OVERVIEW OF NGOS/CIVIL SOCIETY

KAZAKHSTAN

Country context

The Republic of Kazakhstan is situated in the central part of the Eurasian continent to the south of the Ural mountains and north of the Tian Shan range. Astana has served as the capital since 1997, but the former capital, Almaty, remains the country’s leading commercial center. Kazakhstan borders the People’s Republic of China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, the Russian Federation, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan enjoys access to the Caspian Sea and a vast land area, making it the ninth largest country in the world. The Republic is rich in natural resources, possessing substantial coal, oil, and gas deposits. The Tenghiz oil field, the largest in Central Asia, is located in the Caspian Sea region.

The Republic of Kazakhstan was founded in December 1991, and the Constitution was ratified on 30 August 1995. It is governed by President Nursultan Nazarbaev, the former first secretary of the Communist Party of the Kazakh Soviet Socialist Republic. Kazakhstan has a bicameral parliament, consisting of the Senate and the Majilis (lower house of parliament). Members of the Majilis are directly elected during general elections. Senate deputies are selected both through indirect elections and by appointment of the President. Major policy decisions are made not only by legislation, but also through Presidential decree.

The 15.3 million population of Kazakhstan is comprised of a diverse range of ethnic groups: half Kazakhs, one-third Russians, and significant number of ethnic Ukrainians, Germans, Tartars, and Koreans. The Kazakh, a member of the Turkic language, is the official state language, although Russian also holds official status and is widely used. While Islam is the main religion, the country is a secular state and accommodates other religions. Kazakhstan is a country of medium human development, ranked 73rd in the 2007 United Nations Human Development Index. Literacy among the adult population is negligible. About one in six persons lives below the national poverty line.

Strong prices for oil and gas, rapid growth of domestic consumption, and a rebound in investment continue to propel Kazakhstan’s economy. But these strengths carry with them the seed of future challenges, including the immediate need to control rising inflation and to improve banks’ risk management of loan portfolios and, further out, to diversify the economy, push through structural reforms, enhance competitiveness, and ensure more equitable development. These measures, plus fiscal and monetary policy coordination, are needed to ensure sustainable growth in the country.

Notable progress has been made in achieving the Millennium Development Goals related to primary education and gender, while health and environment objectives may not be reached by the 2015 target date. Reducing the development gap between rural and urban areas is also a challenge.

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) assistance to Kazakhstan focuses on private sector development, environmentally sustainable development, and regional cooperation. Private sector operations are at the forefront of current and future ADB operations in the country. These operations will be complemented by selected public lending programs in rural water supply and water resources management aimed at improving livelihood in the rural areas and reducing the development gap between urban and rural areas.
History of NGO involvement in Kazakhstan

Civil society in Kazakhstan became more diverse, visible, and robust after the fall of the Soviet Union. Since then, it has undergone three periods of development.

More than 400 nongovernment organizations (NGOs) were established during the first period in the early 1990s. They were inspired by the rapid process of reform and were primarily concerned with human rights issues and the “democracy agenda”. The number of NGOs reached 1,600 during the second period, from 1994 to 1997. This growth can be explained by an injection of significant financial support from international funding agencies, mainly from the United States and Western Europe. The third, and ongoing period, is characterized by formal arrangements for NGO–Government cooperation, a gradual consolidation of the NGO sector, and the rise of organizations engaged in service provision and meeting social development challenges.

However, financing of NGOs by international agencies has declined in recent years, forcing NGOs to develop relationships with both the private and public sectors. Continuing legislative changes are enabling the Government to directly fund NGOs in service provision, and there are increasing signs, on the one hand, that parts of the sector are being co-opted by business interests and, on the other, of a genuine increase in philanthropic support for NGO and charitable causes.

