

Ашықтық,
Есеп берушілік,
Әділдік



Transparency,
Accountability,
Justice



Annual Report 2012

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Preface

The year 2012 was the year of continuity for our foundation. In May, Anton Artemyev who administered SFK's 2004-2011 programs in the area of government fiscal transparency became the new Chair of the Executive Council of the Soros Foundation-Kazakhstan.

The Foundation continued its work on advancing its three strategic priorities: protection of fundamental human rights and freedoms, improvement of transparency and accountability of government finances, and development of citizen activism and tolerance.

Along with that, in 2012, the Foundation announced the launch of its new pilot initiative on development of civil society. That initiative is aimed at building up the capacity of non-governmental organizations through their engagement in specific trainings and grant programs, extension of professional consultations to them as well as development of informational resources. The NGO resource centers acted as the Foundation's major partners.

In remembrance of Anna Alexandrova, Chair of the Foundation's Executive Council in 2008-2011, a competition on projects designed to support the most vulnerable groups of population was announced. Based on the results of that competition, grants were issued to draw public attention to problems of homeless persons, injection drug users, sex workers as well as those sex workers who use injection drugs. Following the decision of the Foundation's Board of Trustees such competition will be held annually.

In 2012, we also began to work on improvement of our grant and operation activities. Specifically, a number of substantive changes were made in the application forms, a procedure of a pre-grant inquiry was introduced, and the Foundation's policy pertaining to the area of monitoring and evaluation was developed.

Nargis Kasenova
Chair, Board of Trustees

Human Rights

International ratings evaluating the situation with human rights rank Kazakhstan relatively low. In 2013, the Freedom House which evaluates the level of political rights and civil freedoms on a scale from 7 (not free) to 1 (free), ranked Kazakhstan as a “not free country” with a score of 5.5 points. Freedom House awarded 6 points for respect to political rights, and 5¹ points for civil freedoms. The Press Freedom Index of international journalists’ organization “Reporters Without Borders” positions Kazakhstan as 160th among 179² countries.

During recent years, the situation with human rights has worsened noticeably and it is reflected in international assessment of respect to political rights and civil freedoms in Kazakhstan. Kazakhstan’s ratings dropped significantly after the events in Zhanaozen in December 2011 when riots following several months of oil workers’ strikes in Zhanaozen city resulted, according to official data, in the death of 16 people. The events in Zhanaozen also led to persecution of opposition activists who supported the strikers, and of independent media which covered the events.

The current situation in Kazakhstan leaves big space for work to be done in the human rights area. In this regard, some aspects get insufficient attention in international rating: for example, the rights of people with disabilities or the right to decent health support and care for all patients with terminal diseases.

Activities of the Soros Foundation-Kazakhstan in 2012 were directed at supporting the citizens’ fundamental civil and political rights and freedoms as well as their socio-economic rights.

¹ Freedom House, Freedom in Kazakhstan 2013, <http://www.freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-world/2013/kazakhstan>.

² Reporters without Borders, Press freedom index 2013, <http://en.rsf.org/press-freedom-index-2013,1054.html>



Monitoring the Situation with Security of Human Rights Activists in Kazakhstan

The work of human rights activists is a key catalyst of changes in the society. Protecting citizens' rights, defending the rule of law and thus promoting the country's democratization, human rights activists often put themselves at risk and need protection. Because of their work, many human rights activists are subject to prosecutions, threats and physical abuse, whereas governments take no action to protect them.

In this respect, Public Association "Kadir-kasiet" set a goal to protect Kazakhstan's human rights activists and, in early 2012, started project "Monitoring the Situation with Security of Human Rights Activists in Kazakhstan" with the support of Soros Foundation Kazakhstan. For this purpose, Kadir-kasiet partnered with the Astana office of Kazakhstan's International Bureau for Human Rights and International Human Rights Foundation "Front Line Defenders" based in Ireland.

"If we compare it with countries where military forces shoot, kill and rule, Ka-

zakhstan's problems seem unserious; but if we compare it with Western Europe, the situation in Kazakhstan can be described as very bad. Compared to other CIS countries, the results are controversial, but tendencies are the same: the situation with security of human rights activists is getting worse," said Anara Ibrayeva, Director of the Astana office of Kazakhstan's International Bureau for Human Rights and Rule of Law, at the project's summary press conference in October 2012¹.

