring at a public hearing held by the Parliamentary Committee for Public Associations and Information Policy Affairs and a roundtable (See Section C "Activity Overview" below for more details). Q2/02

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. Q1/02

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. Q1/02

Draft Amendments to Kyrgyz Tax Code Have Been 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 have been 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. Q1/02

Draft Law on Official Interpretation of Article 6 of the Law on Noncommercial Organizations

Because of erroneous interpretations of Article 6 of the Law on Noncommercial Organizations and the Kyrgyz government's attempts to force all NGOs to undergo registration procedures, the working group under the Committee on Public Association and Information Policy Affairs of the Legislative Assembly of the Jogorku Kenesh asked ICNL to prepare and submit to the Committee commentaries that would properly explain the permissibility of unregistered NGOs in Kyrgyzstan and their rights and duties under Kyrgyz law. These commentaries were submitted to the Committee and will form the basis for developing a draft law "On the Official Interpretation of Article 6 of the Law of the KR on Noncommercial Organizations." Q1/02

Conference on Social Partnership: Government and NGO
On October 29, 2001, ICNL held a conference in Bishkek titled "Social Partnership: State—NGO" for NGO leaders and government officials from Kazakhstan and the Kyrgyz Republic. The conference was organized with the financial and logistical support of GTD/USAID. A large number of government officials, deputies and NGO representatives from Kazakhstan and the Kyrgyz Republic attended the conference and, together with international experts, examined legislation and existing practice concerning social partnerships in both countries as well as international experience. The participants had a valuable opportunity to discuss existing problems with social partnerships, exchange information and develop contacts, and will be able to use the materials and knowledge gained at the conference. In conjunction with this conference, an analysis of financial state support of NGOs and commentary to the Kyrgyz Law on State Procurement were prepared and distributed as handouts. As was noted by the participants, the technical expertise of the instructors and the high quality of the conference materials with comparative international examples were beneficial in discussing social partnership issues. After the conference, at least four NGOs conducted analogous round tables in their respective regions to determine the tasks, possibilities and advantages of social partnerships in their locales. Further work and additional trainings will need to be undertaken in the future, this time more narrowly focused on the resolution of specific problems and the development of legislative mechanisms that will regulate social partnerships and state support of the NGO sector. Q1/02

Conference on Social Partnership: Government and NGO
On October 29, 2001, ICNL held a conference in Bishkek titled "Social Partnership: State—NGO" for NGO leaders and government officials from Kazakhstan and the Kyrgyz Republic. The conference was organized with the financial and logistical support of GTD/USAID. A large number of government officials, deputies and NGO representatives from Kazakhstan and the Kyrgyz Republic attended the conference and, together with international experts, examined legislation and existing practice concerning social partnerships in both countries as well as international experience. The participants had a valuable opportunity to discuss the existing problems with social partnerships, exchange information and develop contacts, and will be able to use the materials and knowledge gained at the conference in their work.

In conjunction with this conference, an analysis of financial state support of NGOs and commentary to the Kyrgyz Law on State Procurement were prepared and distributed as handouts. As was noted by the participants, the technical expertise of the instructors and the high quality of the conference materials with comparative international examples were beneficial in discussing social partnership issues. After the conference, at least four NGOs conducted analogous round tables in their respective regions to determine the tasks, possibilities and advantages of social partnerships in their locales. Further work and additional trainings will need to be undertaken in the future, this time more narrowly focused on the resolution of specific problems and the development of legislative mechanisms that will regulate social partnerships and state support of the NGO sector. Q4/01

NGO Law Implementation
Because of erroneous interpretations of Article 6 of the Law on Noncommercial Organizations and the Kyrgyz government's attempts to force all NGOs to undergo registration procedures, the working group under the Committee on Public Association and Information Policy Affairs of the Legislative Assembly of the Jogorku Kenesh asked ICNL to prepare and submit to the Committee commentaries that would properly explain the permissibility of unregistered NGOs in Kyrgyzstan and their rights and duties under Kyrgyz law. These commentaries were submitted to the Committee and will form the basis for developing a draft law "On the Official Interpretation of Article 6 of the Law of the KR on Noncommercial Organizations." Q4/01

Amendments to the Tax Code including tax privileges for NGOs signed into law

On December 16, 2002, the Kyrgyz Parliament passed the Law on Amendments to the Tax Code. The law was signed by the Kyrgyz President on March 8, 2003. The new amendments exempt humanitarian aid, grants, charity donations, endowments, membership and entry fees from income tax, and provide additional incentives for companies and individuals to support charities by increasing allowable deductions from 2 to 5% of a taxpayer's taxable income. The amendments also exempt supplies of goods and services provided by charitable organizations for charitable purposes from VAT. In addition, amendments improve implementation of existing tax code provisions by providing clear definitions of the key terms "charitable organization", "charitable activities", "membership fees", "entry fees", "grants", and "humanitarian aid".