One of the key characteristics of the NGO sector, which is very much a reflection of the industrial nature of the Kazakh economy, has been the dominance of organizations in urban areas, particularly Almaty, and the founding of NGOs by the newly emerging middle classes. In the last few years, NGOs in the social sector have begun to engage more in outreach work in the community and to assist the development of NGOs in the rural areas. However, effective rural NGOs are few and sparsely distributed. The nongovernment sector faces the challenge of working with a population that is not well-informed about the activities of NGOs which, in the eyes of many, are “money-takers.”

Legislation concerning NGO activities

The most popular legal form of NGO is the public association, followed by that of a foundation. The Government is considering a series of reforms to improve the legal framework, including amendments to the Constitution, the law on self-government, law on sponsorship and patronage, and the tax laws.

There is no formal definition of an NGO in Kazakh law. National legislation uses the term “noncommercial organization” to include organizations with various legal forms, such as institutions, public associations, joint stock companies, consumers’ cooperatives, foundations, religious associations, associations of legal entities in the form of association or union (Article 6 of the Law “On Non-Commercial Organizations”, as of 16 January 2001).

Public associations are created by the initiative of at least 10 individuals who call a general meeting/conference of founders to adopt a charter and establish the organization’s governing bodies. Noncommercial organizations can be founded for achieving social, cultural, scientific, educational, and charitable goals, as well as defending human rights and freedoms of individuals. Noncommercial organizations can pursue goals both targeted at achievement of public welfare and welfare of their members.

Noncommercial organizations and, in particular, public associations, cannot exist without state registration and without obtaining status as a legal entity. However, unregistered associations that undertake activities risk administrative and criminal liability under Article 375 of the Code on Administrative Offences, as of 30 January 2001, and Article 337 of the Criminal Code, as of 16 July 1997, respectively.

Effective 1 January 2006, the registration fee for NGOs was reduced from 20,000 tenge ($169) to 7,600 tenge ($64). This change, along with the country’s economic growth, has made the registration process significantly more affordable.

A noncommercial organization can be established through creation, but also as a result of reorganization of an existing noncommercial organization. Public associations are established upon an initiative of at least 10 citizens convening a founders meeting at which they adopt a charter and form organizational governing bodies (Article 19 of the Law “On Non-Commercial Organizations”).
NGOs are exempt from paying taxes, and the regulation of tax privileges has improved gradually. Since January 2007, funds received under state contracts are exempt from corporate income tax and value-added tax. In addition, NGOs providing services to specific social groups, such as invalids, are exempt from paying income tax on their economic activities.⁶

**Government–NGO relations**

After independence in 1991, Kazakhstan began a transition from a centrally planned to a market economy, from public to private service provision, and from one-party rule to a multiparty democracy. Until very recently, a provision of the country’s 1995 Constitution explicitly forbade the “financing of social associations by the State.” Nonetheless, the Government has long supported NGOs, particularly those that were closely associated to the Government or high-ranking officials.

The Law “On Normative Legal Acts” (1998) created the opportunity for NGOs to extend their capacity to participate in law-making activity. In accordance with this, lawmakers should take into consideration proposals from NGOs from the stage of preparing draft legal acts. NGO representatives can also participate in cooperation councils, which advise the Government on strategies for cooperation with civil society.

In recent years, NGOs have helped to create and participate in cooperation councils operating in five oblasts (provinces). In addition, at the national level, three NGOs—the Confederation of NGOs in Kazakhstan, Diabetic Association of the Republic of Kazakhstan, and Consumers Rights Protection League—were included in the National Council, the advisory board of the country’s president. These councils represent an initial step toward creating a structure for long-term engagement of the State with civil society.⁷

In March 2003, a State Program of Government Support of NGOs was approved, which authorizes specified government branches to create conditions for sustainable development of NGOs, and to strengthen their role in resolving socially important problems based on cooperation with, and support from, the Government. In 2004, the Government established a fund for NGO activities.