From June to November 2011, 72 incidents of threats or attacks on human rights activists ignored by the authorities were registered.

In 2012, 202 human rights activists and defenders and 16 media organizations were subject to various threats and infringements on their rights and freedoms.

To draw the authorities' attention to prob-

The project of Monitoring the Situation with Security of Human Rights Activists in Kazakhstan turned into a launching site for initiation of the project "Female Human Rights Activists and Their Families" which Kadir-kasiet is currently implementing at its own initiative.

¹ Information agency KazTAG

lems in protection of human rights activists, Kadir-kasiet wrote appeals to Kazakhstan's Prime-Minister and members of the Majilis Aigul Solovyova and Dariga Nazarbayeva.

Kadir-kasiet disseminated results of the monitoring among human rights activists themselves, donors, international organizations and government agencies responsible for ensuring the citizens' security. In particular, they circulated statements by the Front Line Defenders Foundation in support of Kazakhstani human rights activists such as A. Osadchenko, G. Ageleulov and M. Tungishbaev as well as the statement of the International Commission of Jurists supporting the Kachyr district court judge Aliya Zhumasheva. Kadir-kasiet organized a ToT seminar to improve human rights activists' skills in the use of information technologies.



Human rights activists also received legal support as a part of the project. For instance, Kyuri Idrisov, Russian expert and Candidate of Medical Sciences, was invited to conduct psychiatric examination of lawyer from the city of Balkhash Zinaida Mukhortova. Lawyer Mukhortova and her colleagues sent a complaint

about local judicial proceedings to a member of Majilis. As a result, she was groundlessly held in a mental hospital for about 10 months where she was forced to take medications.

"They coercively treated me with aminazin (Chlorpromazine), and as a result I had splitting headaches, nosebleeds, and a swollen face; I also developed an allergy. I refused to take the medication, but they beat me, tied me to the bed, opened my mouth with a tongue depressor and stuffed pills," Mrs. Mukhortova told journalists later².

In late January 2012, based upon the expert examination by Kyuri Idrisov, the Supreme Court of the Republic of Kazakhstan found Zinaida Mukhortova mentally sane; her detention in the mental hospital was found illegal.

² Public Association "Aman-saulyk", "Republic: news of punitive psychiatry", <http://www.amansaulyk.kz/ru/deyatelnost/psych-zdorovie/psych-zdorovie-novosti/1347/>, February 3, 2012.



MES QUE UN BLOG.kz

According to official statistics, about 50,000 children with disabilities live in Kazakhstan. It amounts to approximately 1 percent of the total number of children and teenagers in the country. However, medical professionals are sure that those numbers are only a small visible part of the problem; whereas the real picture of the actual size of children's disabilities remains unknown to people at large.

A lot of children with disabilities are separated from the life of society not only by physical barriers, but also by walls of indifference, insouciance, prejudice, and stereotypes which can be far worse than physical obstacles.

The “Mesqueunblog” project was created specifically to combat social prejudice and indifference. The stories presented in this project gave their main character, his family and doctors an opportunity to relay the message that disabled people need not only physical but also social adaptation to life conditions because their willingness to live and fight against the illness depends on the feeling of their own worthiness in the world.

- *“When you hear such stories, you begin to think how few important things we notice around us because we are preoccupied with our own “serious” problems. Meanwhile, there are more meaningful things besides our own silly delusions”, shared her thoughts **Amina** who left a comment in the blog. – “This is like a sign that we have to stop sometimes, look around and realize that there are a lot of people around us with different fates.”*



Mesqueunblog (French: “more than a blog”) is a project implemented by International Center for Journalism “MediaNet” in cooperation with French artist Nicolas Journoud. The project relays the story of the 18-year-old Kazakh teenager Bakhytzhan Dzhumanov who suffers from cerebral palsy.

After “peeping” into Bakhytzhan’s life stories, the community could finally see that he is an ordinary teenager whose tastes and interests are not any different from habits and activities of healthy children.

