

# CIVIC ADVOCACY

SUPPORT PROGRAM FOR UZBEKISTAN

## **FINAL PROGRAM REPORT**

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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

### **Overview of CASP I and CASP II**

In October 2002, USAID awarded \$900,000 to Counterpart International to implement the two-year Civic Advocacy Support Program (CASP) for Uzbekistan. The program supported USAID's strategic Objective 2.1, *Strengthened Democratic Culture Among Citizens and Targeted Institutions*, as outlined in the USAID Assistance Strategy for Central Asia 2001-2005.

Civic advocacy requires a long-term commitment and a diversity of techniques to stimulate wide-spread citizen involvement on priority issues. These issues emerge through the mobilization of individuals and NGOs, as well as extensive coverage and dissemination by the media. Ultimately the messages need to be absorbed and acted upon by a respondent national government, the end result being a more just and equitable society. CASP I was successful in promoting a culture of citizen-led civic advocacy on national level issues and establishing mechanisms for citizen engagement in the political and economic decision-making process. Specifically the project pursued the following objectives:

Phase I of CASP had three primary objectives:

- To enhance the capacity of local NGOs to carry out national level advocacy campaigns on issues that concern them;
- To engage citizens in the democratic process by involving them in advocacy efforts; and
- To improve the ability of the national government to engage in policy dialogue and reform in consultation with citizens and NGOs.

Counterpart's experience and its commitment to strengthening the democratic process in Uzbekistan during CASP I uniquely positioned us to coordinate the many components of successful national advocacy campaigns. As a result, USAID awarded Counterpart a two-year, \$1 million extension in 2004 to maintain the momentum and build on the successes of CASP I. CASP II was directed at a broader cross-section of the population and participating organizations, seeking to touch issues of more fundamental importance to the larger Uzbek population and striving to achieve greater involvement by constituents. The program successfully increased the long-term impact of CASP advocacy campaigns and advanced NGOs', government's and citizens' understanding of advocacy in Uzbekistan.

Phase II of CASP had four key objectives:

- Strengthen the skill capacity of a targeted group of professional associations, membership organizations and special interest groups to conduct national level advocacy campaigns.
- Increase number and types of organizations supporting the full spectrum of USAID Strategic Objective and Intermediary Results that can conduct advocacy campaigns aimed at affecting policy, legal and regulatory change at the national level.
- Expand the ability of Uzbek government officials to understand the role of advocacy organizations in policy dialogue and reform.
- Increase the role of the media in promoting constructive citizen advocacy and informing target populations of advocacy issues.

However, in the beginning of 2005 relations between NGOs and the Government of Uzbekistan began to rapidly disintegrate. Counterpart found it all but impossible to transfer

funds through banks to grantees for any of its programs. Counterpart was monitored by the Ministry of Justice in March 2005 and throughout the summer was in the process of responding to various questions raised by a Notice of Violation issued by the Ministry, which was followed by an Additional Notice of Violation. In light of the uncertainty surrounding this situation and the increasing difficulty of making bank transfers, Counterpart advised USAID that it would amend its work plan to reflect current circumstances; USAID concurred with this decision. The goals and objectives of the program remained intact for the most part, but specific activities shifted towards training and technical assistance and away from direct financial support of advocacy campaigns.

During CASP I and II, Counterpart and its local partners achieved the following results: 1) seven national and three smaller regional level campaigns were successfully conducted; 2) thirteen grants were distributed to coalitions and advocacy groups in the amount of \$132,009 USD; 3) twelve training modules were developed and 18 advanced advocacy trainers were certified to provide training and individual consulting to advocacy coalitions; 4) impacts of three advocacy campaigns conducted without CASP funding but utilizing CASP training and technical assistance were documented; 5) local NGOs increased their understanding of and capacity to manage successful advocacy campaigns; and 6) government officials at local and national levels became increasingly receptive to working with their constituents and local NGOs (albeit until 2005).

## **Background/Political Environment**

Since 1994, Counterpart was on the ground in Uzbekistan supporting the creation and development of non-governmental organizations (NGOs). During its work in Uzbekistan, Counterpart noticed that the NGO community, particularly those grassroots organizations addressing pressing social needs and engaging communities, was growing stronger. The vast majority of NGOs worked at the local level and had been able to advocate to local government officials on behalf of their constituents. This advocacy often resulted in local problems being solved by the joint efforts of government officials and NGOs. However, the missing element in Uzbekistan was that very few organizations possessed the skills, knowledge and resources to launch advocacy campaigns at the national level.

The factors contributing to the limited level of government/citizen engagement and the absence of policy dialogue at the national level in Uzbekistan included:

- Lack of NGO capacity to organize and conduct nation-wide advocacy campaigns;
- Unwillingness or inability of the Government of Uzbekistan to create mechanisms which support and promote policy dialogue between citizens and government officials at the national level; and
- Lack of motivation and interest of citizens to participate in national advocacy campaigns.

The combination of these factors reduced the opportunities for citizens to participate in national decision-making processes and consequently, to improve national governance and the quality of their lives. These factors also hampered the creation and development of a vibrant market economy, and inhibited the development of independent media, political parties and other institutions of an open and democratic society.

The Civic Advocacy Support Program (CASP) built on Counterpart's in-country expertise in advocacy work that had been done at the local level through the USAID-funded Mahalla Initiative Program (1999-2003). It also tapped into Counterpart Uzbekistan's experience in

organizational development and community outreach, gained during the implementation of the USAID-funded Program for Civil Society and NGO Development in the Central Asian Region (2000-2003) and CASP was also able to work with the network of seven Civil Society Support Centers established by Counterpart in Bukhara, Kokand, Namangan, Nukus, Samarkand, Tashkent, and Urgench. Counterpart supported many successful advocacy efforts at the local level during its previous work, but it was not until the launch of CASP that we developed a process for building advocacy coalitions and conducting national level advocacy campaigns.

By the beginning of CASP II, Counterpart and local NGOs were prepared to expand their activities to include new advocacy components and techniques. In 2004, unfortunately, the working environment in Uzbekistan changed due to the US Government's non-certification of Uzbekistan, which barred direct support to the central government, thus making it difficult to continue capacity building activities for government officials. At the end of 2004, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) suspended all aid to the central government. The political relationship deteriorated to the point that the Government of Uzbekistan requested that the US vacate the Khanabad airbase in Karshi. In October 2005, the European Union (EU) also introduced sanctions against Uzbekistan, thus contributing to the already crumbling international relations of the country.

In the beginning of 2005, the relations between NGOs and the Government of Uzbekistan followed suit, becoming categorized by suspicion and mistrust. Many local NGOs in all oblasts of Uzbekistan were forced to close. Civil Society Support Centers were among the first to discontinue their activities; some reopened as for-profit organizations to be able to continue providing services to their clients. Fearing retaliation by the government, many local NGOs that had worked with Counterpart limited their relations with American NGOs. Counterpart continued providing technical assistance to its core NGOs targeted under CASP.

## **PROJECT IMPACTS**

Despite the challenging operating environment in Uzbekistan, the program proved to be resilient and extremely successful in terms of public outreach and producing significant impacts both at local and national level, such as amendment and/or ratification of reforms, and increased capacity of local NGOs to manage advocacy campaigns, in some instances even without direct funding from CASP. During the life of the program Counterpart-supported NGOs achieved numerous national and local-level advocacy impacts that resulted from seven national and three smaller regional level advocacy campaigns. At least three successful advocacy campaigns were conducted without CASP funding but utilizing CASP training and technical assistance. (*See Attachment # 1 for Impact Stories.*)

### **Illustrative Impact Stories:**

#### ***Easing Registration Requirements for Businesses***

*The Business Women's Association (BWA) of Uzbekistan has been successfully advocating on behalf of entrepreneurs, seeking reduction of overly bureaucratic requirements in the state legislature that inhibit registration and operation of small and medium businesses. In an effort to address these obstacles BWA implemented a comprehensive campaign to promote a better operating environment for commodity producers. They have aired a public service announcement (PSA) on business registration; conducted dialogue sessions with local manufacturers in Tashkent, Samarkand and Ferghana to identify constraints; submitted an*

official appeal to the Cabinet of Ministers; and established a strong and permanent network of government agencies, NGOs, media and local manufacturers to continue advocacy efforts on behalf of manufacturers. As a result of the BWA's recommendations and advocacy campaign, the Cabinet of Ministers made the following policy changes: a) adopted Resolution #357 "On Cardinal Improvement of Registration of Business Organizations" resulting in the simplification of the process of legal registration of small and medium enterprises in Uzbekistan; b) introduced changes in Decree #407 allowing local producers to sell their products in local markets without opening a new legal entity; and c) adopted Decree #318, which resulted in additional measures for simplifying process of certifying products. Both decrees incorporated many of the recommendations developed by the BWA advocacy coalition. Furthermore, the Association of Entrepreneurs was established and registered as a permanent advocacy group on issues related to small producers in Uzbekistan, drawing heavily on the membership of BWA advocacy coalition.

### ***Accessibility for Handicapped Citizens***

The Samarkand-based NGO *Hayot* is a staunch defender of the rights of handicapped persons. *Hayot* established a strong coalition of NGOs from five regions of Uzbekistan, which actively engaged the media and their respective constituencies to implement an advocacy campaign promoting accessibility for handicapped persons. Furthermore, the Coalition created a ground-breaking PSA featuring eleven well-known Uzbek musicians performing and speaking about the priority issues of disabled people. PSA in Uzbek, Russian and Karakalpak languages was aired on radio and regional TV channels. Twenty media outlets in the target cities provided coverage on the issue of accessibility for the disabled. Finally, the Coalition made an appeal to the *Khokims* of the target cities on behalf of 2,000 people with disabilities, who signed the petition. As a result the following policy changes were adopted: a) *Khokims* of all five target cities of Termez, Kokand, Navoi, Nukus and Nurabad adopted decrees on physical accessibility in line with the Coalition's recommendations and included a permanent mechanism for the Coalition to monitor implementation of the decrees; and b) Four *Khokims* outside of the target area of the advocacy coalition, issued similar decrees.

*River for All and All for the River*

### ***Saving the Rivers***

The Nukus-based NGO *Union of Defense of Aral Sea and Amudarya* (UDASA) conducted a campaign to develop a joint mechanism by NGOs and government to ensure implementation of existing legislation limiting discharge of collector-drainage and industrial wastes into the Amu-Darya, Sir-Darya and Zerafshan rivers, their tributaries and irrigation channels. The coalition also recommended stronger legislation to control river pollution, identified changes needed in existing legislation in order to promote cleaner rivers in Uzbekistan and created specific language for the recommended changes in the three relevant Uzbek laws, which it submitted to the *Oliy Majlis*. Based on hearings conducted throughout Uzbekistan, the UDASA coalition created a comprehensive 10 year action plan for cleaner river water, which it presented to the Office of the President, the Ministry of Irrigation and local *Khokimiyats*. The plan proposed a set of recommendations for the Office of the President, regional and local government authorities, the international community and local NGOs, among others. The coalition used innovative



methodologies to build a broad constituency for cleaner river water and long-term momentum for achieving it among students, government officials at all levels and other stakeholders.

### ***Education for All***

The Tashkent-based NGO *Umidvorlik* organization conducted a campaign to get the Ministry of Public Education to introduce legislation securing access to education for children with disabilities. As part of the campaign, *Umidvorlik* established a coalition of NGOs from three regions; the director of *Umidvorlik* gave a radio interview on republic radio Uzbekistan; and the coalition organized a talk show on Tashkent TV to raise awareness of the rights of disabled youth. As a result, the National Plan of Uzbekistan on Education for All was adopted and published. The plan includes guidelines for integration of children of disability into schools.

### ***Advocating for the Basic Rights of the Mentally Challenged***

The local NGO *Our Home* conducted research to identify the needs of mentally challenged people in Uzbekistan. The results of the research demonstrated that there was limited or no access to information regarding the basic rights and social benefits for the mentally challenged population. *Our Home* established a coalition of 3 NGOs and 9 government organizations to look into this issue. The coalition members established a working group consisting of the representatives from the Ministry of Health, lawyers, NGOs and the Chief Doctor/Principal of the mental hospital. Meetings and roundtables were organized that resulted in the draft decree “On Provision of Information to People with Mental Disorders.” The draft decree outlined a mechanism for implementation of Article 7 of the Law On Psychiatric Care of the Republic of Uzbekistan, providing access to information about social welfare benefits for the mentally challenged people. Furthermore, it outlined the framework for the integration of people with mental disabilities into society, paving the way for improvement of their financial well-being. Upon the termination of CASP, the draft decree was under consideration at the Supreme Committee of *Oliy Majlis*. The NGO conducted all activities without financial support from CASP.

*Provision of Information to People with Mental Disorder*



### ***Heat to Every Household***

The Urgench-based coalition “Heat to Every Household” identified existing gaps in the delivery of natural gas to the population and public institutions in Uzbekistan. It was determined that the problem lies in the lack of coordination between two independent departments engaged in the gas supply: the National Holding Company *Uzbekneftegaz* (provider of natural gas) and the Republican Agency *Uzkommunkhizmat* (gas supply department) which is a mediator (third party) purchasing the natural gas from the provider and delivering it to the consumers. As a result of

*Heat to Every Household*



the coalition's advocacy efforts, the Khorezm Regional Department of the Demopolization/Decentralization developed a regulation regarding the restructuring of the gas supply system and submitted it to the regional Khokimiyat. Furthermore, the coalition prepared and submitted a draft decree for the Cabinet of Ministries of Uzbekistan, which at the time of project termination, was under consideration by the Cabinet of Ministries of Uzbekistan. Decision making on the national level is a long process, nevertheless the coalition has already managed to achieve positive results in the Khorezm region. Improvements were made in the supply and delivery of natural gas for approximately 20,000 people. The coalition conducted all activities without any financial support from CASP.

## PROJECT ACTIVITY BY OBJECTIVE

During the first two years CASP supported seven national level advocacy campaigns and three smaller, regional campaigns. Several of them achieved significant policy change in areas such as the rights of the disabled, regulations governing entrepreneurs and health. The five components of Counterpart's Civic Advocacy Support Project in support of USAID's strategic Objective 2.1, *Strengthened Democratic Culture Among Citizens and Targeted Institutions*, as outlined in the USAID Assistance Strategy for Central Asia 2001-2005 were: 1) Advanced advocacy materials and information dissemination; 2) Capacity building for NGOs; 3) Regional NGO and government networking; 4) Capacity building for government officials; and 5) Grants for national level advocacy campaigns.

### CASP I (2002- 2004)

***Objective 1: To enhance the capacity of local NGOs to carry out national level advocacy campaigns.***

Counterpart's approach to civic advocacy at the national level assumed a two-way process, a public dialogue between government and citizens with NGOs acting as facilitators, mediators, protectors, and advocates for citizen interests, which often benefit the government as well. Counterpart viewed NGOs as mechanisms for promoting democracy and essential liaisons between the individual and the government.

Developing New and Updating Existing Advocacy Technologies and Training Modules  
Counterpart upgraded its exiting training modules (*i.e. Public Outreach, Fundraising, and Financial Accountability*) to reflect changes in legislation and include case studies drawn from successful advocacy campaigns in Uzbekistan. CASP staff developed two training and technical assistance manuals during the first two years of the project, *Planning and Implementing Advocacy Campaigns Manual* and *Consulting Skills Manual*, and formed a cadre of trainers to provide group and individual training to advocacy NGOs. The Advocacy Manual, *Designing and Implementing Advocacy Campaigns*, includes topics such as stages of advocacy campaigns, data collection and problem statement development, goal setting, target audiences, public information, and coalition building. The *Consulting Skills Manual* includes general theory and introduction to consulting, technical consulting skills, interpersonal skills and working as a team.

#### Cadre of Advanced Advocacy Trainers

Counterpart developed and conducted an advanced advocacy training of trainers (TOT) within the first two months of the project start date. Counterpart held a five-day advanced advocacy training of trainers (TOT) workshop for a selected team of trainers. The workshop was conducted by Counterpart's resource partner - ABA/CEELI's Institution Building Advisor. Upon completion of the TOT, Counterpart certified the trainers as advocacy trainers and consultants.

The newly certified civic advocacy trainers provided targeted technical assistance, civic advocacy trainings and advocacy workshops on the following topics: social partnership, coalition building, constituency development, working with the media, and information campaigns among others. With assistance of Trainers/Consultants, all target NGOs created both organizational and advocacy related strategic plans.

### Advocacy Action Grants to Advocacy Campaign Coalitions

Grant support on a competitive basis was a significant programmatic element. CASP activities were reinforced by two rounds of grants to coalitions of NGO partners in support of advocacy campaigns. These campaigns were supported technically by Counterpart and our four international resource partners – American Bar Association/Central and Eastern European Law Initiative, International Center for Not-for-Profit Law, the Advocacy Institute, and Grassroots Enterprise Inc. Below are some illustrative achievements of advocacy action grants. (*See Attachment # 2 and 3 for Achievements of CASP I Grants*)

*BWA Uzbekistan, Tashkent.* The Cabinet of Ministers of Uzbekistan adopted Decree #318 to take additional measures to simplify the process of certifying products. The decree incorporated many of the recommendations developed by the BWA coalition. Among the changes in the revised decree are: a) Lowered charges for certification; b) Decrease by 30 percent in the types of goods requiring certification; c) Reduction from seven to two points of contact for certification; and d) Maximum delay for certification reduced from 80 days to 30.

*Hayot, Samarkand.* Khokims of six target cities of Termez, Samarkand, Navoi, Namangan, Nukus and Djizzak adopted decrees creating local commissions to monitor the process of distributing humanitarian assistance.

*Union for Defense of Aral Sea and Amudarya (UDASA), Nukus.* This coalition identified needed changes in existing legislation to promote cleaner rivers in Uzbekistan and created specific language for the recommended changes in the three relevant Uzbek laws, which it submitted to the *Oliy Majlis*. Based on hearings it conducted throughout Uzbekistan, the UDASA coalition created a comprehensive 10 year action plan for cleaner river water, which it presented to the Office of the President, the Ministry of Irrigation and local *Khokimiyats*. The plan proposed recommendations to the Office of the President, regional and local government authorities, the international communities and local NGOs, among others.

### Advocacy Mini-Campaigns

The three so-called CASP mini-campaigns were awarded in spring 2004. The purpose of the mini-campaigns was to begin to build the experience of a wider group of NGOs in more locations around the country. Grants for mini-campaigns were made available in a competition that specifically excluded organizations that already received CASP grants and were focused on local, rather than national level issues. Furthermore, the mini advocacy campaigns were designed to address an issue related to the mission of the grantee and to affect a broad spectrum of Uzbek people in one region (town or district) of the country. Counterpart strongly recommended applicants to involve a coalition of players in addition to NGOs, including governmental agencies and businesses. The role of each partner in the coalition was clearly defined with overall consent of the coalition members.