The Ministry of Environmental Protection, the Majilis, and the Ministry of Information have been the most active in supporting the systematic development of the nongovernment sector. In part due to their better financial condition, international NGOs (INGOs) have been more successful than NGOs in forming partnerships with the State.

Village-level administrative structures have little financial muscle and are totally reliant on budgeting decisions at the raion (district) level. This means that rural communities have difficulty in voicing their concerns and priorities, and grassroots NGOs have lacked mechanisms to engage the state in addressing community issues. The Eurasia Foundation’s Kazakhstan Open Budget Initiative works to increase civic engagement in the process of budget development and monitoring to better meet the needs of local constituencies. Working under the rubric of the initiative, the Center of Justice in Taraz organized a budget school for representatives of NGOs and mass media in several cities on how to increase civic engagement in the budget process.⁸

Ministries and departments have become more open to consulting NGOs and frequently involve them in working groups. The Government has hosted three high-profile Civil Forums in which President Nazarbaev outlined the importance of partnerships with NGOs and encouraged State entities to cooperate with the NGO sector. In July 2006, the Government adopted the Concept of Civil Society Development to guide future relationships between the Government and NGOs.⁹

In May 2007, the Government repealed the constitutional provision prohibiting funding of “social organizations,” thereby opening the door to greater public sector financial support of social services.

**NGOs and development**

Since the mid-1980s, when the perestroika era allowed for more civic participation, environmental issues have been the focus for many NGOs. The wasting of the Aral Sea and its related problems, and the legacy of the former nuclear testing grounds, as well as questions relating to access to and distribution of water resources, have all spawned strong NGO advocates for environmental protection. Similarly, the activities of the natural resources extractive industries have resulted in a rise in NGO engagement in both the promotion of transparent use of oil revenues and in related environmental degradation issues.

NGO participation in development of the social sector is becoming increasingly responsive and effective, and accounts for the growing number of NGOs engaged in such issues as women’s, child, and family welfare; healthcare provision and education; and the needs and interests of pensioners, the elderly, disabled, and veterans. On the whole, NGO provision is based on targeted humanitarian assistance and some longer-term development work, with less significant inputs to policy discussion and formulation.¹⁰
Several NGO support organizations and networks, particularly in the north of the country, support community development activities and encourage the creation and strengthening of community-based organizations and self-help groups. Typical of these organizations are the network of Civil Society Support Centers (in nine different provincial locations), the Decenta Public Association, headquartered in Pavlodar, and the Almaty-based NGOs Central Asian Sustainable Development Information Network (CASN) and Institute for Development Cooperation. Decenta provides legal information for NGOs on its website (www.decenta.org/?nav=2&lang=en).

In January 2007, the International NGO Training and Research Centre (INTRAC) initiated a program of work in Central Asia entitled, “Strengthening NGOs to Support the Self-Help Movement.” This program is supporting a network of more than 20 NGOs working on poverty and gender issues in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, and Tajikistan. Through this program, INTRAC provides capacity-building support, and works to build up a group of national and local trainers and experts in community development.

NGO capacity

The Ministry of Justice reports that, as of April 2006, 25,868 private, not-for-profit organizations were registered in Kazakhstan. However, many of these registered organizations are dormant or non-functioning. Overall, the number of active NGOs in the country totals only about 1,000.¹¹

Several factors limit the impact that NGOs are having today: the small size of the sector compared to the large size of the country, as well as the variety of social, political, and environmental challenges that NGOs are attempting to address. In terms of institutional development, NGOs tend to be built around personalities, often the founder, rather than specific issues or a clear mission.

The management structures of many NGOs are underdeveloped and their relationships with other stakeholders are often limited. However, there is often technical and management expertise, and many well-educated and experienced staff can be found within the core of the most active and professionally run NGOs. They are currently striving to improve governance within their organizations.