The amendments to the Tax Code represent the culmination of an extensive two year effort by the International Center for Not-for-Profit Law (ICNL), to improve the tax treatment of NGOs in collaboration with all the stake holders. These amendments are the product of joint efforts undertaken by NGOs, progressive parliamentarians and government officials, and international organizations.

In May 2001 ICNL, with financial assistance of the USAID's Global Program, held a Central Asian regional conference in Issyk-Kul which brought the attention of the Kyrgyz government and parliamentarians to the problematic issue of NGO taxation. The remainder of 2001 was spent effectively facilitating a participatory process of drafting amendments to the tax code, and educating NGOs, government and parliamentarians on good international practices of taxation of NGOs. And as a result, in early 2002, at the initiative of two Parliamentary Committees with the assistance of ICNL, a roundtable discussion on the need to revise the Tax Code provisions affecting NGOs was organized among NGOs, government officials and parliamentarians. In February 2002 ICNL organized and financed a special workshop at the Issyk Kul where the official Working Group (including parliamentarians, senior government officials, tax experts, and ICNL) developed initial drafts of the proposed amendments. Subsequently, the IMF, Barents Group, and other international organizations had an opportunity to comment and contribute to the final draft submitted to the Parliament for the consideration. Finally, in April 2002 the draft amendments were discussed at a Public Hearing held by the Parliamentary Committee for Public Associations and Information Policy Affairs. Counterpart Consortium, including ICNL, conducted a National Advocacy Campaign using a series of roundtable discussions to direct support for the new amendments to Tax code just as the draft was coming to the Floor of the Parliament. However, not all the proposed changes to the tax code supported by ICNL were included in the amendments and, although this is a step forward, further work on improving the Tax Code and charity legislation is required to fully implement the aims of the reform. Q3/01

Seminar on NGO legislation Implementation

The roundtable on implementation of NGO legislation held on March 19 in Bishkek was a resounding success. The seminar was sponsored by ICNL at the formal invitation of the Chair of the Committee on Public Associations and Information Policy of the Legislative Assembly. More than forty NGOs attended this event that was broadcast on several television channels of the evening news. NGOs used this excellent opportunity not only to argue their position with the government, but also to demonstrate that the freedoms associated with civil society are expanding. An official from the Ministry of Justice listened as NGOs voiced their concerns regarding the treatment they at times received by the government. While the debate indicated that the previous problems with the registration process were ameliorated since the adoption of the 1999 NGO Law, issues of taxation of NGOs were of significant concern. The moderator, Deputy Karabekov, expressed his strong desire to continue working with ICNL and went further by indicating that his Committee will continue to defeat any attempts by the government to amend the NGO law to eliminate the progressive provision allowing for unregistered non-commercial organizations. The Chair of the Committee on Taxes, Customs Duties and Collections requested that ICNL compile its previously submitted suggested amendments to the Tax Code that will improve the fiscal and regulatory environment of NGOs. Q1/01

Implementation of NGO Law is Vital for NGOs

The NGO law of Kyrgyzstan adopted in the summer of 1999 has been considered one of the more progressive laws in the entire NIS. The reasons why the law is considered progressive include 1) non-commercial organizations can conduct activities without having to be registered, 2) the NGO law does not set territorial limitations for NGOs regardless of their organizational-legal form, 3) Public associations can be created at the initiative of three and more individuals. Before Presidential elections in fall 2000 the Ministry of Justice made an attempt to undermine positive effect of the Law with proposing amendments to it. If adopted proposed provisions would prohibit unregistered associations and complicate the registration procedure. Due to the efforts of the NGO community and the Committee on Public Associations and Policy on Information of the Lower Chamber of the Parliament, these amendments were not adopted and were put on hold. The Committee with the Senate recognized in its decision regarding the proposed amendments that in its current form they are unacceptable and cannot be adopted. However, ICNL continues to closely monitor the situation with the draft. Currently it is preparing commentary to these amendments. At ICNL's request the Committee issued a written decision summarizing the discussion of the proposed MoJ amendments, which will be distributed among interested parties and will help to secure the success with rejecting these amendments. Another restrictive draft Law on Advocature was withdrawn from the Parliament by its drafter, the Ministry of Justice, after the rejection it received from the Parliament. ICNL efforts made it happen. At the request of the Association of Attorneys of Kyrgyzstan ICNL prepared comments to the draft Law. These comments were broadly distributed among those who are interested on the subject. ICNL has been providing technical assistance to the Association of Attorney of Kyrgyzstan in its successful lobbying efforts against the draft. Q4/00.