Counterpart used an innovative approach in the provision of technical assistance to the mini-campaigns. One evaluation expert and two Trainer-Consultants were assigned to each campaign. The aim was to provide the coalitions with more intensive technical assistance in keeping with their presumed need for greater support and to monitor the implementation process so that the technical assistance could be delivered in a timely manner. In addition, the approach provided the Trainer-Consultants themselves with additional opportunities to work with campaign implementers and strengthen their own skills and capacity. This approach was successful and has been adopted by CASP as the model for technical assistance delivery throughout the program.

The CASP Monitoring Team conducted an evaluation of mini-campaigns after their conclusion in September 2004. One of the Team's observations was that there were relatively few NGOs in Uzbekistan capable of conducting advocacy campaigns and that most of those were the "usual" large metropolitan organizations like BWA/Uzbekistan and a few others. Most of the Team's observations were equally appropriate to national level campaigns as to local ones and were indicative of the general level of advocacy capacity in the country. Furthermore, the assessment revealed a need for capacity building of the NGOs in specific areas such as negotiation, civic literacy and presentations/communication skills vital for building a collaborative relationship with the government and for clearly communicating their message to the media and other stakeholders. Counterpart addressed these issues by developing training modules and providing training and other technical assistance to the partner organizations.

More generally, the assessment team observed that the mini-campaigns had greater value than originally had been anticipated. The team suggested that local level campaigns be used in the future to complement and enhance national level campaigns; a strategy which was already being considered for CASP II. In particular, the team saw *Hayot's* approach as a model, in which advocacy action groups established in the six targeted oblasts serve to support and reinforce the goal of the national level coalition.

Another interesting observation was that the *Bilim va Jamiyat* mini-campaign was the most effective in terms of constituency engagement. The monitoring team attributed this to the fact that the *Bilim va Jamiyat* issue—street lighting—was "real and concrete" as opposed to the aims of the other two campaigns, which were comparatively more abstract. The team believed that the concreteness of the issue – improvement of street lighting, something basic that ordinary people care about a great deal, made it easier to mobilize a committed constituency. (See Attachment # 4 for List of Projects funded under CASP I.)

#### Mid-Term Evaluation

CASP, initially funded for two-years, was a pilot program initiated by USAID to determine (1) whether NGOs in Uzbekistan had the expertise and organizational maturity to carry out national level advocacy campaigns and (2) whether the political climate in Uzbekistan would tolerate such overt advocacy.

The purpose of the evaluation carried out in summer 2004 was to reflect on Counterpart's experience during the two years of program implementation and shed light on the two questions referenced above. Beyond that the evaluation assessed Counterpart's program strategy for program implementation and determined, in the current conditions, whether it was the most effective approach. One of the most valuable findings of the CASP Evaluation was that local organizations respond best to interventions designed with the Uzbekistan context in mind. The assessment suggested that greater emphasis should be given to developing case studies on training drawn from local experience, especially as the breadth of local advocacy experience grows.

In response to assessment findings, the CASP Training Team developed 10 case studies based on CASP's first 10 advocacy campaigns, including the three mini-campaigns conducted in spring and summer 2004. The case studies were incorporated into the basic CASP training module *Planning and Implementing Advocacy Campaigns*, and like all CASP materials, were made available for use by advocacy practitioners in Uzbekistan. Subsequently, the module was used as a resource by Counterpart offices in Armenia, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and Afghanistan, carefully modified to fit the country context.

Another important finding of the Assessment was the need to extend the length of the Advocacy Campaign proposals from 6 months (as it was in CASP I) to 12-18 months. Counterpart decided to extend the duration of the advocacy campaigns thus enabling these initiatives to develop approaches and interventions on issues that are not already under consideration at various levels of government and to take a longer-term perspective and seek more fundamental changes in policy. The extension also allowed partner organizations more time to mobilize and engage their respective constituents, identify the target audience and adjust their advocacy strategy to the ever changing political environment of Uzbekistan. Counterpart revised its funding strategy for CASP II in response to the findings of the evaluation. Grant making for long-term campaigns did not take place due to the changed operational environment in Uzbekistan, as described above. (*See Attachment # 5 for Summary of CASP Evaluation.*)

***Objective 2: To engage citizens in the democratic process by involving them in advocacy efforts.***

Consistent with Counterpart's belief that advocacy is a holistic and integrated process that begins at the community level and culminates in policy reform at the governmental level, we utilized our extensive country-wide network of NGOs in Uzbekistan to work with both citizens and government officials to reform policy at the local and national level.

Trainings in Volunteerism and Constituency Development

Counterpart provided technical assistance to NGOs on developing teams of dedicated and capable volunteers as well as engaged and active constituencies, both of which are important for running successful national advocacy campaigns. Counterpart developed training modules that provide a range of skills reinforcing NGO credibility with communities and provided basic and advanced training in advocacy such as: participatory community appraisal and action planning, volunteerism, constituency building, association and coalition building, negotiation skills, social partnership and public education through the media. CASP piloted several new approaches to advocacy capacity building, e.g. "*Consulting Skills Manual*" which equipped Counterpart's training team to provide individual consultations to the NGOs.

Clearinghouses for Advocacy Information and Successful Techniques

Counterpart created an electronic library of advocacy information and tools that was designed to continue supporting a lively electronic exchange of information and ideas among participating organizations after the program ended. Counterpart developed a website from which much of the gathered information can be downloaded. The link to CASP's website has served an important public relations purpose for audiences both in and outside of Uzbekistan. It was a very inclusive information vehicle that provided access to almost all other program resources, including CASP-produced manuals and modules in downloadable form as well as most of the contents of the CASP library, including various advocacy materials. In addition, it included a program description, a calendar, photos, a page devoted to the Training Team, descriptions of past and current campaigns and links to other advocacy resources. The URL was UzbekAdvocacy.org. Unfortunately, due to the MOJ monitoring we had to deactivate the website in order to protect the privacy of our local partner organizations.

The CASP information library contained more than 200 documents in English, Uzbek and Russian, all focused on advocacy. Frequently updated CD-ROMs were available for NGOs that don't have regular access to the Internet.

The CASP LISTSERV served as a useful tool for communicating with the core NGOs, disseminating information about training and other opportunities and alerting groups of important new developments or interesting documents. Originally, the LISTSERV was planned as a forum where organizations could go for advice from experts on specific issues in implementation of their advocacy campaigns. This did not prove viable, because many organizations were still reluctant to expose their supposed “weaknesses” to a wide audience.

***Objective 3: To improve the ability of the national government to engage in policy dialogue and reform in consultation with citizens and NGOs***

Study Visits for Uzbek Government Officials and Advocacy NGOs

Counterpart organized three study tours: one for government officials to Moscow, one for government officials to Bulgaria and the third one for CASP grantee representatives to Bulgaria. The first exchange visit was organized for nine government officials from national and regional bureaus, to meet with their Russian counterparts and learn about advocacy approaches in Russia, primarily from the government’s point of view. All nine government officials participating in the trip were selected by CASP grantee NGOs based on their power mapping strategy (target audience) for their campaigns. Participants visited Russian parliamentary officials, several offices in the Moscow City Administration, the Ministries of Anti-Monopoly Policy, Education and Labor and Social Development. The opportunity to meet with Russian peers and grasp the overall NGO-Government dynamics helped the participating Uzbek officials to become more receptive to advocacy initiatives.

Counterpart’s resource partner, the International Center for Not-for-profit Law, worked with its affiliate offices in Bulgaria and their national level government contacts to arrange a one-week trip for government officials of Uzbekistan to Bulgaria. The purpose of this trip was to expose Uzbek officials to different techniques and methodologies of capturing public opinion, receiving citizen concerns, engaging in public dialogue, working in coordination with NGOs, and being receptive to and acting upon citizen advocacy efforts.

The second visit to Bulgaria was organized for CASP grantees (Uzbek NGO representatives). The purpose of the trip was to learn about NGO approaches to advocacy in Bulgaria. The visit was hosted by Tri-Net, the localized follow-on program of USAID’s DemNet NGO capacity building program in Bulgaria, which closed in early 2003. Uzbek participants included Melia Asanova of Hayot, Samarkand; Marina Davydova of Umidvorlik and Saida Tokhtaeva of BWA/Uzbekistan. Elena Sabirova, CASP’s Senior Training Advisor, also participated as did Vyacheslav Ganiev, Executive Secretary of the Coordinating Council for Encouragement and Development of Small and Private Business. Mr. Ganiev was invited by BWA. A half hour television program about the trip was subsequently shown on Uzbek Television-2 in Russian and Uzbek. As part of an ongoing travel series, approximately half the program was devoted to the advocacy-related purposes of the study visit and discussing the broad uses of advocacy for a general audience.

Furthermore, Counterpart sponsored roundtables in three cities where two leaders from the Youth Information Service of Kazakhstan conducted presentations about their experiences. CASP also held several other events such as roundtables, discussions and dinners in an effort to provide opportunities for NGOs and their government counterparts to engage in an informal dialogue and share ideas. Counterpart provided trainings for government officials in the basic principles of advocacy to ensure constructive dialogue between civil society and the government, thus encouraging the involvement of government in advocacy campaigns.

### Training for Government Officials and Media

Counterpart identified that Uzbek media had a weak understanding of advocacy, compounded by the limitations imposed by government control. Similarly, many government officials had a limited understanding of the role of advocacy in a democratic society and how a more responsive and accountable government could contribute to stability. Training for media and government officials was CASP's preliminary attempt to address this question. Counterpart conducted training for government officials and media in the basic principles of advocacy, using the *CASP Planning and Implementing Advocacy Campaigns* module. The training was very well attended and enthusiastically received. There were approximately 60 participants, half from government and half from media. Government officials included representatives of the Ministry of Justice of Navoi, the National Center on Human Rights of Uzbekistan and the Chief Specialist on Social Issues of the Termez City *Khokimiyat*. Media participants included representatives of the newspapers *Truth of Namangan* and *Chemist of Navoi* as well as representatives of Karakalpak TV, Fergana Regional TV and TV-Radio Company STV. (See Attachment # 6 for the Lists of Government Officials and Journalists Trained.)

### **CASP II (2004-2006)**

The overall goal of CASP II - to strengthen national level advocacy capacity in Uzbekistan and reinforce the opportunities for citizen engagement in the political and economic decision-making process - remained unchanged. However, compared to CASP I, the scope of CASP II embraced a larger universe of advocacy organizations, including professional associations, membership groups and special interest NGOs that wished to conduct effective national advocacy campaigns.

In light of the uncertainty surrounding the political situation and the increasing difficulty of making bank transfers, Counterpart advised USAID that it would amend its work plan to reflect current circumstances, a decision with which USAID concurred. The goals and objectives of the program remained much as they originally were proposed, but underwent a shift in emphasis towards training and technical assistance and away from direct financial support of advocacy campaigns.

CASP II focused much of its attention on the following three objectives:

1. Expanding the universe of CASP advocacy campaign implementers to include professional associations, membership groups and special interest NGOs;
2. Creating a more focused and refined set of capacity-building tools;
3. Building a sustainable training and technical assistance base for Uzbekistan that will serve as a permanent resource to organizations and individuals that wish to seek policy change using the tools of advocacy.

### ***1. Expanding the universe of CASP advocacy campaign implementers to include professional associations, membership groups and special interest NGOs***

#### CASP II Launch

The most significant activity in the beginning of CASP II was the country-wide consultations with stakeholders to identify topics for CASP II campaigns. Consultations were conducted in 36 communities, using personnel from Civil Society Support Centers guided by CASP staff. The resulting topics included questions of education, livelihood, water and sanitation,



youth, environment and governance. The key topics were presented to the wider audience during the stakeholder conference. Working groups, consisting of various advocacy groups, professional and membership associations as well as government officials were formed around the key topics. The findings of the consultations informed Counterpart grant making strategy for CASP II.

#### List of Working Groups and Topics:

<b>№</b>	<b>Working group</b>	<b>Issues</b>
<b>1.</b>	<b>Unemployment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No existing law on migration.</li> <li>• Job creation for handicapped people.</li> <li>• Development of farming and craftsmanship.</li> <li>• Raising living standards of rural youth.</li> </ul>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Ecology + Potable water</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water users' rights protection.</li> <li>• Establishing system of refuse elimination</li> </ul>
<b>3.</b>	<b>Public Health Care</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No existing mechanism for practicing the law on HIV/AIDS.</li> <li>• Passing the law on reproductive health.</li> <li>• Quality standards in primary health care.</li> </ul>
<b>4.</b>	<b>Youth</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establishing social service agency for youth.</li> </ul>
<b>5.</b>	<b>Education</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creating a mechanism for introduction of modern teaching methodologies in public education.</li> <li>• Enforcing the law on education (in particular, the articles related to provision of education for people with disabilities)</li> </ul>
<b>6.</b>	<b>Economy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enforcing the legislation for entrepreneurs</li> </ul>
<b>7.</b>	<b>Housing and Utilities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improving supply of natural gas to the population.</li> <li>• Creating a mechanism for enforcing the law on House Owners' Union (HOU).</li> </ul>
<b>8.</b>	<b>Governance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improving the mechanism for establishing relations between Mahalla Committees and local authorities</li> </ul>

The presentation of the finding of the country-wide consultations was followed by a highly publicized event, the Launch Conference and Concert held in Tashkent in December 2004. More than 300 persons attended the conference at the Business Center of the National Bank of Uzbekistan. The day-long meeting was devoted to the creation of working groups on topics of citizen concern that formed the basis of Counterpart's work during its second two-year phase. The Deputy Head of Public Relations Committee in the Moscow Mayor's office delivered the keynote address, discussing the experiences of the Moscow City Government in collaborating with NGOs on advocacy. The conference was opened by Jon Purnell, US Ambassador to Uzbekistan.

The conference culminated in an evening concert in Tashkent's Turkiston Hall attended by some 700 representatives from the national government, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), regional *Khokimiyats*, businesses, the media, and international organizations. Seven Uzbek musical stars, including Nasiba Abdullaeva, Raykhon Ganieva, and Abdullaziz Karim performed. The concert honored government officials who had been instrumental to the success of advocacy campaigns during CASP's first two years. Among them were the Head of the Department on Support of Small and Medium Enterprises of the Committee on State Property and Head of the Department of Protection of Small and Medium Enterprises of the Ministry of Justice. Several *Khokims* and deputy *Khokims* were also honored.

#### Advocacy Action Grants to Advocacy Campaign Coalitions

Working groups on several of the Key Topics established at the conference, resulted in multi-phased campaigns proposals. The process was undertaken to ensure that campaign topics in CASP II would reflect questions of genuine concern to the broad spectrum of Uzbek citizens,

particularly those living outside the capital. A second, and equally important aim was to expose a wide spectrum of Uzbeks—particularly those outside major cities—to the concept of advocacy, its potential and the possibility that they can use advocacy techniques as a means of addressing concerns in their lives. In reaching out to a wider spectrum of advocacy implementers, CASP II embraced all elements of the USAID strategy in Uzbekistan, with emphasis on sharing its advocacy expertise with USAID initiatives in small- and medium-size enterprise, natural resources and the environment, and primary health care.

Counterpart received almost 40 applications in response to the Advocacy RFA. We short-listed 16 proposals, more than double the number prepared for either of the CASP I grant cycles, which suggested that the countrywide consultations carried out at the beginning of CASP II interested a wider number of organizations in the possibilities of advocacy. The nature of proposals also suggested that CASP was successful in attracting a more diverse cross-section of organizations.

Several professional and membership associations, including the Association of Regional Librarians and the Association of Mahallah Aksakals that were outside Counterpart's traditional NGO clientele submitted proposals. The proposals covered a wide range of the issues including employment, public health, education, public utilities, well as ecology, potable water, youth and governance.

In the spring of 2005, in line with Counterpart's transparent, competitive grant selection process, the Grant Review Committee consisting of representatives of USAID implementing partners NDI, Counterpart, IREX/CSSI and ABA/CEELI selected eight National Advocacy Campaign Partners to carry out advocacy campaigns. Representatives of USAID and DFID observed the selection process. Prior to grant selection meeting, USAID technical staff reviewed the short-listed proposals in their areas of expertise to ensure that they were consistent with USG strategies and directions. The selected campaigns reflected a list of Key Topics of concern to Uzbek citizens identified in a nationwide issues assessment conducted by Counterpart. The Key Topics included: Unemployment; Ecology and Potable Water; Public Health Care; Youth Engagement; Education; Economy; Housing and Utilities, and National Governance. (*Attachment # 7 for List of short-listed Proposals CASP II*)

Unfortunately, Counterpart was not able to award grants to the selected National Advocacy Campaign Partners due to the rapid disintegration of the relations between the US and the Government of Uzbekistan. By spring 2005, transfers of funds by grant making organizations like Counterpart to local NGOs were made impossible by the government. Counterpart amended its workplan to shift in emphasis toward training and technical assistance and away from direct financial support of advocacy campaigns.

Relations between NGOs, especially those supported by the US Government, and the Government of Uzbekistan, continued to deteriorate. These difficult relationships and the fact that Counterpart was awaiting the report on its monitoring by the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) suggested a prudent approach to launching the advocacy campaigns, which in the past had been announced with great public fanfare. As a consequence, CASP and USAID agreed to postpone launching the approved campaigns until fall 2005 in the hope that some of the issues at play between the government and civil society in Uzbekistan would have been diffused. In the meantime, CASP focused on training and technical assistance which were, in any case, key elements of this Phase II program. By the time the program ended, the situation did not change - NGOs were not able to receive CASP grants. Nevertheless, many recipients of Counterpart's technical assistance continued their advocacy activities.

## ***2. Creating a more focused and refined set of capacity-building tools***

During the life of the project Counterpart developed twelve training modules and certified eighteen advanced advocacy trainers to provide training and individual consulting to advocacy groups and coalitions. Several of CASP training modules were used as a resource by Counterpart's offices in Armenia, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan. CASP trainers delivered training to Counterpart grantees in Kyrgyzstan and Armenia adapting CASP modules to the country context.