Only a few organizations have boards of directors, and those that do usually created them in order to meet the requirements of international funding agencies. At times, NGOs adopt standard charts that include boards of directors, but they fail to understand the importance of their boards and frequently let them dissolve. The NGO community is experiencing a brain drain as specialists leave for jobs in other sectors.¹²

Although Kazakhstan has a limited history of volunteerism, the tradition of Soviet “mass actions” has enabled NGOs to mobilize resources. Most leading NGOs engage volunteers. Increasingly, membership organizations are tapping into a new generation willing to contribute to achieving development goals. NGOs in the larger cities tend to be better equipped and have better access to information than NGOs operating in the rural areas. Many of the volunteers are students looking to gain work experience and take advantage of internet access.

NGO support organizations and resource centers

In January 2005, a new network of the NGO legal advisors began working in four cities of Kazakhstan. The lawyers of this network provide consultations free of charge to the civil society organizations (CSOs) and citizens on different issues of noncommercial legislation, such as registration, taxation, and economic activities. Legal advisors work under the supervision of the International Center for Not-for-Profit Law (ICNL) within the Civil Society Support Initiative led by the Counterpart International. Civil Society Support Centers (CSSC) situated in Astana, Karaganda, Aktobe, and Semey host these lawyers.

There are several networks of resource centers funded by international organizations, such as Counterpart International, Soros Foundation, National Democratic Institute, and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Some of these centers provide paid services, but these usually represent less than 10% of the center’s income. The bulk of their work is capacity building of NGOs in their regions through formal training programs, advisory services, and information dissemination.

Several of the above organizations have established a “League of Trainers,” bringing together experienced practitioners from their programs in a new professional association. Others have helped to set up community funds and other grant-making facilities to distribute resources and provide support to grassroots NGOs and community-based organizations.
NGO associations and networks

There are two national NGO associations in Kazakhstan, although both lack full national coverage in their membership: the Almaty-based Association of Non-Governmental Organizations of Kazakhstan (ANOK), founded in the mid-1990s, and the Astana-based Confederation of Non-Governmental Organizations of Kazakhstan (CNOK), founded in 2000.

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**Confederation of Non-Governmental Organizations of Kazakhstan (CNOK)**  
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knoK_astana@mail.ru

CNOK contributed to social mobilization and communication activities under a multicity project financed by ADB’s Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction (Sustainable Food Fortification in Central Asia and Mongolia).

Some oblasts and regions have local NGO networks, such as the Association of NGOs in Kyzylorda Oblast, and the Association of NGOs in Kustanai Oblast which, among other things, channels donations from the business community to its membership.

The Central Asian Platform (www.net-cap.org) is a network of eight CSOs in Central Asia working with European and other international institutions to support democratic processes and sustainable social and economic development. CASDIN is one of the members of the Central Asian Platform, which is coordinated by Almaty-based Baspana, an organization working on housing issues and rights of Kazakh migrant returnees.

The Association of Non-Commercial Legal Entities, Jalgas–Counterpart, supports and unites oblast-level Civil Society Support Centers across the country.

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reception@cpart.kz

There is also an Association of Kazakhstan Farmers, a Consumer Rights League, and many professional groups.

NGOs by sector

Examples of NGOs working in the social sector, which are often cited as leading organizations include NGO Baspana and the Association of Women (Idir, which was originally an association of single mothers, and now works more generally on poverty issues affecting women and families.

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Among the NGOs promoting human rights, better public governance, and increased transparency of State institutions are the Almaty Helsinki Committee and the Kazakhstan International Bureau on Human Rights and Rule of Law, established in 1993 and a leading advocate in the country. Another strong organization with national outreach is the Adil Soz International Fund for the Protection of Freedom of Speech Fund. A coalition of about 50 NGOs, Oil Revenues – Under Public Oversight!, monitors Kazakhstan’s implementation of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative.