“I thought that once again someone wants to write about us, but my apprehension disappeared when I saw the first entries in the blog and I saw what I had waited for a very long time. People do not need to hide behind their disabilities, people have to live with them and take them naturally. Cartoons are a wonderful form of presenting information about disabled people, and you should not be afraid to laugh at it with us. We will always support this profile, the profile of equality,” said Lyazzat Kaltayeva, the Chairperson of “Shyrak” Association of women with disabilities.

The blog and particularly, the cartoon exposition attracted a lot of attention on behalf of the society and national media. During implementation of the project Kazakhstani and foreign media issued about 50 publications in Kazakh, Russian and English. Media which covered Bakhytzhan’s story and consequently, problems of all children and teenagers with disabilities include BBC (UK), TOL (Prague), newspapers Vremya, Caravan, Panorama, Express K and Novoe Pokolenie , and television channels *First Channel Eurasia, Channel 31; and websites Namba.kz, Kerekinfo.kz, Bnews.kz, Zakon.kz, Wikistan.kz* and others.

People liked the project so much that it continued in 2013. The cartoon’s pages were merged together and printed out to be displayed as a mobile exhibition. As part of the project exhibitions were held in Astana, Shymkent, Karaganda, Pavlodar and Ust-Kamenogorsk.

Development of Palliative Care in Kazakhstan

Palliative care in Kazakhstan is provided only in 6 hospices. It is evidently insufficient for the country with population over 16 million people. Alternative forms of palliative care such as mobile teams, home hospices, and day care centers are not developed. Palliative care is practically not extended to children. Patients are often left without decent support at the end of life. They also face the problem of shortage in painkillers: in the level of the per capita use of opioid analgesics, Kazakhstan occupies 115th place in the world. It definitely falls short of modern standards and WHO recommendations.

In response to the urgent need in development of palliative care in our country, Soros Foundation Kazakhstan supports enthusiasts in the area of palliative care. Twelve activists working in “Hospice at Home” project in Karaganda and Temirtau attended a short-term training on palliative medicine and treatment of patients in the Casa Sperantei Education Center in Brasov, Romania.

Ten palliative-care specialists and representatives of non-governmental organizations from five regions of Kazakhstan were trained at advanced courses and participated in international conferences in USA, UK, Russia, Belarus, Austria, and Israel.

November 5-10, 2012, the first week-long “Training Seminar on the End-of-Life Care” was held in the Republic of Kazakhstan. Forty nurses from all regions of Kazakhstan



All over the world, the right to appropriate treatment and care for all patients suffering from cureless diseases such as cancer, HIV\AIDS, TB is recognized as a human right. To secure this right, a number of countries develop palliative care which includes a whole set of medical, social and psychological support for patients and their families.

participated in this seminar. The nurses had an opportunity to exchange their experience with one another and their international colleagues.

Soros Foundation Kazakhstan also supported production of two films about palliative care, about access to opioid analgesics to relieve pain, and about enthusiasts working in this area in Kazakhstan. Film “Golden Fish, Relieve my Pain” by the Aurora Foundation tells real stories of patients who do not get sufficient pain relief, and of difficulties which they and their relatives face every day. Film “While the Candle is Burning” produced by the Aladdin Media Group production center describes the work of people who develop palliative care in various regions of Kazakhstan.

One of the most substantial results of the Foundation’s activities in the area of development of palliative care in Kazakhstan was the first International Forum on Palliative Care which was organized with the support of Kazakhstani Scientific Research Institute of Oncology and Radiology as a part of the 7th CIS Oncologists and Radiologists Congress in September 2012. This event was unique because it was the first time that palliative care as one of human rights was discussed by professional oncologists. At the Forum, participants shared their best professional practices and national achievements in the area of palliative care which were useful for Kazakhstani specialists. At the end, the Forum unanimously passed a resolution. One of its important recommendations is that palliative care should be recognized as an inalienable part of medical and social support.