### Training Manuals and Modules

During CASP II, the CASP Training Team developed and/or refined five training modules: *Community Organizing, Monitoring and Evaluation, the Government Structure of Uzbekistan, Negotiation Skills, Coalition Building, and Social Partnership.*

- The *Monitoring and Evaluation* module provides advocacy coalitions with a solid foundation of skills and comprehensive understanding of monitoring and evaluation systems, including monitoring and evaluation design, data collection, analysis and reporting. The module also provided a framework for meaningful and accurate data reporting to CASP for its reporting to USAID.
- The *Community Organizing* module is one way to provide coalitions with a stronger rationale and better tools for engaging constituencies in identifying their advocacy goals and in the implementation of campaigns. It includes sections on identifying, motivating and mobilizing a constituency, with specific attention to the kinds of events and activities that offer constituencies concrete opportunities for meaningful engagement in the advocacy process.
- The *Government Structure of Uzbekistan* module emerged from the recommendations from the CASP I evaluation, as well as during CASP working meetings with coalition members. The members of coalitions did not have a clear understanding of interconnectedness between the government departments and sometimes selected inappropriate targets for their campaigns or pursued faulty strategies.
- The *Negotiation Skills* module was developed initially after the first Round of CASP I grants when staff observed that NGO skills in negotiation with the government bodies was weak.
- The *Coalitions Building* module likewise was a refinement of a module developed earlier in response to staff observations about the needs of NGOs in conducting advocacy campaigns.
- The *Social Partnership* module was developed to promote the concept of “social partnership” as an effective advocacy tool, fostering smart partnership and collaborative effort to address social issues.
- The *What is Advocacy?* module was a refinement of the existing *CASP Planning and Conducting Advocacy Campaign* manual, which underscored social partnership as a cornerstone for the advocacy approach. The module was modified due to the limited advocacy experience of the new NGOs as well to equip NGOs with understanding of and tools for engaging government officials at the time of highly strained relationships between NGOs and the government.

The modules were field-tested and modified on regular basis to respond to the changing needs of trainee organizations, equipping them with supplementary skills to efficiently operate in ever-changing political environment of Uzbekistan. The modules were developed by the CASP Training Team and external consultants under the supervision of CASP's Senior Training Advisor Lena Sabirova.

By the end of the CASP II, Counterpart have developed and introduced the following manuals and modules:

- *Planning and Conducting Advocacy Campaigns*
- *Consulting Skills*
- *Community Organizing*
- *Monitoring and Evaluation of Advocacy Campaigns*
- *Public Outreach of Advocacy Campaigns*
- *Negotiation Skills*
- *Coalition Building*
- *Government Structure of Uzbekistan*
- *Social Partnership*
- *Fundraising*
- *Financial Accountability*
- *What is Advocacy?*

#### Training and Technical Assistance

The heart of CASP training and technical assistance was a team of highly skilled Trainer-Consultants who served as mentors to Uzbek organizations implementing advocacy campaigns. Counterpart provided training and technical assistance regardless of whether participating organizations were among the selected organization for CASP II.

In the summer of 2005, Counterpart conducted a Technical Support and Needs Assessment to determine the level of demand for training and technical assistance among NGOs in Uzbekistan. (See Attachment # 8 for Excerpt from CASP II Technical Assessment.)

In the framework of the assessment the Counterpart's Trainer-Consultants interviewed 39 NGOs in all 13 regions of Uzbekistan. The Assessment revealed that there was sufficient demand for training and technical assistance for shifting the program's emphasis from direct financial support to training and technical assistance.

Thus, in the summer of 2005, Counterpart's main activities were directed to providing training, technical assistance and consultations to the existing advocacy coalitions and 39 newly identified NGOs. The results of the assessment indicated the desire for training in one or more of Counterpart's advocacy training modules including, negotiation skills, coalition building and information dissemination, as well as the overall CASP advocacy manual, *Planning and Implementing Advocacy Campaigns*. One of the most interesting results of the assessment was the level of interest expressed by NGOs in having their own staff trained in advocacy despite the MOJ's pressure on local NGOs. Given the state of NGO-government relations at the time, this alternative strategy to achieving CASP's aim of creating sustainable local capacity in advocacy for Uzbekistan, allowed Counterpart to create a broad base of expertise throughout the country that did not rely solely on a centralized mechanism vulnerable to government repression. Even being prevented from operating at optimal effectiveness, Counterpart continued pushing a larger democratization agenda forward by providing training and consultations to the NGOs.

Taking into consideration the limited advocacy experience of the new clients as well as the fact that the Ministry of Justice was watching over the activities of American NGOs, including Counterpart's, Counterpart refined the existing CASP *Planning and Conducting Advocacy Campaign* manual, modifying it into a *What is Advocacy* module that underscores social partnership as a cornerstone for our advocacy approach. Counterpart offered this new module along with the training in *Negotiation Skills*. Trainings for NGO participants from the nearby regions were held in Bukhara, Ferghana and Tashkent city. Counterpart sent a courtesy notice to MOJ informing about the venue and the topic of the trainings. MOJ representatives made an appearance at the trainings and even engaged in some training activities along with other participants. Despite the volatile working environment where MOJ was shutting down one NGO after another, Counterpart continued providing one-on-one consultations to NGOs in planning and implementing advocacy campaigns. (See Attachment # 9 for Training Summary.)

Counterpart documented the impact of advocacy campaigns conducted without CASP funding but with CASP training and technical assistance. These campaigns fulfilled Counterpart's hopes that even without direct funding, NGOs will carry out locally-led advocacy initiatives relying on Counterpart only for technical support. Below are some examples of successful advocacy campaigns that were underway at the time of CASP close-out:

- An advocacy campaign of the coalition of 3 NGOs and 9 government agencies organized by NGO *Our Home* presented a draft decree "On Provision of Information to People with Mental Disorders" to *Oliy Majlis*. The draft decree provides a mechanism for implementation of Article 7 of the Law On Psychiatric Care of the Republic of Uzbekistan, providing access to information about social welfare benefits for mentally challenged people. Upon the termination of CASP, the draft decree was under consideration at the Supreme Committee of *Oliy Majlis*. The NGO conducted all activities without financial support from CASP.
- The coalition "*To the Nation's Health through High-Quality Medical Services*," in cooperation with the Ministry of Health, developed a draft decree on "Developing unified clinical standards for diagnostics, prevention and rehabilitation for widespread diseases in primary health care." The decree called for the primary Science-research Institutes of the Republic of Uzbekistan to incorporate the medical practice into their medical standards. Upon the termination of CASP, the draft decree was under consideration at the Supreme Committee of *Oliy Majlis*. The coalition conducted all activities without financial support from CASP.

***3. Building a sustainable training and technical assistance base for Uzbekistan that will serve as a permanent resource to organizations and individuals that wish to seek policy change using the tools of advocacy.***

Developing Trainer/Consultant Team

In the beginning of CASP II, Counterpart expanded its Trainer/Consultants' team reflecting the fundamental aim underlying all of CASP's work, which was to create a sustainable training and technical assistance capacity in advocacy to serve as a resource for interested organizations and individuals in Uzbekistan over the long term.

The multi-tiered selection process brought the total number of CASP Trainer/Consultants to 18, selected from 60 applicants from throughout Uzbekistan.

Counterpart used the following criteria to select Trainer/Consultants from a pool of 60 applicants:

- Language ability, including fluent Uzbek;
- Educational background compatible with advocacy;
- Training ability; and
- Knowledge of Uzbek system of governance, development and civil society.

The 24 candidates selected from about 60 applicants participated in a five-day Training Methodology course led by CASP's Senior Training Advisor, Elena Sabirova. The course emphasized one-on-one mentoring and coaching, which was a particular emphasis of CASP's approach to technical assistance. The training also included training design, working with problematic participants and development of case studies. Upon completion of the training, based on their performance, 12 trainers were selected from the 24 candidates to bring the full complement of CASP trainer/consultants to 18. The larger number of trainers reflected the added emphasis in CASP II on building a sustainable training and technical assistance base for Uzbekistan that will serve as a permanent resource to organizations and individuals wishing to carry out advocacy activities.

Subsequently, the expanded Training Team along with the full CASP staff and the Monitoring Team participated in an 6-day training on "Effective Work with Diverse Groups" conducted by the "Golubka" Training Center of Moscow. The Golubka training was designed as a team building exercise for the expanded CASP team and gave participants the opportunity to explore their working styles and styles of interaction in groups. It served as the basis for the substantive advocacy skill building of CASP trainers that subsequently constituted in a cadre of advocacy Trainer/Consultants.

In addition, the Training Team created a new module for the basic CASP advocacy manual on Community Organizing. This module reflects the increased emphasis put on engaging constituents in CASP II campaigns. The revised module, including the newly-developed case studies, was used in a December Training of Trainers in *Planning and Implementing Advocacy Campaigns* for CASP staff and the Training and Monitoring Teams.

## **PROJECT MANAGEMENT**

### Chief of Party

Counterpart's Country Team Leader and CASP Chief of Party, David Smith, left Uzbekistan in late October 2004 for medical reasons. With USAID's approval, Counterpart appointed Anna Sahakyan from Counterpart's Washington, D.C., headquarters as an Acting Country Team Leader and Chief of Party. Mr. Smith continued serving as a part-time Advocacy Advisor, maintaining close liaison with Ms. Sahakyan from the U.S. and ensuring continuity in program activities as well as interactions with the US mission and the Government of Uzbekistan.

In November 2005, due to the continuing medical absence of David Smith, Counterpart, in consultation with USAID, appointed David Holiday as Country Representative and CASP Chief of Party for the rest of the project.

## **Liquidation of the Representative Office**

In March 2005, the Ministry of Justice (MOJ), the registering authority for international organizations in Uzbekistan, conducted an audit of the Counterpart office in Uzbekistan. USAID CTO for CASP, Rick Stoddard, and legal representatives from the regional mission were also present during the audit. During the three-day audit, the MOJ representatives monitored the activities, use of property and funding of the Representative office of Counterpart International for compliance with the legislation of Uzbekistan. The monitoring was followed by a Notice of Violation, outlining the MOJ's questions regarding Counterpart's activities. Counterpart, in consultation with USAID, responded to the Notice by scrupulously providing clarifications to the MOJ's questions. Throughout the summer, Counterpart received two Restatements of the Notice of Violation with additional questions and submitted its responses to MOJ clarifying the issues.

Subsequent to Counterpart's monitoring, the MOJ also monitored IREX, Freedom House, Mercy Corps, ABA/CEELI, AED and other American NGOs.

In the summer of 2005, as a result of continuous scrutiny of Counterpart's activities by the MOJ, its sporadic intimidation attempts on the local staff, and also awareness of the cases of criminal prosecution of the IREX local staff, Counterpart conducted training for its staff on "Civilians' Rights during Legal Prosecution." The goal of the course was to provide the staff with basic knowledge of their rights, criminal - procedural law, witness' rights and accountability, general rules of questioning/interrogation, legally accepted duration and terms of interrogation, and criminal proceeding. The training proved to be very useful in enhancing the local staff's knowledge of their basic rights and building their confidence in the face of possible prosecution.

In January 2006, the MOJ audited Counterpart for the second time. In May 2006, the Tashkent City Civil Court approved the MOJ's request for liquidation of the Representative Office of Counterpart International in Uzbekistan, based on Counterpart allegedly "running activities counter to the requirements of the legislation of the Republic of Uzbekistan and of the organization's Charter's goals and objectives," a claim similar to one issued against other American NGOs. Because it had become apparent by this time that the Uzbek Government was expelling one international organization after another, Counterpart decided not to appeal. Shortly after the court's decision, Counterpart initiated the liquidation process in compliance with USAID's regulations and Uzbek legislation. USAID provided Counterpart with tremendous support both during the audit and the liquidation process of Counterpart's representative office in Uzbekistan. The liquidation process, including disposing of furniture and equipment to local organizations and returning the total amount from the sale of the office building to USAID, was finalized by the end of September 2006.

## **COORDINATION AND COOPERATION**

- In February 2005, CASP/Uzbekistan hosted a three-day exchange meeting in Tashkent for other Counterpart advocacy programs in the Former Soviet Union. The meeting was attended by Program Managers and Advocacy Specialists from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Armenia. The exchange provided a valuable opportunity for sharing and learning among the programs and for developing best practices.

BWA/Uzbekistan and NGO Hayot of Samarkand made presentations on their campaigns during the exchange meeting. The final day provided an opportunity for the guests to participate in the February working groups meeting of CASP/Uzbekistan. As a result of the exchange meeting, CASP's Senior Training Advisor was asked to conduct a Training of Trainers exercise for Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan trainers.

- Counterpart worked in close partnership with four key international resource partners – American Bar Association / Central and Eastern European Law Initiative (ABA/CEELI), International Center for Not-for-profit Law (ICNL), the Advocacy Institute, and Grassroots Enterprise Inc. in the implementation of this project. Each partner provided training/consultation based on their expertise (in case of ABA/CEELI and ICNL) or access to information and advocacy groups, individuals and methodologies (in case of the Advocacy Institute and Grassroots Enterprise) in order to bring about enhanced national advocacy leading to policy reform in Uzbekistan.
- Counterpart's resource partner, the International Center for Not-for-Profit Law, worked with its affiliate offices in Bulgaria to arrange a one-week trip for government officials of Uzbekistan to Bulgaria. The purpose of this trip was to expose Uzbek officials to different techniques and methodologies of capturing public opinion, receiving citizen concerns, engaging in public dialogue, working in coordination with NGOs, and being receptive to and acting upon citizen advocacy efforts. ICNL also provided legal consultations to Counterpart grantee organizations.
- American Bar Association / Central and Eastern European Law Initiative (ABA/CEELI) conducted advanced advocacy TOT workshop for CASP trainers.
- Advocacy Institute and Just Associates shared advocacy materials and manuals that were used as a resource for CASP *"Planning and Conducting Advocacy Campaigns"* manual.

## **BEST PRACTICES AND LESSONS LEARNED**

- The success in Uzbekistan from 2002 to 2004 resulted not only in the extension of CASP activities in Uzbekistan, but also in a request from USAID to replicate the approach in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan under the current Civil Society Support Initiative.
- CASP in Uzbekistan was successful in building the capacity of local NGOs to carry out national level advocacy campaigns focused on priority issues identified by Uzbek citizens. NGOs learned to engage citizens in democratic processes by facilitating their involvement in advocacy efforts and improving the ability of the national government to engage in policy dialogue and reform in consultation with citizens and their NGO advocates. At the beginning of CASP, Counterpart conducted a national level stakeholder conference to determine priority issues and identify prominent figures in the NGO/government spheres.
- CASP certified a cadre of 18 qualified advanced advocacy trainers to provide training and individual consulting to advocacy coalitions. CASP staff developed two training and technical assistance manuals - Planning and Implementing Advocacy Campaigns and Consulting Skills Manual—to support this work. Counterpart later contextualized the

manuals for the **Civic Advocacy Support Component** implemented in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan in 2004-2006.

- In addition to training provision, advocacy NGOs require technical assistance, therefore, Counterpart prepared and utilized some of its best trainers as advocacy consultants who provided customized consultations for specific advocacy campaigns.
- Given the proper tools for designing and implementing advocacy campaigns, NGOs can carry out such campaigns without financial support from international organizations.
- Advocacy at the national level assumes a two-way process, a public dialogue between government decision makers and citizens. Counterpart's experience in Uzbekistan has shown that when NGOs demonstrate that they can provide credible, timely approaches and programs to address issues that are governmental priorities, NGOs' voices become far more relevant to public officials and their advocacy becomes considerably more effective. Bringing public officials and NGO leaders together in stakeholder meetings, study tours and training that address topics of urgency to the government results in personal relationships that ease engagement and openness.
- NGO advocacy requires a long-term commitment and a diversity of techniques and mediums to stimulate widespread citizen involvement to address priority issues. Counterpart modified the design of its grant funding mechanism to extend the duration of the campaigns from 6 months (as it was in CASP I) up to 18 months to enable advocacy campaigns to originate work on issues not already under consideration at various levels of government and to take a longer-term perspective and seek more fundamental changes in policy.
- Constituency cultivation is at the foundation of effective advocacy. Advocacy campaigns without popular support are not likely to result in effective policies or new legislation. Counterpart-supported advocacy campaigns have helped build advocacy NGOs' capacity to effectively engage members and reluctant constituencies through such means as petition drives, focus groups, public hearings and stakeholder consultations.
- Constructive engagement with the government, particularly in Central Asia, is more effective than adversarial interaction. Counterpart's experience in assisting NGO coalitions with identifying issues and driving mobilization at the community level while scaling up the message to constructively engage officials at the regional and national levels, ensured the success of this project as defined by the number and outreach of national advocacy campaigns, increased citizen involvement in advocacy coalitions and government receptivity to advocacy efforts (the latter up until the US non-certification of the Government of Uzbekistan and the crackdown on local and American NGOs that followed it.)
- In CASP II, Counterpart used its programmatic tools to assist organizations beyond the original grants recipients – well-established metropolitan NGOs, by targeting a wider universe of Uzbek advocacy groups, with a purpose of increasing the number and types of organizations supporting the full spectrum of USAID strategic objectives.
- Counterpart's LISTSERV served as an effective low-tech option for information dissemination to NGOs that didn't have easy access to the CASP website

- Counterpart drew on the experience of more mature and successful “metropolitan” advocacy NGOs, making them “living case studies” for NGOs that were only starting their advocacy activities. Every opportunity was used to develop documented advocacy impacts into case studies emphasizing practical points and “how to” lessons; case studies were included in new training modules created during CASP II and in revisions of the existing modules.
- No project, however potentially effective, can succeed in a vacuum. Every civil society project needs buy-in from the national government at project initiation in order for it to be sustainable over the longer term. Successes under CASP I reflected that buy-in. External forces, such as non-certification of the Government of Uzbekistan and geopolitics, undermined that buy-in under CASP II, which resulted in fewer advocacy successes.

## ATTACHMENT # 1

### IMPACT STORIES

#### **“FRIENDS OF THE BUKHARA MUSEUM”, BUKHARA REGION**

The NGO “Friends of the Bukhara Museum” recently spearheaded a successful advocacy campaign in Bukhara focusing on cleaning the canal Shahrud that crosses the city. The organization’s mission is to promote charitable and civic initiatives aimed at reviving the spiritual values of the society and protecting the cultural heritage of the community. To ensure successes in its mission, the campaign ultimately resulted to find a resolution to include funds from the Bukhara city budget for a quarterly cleaning of the canal.

The “Shahrud” canal is more than just a water artery. The canal has also been established as an important cultural symbol which is in fact registered with the government. Unfortunately, because of the accumulation of silting and careless discarding of rubbish, a health and environmental hazard for the city has been created and announced. Fortunately, there are other organizations assisting the “Friends” in the campaign to help clean the canal. They are the Bukhara Civil Society Support Center, NGO “Great Silk Route” and the “Association of Journalists.”