ICNL and its Partner Association of Lawyers of Kyrgyzstan achieve reconsideration of Government amendments to the Law on Advocacy Activity

ICNL began an examination of a very hot issue in Kyrgyzstan. The government, via the Ministry of Justice, is pressing for amendments to the law "On Advocates". In general, these amendments violate the freedom of association principle. Members of Lawyers Association and free-lance attorneys agreed with parliamentarians to eliminate these deteriorating provisions. Q3/00.

Ministry of Justice Adopts ICNL Recommendations

As with any new law, the NGO law of Kyrgyzstan was further defined and elaborated in subsequent instructions issued by the Ministry of Justice. Such instructions usually describe in detail how the law is to be implemented. As such, the content of the instructions is critical. Last quarter, ICNL obtained the draft comments from the Ministry of Justice and provided suggested revisions. In an official answer, the Ministry announced that it adopted two of the four recommendations regarding implementation of the new NGO law. The adopted provisions will help to limit arbitrary governmental action against NGOs. Q2/00.

ICNL Invited by Government to Participate in Official Commission to Draft Tax Provisions Regarding NGOs

ICNL was honored this reporting period by the Government of Kyrgyzstan by becoming the second foreign entity to sit on a governmental commission on taxes. In this capacity, ICNL will make recommendations to the government on the taxation of NGOs. Final amendments are due this Fall and will be voted on sometime in December. If successful, ICNL can bring appropriate tax benefits to NGOs in accordance with international norms. Q2/00.

Tajikistan

Law on State Registration of the Legal Entities was Signed by the President and Entered into Force
On April 22 the law "On state registration of the legal entities" was signed by the President, allowing for a simplified single registration procedure for both commercial and some non-commercial entities. In addition to improvements in the registration procedure, the law reduces non-commercial organization (NCO) registration fees and the period for application review. During 2002 to 2003, ICNL worked closely with the drafters, providing them with technical assistance to make the drafting process transparent and participatory. Broad dissemination of the draft law and an educational campaign conducted by ICNL resulted in dozens of NGOs contributing by presenting their comments and participating in discussions of the draft law with the drafters. The NGOs' advocacy campaign led to substantial improvements in the draft law. For example, provisions requiring yearly re-registration with a state fee payment and a burdensome registration procedure different from the procedure for commercial entities were eliminated under pressure from the campaign. Q2/03

Law on Charitable Activity was Signed by the President and Entered into Force
In April 2002, the Law on Charitable Activity was signed by the President and came into force. The new law helps to improve implementation of the tax code provisions related to tax treatment of charities. Prior to adoption of this law the tax code provisions on tax benefits for charities were implemented inconsistently, as the tax code did not provide for a clear definition and a mechanism to distinguish between charities and other NGOs. For example, based on the interpretation of a "charitable organization", an NGO could have been taxed in one region, and exempt from tax in another region. Or, previously given tax benefits to NGOs could have been withdrawn with penalties levied, depending on the interpretation of the law by each particular tax inspector. From 2000 to 2002, ICNL worked to educate the NGO community and its legal experts on the issues of taxation and charitable status of NGOs, resulting in a grass roots initiative to draft a law providing a favorable regime for charities. Throughout the drafting process ICNL worked closely with the NGO-government working group providing it with recommendations on the draft law and helping to organize public discussions and public hearings. The new law is another result of the joint drafting effort by NGOs and the government, assisted by ICNL. Q2/03

Draft Law "On State Registration of Legal Entities in Tajikistan" Approved by the Lower Chamber of the Parliament
The new law approved on December 20, 2002 by the Lower Chamber of the Parliament (Majlisi Namoiandagon of the Majlisi Oli) would establish a simplified single registration procedure for both commercial and non-commercial legal entities, if adopted by the Upper Chamber and signed by the President. The new law reduces non-commercial organization (NCO) registration fees, the period for application processing, and eliminates the registration body's powers to refuse issuing a decision on the registration of an NCO. This law is now in the Upper Chamber of the Parliament (Madjlisi Milli of the Madjlisi Oli) and is scheduled to be approved in April 2003. After which the law will be presented to the Tajik President for signing. During 2002 ICNL worked closely with the drafters providing them with technical assistance and helping them to make the drafting process transparent and participatory. ICNL experts reviewed and provided recommendations on numerous draft versions of the law and organized seminars and roundtable discussions on the evolving drafts of the law with NGOs, drafters and government officials. Dozens of NGOs contributed to drafting by presenting their comments and participating in discussions of the draft law with the drafters organized by ICNL.