Mary Callaway

an international expert on palliative care

“Only some regions have paid close attention to this field, and Karaganda region is among the head-starters. I am inspired by the projects implemented here by non-governmental organizations, but at the same time, I would like to emphasize that in many countries of the world, palliative care is financed by the government while in Kazakhstan all the activities, so far, are driven by the volunteers’ enthusiasm,” she shared her observations.¹



¹ Newspaper “Industrial Karaganda”, “Don’t ask For Whom the Bell Tolls”, April 9, 2012

Transparency and Accountability

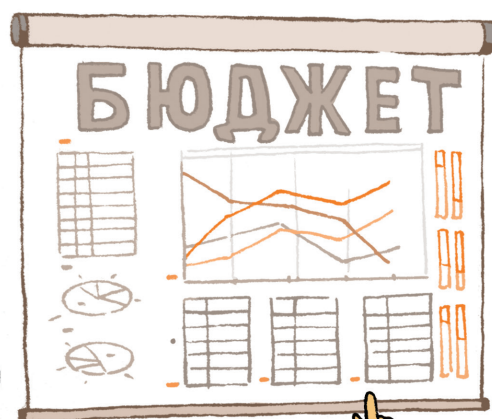
“Transparency, accountability, justice” is the motto of the Soros Foundation Kazakhstan. Development of budget transparency and accountability is one of the priority areas of the Foundation’s activities.

As part of the Media Support Program, the North Kazakhstan Legal Media Center has developed an interactive database of media outlets engaged in government contracts and thus disclosed the behind-the-scene mechanism of distribution of budgetary resources in the area of information policy.

As part of the Public Finance Transparency Program, the Soros Foundation Kazakhstan actively cooperated with the government and civil society representatives to increase transparency of budget processes. Results were achieved very soon: in 2012, Kazakhstan gained 48 points out of 100 in the Open Budget Index and joined the group of countries with a higher level of public participation in the budget process.

“Development and Presentation of Recommendations on Improvement of the System of Funding the Secondary Education” project implemented by the Sanzh Research Center indicated that introduction of the per capita funding system should become one of the factors for improving the secondary education system in Kazakhstan. As the research showed, it is the traditional procedure of budget allocation that serves as one of the sources of problems in funding the secondary education: unpredictable, non-transparent and cumbersome procedures which do not tackle long-term problems often lead to non-flexible and inefficient use of limited resources.

For further information on each project, please see other sections of this Chapter.



Interactive Database of Media Recipients of Government Contracts

In a democratic society, media is assigned the role of a “watch-dog” defending interests of the society, providing for the government’s public accountability to its citizens. Implementation of this function requires that media should be independent financially, first and foremost, from the government.

As part of the government contracting, the majority of Kazakhstani media annually receive funding for implementation of information policy. As a result they fall in direct dependence on the government structures, both financially and ideologically. And media have to adjust themselves to the patron’s interests. It often takes the form of self-censorship. It essentially contradicts the professional ethical standards of independent media in a democratic society.

In 2012, only the RK Ministry of Culture and Information allocated about 22 billion tenge for media. However, it is still difficult to get access to full information about recipients and informational products which they make using taxpayers’ money. Thus, it is impossible to evaluate how effectively public funds are spent.

According to public foundation “Northern Kazakhstan Legal Media Center” the government contracting in the area of informational policy requires a higher degree of transparency and mandatory public accountability. Citizens have the right to know what topics are specifically covered by media as part of government contracts, in other words, by taxpayers’ money. To achieve this goal, the organization decided to put together a database of media receiving government contracts.

During six months, the North Kazakhstan Legal Media Center collected information for the database sending requests to Ministries and city administration offices. Overall, they



Diana Okremova

Director of public foundation “Northern Kazakhstan Media Center”