To achieve their advocacy aim, the participating NGOs held a number of roundtables attended by Chairmen from Makhalla committees, Khokimayat representatives, business structures, television stations, and other NGOs such as “Ekosan” and “Kamolot.” At these roundtables, the strategy for the advocacy campaign was developed. Due to media advantages, the advocacy campaign relied heavily on television coverage for the *khashar* event, a traditional form of citizen action similar to that of the Soviet-era “*subotnik*”, in which community members initiated a preliminary clean-up of the canal and in addition raised some 300,000 soums to complement their work.

Due to the active participation of the “Friends” Director in CASP’s advocacy training, *Planning and Implementing Advocacy Campaigns*, the campaign grew and developed.

#### **CENTER “TARAKKIEYT”, KASHKADARYA REGION**

In 2004, The Center for Social Assistance to Rural Populations “Tarakkiyet” of Kashkadarya Region conducted a successful advocacy campaign for cleaning an irrigation canal in the Guzar District. “Tarakkiyet” was founded in 2003 to energize the community to solve problems and to provide legal, medical, and socio-economic assistance.

The group spearheaded a self-help project to clean seven kilometers of the 15 kilometer canal. In order to allocate funds for completing the cleaning, the group also collected signatures from the community and presented them to the Khokimayat.

Prior to launching the campaign, Tarakkiyet’s Director and several colleagues participated in CASP training, *Planning and Conducting Advocacy Campaigns* (also organized by CASP and the CHF/Counterpart CAIP program in Southern Uzbekistan).

#### **CENTER “SEMURG”, KASHKADARYA REGION**

In June 2004, the Regional Sanitary Center of Women and Children, “Semurg,” conducted an advocacy campaign in Kashkadarya region to improve the quality of water in the area. Working with employees from the housing and communal services department, the NGO collected signatures and involved the local newspaper in their advocacy effort.

The mission of “Semurg” is to provide and teach information about health and sound health practices to the community- especially to the parents of disabled children. In order to successfully implement the

mission, the delegation brought their concerns of water sanitation to the attention of the Khokimayat and was able to secure the support of governmental officials in working to resolve the issue.

Prior to the campaign, “Semurg” had participated in training (jointly organized by the CASP and CAIP programs), where they were provided with practical knowledge and skills for conducting advocacy campaigns.

### **CENTER “KUMAKCHI”, KHOREZM REGION**

CASP Trainer/Consultants were invited to provide technical assistance to an advocacy project that developed through the participation of CASP training by the Kumakchi Center in the Khiva Region of Khorezm. The advocacy project ultimately was funded by The Eurasia Foundation. The project, “Water is Invaluable Wealth,” was aimed at improving the quality of water in the “Palvan-yap” Canal. The campaign sought to strengthen local regulations and mechanisms that govern pollution of water resources.

After Eurasia approved the project, a Foundation specialist contacted CASP to request the assistance of CASP Trainer/Consultants in providing individual consultations to the Kumakchi Center during the implementation of the campaign. The Eurasia Foundation covered all costs of the consultations, including travel, accommodation per diem, and consultant fees. CASP provided two two-day consultations on the following questions:

- Preliminary collection of the information and analysis of the situation
- Interaction with target audience
- Providing informational support to the project activities for dissemination of acquired experience
- Community mobilization

Prior to the successful proposal to Eurasia, Kumakchi Center participated in several CASP working group meetings and trainings including:

- Planning and conducting advocacy campaigns
- Community organizing
- Monitoring and evaluation
- Information dissemination in advocacy campaigns.

### **HEAT TO EVERY HOUSEHOLD**

The coalition “Heat to every household” is based on the results of an assessment in which the results showed an existing insufficiency in the delivery mechanism of the natural gas to the population and social institutions in the regions of the Republic of Uzbekistan. It is composed of representatives from 5 NGOs and 5 government organizations. . Their aims were to resolve the problem of the deficiency of the existing gas supplying structure. According to the assessment, it was discovered that there were two independent departments engaged in the gas supplying structure: the National Holding Company “Uzbekneftgaz” (provider of natural gas) and the Republican Agency “Uzkommunkhizmat” (gas supply department) which is a mediator (third party) that purchases the natural gas from the provider and delivers it to the consumers. Both companies are the direct subordinates and report to the Cabinet of Ministries of Uzbekistan. Both companies also have branches in the national regions.

These departments however don’t coordinate their activities between themselves and therefore place the problem solving responsibilities on each other. For instance, the supplier might blame the provider for not providing sufficient amount of gas, which results in low pressure of gas. The provider in turn might blame the supplier for the lack of coordination and management resulting in late or no payments of the utility (gas) bills. In view of that, the consumers (population: children and elderly) face the consequences.

The long-term objective of the coalition is to achieve an improved delivery mechanism of natural gas to the population and social institutions in accordance with the standard decisions made by The Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan on improving the gas supply system at the national level. Taking into consideration that such problems are more critical in the regions, it was crucial to introduce and ensure changes in current structures in the Khorezm region by means of expelling the third party department from the gas supply system.

The majority of the coalition members have participated on all advocacy trainings and all four working meetings, organized by the CASP program, Counterpart International. The obtained knowledge and skills were used in organizing and participating at the round tables, meeting with the deputies, and consulting with the lawyers. As a result, the Khorezm region department of the De-Monopolization/Decentralization and the Development of Competition developed a Regulation regarding the reconstruction of the gas supplying system and then submitted it to the regional Khokimiyat. Furthermore, the coalition prepared and submitted a draft decree for the Cabinet of Ministries of Uzbekistan, which at the time of CASP termination was under consideration by the Cabinet of Ministries of Uzbekistan.

Decision making at the national level has been a long process and the results remain to be seen. Nevertheless, the coalition has already managed to achieve positive results in coordination between the two departments in Khorezm region. The provider undertook responsibility in assisting the supplier to repair and eliminate the flaws and defects in the current gas supplying system of “Sputnik – Navrus” town in Urgench. As a result, an improved supply of natural gas will be delivered to approximately 20, 000 people. Similar steps were taken in the mahallas of Khiva, Bagdat, Yangiarik and Shavat districts of Khorezm region.

The coalition conducted all activities without any financial support from CASP

### **MINISTRY OF HEALTH OF THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN SUPPORTS THE COALITION ACTIVITY**

The quality of the medical services is the most important index of health care. The coalition “To the Nation’s Health through High-Quality Medical Services” has conducted a poll among 500 doctors in the field of the primary health care as well as 500 citizens in six regions of the Republic of Uzbekistan. The results of the poll revealed that the quality of the medical services did not meet the requirements of the society. The respondents stated the main reason behind it was that the medical practice was not incorporated into the medical standards. As a result, the existing standards of the treatment in the primary health care, recommended by the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Uzbekistan, had only one component: the schemes of treatment of 17 widespread diseases. However, important components such as diagnostics, prevention and rehabilitation are missing from general practice.

In the framework of its activities CASP has conducted advocacy trainings, working meetings and consultations for the members of the coalition, which consists of 9 NGOs and 3 government organizations. As a result of the obtained knowledge and skills, they established a working group to address the above-mentioned issue.

Due to the number of meetings held by the working group, the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Uzbekistan supported the objective of the coalition. Additionally, in cooperation with the Ministry of Health, the coalition is developing the following draft decree: assigning the primary science-research institutes of the Republic of Uzbekistan to develop unified clinical standards of patient care for 20 widespread diseases through a primary health care. The director of the leading organization of the coalition is one of the members of the working group by the Ministry of Health, assisting in the development of one of the 20 high-quality standards on respiratory diseases. Another member of the coalition is part of the second working group developing high-quality standards on acute intestinal diseases. The working groups conduct monthly meetings, which were funded by UNICEF in cooperation with the Ministry of Health.

The coalition conducts its activities without any financial support from CASP.

### **IN DEFENSE OF THE RIGHTS AND PROMOTION OF INTERESTS OF THE MENTALLY CHALLENGED**

In 2004, a scientific research was conducted to identify the needs and requirements of the mentally challenged people. The results of the research demonstrated that there was limited or no access to information regarding the basic rights and social benefits for the mentally challenged population.

The “Our home” NGO established a coalition of 3 NGOs and 9 government organizations investigate this issue. In order to address it, the coalition members established a working group consisting of the representatives from the Ministry of Health, lawyers, NGOs and the chief doctor of the mental hospital.

Meetings and round tables were organized resulting towards the development of a draft decree on the "Informational Provision for People with Mental Disorders". It provides mechanism for the implementation of the 7<sup>th</sup> Article of the Law "On Psychiatric Care" of the Republic of Uzbekistan. Should the law pass, it will provide access to information about social benefits and privileges for the mentally challenged people. Furthermore, it will allow them to use their social insurances and socio-economic rights, which in turn will improve their financial well-being and enable their reintegration into society. By the time of CASP's end, the draft decree was under consideration at the Supreme Committee of Oliy Majlis.

The organization "Our home" participated at all CASP trainings organized by Counterpart International, including the advocacy training. The CASP program also organized four working meeting groups where the members of the coalition had an opportunity to meet, discuss, and plan their future activities. In addition, individual consultations were rendered to the coalition. The coalition's activities were conducted without any financial support from CASP.

### **NAVOI OBLAST EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT APPLIES NEW TEACHING TECHNOLOGIES DEVELOPED BY NGO "TASHABBUS" TO TRAIN TEACHERS**

The "Public Campaign for Introducing New Information Technologies into the School Academic Process" was successfully completed. This campaign was conducted by a coalition initiated and led by "Tashabbus". The main goal of the campaign was to encourage the Navoi Oblast Educational Department to increase the number of academic hours required by the Institute of In-Service Training of Teachers to certify teachers as computer literate, and thus be capable of using media technologies in the classroom.

On 16 September 2004, the head of the Navoi Oblast Educational Department adopted resolution № 326 AF "On Implementing New Information Technologies (NIT) in School Education and Organizing Support for Introducing Media Lessons." This decision increased the number of hours of training in NIT in which teachers were required to complete 12 to 30 hours. According to this resolution, Tashabbus will monitor the quality of these NIT trainings. From now on, teachers will be evaluated during their certification procedure, on their skills in developing and teaching media lessons, and in using computer technologies in the academic process. In this way, the skills and knowledge acquired would be of utmost accuracy and credibility.

Due to this campaign, the teacher's manual for mastering skills in teaching media lessons was developed and piloted. A training-of-trainers (ToT) were each assigned to conduct a group of 16 people, including school teachers, methodologists, and heads of academic departments. The TOT participant groups strengthened their computer skills, learned a teaching methodology, and developed work plans for media lessons. Other educational institutions, such as the Bukhara Oblast Educational Department and the Navoi Mining College, have heard about these successes and expressed interest in this manual and teaching methodology.

The NGOs financed by CASP are conducting advocacy campaigns on issues of concern to many people in Uzbekistan. The technical assistance, provided by CASP, has helped these campaigns and have a strong impact in their communities and regions.

### **KNOWLEDGE, ACTION – LIGHT!**

The people of Gulistan Makhalla, located in Mirzo-Ulugbek Rayon of the city of Tashkent, conducted a successful advocacy campaign to improve their community. The community learned that the chances of success are greatly improved when an advocacy campaign is initiated by the beneficiaries themselves. In Gulistan Makhalla, local community members mobilized towards solving the problem of insufficient lighting along streets and in public areas. As a result of this campaign, the local authorities recognized this problem and provided the resources necessary to address it.

CASP's Core NGO "Bilim va Jamiyat" organized and carried out this campaign. This organization brought together the members of the coalition and facilitated their efforts to achieve the objectives of the campaign. The coalition includes the Federation of Societies of Protection of Consumers' Rights of Uzbekistan, the Gulistan Makhalla Committee, the Committee of home owners "Buz Gulistan," and the managers of local apartment buildings. Not only were new lampposts installed in public areas of the

mahalla, but the people also established a dialogue with government agency representatives, so that they can utilize the information attained to address future social issues.

### **NGOs CAN ADVERTISE THEMSELVES AND PRESENT COMMUNITY PROBLEMS ON NAMANGAN STATE TELEVISION**

Solutions for many social problems can be found through dialogues amongst interested actors. There are many effective ways to start and successfully implement dialogues. Dialogues can be established through personal meetings and personal interaction. Another effective method is through the use of mass media, TV in particular, which enables the government, NGOs, and citizens to participate in discussions on issues important to all.

The NGO "Zamandosh" and the coalition led by this organization developed a project to use a television program to build a dialogue between government agencies, NGOs, and communities. The coalition successfully convinced the Namangan Regional Tele-Radio Company to allocate TV broadcast time to a program named "Erkin Fikr" (Free Thoughts). On this program, representatives from the various sectors of society discuss current issues and facilitate a broad dialogue on these issues. The "Zamandosh" coalition also convinced the Namangan Company to cover all of the costs involved in broadcasting this program. The success of this TV program has improved the government's perception of NGOs and thus persuaded it to support more broadcasting. There is also greater hope now among citizens that solutions will be found for difficult regional problems because the government has signaled its willingness to work more closely with NGOs. The "Erkin Fikr" program has recently begun transmission via FM radio, which allows people more opportunities to hear and participate in because they can not only watch the program at home or at work, but can also listen to it on the radio while driving.

## ATTACHMENT # 2

### ACHIEVEMENTS OF ROUND I GRANTS

#### BWA/Uzbekistan

- Establishment of an important role in the Uzbekistan Cabinet of Ministers' adoption of decree #357 on simplifying the process of legal registration of small and medium business in Uzbekistan;
- Changes in Decree #407 by the Cabinet of Ministers, allowing local producers to sell their products in local markets without opening a new legal entity;
- Development of a strong and sustainable coalition consisting of government structures, NGOs, media and local producers;
- Advocacy campaign through media development when the PSA informed on economic issues which aired on Uzbek Television 1 throughout the nation;
- Establishment of a Hotline for entrepreneurs;
- Participation by the Project Director in meetings of Coordinating Council for Encouragement and Development of Small and Private Business;
- Creation of forums on small and medium business issues in Tashkent, Samarkand and Fergana to inform the direction of their campaign;
- Republic exhibition of goods produced by local producers;
- Community media development through the talk show on Uzbek Television 1 on economic issues;
- Official appeal to the Cabinet of Ministers of Uzbekistan on behalf of coalition and one thousand local producers;
- Visit exchange to Moscow by key partners of the coalition from the government structures;
- A radio interview on republic radio "Uzbekiston."

#### "Hayot", Samarkand

- Khokims of all five target cities adopted degrees on physical accessibility as well as those in four additional jurisdictions;
- Strong and sustainable coalitions of NGOs from five regions of Uzbekistan;
- PSA on disabled issues in Uzbek, Russian and Karakalpak aired on regional TV channels of the target cities;
- PSAs for radio;
- The distribution of 500 posters among coalition members and their constituencies;
- Seminars in target cities;
- Social research among one thousand disabled persons in target cities;
- Two thousand signatures on petitions to Khokims of the target cities;
- Official appeal to the Khokims of target cities on behalf of coalition and two thousand disabled;
- Visit exchange to Moscow by the Khokims of two target cities.

#### "Umidvorlik", Tashkent

- Effective coalition of NGOs from three regions of Uzbekistan;
- Televisions PSA on aims of campaign;
- Appearance and participation of the Project Director on an hour long television program discussing campaign issues;
- Radio interview on republic radio "Uzbekiston";
- Distribution and printing of 5000 posters among coalition members;
- Visit exchange to Moscow by key partners of the coalition from the government structures.

## ATTACHMENT # 3

### Achievements of Round II Advocacy Campaigns

#### BWA Uzbekistan, Tashkent

Campaign Goal:

To seek Ministry of Justice adoption of changes in regulations on government certification of small businesses in Uzbekistan (#51-062 RD UZ from 15.04.02) after the recommended changes are developed jointly by the campaign coalition and interested government officials.

**Achievements by the Coalition**

Policy Change: The Cabinet of Ministers of Uzbekistan adopted Decree #318 on additional measures for the simplification of the process of certification of products. The decree incorporated many of the recommendations developed by the BWA coalition. Among the changes in the revised decree include:

- Lower charges for certification;
- A decrease by 30 percent in the types of goods requiring certification;
- A reduction from seven to two points of contact for certification;
- A Maximum delay for certification reduced from 80 days to 30.

Other:

- The Association of Entrepreneurs was established and registered as a permanent advocacy group on issues related to small producers in Uzbekistan, drawing heavily on the membership of BWA advocacy coalitions in Rounds I and II;
- BWA membership increased by five percent as a result of the information campaigns related to its two CASP advocacy campaigns;
- Invitation of the coalition leader to become a member of the Commission of Entrepreneurship of the Ministry of Economics.

#### Hayot, Samarkand

Campaign Goal: To create commissions to oversee the transparent distribution of humanitarian assistance in the towns of Termez, Kokand, Navoi, Samarkand, Djizzak and Nukus. Each commission would include NGO representatives that would monitor the distribution process and recipients of assistance, periodically publishing its findings and results.

Secondary goal: to increase the amount of coverage in newspapers and local electronic media devoted to the needs of the disabled and to improve its accuracy.

**Achievements by the Coalition**

Policy Change: Khokims of six target cities of Termez, Samarkand, Navoi, Namangan, Nukus and Djizzak adopted decrees creating local commissions to monitor the process of distribution of humanitarian assistance. The creation of a commission in Kokand still is under consideration.

Other:

- Two new members, representing the communities of Djizzak and Namangan, joined the coalition "Accessibility," which grew out of Hayot's Round I campaign;
- Hayot created a ground-breaking video featuring 11 Uzbek well-known musicians performing and talking about the issues of disabled people;
- Hayot was awarded an IREX/CSSI institutional grant to strengthen the "Accessibility" coalition;

- 20 media outlets in target communities agreed to provide dedicated space for information regarding the disabled;
- Editorial commissions in all target communities were created, drawing on constituencies and stakeholders as members. The commission will generate programming to fill editorial space.

### **Uzbekistan Federation of Societies of Protection of Consumer's Rights, Tashkent**

Campaign Goal: To have regulations adopted by the Uzbekistan Cabinet of Ministers that specify the kinds and ranges of guaranteed free medical help available to Uzbek citizens. The campaign calls for the creation of a permanent monitoring mechanism on implementation.

#### **Achievements by the Coalition**

- Establishment of health services monitoring mechanisms in six communities to track health service complaints;
- Submission of a draft law with recommended changes in the health care system to the Cabinet of Ministers;
- Presentation of the findings of 1000 interviews with health care consumers at a public meeting in Tashkent which was attended by more than 100 Ministry of Health officials, donors and health consumers;
- Production of the brochure *Medical Services in Uzbekistan— What is Free and What is Not*, in Russian and Uzbek, for widespread distribution among health care consumers in Uzbekistan.