Although there was initially strong resistance from conservative officials at the Ministry of Justice who introduced several restrictive provisions, including a provision requiring yearly re-registration with a state fee payment, technical assistance provided by ICNL and effective advocacy from the NGO community led to the removal of restrictive provisions and the reintroduction of provisions favorable to the development of legal entities in Tajikistan. Also, ICNL worked closely with the drafters to ensure that NGOs' suggestions and amendments were taken into consideration. ICNL will continue educating parliamentarians and will continue to facilitate a transparent process of discussion of the draft, making sure that NGOs and the public have access to parliamentarians so that their comments are heard. ICNL will monitor this law to ensure that no backsliding occurs as it passes through the Upper Chamber. Q4/02

Draft Law "On Charitable Activity" Approved by the Lower Chamber of Parliament
The draft of the Law "On Charitable activity" was approved on the second reading at the Lower Chamber of the Parliament (Majlisi Namoyandagon Majlisi Oli of Tajikistan) on February 26, 2003. According to legislative procedure this Law must now be adopted by the Upper Chamber of the Parliament, then signed by the Tajik President and implemented. If enacted, the law would help to improve implementation of the tax code provisions related to tax treatment of charities. Currently Tajik legislation does not provide for a clear definition and a mechanism to distinguish between charities and other NGOs. Thus, the tax code provisions on tax benefits for charities are implemented inconsistently. The new law would also provide a ground for expanding existing tax benefits to charities in compliance with international good practices.

Over a two year period (2000-2002) ICNL organized trainings and discussions on the draft law "On Charitable activity". Tajikistan suffers from a lack of information, lack of resources, and limited possibilities for tax benefits for charitable organizations due to the conditions resulting from a semi-war state. Tajikistan will benefit greatly by the adoption of the new law. ICNL provided recommendations on the draft law. In addition, ICNL experts trained NGO representatives and government officials on the international good practices of regulation of NGOs, and in particular charities, and organized several article-by-article discussions of the different variants of the draft law. However, backsliding still can occur while the law is pending in the Upper Chamber of the Parliament. ICNL will continue educating parliamentarians and will continue to facilitate a transparent process of discussion of the draft. Q4/02

Improved Draft Law "On State Registration of Legal Entities in Tajikistan" Submitted
The draft law "On State Registration of Legal Entities in Tajikistan" was reviewed and discussed by the deputies of the Majlisi Namoyandagon of the Majlisi Oli (Parliament). The advice and commentary provided by ICNL's local legal consultant helped NGOs, commercial structures, as well as interested government organizations, effectively address their concerns regarding the registration of legal entities and the law's contradictions with domestic and international law. During 2002 ICNL reviewed and provided commentary on numerous draft versions of the law, and ICNL organized seminars and several roundtables to discuss the evolving drafts. Although there was initially strong resistance from conservative officials at the Ministry of Justice who introduced several restrictive provisions, including yearly re-registration with a state fee payment, technical assistance by ICNL and hard work by the NGO community resulted in the removal of the restrictive provisions and the reintroduction of provisions favorable to the development of legal entities in Tajikistan. Also, ICNL worked closely with the drafters to ensure that the suggestions and amendments were taken into consideration. The draft law establishes a simplified single registration procedure for both commercial and noncommercial legal entities and makes registration of legal entities comparable to that of other CIS and CEE states. The draft law is expected to pass the first reading of Parliament in October. Q3/02

Tajikistan President and NGOs Hold a Conference on Social Partnership Issues
On June 21, 2002, Counterpart held an International Conference on Social Partnership that was attended by the President Emomali Rahmonov of Tajikistan, cabinet ministers, parliamentarians, international organizations, and NGOs. The conference came as a result of an eight-month effort by Counterpart, ICNL, and the NGO community to obtain greater acknowledgement of the Third Sector's role in the reconstruction and development of Tajikistan. ICNL partner, Muatar Khaidarova, was a member of the working group that planned and organized the conference. Muatar also provided consultations to NGOs on legal issues and helped them prepare presentations for the conference. As a result of the conference, participants agreed to establish closer dialogue and cooperation, particularly at the local level, and work together on the resolution of the socio-economic problems of Tajikistan. Q2/02

The Draft Law "On State Registration of Legal Entities in Tajikistan" Is Submitted to Parliament
The draft law "On State Registration of Legal Entities in Tajikistan" has been finally submitted to the Majlisi Namoyandagon of the Majlisi Oli. The draft law establishes a simplified single registration procedure for both commercial and noncommercial legal entities and makes registration of legal entities in Tajikistan comparable to that of other CIS and CEE states. The submission of the draft law has come as a result of one-and-a-half years of intensive efforts by ICNL, international organizations, and Tajikistani NGOs to improve this draft law. The draft law has undergone five drafts and ICNL has submitted several commentaries to the evolving drafts of the law. In addition, Muatar Khaidarova held four seminars and roundtables on the draft law and participated in numerous meetings with drafters, government officials, parliamentarians, and NGOs to improve the draft law's provisions. Despite frequent changes in the Government of Tajikistan and the introduction of new regressive provisions by conservative officials – all this which has contributed to the long drafting process – the submission of this draft law to Parliament represents a major step in the development of NGO legislation in Tajikistan. Q2/02