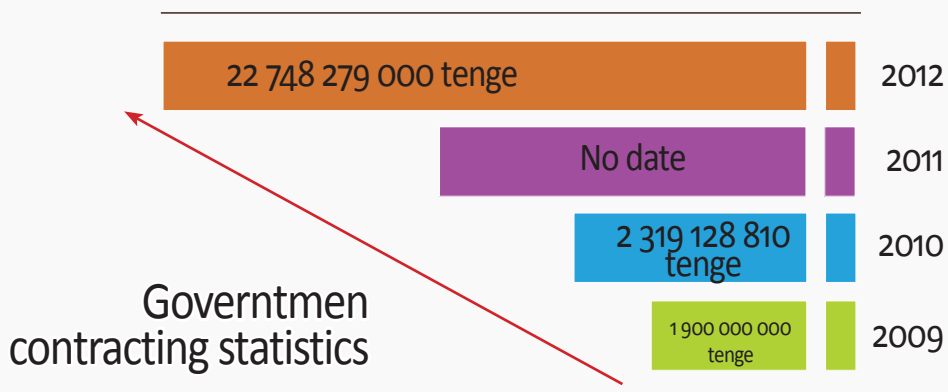
The majority of lots which are offered for tenders are contracts designed to develop positive image of law enforcement organs, of the parliament, the government, etc. Thus, 80% of the ordered information is pure advertisement of officials. As a result, taxpayers’ money is used for them to hear how well our government officials work. But fine words butter no parsnips.¹

¹ Magazine «Forbes Kazakhstan», April 21, 2013

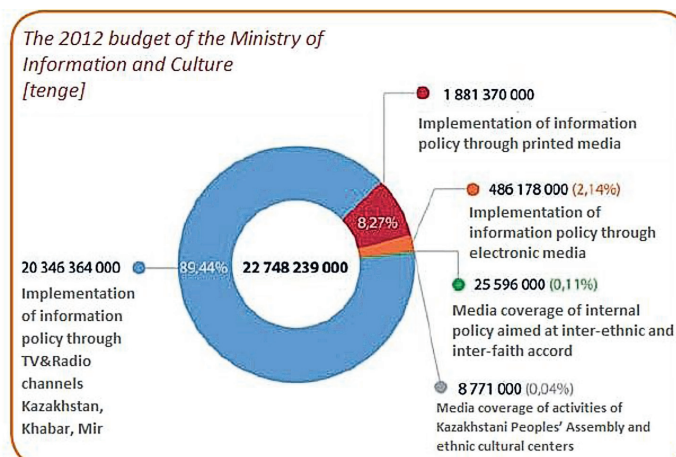


managed to collect data from 27 government organs that were put together into a 98-page document which formed the basis of the electronic database.

It is the first electronic resource centrally holding information on 400 organizations which received government funding for implementation of the information policy in 2009-2012 (www.legalmediacenter.kz)



In Kazakhstan, publications paid by the government contracts are not marked by any specific labels, and thus it is difficult to see how objective and impartial are media in their coverage of developments of the country's social and political life. Northern Kazakhstan Legal Center believes that the appropriate marking – “funded by the government contract” – can become a display of social responsibility, frankness and openness not only of the government but of media as well before citizens.



Open Budget Index

The Open Budget Index estimated by international organization “The International Budget Partnership” in cooperation with national experts in the area of government finance is an evaluation of availability of key budget documents, the completeness of their content, and the level of involvement and influence of the legislature and supreme audit institutions on budgetary procedures. The Index is estimated based upon research carried out in the 94 participating countries.

In order to improve the situation with the openness of its budget, in 2011-2012, Kazakhstan had to begin publication of several key documents such as the Pre-Budget Statement (a preliminary budget document) and the Citizens Budget (a budget understandable to every citizen). All those steps would allow Kazakhstan to substantially increase its global rating and to promote the exercise by the Kazakhstani people of their constitutional rights to access information and to participate in budgetary procedures.

In March 2011 already, Kazakhstan became the first CIS country which published its citizens budget. At that stage, the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Kazakhstan for the first time published the non-technical version of the State Budget on its website due to which the Kazakhstani people could find out how and for what purposes the State Budget funds are used.



Sergey Khudiakov

NBNK representative

Openness of Kazakhstani local budgets' index makes it possible not just to disclose differences in budgetary procedures throughout the country but also to motivate local self-government bodies to improve transparency of information and increase the effectiveness of budget spending. That index also indicates which regions provide more opportunities for their residents to participate in budgetary procedures.

The Open Budget Index issued biennially was first released in 2006 in 59 countries of the world (including Kazakhstan). In 2010 the number of participating countries amounted to 94. In 2010, Kazakhstan's Open Budget Index was 38 points which was a relatively low indicator.