### **Union for Defense of Aral Sea and Amudarya, Nukus**

Campaign Goal: To develop joint mechanisms by NNOs and the government to ensure implementation of existing legislation limiting discharge of collector-drainage and industrial wastes into the Amu-Darya, the Sir-Darya and Zerafshan river, their tributaries and irrigation channels. The coalition also will recommend stronger legislation to control river pollution.

#### **Achievements by the Coalition**

- Identification of changes needed in existing legislation in order to promote cleaner rivers in Uzbekistan and created specific language for the recommended changes in the three relevant Uzbek laws, which it submitted to the Oliy Majlis;
- Based on hearings conducted throughout Uzbekistan, the creation by the UDASA coalition of a comprehensive 10 year action plan for cleaner river water, which it presented to the Office of the President, the Ministry of Irrigation and local Khokimiyats. The plan proposed action needed by the Office of the President, regional and local government authorities, the international communities and local NNOs, among others;
- Use of innovative methodologies to build a broad constituency for cleaner river water and a long-term momentum for sustainable achievements among students, government officials, at all levels and other stakeholders.

## ATTACHMENT # 4

### Projects Funded Under CASP

#### CASP I

##### Round I Projects

###### Khayot-Samarkand: physical access for handicapped persons

- Uzbekistan has good laws on the rights of the disabled, including unhindered physical access to social infrastructure, especially public buildings
- They are not well enforced and the existing law does not contain good mechanisms for enforcement
- This situation prevents about 3 million Uzbek citizens from full participation in the life of their communities and their nation
- The Khayot campaign builds on successful experience in Samarkand, where the Khokimyat has passed a regulation requiring new and reconstructed public and semi-public buildings be equipped with access ramps
- The Khayot coalition will seek to repeat this success in the cities of Termez, Kokand, Navoi, Nukus and Nurabad

###### Umidvorlik-Tashkent: educational opportunities for disabled children

- More than 60% of disabled children and adults do not have access to education according to the Uzbekistan Ministry of Public Education's statement to UNESCO
- Uzbekistan has prepared its National Plan of Action for Education for all by 2015, agreed to in the Dakar Framework for Education for All
- NGOs were not consulted in developing the plan, despite that the Framework calls for 50% participation of NGOs
- The Umidvorlik coalition's campaign will seek to have NGOs recognized as equal participants in the development and implementation of the Uzbekistan Program on Education for All

###### Business Women's Association of Uzbekistan-Tashkent: governmental regulations affecting small entrepreneurs

- The GOU economic resolutions of 2002—while aimed at important economic goals like currency stabilization—had negative effects on local producers, especially small producers
- It limited access of local producers in bazaars, diminished the availability of goods, damaged distribution systems and made raw materials more difficult to obtain, among other problems
- Results have been increased prices and caused loss of jobs and livelihoods
- The BWA/Uzbekistan coalition wishes to study the impact of the resolutions and arrive at recommendations which will result in changes in the legislation, especially with respect to provision of greater access to raw materials and markets for local producers

## Round II Projects

#	Name of organization	Name of the project	Requested amount
1.	<b>Federation of Consumers' Right Societies of Uzbekistan</b>	To call the attention of wide levels of the population, mass media, state, non-governmental and international organizations to the existing situation with the free medical service and to get the Cabinet of Ministers to address the appropriate Resolution.	\$20,024.00
2.	NNO "Hayot" Samarkand	In the Surkhandarya, Ferghana, Navoiy, Samarkand, Djizak, Namangan regions and the Karakalpak Republic to achieve the adoption of normative-legal acts by editors-in-chief of central regional newspapers, TV and radio on securing long term periodical ( not less than once every month) provision of space in newspapers and time for broadcasting on TV and radio (not less than one hour a month) for the materials fully covering the lives of the disabled and other people with limited mobility.	\$19,990.00
3.	BWA Uzbekistan, Tashkent	Development with participation of all interested parties and transfer to the Agency Uzstandard and Republican coordination committee on stimulation of small and private entrepreneurship of balanced proposals in introducing changes in "Rules of preparing and conducting certification" (#51-062 RD Uz from 15.04.02 – affirmed by Uzstandard) till May 2004 and achieve consideration of the question on its registration in the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Uzbekistan.	\$20,637.00
4.	UDASA, Nukus	Consolidation of the efforts of NGOs and the governmental structures of Uzbekistan to improve the work and to develop new mechanisms on implementation of normative-legal acts aimed to prohibit or to considerably reduce the discharge of collector-drainage and industrial waters to the Amu-Darya, the Sir-Darya, the Zerafshan, their tributaries and irrigation channels.	\$20,000.00
5.	NNO "Ishonch" Fergana	Achieve adoption of the Resolution "On measures towards support and strengthening women's activity in the election campaign of 2004" by the khokims of the Tashkent, Ferghana, Andijan, Namangan, Khorezm regions and Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Karakalpakstan.	\$19,952.00

## ATTACHMENT # 5

### Summary of CASP Assessment

The Civic Advocacy Support Program, a two-year program that began in October 2002, was a pilot program initiated by USAID to determine (1) whether NGOs (non-governmental, non-commercial organizations) in Uzbekistan had the expertise and organizational maturity to carry out national level advocacy campaigns and (2) whether the political climate in Uzbekistan would tolerate such overt advocacy.

Therefore, at its most basic the purpose of the assessment of CASP two years out is to reflect on experience and what light it sheds on those two questions. Beyond that, the assessment should cast a critical eye on the design Counterpart used to implement the program and whether in the circumstances it was the most effective approach. Then, on the basis of that information, the assessment should suggest to USAID, and to a larger civil society implementing community in Uzbekistan, what logical next steps should be taken to further strengthen the advocacy ethic in the country.

To some degree it probably is fair to say that the idea for CASP emerged from the local-level advocacy successes of the USAID-funded Makhallah Initiative Program, managed by Counterpart, which was aimed at creating collaborative relationships between NGOs and local initiative groups and the lowest-level governmental structures in Uzbekistan. Makhallahs are traditional structures that were formalized in the late 90's by the Government of Uzbekistan, subsidized by it and have become for all intents and purposes governmental, although there is a thin fiction that they are at least semi-autonomous.

In any case, Counterpart won the RFA competition and began implementation in October 2002. Originally, the program was to have been in two phases. The first was to be an assessment to determine whether there were, in fact NGOs in Uzbekistan that could implement national level advocacy. If the answer was yes, the rest of the program would go forward. If not, it would not. However, as often is the case, timing meant that the proposed two phases were collapsed into one. During October 2002, Counterpart conducted an assessment of the NGO universe in Uzbekistan, using the organizational assessment developed for its NGO capacity-building activities in Central Asia and identified 20 NGOs—15 core and five alternate—that would serve as possible CASP implementers. Having done so, Counterpart started immediately in November 2002 to implement the program.

With a few adjustments and a number of embellishments, implementation has reflected the design Counterpart set out in its proposal. CASP's goal as set forth in the proposal is to strengthen democratic culture in Uzbekistan by building constituencies for political, economic, and social change. It has three primary objectives:

- To enhance the capacity of local NGOs to carry out national level advocacy campaigns;
- To engage citizens in the democratic process by involving them in advocacy efforts;
- To improve the ability of the national government to engage in policy dialogue and reform in consultation with citizens and NGOs.

The central thrust of the program is seven multi-faceted advocacy campaigns on issues of concern to Uzbek NGOs but that also affect a wider segment of the population. CASP has five basic implementation tools:

- Advanced advocacy materials and information dissemination;
- Capacity building for NGOs;

- Regional NGO and Government Networking;
- Capacity Building for Government Officials;
- Grants and mentoring for National Advocacy Campaigns.

Performance indicators are:

- Number of national advocacy campaigns initiated by NGOs and their coalitions;
- Number of issue-based coalitions formed by NGOs for national advocacy activities;
- Number of occasions on which print and electronic media publicize significant information arising from CASP advocacy campaigns;
- Number of citizens involved in advocacy campaigns;
- Number of regulations or policy changes adopted or underway by local and national governments;
- Number of government entities with established mechanisms for policy dialogue with citizens and their organizations.

Several assumptions have guided CASP staff during implementation. They are that:

- Developing a greater tradition of advocacy is one of the fundamental reasons donors organizations have invested so heavily in civil society in Uzbekistan over the last 10 years;
- National level advocacy is, in fact, feasible in Uzbekistan;
- There are some NGOs mature enough to understand advocacy and can carry it out;
- In this light, little or no effort should be focused on remedial organizational skill-building in areas other than advocacy;
- That in the absence of a functioning legislature, the focus of advocacy should be the executive branch of government;
- That there are a number of individuals in government, particularly at the second, but senior, tier of authority, who welcome efforts to improve the lives of ordinary citizens;
- Advocacy must be non-confrontational in the Uzbekistan context;
- Uzbek NGOs are cooperation-averse, so that coalitions should be a non-negotiable requirement of financial support to advocacy campaigns;
- USAID's guidance that CASP campaigns should be about garden-variety NGO issues that concern large numbers of people should be observed not only because USAID wanted it but because, particularly in light of Counterpart's own capacity and experience, it was GOOD guidance;
- CASP activities should in the main be high profile and that certain programmatic trappings should attempt to distinguish it as "the next step" in NGO capacity-building;
- If there is a single most important achievement, it is establishing functioning, long-term mechanisms for ensuring governmental accountability in the areas addressed by campaigns;
- The group training that has long been Counterpart's hallmark should be supplemented in CASP by trainers also skilled in providing one-on-one technical assistance consultations with target organizations.

CASP itself has only a staff of three: the Chief of Party (David Smith), an Advocacy Specialist (Bakhodir Umarmhanov) and Information and Training Officer (Orazimbet Kurbanov). In addition, on a contract, CASP makes extensive use of a Chief Training Advisor (Elena Sabirova) who has the major responsibility for developing the program's technical assistance capacity. All administrative functions are carried out by Counterpart International, which CASP pays for financial management, grant management, logistical, transportation and similar services. CASP staff quickly made the decision that co-locating and co-managing with Counterpart International was the most cost- and time-efficient way to implement the program. Whatever its other merits, these decisions allowed the program to be operational almost from Day One.

A brief time-line shows the following milestones in program implementation:

**Nov 2002**-core NGOs assessed and selected;  
**Dec 2002**-draft grant guidelines prepared and vetted with 15 core NGOs to give them advance warning—especially of the requirement for coalitions—of what would constitute a successful proposal;  
**Feb 2003**-Large “Launch” Conference with working groups to allow NGOs to begin formulating campaign ideas;  
**April 2003**-Development of Advanced Advocacy Training Module;  
**May 2003**-Issuance of Round I Grant RFA;  
**June 2003**-Award and subsequent implementation of three Round I grants;  
**July-Aug 2003**-Development of CASP Consulting Manual;  
**Nov 2003**-Full operationalization of information component, including website, library and LISTSERV;  
**Dec 2003**-Completion of Round I grants and issuance of Round II RFA;  
**Feb 2004**-Award and subsequent implementation of four Round II grants.

There have been two exchange visits, one to Moscow in October 2003 for about 10 government officials recommended by NGOs carrying out campaigns, and one to Bulgaria in November 2003 for about 10 for implementing NGOs. A third, to Moscow, for government officials, will take place in late May 2004. Throughout the program, CASP has worked very hard to develop a strong Training Team with expertise in advocacy and skills in one-on-one consultation and views this Team as one of the most important parts of its sustainability legacy.

In August 2003, CASP sponsored roundtables in three cities where two leaders from the Youth Information Service of Kazakhstan presented their experience. CASP also has sponsored several other events like roundtables, discussions and dinners in an effort to provide opportunities for NGOs and their government counterparts to share ideas informally.

CASP also has built a small team of monitoring and evaluation specialists who monitor campaigns at the mid-point of implementation—or approximately the third month—and again at the end. The second monitoring takes more the form of an assessment or evaluation of achievements.

CASP’s information component consists of a website, two Russian language training and resource manuals, an advocacy information library and a LISTSERV. The website is the most inclusive of the information vehicles and through it are available almost all the other resources, including both CASP-produced manuals in downloadable form as well as most of the contents of the CASP library, also downloadable. In addition it includes a program description, a calendar, photos, a page devoted to the Training Team, descriptions of past and current campaigns and links to other advocacy resources. The URL is [UzbekAdvocacy.org](http://UzbekAdvocacy.org).

CASP’s two manuals are *Planning and Implementing Advocacy Campaigns* and *Consulting Skills Manual*. The advocacy manual is a training guide in advanced advocacy techniques. The consulting manual is a resource book for providing one-on-one technical assistance. The information library now contains more than 200 documents, all focused on advocacy. The preponderance is in English, with a fair number of Russian documents and a few in Uzbek. Frequently updated CD-ROMs are available for situations where Internet access is not available.

The CASP LISTSERV also is functioning, more as a vehicle for information exchange than as it originally envisioned. It was planned as a forum where organizations could go for advice from experts on specific problems in campaign implementation. This has not proved viable, probably because organizations are reluctant to expose their supposed “weaknesses” to a wide audience.

Selection of CASP grants is competitive. Only the 15 core NGOs were eligible for selection. A panel of representatives of CASP, local NGOs and international donors reviews each proposal and scores it numerically. The highest scoring proposals then are considered in a more subjective way to determine which, given the aims of the program, should be selected. Recommendations

from the review panel are included as conditions for funding in the grant agreements signed between Counterpart and grantees.

In March 2004, CASP staff held an internal planning retreat to discuss the results of Round I campaigns and progress of CASP's after one year. The aim was to refine programming interventions for the remainder of the program and to put into place mechanisms that will make aspects of CASP's work independently sustainable once outside funding has ceased. Among the areas identified for special attention were:

- There are two tiers of capacity among CASP's core NGOs, of which only four or five are fully capable of implementing a national level campaign;
- Media outlets in Uzbekistan have a weak understanding of advocacy, compounded by the limitations imposed by government control;
- Government also has a limited understanding of the role of advocacy in a democratic society and of how a more responsive, accountable and responsive government can contribute to stability and a population that perceives that its basic needs are met;
- Most of the advocacy topics so far selected by CASP NGOs, while they meet program criteria, are not reflective of the most broad-based concerns of ordinary Uzbeks;
- Constituency involvement in CASP campaigns, and in the identification of advocacy issues, is weak, with most campaign activity being carried out by coalition staff;
- The Training Group is an important part of CASP's long-term legacy and various steps should be taken to ensure that its capacity continues to be available, with or without a formal national level advocacy program in Uzbekistan;
- The CASP Website, which is the repository of most of the advocacy resources CASP has developed and collected is, like the Training Group, an important part of the CASP legacy and steps should be taken to ensure its sustainability;
- Core NGOs' ability to present themselves and their issues coherently and attractively is weak.

16 May 04

## ATTACHMENT # 6

### List of Government Officials Trained

**Training:** «Planning and Conducting Advocacy Campaigns»

**Date:** 2004 21 May

**Place:** Tashkent, hotel “PAYTAKHT”

#### List of Participants:

Name	Name of Organization
Khalikulov Dustmurod	Chairman of Fund Makhallia, Navoi Region.
Shakirova Shoira	Head of Department of Secondary Specialized Education for Samarkand Region
Israilova Sokhiba	Ayol Center Counterpart. City Department of Public Education. Doctor, Senior Teacher at Samarkand Pedagogical Institute.
Khosilova Marusia	Deputy Chairman of Women’s Committee of Navoy region.
Khakimova Rano	Deputy Khokim of Havoi. Chairman of Women’s Committee.
Jumanova Sayora	Deputy Head of Management of Ministry of Justice of Navoi Region.
Niyazov Naim Kazimovich	Head of economy department of Khokimiyat of Novoy city.
Saidova Elvira	National Center of Uzbekistan on human rights. Chief consultant.
Saddulaev Aybek	Chief specialist on social issues of Termez city Khokimiyat.
Mirzaabdullaev Munojatkhon	
Saidvakasova Zulfia	
Nuritdinov Botir	
Gabdulkhakov Farid	
Bordug Larisa	
Khamdamova Odina	
Atadjanov Zafar	

Rakhmonov Sherzod
Meliboev Oybek
Sadikov Jakhongir
Gabdulkhakova Raisa
Pirnazarova Jumagul
Begjanov Ajeniyaz
Nurabullaev Bakhamdulla
Atagullaev Ernazar
Tajetdinov Joldasbay
Sarbaev Kuinazar
Malikov Akhmad
Isambaev Sokhib

### **List of Journalists Trained**

**Training:** «Planning and Conducting Advocacy Campaign»

**Date:** 2004 21 May

**Place:** Tashkent, hotel “POYTAKHT”

**List of participants:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Name of Organization</b>
Ergashev Sukhrob	TV – Radio company STV
Rakhmatullaev Tashpulat	Chairman of Samarkand regional national press Center of Uzbekistan.
Boymatova Zokhiva	Zarafshan Journalist Samarkand
Abdurakhmonova Matliuba	Journalist of Margilon.
Salyakhova Khafiza	Head of Department “Truth of Farkgona”
Fedorova Larisa	Truth of Fargona
Jumanazarova Zuzrakhon	Finance – Economic newspaper «Gaziine»
Aminova Alena	«Postfactum”, program. Karakalpak TV
Asanova Anna	Journalist of newspaper «News of Karakalpakstan” «Postfactum» Program.
Loskutova Aleksandra	Chief editor “latest news” TV – Radio Company of Karakalpakstan.
Eshkobilov Gulom	Director, “Kizilkum” TV
Muminov Hodir	Fergana regional TV – Radio company FTV.