Dramatic Increase in the Number of Registered NGOs
ICNL's efforts to reduce registration fees in Tajikistan have paid off. Following the issuance of the Government Resolution No. 132 from March 31, 2001 "On the Order of Collection and Amount of Registration Fees for the Registration of Public Associations and Political Parties in the Republic of Tajikistan," registration fees for public associations have been significantly reduced. In accordance with the resolution, the registration fees for local public associations have dropped to about $25 from the previous rate of about $165, the fees for republican public associations have dropped to about $60 instead of about $240, and the fees for international public associations have been reduced to about $600 from the previous rate of over $700. The significant reductions in fees have provided an immediate impact on the growth of NGOs in Tajikistan. According to the data provided by the Tajik Ministry of Justice, the number of registered NGOs in Tajikistan increased dramatically in 2001 following the reduction of registration fees. The following chart illustrates the substantial increase of NGOs in Tajikistan.

Oblast	**# of NGOs registered in 2001**	**% increase over prior totals**	**Total number of NGOs in the oblast**
Dushanbe and districts of Republican subordination	179	25.8%	873
Sogdian Oblast	67	57.8%,	183
Khatlon Oblast	59	79.7%.	133
Gomo-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast	16	44.4%	52
TOTAL	321	25.9%	1,241

It should be noted that this is not the first time ICNL's efforts in the country resulted in an improved registration climate for NGOs. A prior dramatic increase in the number of registered NGOs occurred in 1998, following the adoption of the Law on Public Associations. ICNL continues to work hard to improve the legal climate for NGOs in the country and is a member of several drafting groups working on new legislation in Tajikistan. Q1/02

Draft Law "On State Registration of Legal Entities in Tajikistan" Approved by the Lower Chamber of the Parliament

The new law approved on December 20, 2002 by the Lower Chamber of the Parliament (Majlisi Namoiandagon of the Majlisi Oli) would establish a simplified single registration procedure for both commercial and non-commercial legal entities, if adopted by the Upper Chamber and signed by the President. The new law reduces non-commercial organization (NCO) registration fees, the period for application processing, and eliminates the registration body's powers to refuse issuing a decision on the registration of an NCO. This law is now in the Upper Chamber of the Parliament (Madjlisi Milli of the Madjlisi Oli) and is scheduled to be approved in April 2003. After which the law will be presented to the Tajik President for signing.

During 2002 ICNL worked closely with the drafters providing them with technical assistance and helping them to make the drafting process transparent and participatory. ICNL experts reviewed and provided recommendations on numerous draft versions of the law and organized seminars and roundtable discussions on the evolving drafts of the law with NGOs, drafters and government officials. Dozens of NGOs contributed to drafting by presenting their comments and participating in discussions of the draft law with the drafters organized by ICNL.

Although there was initially strong resistance from conservative officials at the Ministry of Justice who introduced several restrictive provisions, including a provision requiring yearly re-registration with a state fee payment, technical assistance provided by ICNL and effective advocacy from the NGO community led to the removal of restrictive provisions and the reintroduction of provisions favorable to the development of legal entities in Tajikistan. Also, ICNL worked closely with the drafters to ensure that NGOs' suggestions and amendments were taken into consideration. ICNL will continue educating parliamentarians and will continue to facilitate a transparent process of discussion of the draft, making sure that NGOs and the public have access to parliamentarians so that their comments are heard. ICNL will monitor this law to ensure that no backsliding occurs as it passes through the Upper Chamber. Q3/01

Draft Law "On Charitable Activity" Approved by the Lower Chamber of Parliament

The draft of the Law "On Charitable activity" was approved on the second reading at the Lower Chamber of the Parliament (Majlisi Namoyandagon Majlisi Oli of Tajikistan) on February 26, 2003. According to legislative procedure this Law must now be adopted by the Upper Chamber of the Parliament, then signed by the Tajik President and implemented. If enacted, the law would help to improve implementation of the tax code provisions related to tax treatment of charities. Currently Tajik legislation does not provide for a clear definition and a mechanism to distinguish between charities and other NGOs. Thus, the tax code provisions on tax benefits for charities are implemented inconsistently. The new law would also provide a ground for expanding existing tax benefits to charities in compliance with international good practices.