Representatives of the government and civil society have developed a procedure for preparation of civil budgets and short versions of the State and local budgets. Experts of the National Budget Network of Kazakhstan (NBNK), representatives of the Ministry of Finance and of the Soros Foundation Kazakhstan took part in its development.

The beginning of publication of the citizens budget, involvement of civil society in the process of monitoring over compilation and expenditures of local budgets, active cooperation of non-governmental organizations, government authorities and the Soros-Kazakhstan Foundation led to a significant consolidation of Kazakhstan's status in the Open Budget Index: in 2012, Kazakhstan got 48 out of 100 points in the Open Budget Index moving up to the group of countries with higher level of public involvement in the budgetary process.

In 2012, the Foundation's partners also directed their efforts at improving the openness of local budgets. The topicality of the issue of providing openness and public involvement at local level is explained at large by the fact that local budgets account for two thirds of budgetary expenditures. It is at the local level that major government services of social nature – education and healthcare – are provided. According to experts, there is close inter-relation between the quality of services and budgetary expenditures. Due to development of the Open Local Budget Index (OLBI) by the National Budget Network of Kazakhstan the degree of local budgets' transparency can now be determined.

Ulugbek Tnaliev

Director of public foundation "Center of Budget Analysis and Economic Monitoring"

At this stage, efforts are taken to introduce citizens budgets at local level, for instance, in the Atyrau region. The Citizens Budget of the Atyrau region was developed as a result of five years of research work and interaction with the local government. This document will be available for residents of the region on the website of the regional governor's office and of the Administration of Economics and Budget Planning.



Issues of Improvement of the System of Funding Secondary Education

Today, Kazakhstan's educational system faces the need of further improvement. In December 2010, the 2011-2020 State Program for the Development of Education of the Republic of Kazakhstan was approved by the Presidential Decree. The main purpose of this program is to increase competitiveness of education and to develop human capital through ensuring access to high-quality education, which in its turn will promote a stable growth of the economy.

In order to achieve those objectives, it is necessary to take a number of steps, including an increase in financing, improvement of the efficiency of distribution and utilization of funds and strengthening of pedagogical resources.

"Development and Presentation of Recommendations on Funding the Secondary Education" project implemented by research center "Sanzh" indicated that introduction of a per capita funding should become one of the components of improvement of Kazakhstan's system of secondary education. According to the study, it is the traditional mechanism of allocation of budgetary funds that serves as one of the sources of problems in the area of funding secondary education.

Non-transparency, bulkiness, unpredictability and unfairness in distribution of funding, with rural schools ending up in the most disadvantaged situation, stand out among other shortcomings of the existing system of funding the secondary education. The lack of independence of schools administration in determination of the required amount of financing, non-transparency and lack of schools administration's accountability on the usage of funds to parents and the community as well as weak financial management add their negative impact on the quality of secondary education and hinder development of the country's educational system in general.

According to the findings of the research, equality and fairness of financing may be ensured through implementation of the principle of the schools' per capita funding. The State Program has officially declared implementation of this principle of financing. One of the most important characteristics of this mechanism is decentralization of budget management and its transfer

Introduction of the system of per capita funding should become one of the factors of improvement of Kazakhstan's secondary educational system.



to the authority of school directors who should be able to get a certain amount of money from the State Budget funds and to administer school budgets flexibly. School directors shall be accountable to the School Board. The per capita financing system based on the principle “Money follows students” is designed to ensure an efficient use of education budgets through creation of conditions where the students’ demands in high-quality education will play a decisive role in distribution of the funds.

There are several models of the per capita financing applied in different countries of the world. As a part of the research project, a model of per capita financing was developed which, according to experts, is the most appropriate for Kazakhstan. Schools from the Almaty, Northern Kazakhstan, and Karaganda regions, and also from Astana and Almaty cities were selected for participation in the research. The authors calculated the budgets of those schools in accordance with the models developed within the available budget.

The research also included expert interviews with representatives of regional Departments of Education and administrations of 13 schools from five regions of the Republic of Kazakhstan. A working group was formed including representatives of relevant state bodies, experts, communities and parents. Its members represented both the national and local levels.