Temirova Gulbakhor	Fergana regional TV – Radio company FTV.
Shukurov Tokhir	Fergana regional TV – Radio company FTV.
Ekonomova Lidia	Editor of Navoi newspaper. «Chemist of Navoi»
Magdeeva Suria	Truth of Namangan Newspaper.
Nazirov Farukhjon	Dangar Newspaper. Fergana region.
Shakirova Nataliya	Newspaper «Pravda Vostoka», Samarkand Region
Iina Irina	NTV Newspaper
Muratkhonova Anna	«BBB» Newspaper
Sipatdinov Shukirbay	Journalist
Nazarova Mukkaram	TTB
Turkhanov Bakhtiyor	«Shark TV»
Simbal Tatyana	Uzbek TV – Radio Company «Dustlik» chanel
Kostilev Eugeni	«News of Uzbekistan»
Gulyamov Davron	Surkhandaray regional department of Journalists of Uzbekistan.
Sadionv Shukhrat	Samarkand company STV, newspaper Darakchi.
Tugai Galina	Newspaper «Vesti Uzbekistana»

## ATTACHMENT # 7

### List of Short-Listed Proposals CASP II

April 2005

No	Name of applicant organization and project director	Topic of the campaign (DRAFT translation)	Issue	Type of organization	Geographic coverage
1.	The Association of pediatricians «Avitsena», Bukhara, Nodira Sharipova <a href="mailto:nodira03@yandex.ru">nodira03@yandex.ru</a>	Developments and implementation of effective mechanism of evaluation of the quality of medical services in primary health protection	Public Health Care	Association	Bukhara, Tashkent, Fergana, Samarkand, Jizzak, Nukus
2.	“Salomatlik +Ecology”, Kokand, Khadicha Nazarova, <a href="mailto:hadichahon@mail.ru">hadichahon@mail.ru</a>	HIV, high rate of spreading	Public Health Care	Ecology and health center	Kokand, Namangan, Andijan, Tashkent, Samarkand, Jizzak
3.	The Association of people with diabetes «Umid - D», Samarkand Karine Tatintsiyan <a href="mailto:karina_76@rambler.ru">karina_76@rambler.ru</a>	Diabetes. High rate of becoming disabled and high death-rate due to insular diabetes complications	Public Health Care	Association	Samarkand, Karshi, Tashkent
4.	The Association of commodity producers, Tashkent, Viktoriya Koftunova, <a href="mailto:vikylka1974@mail.ru">vikylka1974@mail.ru</a>	Improving of taxation system for local entrepreneurs	Economy	Association	Tashkent, Kokand, Bukhara, Jizzak, Samarkand
5.	“LOGOS”, Tashkent, Sanginov Saidrasul <a href="mailto:avakhitov@pbs.uz">avakhitov@pbs.uz</a>	«Infringement of the water users’ rights (including ecological system) as the result of irrational use and inefficient management of water resources ».	Ecology + Potable water	Ecological Center	Tashkent, Fergana, Kokand, Urgench, Samarkand, Nukus
6.	Fergana regional librarians association, Fergana Dilorom Shukurova, <a href="mailto:abfpravo@mail.ru">abfpravo@mail.ru</a>	Establishing concept of collaboration between institutes and regional libraries.	Education	Association	Fergana, Kokand, Tashkent, Samarkand
7.	«Ziyo», Kokand, Ulugbek Yusupdjanov <a href="mailto:office@ziyo.dinosoft.uz">office@ziyo.dinosoft.uz</a>	Imperfection of Medical Pedagogical Commission’s Charter, relating to disabled children, its variance with the main principles of	Education	Center for disabled children	Kokand, Namangan, Tashkent, Samarkand

		inclusive education.			
8.	«Business Development Institute», Tashkent, Valeriy Zhirkov e-mail: <a href="mailto:zhirkov@albatros.uz">zhirkov@albatros.uz</a>	Absence of the Regulation of the Cabinet of Ministers devoted to the content, types of work, the way and terms of interacting of youth social services with governmental, public and commercial organizations.	Youth	Center for youth	Tashkent, Kokand, Fergana, Andijan, Samarkand, Jizzak
9.	«Jasmin», Namangan, Dinara Gabdulhakova <a href="mailto:zamondosh@mail.ru">zamondosh@mail.ru</a>	Absence of document /regulation/decision, regulating the relations between the bodies of local self-governance and local executive authorities.	National Governance	Women's center	Namangan, Karshi, Nukus
10.	«Our Home», Tashkent, Nataliya Sevumyan <a href="mailto:sevelena@freenet.uz">sevelena@freenet.uz</a>	The population's unawareness about the draft laws being developed, resulting in discrimination at different levels, imperfection of the legislative basis.	National Governance	Center for people with psychological diseases	Tashkent, Samarkand
11.	The Association of Makhalla Aksakals, Samarkand, Pardakul Turakulov <a href="mailto:hamdami@mail.ru">hamdami@mail.ru</a>	«Absence of the managing system of domestic wastes and authorized town dump in the town of Samarkand result in appearance of spontaneous dumps, which pollute the town irrigation system and the basin of Zerafshan river.	Housing and Communal Utilities	Association	Tashkent, Samarkand
12.	«Al Khorezmi Vamberi», Urgench, Bakhodir Khasanov, <a href="mailto:urgano@rol.uz">urgano@rol.uz</a>	«Unsatisfactory provision of the population and organizations with natural gas due to imperfection of the gas supply system».	Housing and Communal Utilities	CSSC	Urgench, Karshi, Nukus
13.	«Ishonch», Fergana, Zulphia Akhunova, <a href="mailto:ishonch@vodiy.uz">ishonch@vodiy.uz</a>	Imperfection of mechanisms, laws, regulation receipt, use and return of credits, leasing and micro credits by rural population	Unemployment	Women's and youth center	Fergana, Bukhara, Urgench
14.	Public Information Center, Nukus, Galim Nogaev <a href="mailto:feruz@uzpak.uz">feruz@uzpak.uz</a>	Introducing changes and amendments to the Regulation on Labor Migration Agencies regarding their duty to inform about the infringements of the labor migrants rights outside Uzbekistan.	Unemployment	Informational center	Nukus, Karshi, Kokand, Fergana, Aktau (Kazakhstan), Atyrau (Kazakhstan)
15.	«Khayot», Samarkand, Meliya Asanova <a href="mailto:lsmail@rambler.ru">lsmail@rambler.ru</a>	Absence of tax privileges for businessmen, recruiting disabled people, leading to mass unemployment among the disabled people.	Unemployment	Center for disabled people	Samarkand, Navoi, Termez, Jizzak, Kokand, Namangan, Nukus, Tashkent
16.	«Opa-Singillar», Kibrai, Tashkent, Nataliya Plotnikova <a href="mailto:plotnikova@tkt.uz">plotnikova@tkt.uz</a>	Violation of the article devoted to allocating jobs to disabled people of the Law "On Social Protection of Disabled People in the Republic of Uzbekistan"	Unemployment	Center for disabled women and	Tashkent, Nukus, Termez, Navoi

				children	
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## ATTACHMENT # 8

### Excerpt from CASP II Technical Assessment May 2006

#### Review and analysis of regions participated in assessment

##### 1. Andijan

After the primary selection, the 4 NGOs – “Fido”, “Shans”, “Nur” and “Ma’rifat” – were given recommendations to take part in the next stage. As a result, the two organizations “Fido” and “Nur” were questioned by the Program specialists from 29 to 30 May 2005.

These organizations are engaged in protecting the vulnerable layers of population, particularly women, children and young people, and were registered in 2001 and 2002, respectively. These NGOs cooperated with such organizations as “Mercy Corps”, World Bank, and Urban Institute. Working with them, “Fido” and “Nur” acquired some experience and knowledge in advocacy. With this experience the NGO “Nur” conducted a mini-advocacy campaign in February 2005 for a community Buri-Boshi, Markhamat rayon, Andijan region, to open a kindergarten and lobbied a question of taking it into a balance of the rayon department of education.

The organizations have their strategic plans. The NGO “Fido” designed its strategic plan for 2002-2006 for 4 priority directions: (1) Education program (law, gender, authorized education, development of small and middle business, health care); (2) Development of women, youth and children leadership; (3) Community development and (4) Third sector development. Additionally, “Fido” has a plan to hold advocacy campaigns at the level of communities provided that they have sufficient information and knowledge about the theory and practice of advocacy.

The NGO “Nur” has a plan to organize a network of the NGOs of the Andijan region to resolve problems of the legal sphere.

The organizations successfully collaborate with such local bodies of authority as Regional health-care department, Regional dermatovenerologic dispensary, Foundation “Makhalla”, Foundation “Soglom avlod uchun”, Women’s Committee, etc.

Despite the above statements, the organizations have no trainers and consultants on advocacy and in connection with this they expressed a wish to build an organization capacity by means of getting technical assistance in the form of trainings and consultations and additional information about advocacy. For these reasons both organizations were interested in participating in all the training modules of the CASP Program.

“As a result of technical assistance within the CASP Program, an advocacy potential of our organization will raise, more real and extended plans to hold advocacy campaigns will be made and we will be able to involve the communities in solving particular problems.”

*NGO “Nur” Representative*

*Recommendations for the region:* The organizations should participate in all the trainings of the program, particularly those on information activities in advocacy campaigns and on providing their constituency with information.

## **2. Bukhara**

In the process of selection three organizations were chosen for interviewing: Bukhara Region Journalist Association “Journalists”, “Association of Entrepreneurs of Bukhara region”, “Association of Dekhkan and Farm households”. The organizations were registered from 2002 to 2004. Their missions include consolidation of journalists of the region, uniting, on the goodwill basis, of juridical entities and individuals engaged in business, realization and protection of their civil, social and cultural rights and freedoms, creating the favorable conditions for dekhkan and farm households.

All the organizations are very well informed about the CASP Program since their heads took part in the first CASP trainings. The Journalists Association held an advocacy campaign “Shakhrud” jointly with the center “Great Silk Road” at the local level. As a result of the successfully conducted campaign, they succeeded in issuing a resolution of the regional khokimiyat “About quarterly cleaning of “Shakhrud” canal” and money was assigned from the local budget to canal cleaning.

The organizations have human resources mostly working on the voluntary basis. They actively participate in many actions performed by the CSSC and publish information about the activities of their NGOs in mass media.

*Recommendations for the region:* Since the organizations have no trainers on advocacy it would be appropriate to render technical assistance directed to developing organization capacity in the field of human resources. In connection with the fact that these associations have the established relations with the local authorities except the “Journalist Association” (some publications of this association is inconvenient for the local authorities), it is recommended to make consultations in this sphere only.

## **3. Sirdarya**

Two organizations operating in the sphere of education “Association of Libraries” and in the sphere of youth “Istikbolli avlod” were interviewed by the CASP specialists on 29 May 2005. The NGOs are comparatively young and were created in 2001 and 2003, respectively. In spite of this, the organizations have already achieved significant success by means of collaborating with the international donors IREX, USAID, FAIRFOND – opening of the youth center for training on computer technologies and performing a number of the projects to prevent human trafficking in Central Asia.

The organizations demonstrated a great interest because there is an advocacy component in their strategic plans. For example, the NGO “Istikbolli avlod” has a long-term goal to prevent human trafficking and as a part of this goal plans to achieve a short-term one – decreasing unemployment among the young people by holding advocacy campaigns.

In the strategic plan of the “Association of Libraries” there is a direction of the activities connected with creation of better operational conditions for the libraries at the

regional level by means of holding advocacy campaigns to adopt a khokim resolution in accordance with the decree of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Sufficient experience in providing their beneficiaries with information is observed since some projects of the organizations were in the sphere of information dissemination and distribution. The Association of Libraries was an information center in one of the projects; the NGO “Istikbolli avlod” distributed information and consulted a target audience by means of hot-line.

The NGOs have the established relations with such authority bodies as Regional Department of Internal Affairs, Public Prosecutor Department, Regional Khokimiyat, the Ministry of Labor, “Kamolot”, and Foundation “Makhalla”.

As a result of interview, it was revealed that both organizations need most training modules of the CASP Program.

“For today in our organization there are neither advocacy trainers nor consultants. Technical assistance is necessarily required because until now no advocacy campaigns were held in the Sirdarya region. This is necessary not only for our organization, but also for other NGOs in the region.”

*Malikova Mukaddas  
Chairman, Center “Istikbolli avlod”*

*Recommendation for the region:* This assessment shows that the region has a sufficient potential for getting technical assistance of the CASP program and holding the advocacy campaigns in future. The interviewed NGOs made a request almost for all trainings and consultations in this sphere. It is recommended to include other NGOs with the aim of more activation and information provided to the organization in the Syrdarya region.

#### **4. Kashkadarya**

In the Kashkadarya region the studies were performed from 28 May to 31 May 2005. In the course of the primary selection 4 NGOs were chosen for participation in interview: the Regional Information-Consultation Resource Center for Family NGO “Kelajak”, the Regional Recovery Center for women and children NGO “Semurg”, the Social Center for youth NGO “Nurli Yul” and The Social Assistance Center for rural population NGO “Tarakkiet”. The organizations were selected for the reason of their correspondence to the primary criteria of selection: they are engaged in solving problems of women and youth, health care, as well as economics.

All these organizations are young and were registered in 2003 and 2004. It should be noted that the NGOs “Nurli Yul” and “Tarakkiet” operate in Guzar and Kasan rayons remote from Karshi and they are the only organizations functioning in these rayons.

The representatives of most NGOs have a clear idea about advocacy since they participated in ToT “Advocacy campaign holding” that was conducted in 2004 by the CAIP program jointly with the CASP one. Moreover, in the projects realized with support of such organizations as Winrock International,

Futures Group, CHF International, OSCE and UNDP there were elements of advocacy. For example, in June 2004 the organization “Semurg” held an advocacy campaign jointly with the housing and communal service department to solve the problem of providing population with qualitative drinking water. Work with community to collect signatures and make interviews with a correspondent of the regional newspaper was arranged successfully. On community’s initiative a delegation was created to lobby their interests in the town Khokimiyat. As a result of the successfully performed negotiations, the problem was solved for a short period of time. But, according to representatives’ statements, because of lack of skills in community mobilization, only women participated in the process.

The NGO “Tarakkiet” also has experience in holding advocacy campaigns. The organization conducted a successful advocacy campaign with support of the IREX Project. Under this project it was necessary to clean 7 kilometers of pipe (the total length of pipe is 15 km). Signatures of the population were collected and the members of the working group – the NGO and community representatives – applied to the local khokimiyat for support. As a result, khokimiyat assigned 4.5 mln. sums for full pipe cleaning. Under the project of the program “Healthy Family”, seminars on leadership for youth to increase their participation in public life were planned. As a result of this, the NGO succeeded in creating a youth club “Healthy Generation” by the makhalla committee.

The successfully conducted projects with advocacy elements demonstrate the established relations with local authorities. In many cases local authorities support the organizations by providing them with office rooms. All the organizations have a primary technical base.

“We suppose that technical support of the CASP program will have a partial impact on removing lack of specialists and experts to solve an advocacy problem, on improving qualification, knowledge and skills of the NGO members. As a result of this, the organization will have qualified specialists and strong team. Relations with state and business structure will be established, as well as with other public and party organizations by means of knowledge and skills acquired by the specialist owing to technical support. This process will help us identify leaders among communities, involve new volunteers and activate the makhalla population, particularly women and teenagers.”

*Representatives of NGOs “Tarakkiet” and “Semurg”*

*Recommendation for the region:* Despite some experience, the questioned organizations have a need in getting technical assistance of the CASP Program since in Kashkadarya there are almost no organizations with sufficient knowledge and skills in the sphere of advocacy, except NGO “Umid”. It should be noted that these organizations demonstrate a sufficient potential and need partial technical support in the form of selected trainings.

## **5. Navoi**

In Navoi region 3 NGOs were selected: the Reproductive Health Center, NGOs “Umida” and “Zebunisso” that were registered in 2000 and 2004.

Organizations’ missions include protection of population’s rights to reproductive health, open access to full information about family laws, sexual rights, creating a healthy family, contributing to legal literacy of women, ensuring of their equal rights and opportunities by means of providing information and forming self-conscience, trainings on family business bases, women’s right protection in family business.

The NGOs have experience in working with such international donors as Netherlands International Charity Foundation, Winrock International, AED, and Eurasia. In the activities and plans of NGO “Zebunisso” there are elements of advocacy on development of small and middle business among business-women.

These organizations have the established relations with local authorities. For example, NGO “Umid” issues a quarterly bulletin with support of the Foundation “Makhalla”.

## **6. Namangan**

In Namangan region the organizations Public Association “Propaganda Center “Shabnam” of intelligentciya women of Yangikurgan rayon”, NGO “Khamjikhath kushnilar” and NGO “Sadokat” corresponded to the primary criteria and were selected. But for the reasons stated in Section “Problems and difficulties arisen during assessment” the following organizations “Shabnam”, “Khamjikhath kushnilar” and “Yangi Asr” were interviewed.

The latter two organizations are very young as compared to “Shabnam” that was registered in 2001. This organization performed a number of the projects with such international donors as Mercy Corps and its target group consists of representatives of low-income women, children, teenagers and families for whom social protection is required. The NGO “Khamjikhath kushnilar” established in 2004 and engaging in activities with the aim of improving the every-day-life and social conditions for population was awarded a grant for the Project “Healthy generation” in the amount of \$1000 by the Urban Institute. The third NGO has no experience in performing such projects.

“Shabnam” has sufficient knowledge and experience in holding advocacy-campaigns. The leader of “Shabnam” is an ABA\CEELI trainer on advocacy. As a result, the center performed a project on protection of teenagers from family violence and prevention of suicide among teenagers with the advocacy elements, jointly with the ABA\CEELI donor. Under this project the organization elucidated the problems arising among teenagers, conducted education trainings on youth rights; together with the teenagers an appeal to adult population from children was written which was distributed among the pedagogical collectives of all the schools in the rayon and 52 makhalla committees.

In spite of the fact that the representatives did not participate in advocacy trainings and is not aware of an advocacy conception, they actively promote residents’ interests.

For example, the NGO “Khamjikhath kushnilar” managed to return the household territory illegally sold in 2001.

“Shabnam” includes an objective of enhancing the impact of the center activities on communities by means of arranging actions and measures, as well as holding advocacy campaigns. “Khamjikhath kushnilar” plans to solve a problem of heating in an apartment house, as well as create conditions to hold public actions among the residents by means of advocacy campaigns.

As shown by the questioning results, the NGO “Yangi asr” is not suitable for participation in the program of technical assistance because of non-correspondence to primary and secondary selection criteria of the program. Though a specialist points to great interest and potential the organization has neither idea about nor experience in advocacy.

“Each NGO works blindly, learns its own mistakes. This is the problem of every NGO. I think that participation in the CASP program will help us and personally me organize work. Though the Urban Institute trainings helped us in many respect we are still weak in interrelations with different organizations.”

*Aliev Jabbor*  
*Chairmen, NGO “Khamjikhath kushnilar”*

*Recommendations for the region:* In the course of questioning the organizations expressed a wish to participate in all the advocacy trainings of the CASP program. The NGO “Khamjikhath kushnilar” was given a recommendation to acquire knowledge about all the training modules, particularly “Information activity in advocacy campaigns”, “Negotiation Skills” and “State Arrangement”, since there are elements of misunderstanding between the organization representatives and local authorities.

“Shabnam” was given a recommendation to take part in the trainings “Information activity in advocacy campaigns”, “Negotiation Skills”, “Coalition building” and “State Arrangement” since the organization head passed the trainings “Planning and advocacy campaigns”, “Community mobilization”, “Monitoring and assessment” by ABA\CEELI.