Over a two year period (2000-2002) ICNL organized trainings and discussions on the draft law "On Charitable activity". Tajikistan suffers from a lack of information, lack of resources, and limited possibilities for tax benefits for charitable organizations due to the conditions resulting from a semi-war state. Tajikistan will benefit greatly by the adoption of the new law. ICNL provided recommendations on the draft law. In addition, ICNL experts trained NGO representatives and government officials on the international good practices of regulation of NGOs, and in particular charities, and organized several article-by-article discussions of the different variants of the draft law. However, backsliding still can occur while the law is pending in the Upper Chamber of the Parliament. ICNL will continue educating parliamentarians and will continue to facilitate a transparent process of discussion of the draft. Q3/01

ICNL Succeeded in Reducing Registration Fees for NGOs
ICNL technical assistance with the legislation addressing registration of legal entities in Tajikistan led to adoption of the new progressive regulation No.132 which considerably reduced the registration fees for NGOs. Thus, the new fees for local NGOs are now equal to 20 and 50 minimum local salaries, which, is approximately $30 and $60 for regional and national (republican) NGOs, respectively. Previously, the registration fee for regional NGOs was $165, for national NGOs - $245. The fee was also reduced for international non-profit organizations from $750 to $600. Q2/01

ICNL Opened Discussion on the Draft Law on Registration of Legal Entities
As it was reported in the previous quarterly report, another important achievement in Tajikistan is that the government has initiated a new Law on Registration of Legal Entities. ICNL has been distributing the draft law to all interested persons asking for comments. This is an important issue for all legal entities, including non-commercial organizations, since this new law will establish a single registration procedure for all legal persons operating in the Republic of Tajikistan. ICNL prepared a detailed commentary to help the drafters to improve the draft. On March 26, ICNL held a roundtable for government drafters on issues of registration of legal entities and there was an article-by-article discussion of the draft law. As a result of this roundtable, the drafters were persuaded by several of the recommendations regarding how to make the draft more progressive. Q1/01

The Government Continues Reform on Civil Legislation
The government of Tajikistan and the NGO community are actively pursuing NGO law reform. The draft NGO law has been drafted by NGOs with the participation of government officials and was officially submitted to the Ministry of Justice for their review. ICNL assisted with broad distribution of the text among all interested parties. In addition, ICNL provided its recommendations to the draft and organized numerous roundtable discussions of the draft with NGOs, drafters and government officials. Once it is evaluated in the Ministry, it will be submitted for Parliaments' consideration at the beginning of 2001. Another important achievement is that the Government has initiated a new law On Registration of Legal Entities. It is a key issue for legal persons in the development of civil legislation in Tajikistan since this new law will establish a single registration procedure for all legal persons operating in the Republic of Tajikistan. Q4/00.

Drafting of the Law "On Non-commercial Organizations" is finished and the Draft is submitted to the Government for its consideration
The government of Tajikistan and NGO community are actively pursuing the NGO law reform. Thus, the draft NGO law has been drafted by NGOs with the participation of government officials involved in implementation of the appropriate legislation and this draft law was officially submitted to the Ministry of Justice for the legal expertise. Once it is evaluated in the Ministry, it is expected that this draft law will be submitted to Parliaments for consideration at the beginning of 2001. In general this draft law meets international standards of NGO legislation and would allow establishing a progressive regulatory environment for NGOs. Q3/00.

Draft Laws Submitted to Parliament: A Draft NGO Law-"On Non-commercial Organizations" And A New Draft Law on Charities
The government of Tajikistan and NGO community is actively pursuing NGO law reform. However, the needed expertise on such a subject is hard to find. The government formed a quasi-governmental working group to address this issue. They, in turn, approached ICNL for assistance. In addition to its local partner, ICNL also sent consultants to Tajikistan to work directly on this draft and with the quasi-governmental working group. The group finished the first version of a new draft law, *"On Non-commercial Organizations."* This law meets international standards of NGO legislation and creates a progressive regime of NGO registration and regulation. The new draft law was submitted after April 1st, 2000, in the Parliament of Tajikistan. Adoption of this law will further improve Tajikistan's legislation on NGOs.

ICNL has already been successful in drafting and adopting of a revised law *"On Public Associations"*, new Civil Code (Parts I & II) and Tax Code. In addition, the Minister of Justice, representatives from Parliament and representatives from the President's Administration have expressed to ICNL's local partner, Muatar Khaidarova, the desire to work on further forms of legislation on foundations and unions. The desire for continued work has culminated into the creation of a quasi-governmental working group, which will include ICNL as its official consultant. This working group has begun drafting a new charity law that is expected to be adopted in Summer 2000. Q2/00.

Turkmenistan

NGO Law Reform is in need

Turkmen Government Institutions recognize the need for NGO law reforms. The National Institute of Democracy and Human Rights with the President of Turkmenistan proposed funding ICNL to support the Institutes' project with drafting the new Law on Public Associations. According to Mr. Mogilevski, Deputy Director of the Institute, this was the Presidents' request that the Institute draft such a law. ICNL sees it as an important opportunity to assist with and to insure that this law complies with international laws and good international practices of NGO regulation. By supporting this project ICNL hopes not only to come up with a progressive NGO law, but also to utilize the opportunity to educate senior level government officials involved in drafting and implementation of the NGO law. Q3/00.