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Environmental groups are the largest thematic group among public organizations. One of the first organized ecological initiatives was the international anti-nuclear movement Nevada–Semipalatinsk, created in 1989. The movement’s main achievement was the closure of the Semipalatinsk nuclear testing site in 1990. One of leading organizations on today’s environmental scene is Aral Tenizi (www.aralsea.net/en/index.htm), which aims to revive the Aral Sea by supporting sustainable fishing. In 1997, the Ecological Forum of Kazakhstan NGOs (Ecoforum) was launched in an effort to unite the country’s environmental organizations. In 2002, Ecoforum opened a Resource Center in Almaty to support campaigns, e.g., opposing the importation of nuclear waste and logging of virgin forests, and promoting responsible water management.
There are many NGOs devoted to youth issues. The Association of Young Leaders (1994) develops initiatives involving young people in the process of democratic reforms, education, and training. This association has extensive regional outreach, with branch offices in most oblasts and good working relationships with State agencies.

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**International NGOs in Kazakhstan**

Because of its stronger economic position and resources, Kazakhstan has not attracted as many INGOs as poorer countries in Central Asia. Examples of international development/humanitarian NGOs operating in the country include Mercy Corps International, ACDI/VOCA, Counterpart International, and Voluntary Service Overseas. A few support NGO capacity growth (e.g., INTRAC) and promote civil society and democratic reform (e.g., National Democratic Institute). Both the Soros Foundation (www.soros.kz) and the Eurasia Foundation (www.eurasia.org) are major foundations providing support to local NGOs and other civil society groups.

INTRAC has been working in Central Asia for more than 10 years and has an office in Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic serving Kazakhstan and other Central Asian republics. INTRAC’s work includes training, consultancy, and evaluation of organizations and their programs. It also focuses on new approaches to community development. In addition, INTRAC is working to increase participation by local people, and promote cooperation among CSOs, local governments, and funding agencies.

**NGO sources of funding**

Most leading Kazakh NGOs are dependent on international donor-financing. Since such international funding is declining and donor programs are closing, the financial sustainability of organized civil society in the country has become increasingly fragile.

The business sector has been extending more funding to NGOs recently. For example, Kazkommernbank created a $1 million fund to support the activities of individuals and arts collectives. Few NGOs raise funds by charging for services or engaging in other business activities, and some have aligned with political parties in order to attract government funding.

NGOs are able to participate in state tenders. Yet some complain that the process for issuing contracts is less than transparent. NGOs are able to receive other types of contracts for social services, though they have to make a deposit of 3% of the amount of the contract or secure a guarantee from the bank. NGOs at times lack the resources to pay the deposit and, therefore, prefer to participate only in public sector contracts for social services. The State only funds specific project activities, not NGO staff salaries or capacity development.

**ADB–NGO cooperation in Kazakhstan**

ADB recognizes NGOs as significant players in the development process and cooperates with them to improve the impact, sustainability, and quality of its services. NGOs provide value-added in promoting sustainable development through

- **Innovation**—identifying new approaches and models for specific development activities and drawing upon their close knowledge of local communities;
- **Accountability**—helping ensure that project components are implemented as envisaged and planned;
- **Responsiveness**—encouraging the implementation of projects to respond to local needs;
- **Participation**—serving as bridges between project authorities and affected communities, and providing structures for citizen participation; and
- **Sustainability**—nurturing continuity in project work, especially when implementing agencies lack capacity or when staffing changes.

ADB’s Resident Mission in Kazakhstan (KARM) acts as a focal point for relations with CSOs and maintains a small, in-house database of NGOs. From time to time, KARM organizes consultative meetings and roundtables with NGO representatives.
Beginning in 2005, advocacy NGOs in Kazakhstan began to engage with ADB on various issues of concern, such as corruption, transparency, regional integration in Central Asia, energy, and the availability of ADB information in local languages. Kazakh NGOs typically campaign on such issues in collaboration with other organizations through two international networks, CEE Bankwatch and NGO Forum on ADB. Kazakh partners of the latter network include NGO “Globus”, Kazakhstan Bureau on Human Rights and Rule of Law, Public Fund “TAN”, Karaganda EcoMuseum, Women Center “Tomiris”, and Youth Public Union “Institute of Human Health”.