## **7. Samarkand**

In Samarkand oblast the primary selection passed two organizations: Eco NGO “Khongul” and “Association of medical students” (AMS) working in the sphere of ecology and health care. The organization were registered in 1999 and 2003 and collaborated with such donors as Milieukontakt Oost Evrope, Peace Corps, Healthy Communities (Counterpart International), DDRP.

“Khongul” and AMS have an idea about advocacy campaigns though they were not engaged in it independently. The representatives of Eco NGO “Khongul” were the volunteers of NGO “Zarafshan” within the CASP project “River for all – all for river”.

It should be noted that the organizations have strong capacity and their members are professionals: in “Khongul” the teachers are from the biology faculty of Samarkand State University and the AMS representatives are graduates and students of Samarkand Medical Institute (SamMI).

The organizations have the short-term strategic plans partially including an advocacy activity. As a part of its mission, “Khongul” plans improvement of the protected

conditions for the State Zarafshan reserve, for this goal to be achieved it is necessary to adopt corresponding resolutions at the level of state governing. For the Center “Healthy Family” for future and young parents at the screening center, opened in 2003 with donor support, to operate for a long period of time it is necessary for AMS to make a decision at the khokimiyat level.

The organizations justify their participation in the technical support of the CASP II program by the fact that technical support can contribute to organization development of these NGOs, which will lead to more effective realizing of their activities.

“Technical support can contribute to more effective realizing of our activities. An expected impact from participation in the technical support program on holding advocacy campaigns is that we will have a potential for more sustainable changes in the field of medicine, as well as skills to apply this social technology for solving the organization problems.”

*Akbar Nurmatov*  
*Representative, Association of Medical People*

*Recommendation for the region:* The NGOs of the Samarkand region demonstrated great awareness, knowledge and skills in advocacy. But at the same time they showed great interest in continuation of organization capacity building by participating in more specific trainings and consultations on advocacy such as “Information activity in advocacy campaigns”, “Coalition building”, “Negotiation skills” and “State arrangement”. Moreover, support will help them solve such inside-organization problems (in the case of “Khongul”) as absence of an effective team and lack of skills in involving volunteers and funding and in financial management for advocacy campaigns.

## **8. Surkhandarya**

4 NGOs “Bunyed”, “Komila”, “Tarakkiet”, “Yeshlar kanoti” from the Surkhandarya oblast were registered by the justice bodies from 2001 to 2005. Their missions include promotion of civil society development by means of all kinds of support for local NGOs and initiative groups, development and protection of children, youth, and communities, education system improvement.

Despite the fact that these organizations are young some of them have already obtained the great results by performing a number of the projects jointly with Counterpart International, Futures Group, EuropAid, Urban Institute, Winrock International, Global Fund, Eurasia, IREX, the US Embassy.

The NGOs “Bunyed” and “Tarakkiet” have knowledge in the sphere of advocacy: “Bunyed” participated in trainings of the CAIP program and with “Tarakkiet” assistance the articles about the activities of the coalition “Dostupnost” of the CASP program were published in Surkhandarya.

The NGO “Yeshlar kanoti” demonstrates a good potential for youth activation in the region. Since 2003 this organization has supervised the library American Corner funded by the US Embassy and is an information center for young people of the region. Unlike other NGOs, “Yeshlar kanoti” has its own web-site (<http://act.freenet.uz>) and teaches schoolchildren and students according to a debut program.

It should be noted that the organizations made a request for all the trainings on advocacy in connection with the fact that they include this component in their strategic plans. For example, the NGO “Bunyed”, as a part of the now performed project, has an intention to improve the status of the forced re-settlers from the Sariasin rayon of the Syrkhandarya region. “Yeshlar kanoti” will use the obtained technical support to make proposals to the Regional department of People Education to increase the quality of education in schools.

“Technical assistance of the CASP program will be directed to training skills in holding advocacy campaigns, increasing the level of trainers in the field of education, forming a team of consultants, establishing an information field with state structures, NGOs and initiative groups.”

*Shakhlo Safarova*  
*Representative, NGO “Bunyed”*

*Recommendations for the region:* The Syrkhandarya region is one of the least informed regions and included in the process of advocacy. The region is “monopolized” by the key NGO “Ayel va zamon”, which restricts, in some cases, access of other developing NGOs to the advocacy resources. By basing on this it is recommended to include in the process more young organizations and open access to advocacy by means of holding all the training modules by experienced trainers of the CASP program. The secondary selection points to the fact that it will be feasible to consult the organizations about a legal base and community mobilization. The NGO “Yeshlar kanoti” has a need for additional information about effective cooperation with local authorities.

## **9. Djizak**

The NGOs in Djizak oblast were questioned on 28-29 May 2005. At first, participation of 3 NGOs was planned: “Biznes-inkubator” (BI), NGO “Khamdard”, “Khunarmand ayellar asociaciyasi” (KAA). In the course of assessment another NGO “Fermer ayellar asociaciyasi” (FAA) took part. The organizations work in the sphere of rendering support to the vulnerable and low-income layers of rural population, economics, businesswomen and businessmen.

The above-listed organizations were registered from 2004 to 2004 except “Biznes-inkubator” that performs its activity from 1996. This fact evidences that this organization does not correspond to the primary criteria of selection which require that NGO should be comparatively young.

All the organizations, except “Khunarmand ayellar asociaciyasi”, have an idea about advocacy and experience in holding advocacy campaigns as a part of the performed projects. The general mission of FAA is protection of women-farmers’ interests in the region. Only in 2004 FAA supported 1048 farmers in submitting applications to economic courts and 919 (87%) of them obtained positive resolutions in favor of the farmers. Continuing promotion of farmers’ interests, FAA applied to the Regional Khokimiyat concerning Decree No. 476 of the Cabinet of Ministers. Despite the fact that this Decree was directed to rendering assistance to farmers, the Khokimiyat made them pay their debts. The Association representatives negotiated with the khokim, applied to

an Economic court and managed to get a resolution of the Economic court about the incorrect decision of the Oblast Khokim concerning Decree No. 476.

The same successful advocacy experience has the organization “Khamdard” that represented women’s interests in the Court concerning home violence. Also “Khamdard” raised the questions about the problems of homeless women (after divorce) and the Khokimiyat included in its program of activities a resolution about providing such women with housing.

In spite of the fact that the members of “Khunarmand ayellar asociaciyasi” have no idea about advocacy, in their missions and activities there are elements of advocacy and this is reflected in their future plans. As known, being the members of the “Associacii khunarmandov” they are free from taxes up to 5-7 years. But still the association members pay taxes. KAA has a goal to change an existing order, promote interests of its members in order women starting their business be free from taxes for some period of their activity.

Of the four organizations, two (“Khamdard” and “Fermer ayellar Asociaciyasi”) have business-advocacy trainers and consultants trained within the TACIS program.

“The organization having experience in holding trainings on business-advocacy came to a conclusion that the farmers learnt to make coalitions, obtained knowledge, they can protect in some way and promote their interests. The level of their knowledge and skills increased. Nevertheless, many state officials using unawareness and illiteracy of farmers deceive them. The residents not only from Galaaral rayon, but also from Arnasay, Dustlik, Zarbdor applied to our organization. Djizak is considered to be an agrarian region. In it there are 13000 farmers who need help and support.”

*Sabokhat Kuldasheva*  
*Chairman, “Fermer ayellar Asociaciyasi”*

*Recommendations for the region:* All the questioned organizations in the region indicated a great need of getting new knowledge and enriching their experience in advocacy since at this time there is a necessity for promoting interests of their target groups by means of advocacy campaigns. In connection with this, the organizations need trainings, consultations and information support for their workers to develop and realize advocacy campaigns.

Taking into account specificity of the selected organizations that mainly perform their activities with the aim of rendering support to low-income families and entrepreneurs, technical support will result in solving external problems of interaction with state structures and constituency to achieve goals of advocacy campaigns.

In the course of interview with “Biznes-inkubator” it was revealed that the NGO is a member of the Coalition “Ekonomika” in the Djizak oblast. I.K. Fozilov participated in trainings under the CASP II program. He said that the organization role in the Coalition reduced to organizing round-tables “Soyuz trekh”. In connection with this, the organization considers it necessary for the workers of “Biznes-inkubator” to raise their level of knowledge by participating in advocacy campaigns.

## **10. Tashkent**

The young organizations registered from 2001 to 2003 of the number of Tashkent NGOs were questioned from 28 May to 29 May 2005. The activities of the NGOs “Umid diyeri”, “Ikbol” and “Ishonch va khayet” are directed to such vulnerable groups as young people of 15-28 age, low-income families, families from risk groups, incomplete families, as well as people infected with AID SPEED, injection-drug addicts, workers of commercial sex. Two organizations, except “Umid diyeri”, have a sufficient idea about the CASP program.

All the organizations realize the projects with such international donors as Freedom House, Mercy Corps, and UN. As an element of these projects, the organizations performed an advocacy activity. For example, “Ishonch va khayet” jointly with Mercy Corps carried out some studies to reveal the facts of discrimination and identify needs of people with AID SPEED. In the course of these studies the people with AID SPEED were rendered assistance in solving their housing problems.

After realization of several projects the NGO “Ikbol” managed to be included in the state program of youth upbringing in military units.

An advocacy component is clearly reflected in the strategic plans of the selected organizations: “Ikbol” has an intention to obtain a state order to hold education trainings for military man, as well as include an education course on human rights in the training program for the students of Tashkent Higher Military College.

“We want to be heard and plan to pay and attract attention of the state sector to the problems of the people infected with AID SPEED with the aim of including in the legislation the provisions that protect interests of this vulnerable group. We do believe that technical support of CASP will help in our capacity building to achieve our goals.”

*Sergey Uchaev*  
*Chairman, NGO “Ishonch va khayet”*

*Recommendations for the region:* Among the questioned NGOs in Tashkent, “Umid diyeri” demonstrated the lowest potential and experience in the sphere of advocacy. Two other NGOs could show their motivation and capability of getting technical support. In connection with this, it is recommended to render technical support to all three young NGOs by means of holding all the training modules and consultations.

## **11. Fergana**

To spread all over the region, one NGO from each town was chosen for the primary selection: NGO “Begoyim” (Margilan), the Fergana Regional Union of beekeepers, NGO “Intizor” (Bagdad rayon), “Olima” (Kokand). All the organizations except “Union of beekeepers” were registered from 2001 to 2004. In the course of interview it was revealed that the “Union of beekeepers” was registered in 1994 and this fact does not correspond to the program criteria of selection. But if the circumstance is taken into account that the Union is unique for the whole region and works to support the beekeepers-entrepreneurs it would be reasonable to make an exception. The other NGOs

perform their activities in the sphere of rendering support to the vulnerable layers of population: children, youth, women-entrepreneurs etc.

“Begoyim” has insufficient information about the program obtained from other participants of actions and from publications of the non-governmental sector and little experience in advocacy campaign elements which was gained from its realized projects directed mainly to community infrastructure development. In connection with a necessity for solving the further community problems the organization has an objective to get training on advocacy technologies. The organization head is insistently and categorically interested in getting technical support of the CASP II program.

The “Fergana Regional Union of beekeepers” has no information about the program. The organization participated in no seminars, trainings and other actions of the CASP program. It should be noted that the organization demonstrates great experience in juridical support and protection of beekeepers’ interests in cooperation with such international donors and organizations as the Swiss Embassy, Mercy Corps, Pragma Project and Eurasia Foundation. At this moment the organization is engaged in periodical publications for beekeepers – a specialized monthly newspaper “Asalarichi” (format A4, 16 pages, two languages – Uzbek and Russian, 1000-1200 copies) in cooperation with the Eurasia Foundation.

In the course of its activities the Union succeeded in the fact that the frontier and custom services allowed moving bees abroad at nights because there was a prohibition to move bees at nights but as a matter of fact they must be moved during this time only.

The NGO “Intizor” has an idea about the program since its representatives attended several actions of the program. The organization is in Bagdad rayon of the Fergana valley. Its target group is low-income women of all ages in this rayon. For the period from 2001 “Intizor” worked with Winrock International, created an information service of the center “Intizor” USIS. In the strategic plans there were no advocacy actions but in practice under USIS project “Creating an information service of Center “Intizor”” there were cases of right protection of clients applied for juridical assistance. The organization informs its constituency by publication of information sheets.

The NGO “Olima” is aware of the program and participated in advocacy actions and worked in cooperation with Counterpart International, USIS, IREX, and UNDP. The Center “Olima” has a sufficiently experienced trainer, she was trained with “Project design” and “Advocacy” organized by the Open Society Institute-Soros Foundation-Uzbekistan. In the strategic plan there are advocacy elements: “Olima” plans to work with the aim of solving unemployment among women and young people.

“Participation in the CASP program will allow our organization to develop the Center structure, namely to develop an advocacy program with the help of which we will be able to promote effectively our beneficiaries’ interests. Moreover, the program of technical support will contribute to organizational and institutional development of our organization.”

*Head, NGO “Intizor”*

*Recommendations for the region:* All the four organizations noted a great demand of their organizations for getting new knowledge and enriching their experience in advocacy since for further realization of their program goals and service rendering it is necessary to get experience in holding advocacy campaigns through training of their workers and

volunteers and getting technical assistance. In connection with this, the organizations need trainings, consultations and informational support for their workers to develop and hold advocacy campaigns. This will also assist their institutional development and image.

## **12. Khorezm**

Three organizations registered in 200 and 2004 in the Khorezm region participated in assessment of needs within the CASP program from 28 to 30 May 2004. The target audience of NGOs “Kelajak”, “Orom”, “Tarakkiyet” are children, young people, women and vulnerable layers of population. Unlike the two other NGOs, “Orom” performed a number of the projects with advocacy elements – service of trust telephone, actions on questions of home violence, gender, reproductive right and health care in cooperation with the Open Society Institute-Soros Foundation-Uzbekistan and IREX.

Despite the fact that now there are no grants, “Kelajak” independently held a mini-advocacy campaign and achieved timely and full salary for the teachers of one of the local schools. As a result, the teachers from not only this school but also all other ones in rayon began to get the full amount of salary without illegal deduction of 10% (by a bank) of teacher salary for several years.

The participating organizations have no advocacy trainers and consultants but some workers of “Orom” passed the trainings “Civil participation in making decisions” and “Planning and holding advocacy campaigns” at the CSSC “Al-Khorezmi-Vamberi”. The representatives of “Tarakkiyet” get necessary consultations about a wide range of problems, including advocacy, at “Al-Khorezmi-Vamberi”.

“Since advocacy is a new direction for our organization we need all consultations and informational support concerning this sphere: how to plan an advocacy campaign, how to identify an advocacy problem, how to involve and work with constituency, how to hold an advocacy campaign. We need literature on advocacy, experience of successful national advocacy campaigns and lessons taught from them, if possible, electronic versions of advocacy materials.”

*Askarova Mukhabbat  
Chairmen, Center “Kelajak”*

*Recommendations for the region:* In spite of the fact that these organizations are very young and almost have no experience in advocacy, the examples of the independently realized actions with advocacy elements demonstrate the strong potential and resources of these NGOs. Besides, the fact that they applied regularly to the experienced CSSC for consultations indicates their great interest and wish to get more knowledge and skills. It is this reason for which all the organizations made a request for most trainings proposed by the program. It is recommended to hold all the trainings for NGOs “Kelajak” and “Tarakkiyet”, as well as trainings “Monitoring and Assessment” and “Coalition building” for NGO “Orom”.

## **13. Karakalpakstan**

As a result of the primary selection, NGOs “Turan” and “Aral Women and Children” were questioned in this region. The organizations were registered in 1997 and 2001. The target groups are young people, women, children and teachers.

NGO “Turan” has great experience in performing the projects with advocacy elements: being a grantee of OSI-SF-Uzbekistan, UNDP, Winrock International, Freedom House, USIS and Internews, these organizations performed a number of the projects of ecology protection, home violence, tracking problems etc.

NGO “Aral Women and Children”, on its own initiative with no grant support, held the seminars on gender and legal questions among teachers, students and schoolchildren. Also it organized the seminars on unemployment in the rural areas of the region.

In the strategic plan of “Turan” there are elements of advocacy: with broadening of the technical possibilities of the organization and opening branches it is planned to make theatrical performances, to hold seminars on human rights, trafficking, and home violence. Also the organization has an intention to open a youth radio station, which creates good perspectives for information distribution.

“Aral Women and Children” has a plan to implement an educational program on AID/SPEED and drug-addiction in schools among the teachers and parents, hold seminars on migration among the Karakalpak people left for Kazakhstan, get acquainted with their problems and render juridical assistance.

“Technical assistance of the CASP program will be directed to organizing advocacy campaigns among the young people and improving their social-economic state with the aim of making a contribution to civil society development, as well as activating a role of young people in the society and protecting their rights.

*Representative, NGO “Turan”*

*Recommendation for the region:* The selected organizations correspond to all the selection criteria of the program; besides “Turan” has 8-year experience. But in connection with the fact that the organization has clear plans for advocacy but need more specific support, it is recommended to render technical assistance in the form of trainings “Informational activity in advocacy campaigns”, “Negotiation skills”, “State arrangement”. All the CASP trainings should be held for younger organization “Aral Women and Children”.