Uzbekistan

The Draft Law on Public Foundations Is Approved by the Cabinet of Ministers

The draft law "On Public Foundation" received the Cabinet of Ministers' approval and should soon be submitted to Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan. The draft law is a result of a yearlong effort supported by ICNL. ICNL reviewed and provided commentary to numerous draft versions of the law, and ICNL organized a seminar and several roundtables to discuss the evolving drafts on the law. In January and June, 2002 ICNL also submitted commentaries to the different versions of the law. Although there was initially strong resistance from conservative officials at the Ministry of Justice who introduced several restrictive provisions, including a provision requiring 10 individuals as founders to establish a foundation, technical assistance by ICNL and hard work by the other law drafters has led to the removal of these restrictions and reintroduction of provisions favorable to the development of foundations in Uzbekistan. The draft law is expected to pass the first reading of Parliament in August 2002. Q2/02

Draft Law on Public Foundations

Work continued on the draft Law on Public Foundations. ICNL received an alternative version of the draft law on Public Foundations that was prepared by a local NGO under the guidance of the Institute of Monitoring the Legislation within the Parliament. Remarkably the alternative draft has been prepared by the Legal Issues Research Center on voluntary basis, with no funding provided from the outside. This alternative version of the draft was submitted to the Uzbek Ministry of Justice (MoJ) which, in turn, used it as a basis for the further development of the law on Public Foundation. As a result of this process, the MoJ revised the draft and included several restrictive provisions, including a provision requiring 10 individuals as founders to establish a foundation. ICNL experts have worked hard on the recommendations to eliminate this and other restrictive provisions from the draft. The draft Law on Foundations is expected to be submitted to Parliament during the winter session in 2002. ICNL will submit additional comments to this draft law and provide international expertise on this issue. Q1/02

Commentary on NGO Law Published

ICNL completed a project directed at the publication of a booklet with comments on the NGO law, including a comprehensive interpretation of the provisions of the new law. Utilization of this commentary will allow more effective and progressive implementation of the NGO law provisions. Several governmental institutions contributed to its preparation. These contributions will provide the commentary with semi-official status and allow it to be used as manual for government officials carrying out registration and supervision of NGOs. The commentary will be broadly distributed among NGOs to educate them about their rights based on the new law. NGOs will greatly benefit by having access to the commentary and thereby help to ensure more effective implementation of the law. Q2/01

ICNL is Officially a Member of an Expert Group within Parliament

An ICNL representative in Uzbekistan has been officially included into the Parliament's expert group working with the Committee on Democratic Institutions, NGOs and Self-Governance Bodies. The major scope of activity of this Committee is to develop NGO legislation. At the moment ICNL together with the members of the Committee and the expert group are working on drafting a new law on Public Associations. ICNL provided the Committee at its request with materials and research that will help the Committee to start working on drafting the Law on Foundations. ICNL continues to work on the implementation of the NGO Law. ICNL is in the final stage of publishing a commentary to the Law. Several governmental institutions contributed to its preparation. This would provide the Commentary with the semi-official status and make it a manual for government officials carrying registration and supervision of NGOs as well as to NGOs, which would lead to its more effective implementation. ICNL as a member of the expert group is actively involved in monitoring of the practical implementation of NGO laws in all regions of Uzbekistan and is currently working on setting roundtables throughout the country on implementation of the Law. Q4/00.

The Regulatory Environment for NGOs is Changing for Better

A year and a half passed since the new Law on Non-commercial Organizations was adopted in May 1999. Currently the National Human Rights Center is doing a research on how the Law on Non-commercial Organizations is implemented throughout the country. The results of this research and independent ICNL analysis will be presented in a new book On Comments to the Law On Non-commercial Organizations that will come out in December 2000. The important finding of this analysis is that the Law brought a positive massage to local officials that the President does not prohibit and declares support to NGOs. This made a great impact on the mentality of local government officials, who currently cause much less problems with registration of NGOs than previously was the case. Nevertheless still a lot has to be done to make the implementation of the Law positive to NGOs. Q3/00.

ICNL Carries Out Implementation Training for Ministry Officials

Last year, ICNL and Counterpart carried out a training series for NGOs and government officials in the implementation of the new NGO law. This training was funded by Global Training and Development and held in four different cities (Samarkand, Bukhara, Nukus and Kokand). Although these trainings were a success, it became abundantly clear that officials from the Ministry of Justice (being those that must implement the logistics of the new law) need special attention. The Ministry officials requested further ICNL assistance in the form of a specific training. On April 8th, GTD funded a training that was held in the Parliament of Uzbekistan. This training was held by ICNL and its governmental partner, the Institute of Monitoring Legislation. The training invited over 40 persons (NGO representatives and Ministry officials from around the country) and detailed specific implementation issues regarding the NGO law. Overall, the training highlighted the importance of proper implementation and placed the issue of NGO registration in the spotlight. Hopefully, this training will be the first in a series of NGO/Ministry interactions. Q2/00.