On 10–12 October 2007, ADB’s NGO and Civil Society Center organized a staff training in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, on ADB–government–CSO collaboration in Central Asian republics. The executive director of CASDIN was among the non-ADB participants invited to join.

**NGO involvement in ADB-financed activities**

NGOs and other civil society groups have taken part in several ADB-financed activities in Kazakhstan. The following tables provide examples of such ADB–NGO cooperation in the context of loans, technical assistance, and JFPR-funded projects.

### NGO Involvement in ADB-financed Loan Projects

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Title</th>
<th>Project Objective and NGO Involvement</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rural Area Water Supply and Sanitation Sector</td>
<td>The project’s main objective is to improve the living and health conditions of selected rural communities by providing basic water supply and sanitation infrastructure services. The project consists of two parts: building physical infrastructure and supporting institutional development. The first part has included construction and rehabilitation of piped water supply systems, wastewater facilities, school and private latrines, and bathhouses. The second part includes a capacity-building program, hygiene and sanitation education program, and consulting services for project management support. Community-based organizations and other NGOs have aided with community consultation and subproject planning and monitoring.</td>
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### NGO Involvement in ADB-financed Technical Assistance

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<tr>
<th>Project Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Capacity Building of National and Local Governments to Implement the Poverty Reduction Program</td>
<td>The technical assistance (TA) was intended to reduce poverty by building the technical competency of the government staff overseeing implementation of the poverty reduction program at the national and local levels. NGOs prepared studies on entrepreneurial training for urban jobless, credit for agricultural producers, targeted social assistance, and housing for emigrants from severely polluted areas. Various NGOs were involved in stakeholder workshops on monitoring and evaluation of the regional poverty reduction program.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional Rural Development</td>
<td>The TA prepared a feasibility study for a pilot planning and investment program to enable oblasts and rayons to plan and implement integrated development measures in accordance with their roles and functions. National and local NGOs, including community-based organizations, were involved in the preparation of regional plans and designs during Phase 1 of the TA, and in the implementation of the investment project during Phase 2.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental Monitoring and Information Management System for Sustainable Land Use</td>
<td>The project enhanced institutional capacity in environmental auditing, monitoring and information system management to support policy development, program preparation and environmental safeguards for sustainable land use. National and local NGOs have been involved in TA design and implementation, and participated in workshops and pilot project implementation.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**NGO involvement in JFPR projects**

The Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction (JFPR) is an untied grant facility established by the Government of Japan and ADB in May 2000. From an initial contribution of $90 million, the Fund now stands at well over $360 million, of which $224 million has been committed. JFPR assists ADB clients to provide direct relief to the poorest and most vulnerable segments of society while building up their capacities for self-help and income generation.

JFPR is a tool for local communities and CSOs, including NGOs, to actively participate in the development process. In particular, it

- Initiates and supports innovative programs that have high potential for improving the affected countries' situations;
- Provides relatively rapid, demonstrable benefits through initiatives that have positive prospects of developing into sustainable activities over the long term; and
- Assists programs designed and implemented by local populations and civil society.

The following are JFPR projects that have involved NGOs in Kazakhstan:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Title</th>
<th>Project Objective and NGO/CSO Involvement</th>
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| Improving Nutrition for Poor Mothers and Children ($6.85 million) Approved: 26 Apr 2001 | The project improved the nutrition status and physical and mental capacity of poor persons by piloting an umbrella regional program for delivering micronutrient-fortified salt and wheat flour in Central Asia. The project targeted poor women of reproductive age and children. More specifically, it (i) focused support on poor persons currently afflicted or at risk; (ii) piloted related capacity-building processes for establishing a regional network of marketing, distribution, and rules of trade; and (iii) demonstrated the efficacy of a regional approach to solving a common nutrition problem that is depressing both human and economic development in the region.