## **ATTACHMENT # 9**

### **Trainings: (conducted January – October, 2005)**

1. Planning and Conducting Advocacy Campaign

Conducted – 10 trainings

Trained – 158 people, including NGO – 121 people (organizations – 98), government – 21 people (organizations – 21), mass media – 5 people (organizations – 5)

2. Communities Organizing

Conducted – 5 trainings

Trained – 96 people, including NGO – 68 people (organization – 67), government – 23 people (organizations – 23), mass media – 4 people (organizations – 4)

3. Monitoring and Evaluation of Advocacy Campaign

Conducted – 5 trainings

Trained – 95 people, including NGO – 67 people (organizations – 66), government – 23 people (organizations – 23), mass media – 4 people (organizations – 4)

4. Information Activity of Advocacy Campaign

Conducted – 5 trainings

Trained – 84 people, including NGO – 63 people (organizations – 65), government – 13 people (organizations – 13), mass media – 3 people (organizations – 4)

5. What is Advocacy?

Conducted – 3 trainings

Trained – 43 people, including NGO – 43 people (organizations – 21)

6. Negotiation Skills

Conducted – 5 trainings for NGO participants

## ATTACHMENT # 10

### List of CASP CORE NGOs

Federation of Consumer Rights Protection Societies	Tashkent
Center Nash Dom	Tashkent
NNO Institute Women and Society	Tashkent
Business Women's Association Uzbekistan	Tashkent
Center Umidvorlik	Tashkent
Khayot Disabled People's Support Center	Samarkand
Ayol Women's and Family Resource Center	Samarkand
Business Women's Association	Kokand
Women's Center Tashabbus	Navoi
Association Vozrojdenie	Navoi
NGO Renaissance	Nukus
Union of Defense of Aral Sea and Amudarya River	Nukus
Public Research Center	Nukus
Center Isonch	Fergana
Center Ayol va Zamon	Baghdad Rayon, Fergana
Center Iqtidor	Kokand
NNO Salomatlik plyus Ecologiya	Tashkent
Public Fund Qalb Sadosi	Tashkent
Center Zamondosh	Namangan
Avitsenna	Bukhara
Opa-Singillar, Kibrai,	Tashkent
UMID-D	Samarkand
Association of Makhallah Aksakals	Samarkand
Hayot	Samarkand
Ziyo	Kokand
Public Information Center	Nukus
Jasmin	Namangan
Bilim va Jamiyat	Tashkent
Tashabbus	Navoi
NGO Zamondosh	Namangan



## **ATTACHMENT # 12**

### **CASP Brochure**

#### **CIVIC ADVOCACY SUPPORT PROGRAM**

The goal of the Civic Advocacy Support Program (CASP) is to strengthen democratic culture in Uzbekistan and build constituencies for political, economic, and social change. CASP is funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). It is designed to help citizens and target non-governmental, non-commercial organizations (NNO) to more effectively articulate to the government of Uzbekistan issues that concern them, which is a key element of USAID's democracy strategy for Uzbekistan. CASP has three primary objectives:

- To enhance the capacity of local NNOs to carry out national level advocacy campaigns on issues that concern them;
  - To engage citizens in democratic process by involving them in advocacy efforts;
- To improve the ability of the national government to engage in policy dialogue and reform in consultation with citizens and NNOs.

CASP will use five basic tools in implementing the program:

- Advanced advocacy materials and information dissemination;
- Capacity building for NNOs;
- Regional NNO and Government Networking;
- Capacity Building for Government Officials;
- Grants for National Advocacy Campaigns.

CASP builds on Counterpart's in-country experience, built over almost 10 years of NNO capacity-building in Uzbekistan and throughout Central Asia, in which advocacy has been one of the key objectives. In particular, the USAID-funded Makhalla Initiative Program in Uzbekistan has shown the potential for effective advocacy at all levels of government. Uzbekistan's network of seven Civil Society Support Centers will serve as focal points for CASP. They are located in Bukhara, Kokand, Namangan, Nukus, Samarkand, Tashkent, and Urgench.

Consistent with the belief that advocacy is a holistic and integrated process that begins at the community level and culminates in policy reform at the governmental level, CASP will engage the extensive country-wide network of NNOs in Uzbekistan to work with

citizens and government officials. Civic advocacy requires a long-term commitment and a diversity of techniques and mediums to stimulate widespread citizen involvement on priority issues. These issues percolate through the mobilization of individuals and NNOs and are widely disseminated by the media. Ultimately, for advocacy to be effective, the messages are absorbed and acted upon by a responsive national government.

CASP will last for two years and will be highlighted by two rounds of grants in support of advocacy campaigns. Grants will be made to coalitions of NNO partners. In a preliminary planning phase, core NNOs and representatives of regional and national government met to discuss the program and identify possible advocacy issues. The issues reflected the interests of the core partners and include women and the family, the environment, economic livelihood, the disabled, youth and consumer protection.

Four international resource partners – American Bar Association / Central and Eastern European Law Initiative, International Center for Not-for-profit Law and The Advocacy Institute will assist in the project. Each partner contributes a valuable mix of groups, individuals and methodologies.

Fifteen NNOs have been selected through a competitive process to serve as the core of CASP's advocacy efforts. It is anticipated that they will engage their partner NNOs and other key stakeholders in carrying out the advocacy campaigns the project will foster. The core NNOs are:

Federation of Consumer Rights Protection Societies Tashkent	
Center <i>Nash Dom</i>	Tashkent
NGO Institute <i>Women and Society</i>	Tashkent
Business Women's Association Uzbekistan	Tashkent
Center <i>Umidvordlik</i>	Tashkent
<i>Khayot</i> Disabled People's Support Center	Samarkand
<i>Ayol</i> Women's and Family Resource Center	Samarkand
Business Women's Association	Kokand
Women's Center <i>Tashabbus</i>	Navoi
Association <i>Vozrojdenie</i>	Navoi
NGO <i>Renaissance</i>	Nukus
Union of Defense of Aral Sea and Amudarya River	Nukus
Public Research Center	Nukus
Center <i>Ishonch</i>	Fergana
Center <i>Ayol va Zamon</i>	(Baghdad Rayon, Fergana)

Some of the core NNOs are established groups that have played an important role in Uzbekistan's civil society for more than a decade. Others are newer but already have built solid advocacy experience in their home regions. Among the criteria for their selection were an organizational mission containing some elements of advocacy, prior advocacy experience, previous work in coalitions and background in collaborating with mass media. Selections were made by a committee including USAID, Counterpart and several local and international NNOs operating in Uzbekistan.

**BUILDING A JUST WORLD  
THROUGH SERVICE  
AND PARTNERSHIP**

Counterpart International has worked in Uzbekistan since 1994 and currently manages a country portfolio of nearly \$5 million. One of the first organizations to bring civil society programming to Central Asia, Counterpart has since expanded its programming in Uzbekistan to include conflict prevention, maternal and child health care, environmental preservation, enterprise development, humanitarian assistance, and advocacy. Counterpart's work in Uzbekistan, has established a proud legacy of vibrant non-governmental organizations that contribute meaningfully to political and economic decision-making in a country that is making a transition to democracy.

For almost 40 years, Counterpart has worked in nearly three dozen countries, including Russia and the Newly Independent States, southeast Europe, Asia, Africa, Latin America and the South Pacific with an organization-wide donor portfolio of more than \$80 million. Counterpart works through a network of 17 international program offices and has affiliate organizations in 21 countries.

**Counterpart / Uzbekistan**

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**CIVIC ADVOCACY SUPPORT PROGRAM**

The purpose of Civic Advocacy Support Program (CASP) is to help Uzbek NNOs conduct national level advocacy campaigns aimed at bringing about changes in government policy. Campaigns are focused on issues of concern to participating NNOs. The program's work is designed to build NNO skills in carrying out the public advocacy aspect of their mandates as civil society organizations. CASP provides grants for advocacy campaigns, technical assistance to implementing organizations, information relevant to advocacy activities and facilitates NNO contacts with government. CASP is funded by USAID.



**COMMUNITY ACTION INVESTMENT PROGRAM**

Counterpart is a partner in implementing the Community Action Investment Program (CAIP) in southern Uzbekistan. CAIP is a comprehensive community development program designed to prevent conflict and to improve the overall quality of life of the residents of 72 communities in Kashkadarya and Surkhondaryo regions. Through training, technical assistance and small demonstration project grants, CAIP helps to build the skills of democratically elected Community Improvement Councils (CICs). These Councils then initiate projects involving their entire communities in the identification, management and maintenance of projects that solve social, economic, and infrastructure related problems. CAIP is funded by USAID.

**UMIR NURI (RAINBOW OF LIFE) CHILD SURVIVAL PROGRAM**

Umir Nuri, in the autonomous Republic of Karakalpakstan, aims to reduce infant mortality and mortality in children under five through improved caretaker practices and increased access to high quality care. Implemented in Takhakuyit and Nukus regions, Umir Nuri works in close partnership with the Ministry of Health, local NNOs, local government officials, and community-based organizations. Program areas focus on pneumonia case management, diarrhea case management, and breastfeeding. Umir Nuri is funded by USAID.

**COMMUNITY AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

The Community and Humanitarian Assistance Program (CHAP) provides relief and support to at-risk people and carries out programs to improve social and health care service delivery throughout Uzbekistan. CHAP delivers food, clothing, medical and other humanitarian assistance to those in need. It works in partnership with local governmental and civic organizations including the Ministries of Health and Social Protection, Labor and Enterprises, Viloyat departments, the Karakalpakstan Ministry of Public Education and local NNOs. The program focuses on the most vulnerable, including the elderly, orphans, invalids, large families, refugees and disaster victims. CHAP is funded by the U.S. Department of State.



**HEALTHY COMMUNITIES GRANT PROGRAM**

Counterpart International manages the Healthy Communities Grant Program in all Central Asian Republics in cooperation with USAID's ZhirafPlus program. It helps NGOs, CBOs, and Community Groups take greater responsibility for improving the health of their communities by providing financial assistance for community level health activities. Community Action Grants allow local community members and other stakeholders to address clearly-identified community health needs. Grants allow organizations and communities to implement projects in cooperation with primary health care workers in the community on topics such as nutrition women's and children's health, hygiene and sanitation, improved rural primary health care facilities and health information and education. The Healthy Communities Grant Program is funded by USAID.

**ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT**

In a subcontract to USAID's Enterprise Development Project (EDP), Counterpart builds the competitive and managerial strength of small enterprises in Uzbekistan by developing the capacity of business associations. EDP target associations provide small enterprises the opportunity to identify issues, share best practices and propose solutions to common problems. They also promote citizen participation in government, which increases transparency, reduces corruption and improves the business climate. Professional accounting and audit organizations also promote the adoption of international accounting standards. EDP is funded by USAID.

**HYGIENE AND SANITATION PROMOTION THROUGH SCHOOLS**

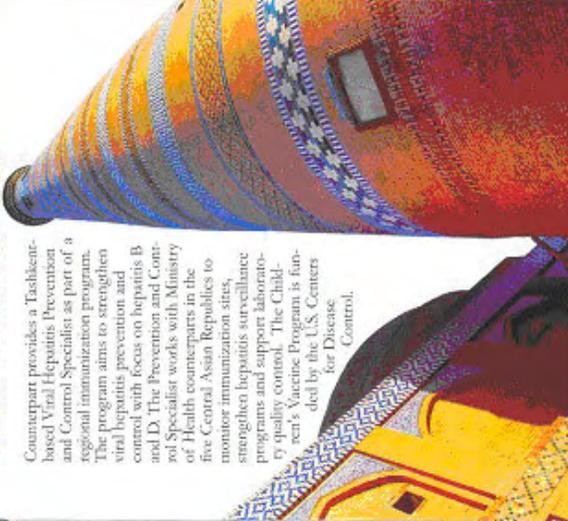
Counterpart and UNICEF jointly manage this project to construct sanitation facilities in 80 schools of Khorezm region and the Republic of Karakalpakstan. More than 60,000 students are provided access to improved sanitation and drinking water. In



addition to construction, the project includes hygiene promotion training carried out in conjunction with community peer groups and Parent-Teacher Associations. Training focuses on handling of drinking water, waste disposal, home sanitation, food and personal hygiene and community sanitation. The Health and Hygiene project is funded by UNICEF.

**CHILDREN'S VACCINE PROGRAM**

Counterpart provides a Tashkent-based Viral Hepatitis Prevention and Control Specialist as part of a regional immunization program. The program aims to strengthen viral hepatitis prevention and control with focus on hepatitis B and D. The Prevention and Control Specialist works with Ministry of Health counterparts in the five Central Asian Republics to monitor immunization sites, strengthen hepatitis surveillance programs and support laboratory quality control. The Child-Parent's Vaccine Program is funded by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control.



## **ATTACHMENT # 14**

### **Three Grant Announcement Newspaper Articles (English translations)**

#### **NGOs and the State CIVIL ADVOCACY SUPPORT**

Presentation of the Civil Advocacy Support Program (CASP) took place in hotel Dedeman Silk Road in Tashkent. The main goal of the program is to build strong civil society in Uzbekistan and to develop an environment for political, economic and cultural changes. CASP is financed by the US Agency on International Development.

The goal of CASP is to help citizens and focal non-governmental, non-commercial organizations (NGOs) to effectively formulate their concerns to the government of Uzbekistan.

David Applton, US charge' d'affaires in Uzbekistan, and Akmal Saidov, Chairman of the Oliy Majlis Committee on Democratic Institutions, Non-governmental Organizations and Bodies of Citizens' Self governance announced the first grantees within CASP. These grants are funded by the USA government and they are awarded to three Uzbekistan NGOs – the Center for Support of Disabled People “Khayet” (Samarkand), the Center for Support of Disabled Children and their Families “Umidvorlik” (Tashkent) and the Association of Business Women (Tashkent). In the course of six months the grants in the amount of twelve thousand each will be spent for supporting campaigns aimed to change the policies and practices related to the interests of Uzbekistan’s citizens.

“NGOs play a key role in a democratic society”,- noted David Appleton in his speech at the presentation. “In fact I myself worked in an NGO before I started my diplomatic service. NGOs play an important role in a society, promoting citizen’s interests. I believe that the activity of the three grantees will affect the lives of tens if not hundreds of thousands of people. In the USA we have a saying ‘It is not important whether you win or lose, what is important is how you play’. Of course, we want these campaigns to be successful. But what is more important is that people will learn what they can do and will learn to take responsibility for the changes they want to bring. I would like to thank the grantees for their willingness to advocate the citizens’ key interests and to promote the process of democratization. The USAID wishes them every success”, - said David Appleton.

Each of the three NGO campaigns will be aimed to bring concrete changes to the government’s policy and practice. In particular, the campaign, which will be conducted by “Hkayet”, aims to provide physical access for disabled people. This NGO will work to get the government take decisions requiring that the newly built and reconstructed public and semipublic buildings should have ramps in the towns of Termez, Kokand, Navoiy, Nukus and Nurabad.

Umidvorlik’s campaign will deal with the problem of access to education for disabled children. It aims to increase NGOs’ participation in the implementation of the government’s National Action Plan on Education for All. The government of Uzbekistan has joined UNESCO’s program “Education for All”, which was developed in Dakar, Senegal in 2000. However, Umidvorlik believes that NGOs should be better represented in this process, than it was the case until today. The Dakar platform envisaged as minimum 50% representation of NGOs.

The campaign of the Association of Business Women of Uzbekistan is focused on the decrees issued by the government in 2002 relating to economic and financial operations in the country.

Recognizing that these documents were important for the development of Uzbekistan's economics, the Association reports that they brought a number of negative side effects for local producers, specifically, the representatives of small business. In particular, the new documents limit the local producers' access to market places, decrease the assortment of goods and damage the existing distribution systems. This has led to the raise of prices and loss of jobs. The campaign intends to study the decrees' impact and to make recommendations diminishing the negative consequences for the producers in small businesses.

CASP is an important, new component of USAID's activity on developing a strong civil society in Uzbekistan. It aims to solve the problems of the majority of population.

**National Information Agency  
"Turkiston-press"**

***Tashkent Pravda***  
**13 August 03**

**CIVIL SOCIETY  
Support to Uzbek NGOs**

*Presentation of the campaign on civil advocacy financed by CASP program with the support from USAID took place in the capital's hotel Dedeman Silk Road.*

**Pulat Daniyarov**

This program, being implemented in our country since October 1, 2002 aims to help Uzbek non-governmental, non-commercial organizations to do good work in advocating civil interests, relating to considerable improvement of the quality of life in relevant communities at local and district level.

David Applton, US charge' d'affaires in Uzbekistan, and Akmal Saidov, Chairman of the Oliy Majlis Committee on Democratic Institutions, Non-governmental Organizations and Bodies of Citizens' Selfgovernance, who were speakers at the presentation, noted that the grants would be used to solve such problems as accessibility of buildings and constructions for disabled people, education for children with physical disabilities, economic difficulties of local producers. The NGO "Khayet" from Samarkand will try to secure that newly built and reconstructed public buildings should have ramps. The organization will work in the towns of Termez, Kokand, Navoiy, Nukus and Nurabad. The efforts of the Association of Business Women of Uzbekistan will be directed to research and to solve the problems of the representatives of small business. And the NGO "Umidvorlik" will strengthen support to disabled children in getting education.

The projects that have won the grants were selected from amongst seven projects submitted by the fifteen key NGOs of CASP.

CASP is one of the important components of USAID's activity on providing support to the development of civil society in Uzbekistan. The program's principal goal is to help NGOs to get experience and confidence in the work on solving the problems concerning the interests of certain population groups.

**People's Word**  
**12 August 2003**

## **SPHERES OF COOPERATION**

### **NGOs and the State**

Presentation of the Civil Advocacy Support Program (CASP) took place in hotel Dedeman Silk Road in Tashkent. The main goals of the program are to strengthen democratic culture in Uzbekistan and to create an environment for political, economic and cultural changes. CASP is financed by the US Agency on International Development (USAID)

CASP was developed in order to help citizens and focal non-governmental, non-commercial organizations (NGOs) to effectively formulate issues of their concern to the Government of Uzbekistan. CASP is a key component of USAID's democratic strategy in Uzbekistan.

David Applton, US charge' d'affaires in Uzbekistan, and Akmal Saidov, Chairman of the Oliy Majlis Committee on Democratic Institutions, Non-governmental Organizations and Bodies of Citizens' Selfgovernance announced the first grantees within CASP. These grants are funded by the USA Government and are awarded to three Uzbekistan NGOs – the Center for Support of Disabled People "Khayet" (Samarkand), the Center for Support of Disabled Children and their families "Umidvorlik" (Tashkent) and the Association of Business Women (Tashkent). In the course of six months the grants in the amount of twelve thousand each will be spent for supporting campaigns aimed to change the policies and practices related to the interests of Uzbekistan's citizens.

"NGOs play a key role in a democratic society", - noted David Appleton in his speech at the presentation. "In fact I myself worked in an NGO before I started my diplomatic service. NGOs play an important role in a society and they help not only the members of their society but also other people. They are as useful as a government. NGOs help to promote citizen's interests. I believe that the activity of the three grantees will affect the lives of tens if not hundreds of thousands of people."

Each of the three NGO campaigns will be aimed to bring concrete changes to the government's policy and practice. In particular, Umidvorlik's campaign will deal with the problem of access to education for disabled children. It aims to increase NGOs' participation in the implementation of the government's National Action Plan on Education for All.

The campaign of the Association of Business Women of Uzbekistan is focused on the decrees issued by the government in 2002 relating to economic and financial operations in the country. Recognizing that these documents were important for the development of Uzbekistan's economics, the Association reports that they brought a number of negative side effects for local producers, specifically, the representatives of small business. The campaign intends to study the decrees' impact and to make recommendations diminishing the negative consequences for the producers in small businesses.

CASP is an important, new component of USAID's activity on developing a strong civil society in Uzbekistan. The main tasks of the program are developing skills as well as increasing the NGO's and their target groups' confidence while working with the government to solve their problems.

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