Focus and Target NGOs for Phase III

Focus NGOs

The goal of the Focus NGOs grant program was to support operations and programs of NGOs that have a record of contributions to democratic reforms and are able to assist in the development of advocacy and the growth of Civil Society. 400 NGOs in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan applied for one of 13 Focus NGO grants. Grantees, and ultimately our Focus NGOs for Phase III were selected according to the following minimum requirements:

- A non-profit and non-governmental organization;
- A record of contribution to civil society development and democratic reform in CAR;
- Three years of existing activity;
- Successful completion of at least one project per year;
- Received at least one grant from a donor other than Counterpart;
- Adhere to generally accepted democratic leadership and participation principles;
- A well-defined governance structure with charter, governing body and officers;
- Demonstrate understanding of the role of the non-profit sector in advocating for the interests of their constituents;
- A well-defined constituency or beneficiary base (i.e. clients, members, or targeted communities);
- A mission and conduct activity relevant to a significant segment of the population in their community or country;
- A regional (Oblast) activity affecting a large number of individuals or groups (special consideration could be given to associations, networks and coalitions whose activities can be expected to affect larger number of population).

The selected organizations include:

Kazakhstan
1. Confederation of Non-Governmental Organizations of Kazakhstan
2. National Consumers League of Kazakhstan
3. Diabetic Association of the Republic of Kazakhstan
4. Young Leaders Association

Kyrgyzstan
1. Bishkek Center For Social Initiatives
2. Talas Oblast Farmers' Union
3. Bayastan
4. Chintamani

Uzbekistan
1. Center Umidvorlik
2. Association of Pediatricians of the Bukhara Region
3. International Rehabilitation Center, *Umid*
4. Fergana Regional Center for Social and Legal Support of Women and Teenagers, *Ishonch*
5. Kokand Branch of the Business Women's Association

Target NGOs

Target NGOs were selected for Tajikistan and Turkmenistan to support the need for broad based NGO development in these countries.

Tajikistan

Criteria for selection of Target NGOs in Tajikistan included:

1. NGO works in one of the following sectors: rule of law; human rights; independent media; conflict resolution; and income generation/small business development at the community level.
2. Majority of targeted NGOs should be working in rural areas
3. NGO assists conflict-impacted communities to deal with critical needs and problems and to achieve reconciliation of alienated and polarized interests.
4. NGO is able to facilitate local social partnerships, issue based coalitions, and offer PCA and resource assistance to local community based organizations (CBOs) in their attempts to grapple with local problems.
5. NGO has experience in collaboration with community development projects and NGOs working in similar sectors.
6. NGO provides needs-based assistance to their communities
7. NGO designs and implements projects that effectively utilize volunteers and volunteerism as a strategy to mobilize local resources to address community problems
8. NGO demonstrates the growth of constituencies through membership, grassroots fund-rising, volunteerism or citizen participation in projects
9. NGO demonstrates interest in advocacy and public education through the media
10. NGO shows evidence of a strong team in its management (3 or more people active in the NGO in project activities)

The NGOs selected in Tajikistan were:

1. Umed
2. Sudmand
3. Anis
4. Hamroz
5. Chashma Women Center
6. Yosuman
7. Saodat
8. Development Fund
9. Yovar
10. Vahdat
11. Madad
12. Nilufar
13. Munis
14. Medservice
15. Harmony of World

Turkmenistan

In Turkmenistan, Target NGOs were selected based on their service delivery in one of the following priority sectors:

1. Environment/Ecology
2. Women
3. Health
4. Legal/Juridical
5. Children/Youth
6. Agriculture/Farmers
7. Civil Society/Human Rights (includes general NGO support, conflict resolution)
8. Artists/Craftsperson's/Culture and History
9. Media
10. Disabled
11. Poor Families/Pensioners
12. Education
13. Science
14. Cultural/Ethnic Groups
15. Refugees
16. Business Promotion.

The organizations selected in Turkmenistan include:

1. Commonwealth of ECO NGOs
2. Junior Achievement Economic Education and Young Entrepreneurs Center
3. My Right
4. Union of Pensioners Arma
5. Shamchyrag Tukmen Association of Journalists on Social Partnership
6. Family, Mercy and Health
7. Keyik Okara
8. Ecological School of Farmers
9. Social Adaptation Center Umyt in Turkmenbashi city, Balkan
10. Arzuw
11. Medet
12. Amul
13. Sarygamysh (former Water User's Association
14. Uchgun