NGOs helped to increase awareness and demand for fortified food, and have helped to monitor the quality of iodized salt to ensure that consumers have access to the quality of iodized salt.

Among the Kazakh NGOs involved in the project were Aru-Ana, Movement, Status, Partnership Center, NGO Association of Kostanai oblast, Noosphere, Umay, Bolashak, Almaty region branch of Kazakhstan Association for Sex and Reproductive Health, Business Women of South Kazakhstan, Children’s Park, Almaty city Invalides Society for Patients Suffering from Diabetes, Female Initiative, and Youth Congress of Kazakhstan. |

| Sustainable Food Fortification in Central Asia and Mongolia ($2.0 million) Approved: 22 Jul 2004 | The goal of the project was to reinforce and sustain the reduction of iodine deficiency disorder and iron deficiency anemia among poor children and women in Central Asia through parallel attention to supply, demand, and regulation.

The project has featured alliances of civil society organizations, private industry, and the public sector. Major consumer groups and national and international NGOs supported communications and social marketing activities to promote the use of iodized salt and fortified wheat flour among the rural population.

Among the NGOs that have been involved in the project are the CNOK, National Association of Salt Producers, League of Grain Processors, and Bakers of Kazakhstan. |
Endnotes

3 The first four paragraphs of this section are drawn from “Kazakhstan NGO Regulation,” Legal Support Unit, Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) Democratization Department, Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE): www.legislationline.org/?tid=220&jid=28&less=false.
4 USAID, op. cit., p. 119.
5 OSCE, op. cit.
6 USAID, op. cit., p. 119.
9 USAID, op. cit., p. 118.
11 USAID, op. cit., p. 118.
12 USAID, op. cit., p. 119.
13 USAID, op. cit., pp. 119–120.
About the Asian Development Bank

ADB’s vision is an Asia and Pacific region free of poverty. Its mission is to help its developing member countries substantially reduce poverty and improve the quality of life of their people. Despite the region’s many successes, it remains home to two thirds of the world’s poor. Nearly 1.7 billion people in the region live on $2 or less a day. ADB is committed to reducing poverty through inclusive economic growth, environmentally sustainable growth, and regional integration.

Based in Manila, ADB is owned by 67 members, including 48 from the region. Its main instruments for helping its developing member countries are policy dialogue, loans, equity investments, guarantees, grants, and technical assistance. In 2007, it approved $10.1 billion of loans, $673 million of grant projects, and technical assistance amounting to $243 million.

About the NGO and Civil Society Center

ADB’s NGO and Civil Society Center (NGOC) serves as the focal point for ADB’s interaction with civil society organizations (CSOs), including the broad range of nongovernment organizations, foundations, social movements, and trade unions. The NGOC is a part of the Gender, Social Development and Civil Society Division in ADB’s Regional and Sustainable Development Department. Its key functions include empowering operations departments to work with NGOs/CSOs, serving as ADB’s knowledge center and advisor on consultation and participation with NGOs/CSOs, managing implementation of ADB’s Policy on Cooperation with NGOs, contributing to the capacity of ADB staff and NGOs/CSOs to work together, communicating on ADB’s work with NGOs/CSOs, and supporting the exchange of knowledge and expertise between ADB and civil society. The NGOC also coordinates ADB’s NGO and Civil Society Cooperation Network, which comprises designated staff from departments and offices across the institution.

This profile provides an overview of nongovernment organizations (NGOs) and civil society in Kazakhstan. It was drafted in 2005 by the International NGO Training and Research Centre (Bishkek Office), and substantially revised by ADB’s NGO and Civil Society Center in December 2007. Comments on this profile may be sent to ngocoordinator@adb.org. The views expressed in this profile are not necessarily the views of ADB or its members.