Education system specialists from all the regions of the country, members of the Majilis, representatives of non-governmental organizations, journalists, scholars and researchers took part in discussion of the results of the research. The discussions were conducted during working meetings, at round table “Improvement of the System of Financing Secondary Education through Implementation of the Per Capita Financing” and at a meeting with representatives of the education authorities of the Shakhtinsky district of Karaganda region. The research findings were also discussed at seminars “Effective Education Management at the Regional Level” (Almaty) and “Interaction between Family and School in Child’s Moral and Intellectual Development” (Karaganda region).

In 2012, almost every fifth tenge from the State Budget was allocated for education. Despite the annual increase of the scope of financing of the education system of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the share of state expenditures on education in the country’s GDP in 2012 was 4%, which is lower than the 5-6% level recommended by UNESCO.

Civil Activism

One of the three priorities of the Soros Foundation-Kazakhstan's work is the increase of tolerance and Civil Activism in Kazakhstan. In 2012, the Fund focused its efforts on creation of conditions for people with disabilities ("The Accessibility Map" project), on development of the institute of volunteers in Kazakhstan ("The School of Coaches" project) and on building up the capacity of regional non-governmental organizations.

More detailed information on every project is offered in the three sections of this chapter.



The Accessibility Map

The problem of access to urban infrastructure for people with disabilities is still urgent in Kazakhstan. As of today, about 3.4% of Kazakhstan's total population (563 thousand persons with disabilities) experience difficulties in selection of places for recreation, study and leisure-time activities.

Evaluation of access to urban infrastructures for disabled people (DAP) and informing the population of the findings – this was the objective set for the project “The Accessibility Map”. The Arzhan social fund's innovative initiative launched in 2011 as a study of accessibility in Almaty for persons with disabilities has today grown to embrace 20 cities of Kazakhstan. Successful implementation of the project which won the tender for social Internet projects under the Soros Foundation Kazakhstan's “Youth Initiatives” program attracted attention both of local and national authorities to the problem of accessibility.

During their engagement in this initiative, specially trained student volunteers of the project informed persons with disabilities of accessibility of public places. Under the supervision of the Arzhan social fund they inspected socially significant facilities from the angle of their accessibility for different categories of persons with disabilities and posted this information on the interactive map.

The volunteers also engaged the urban population into the study: anyone who wished could evaluate accessibility of this or that place and share this information with volunteers of the project who then checked its validity and marked those places on the map. Along with the inspection of accessibility of public places, the project carried out work on popularization of “The Accessibility Map” among persons with disabilities, their families and relatives, public organizations and mass media. The project became an information board where persons with



Zhamilia Zhukenova

Volunteer of the project

It just so happened in this society that ever since the Soviet times persons with disabilities did not have a place in this society, and it was also inherited by the independent Kazakhstan and its younger generation. Here we have to give a credit to globalization and global tendencies which opened the concept of accessibility to us, and some changes in this direction have already taken place!

“The Accessibility Map” in figures



- Eighteen trained volunteers from different cities of Kazakhstan including Almaty, Karaganda, Taraz, Uralsk, Aktobe and Astana took part in the project.
- About twenty accessibility maps were composed and about **200** places in different cities were inspected under the project.
- In Almaty, only **54** places out of **144** inspected were recognized as accessible for disabled people.

disabilities, members of their families and friends could find the places which they could visit together.

It should be noted that this innovative Kazakhstani project “The Accessibility Map” attracted attention both of local and national authorities. For instance, the project was presented at a meeting of the Youth Parliament of Almaty city attended by activists of various higher educational institutions and the Head of the Department of Youth Policy. Representatives of the Arzhan social fund and volunteers of the project were included into the working group on development of tourism under the Committee for Development of Industry and Tourism of the Republic of Kazakhstan, where they will further address the issue of accessibility in Kazakhstan.

June 2012, organizers of the project took part in a telephone conference of the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of Population. As a result of the conference where Director of social fund “Arzhan” Kasiet Omarova made a presentation of the project, the then First Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Kazakhstan Serik Akhmetov (the current Prime Minister) recommended that Kazakhstan’s regions should use the map produced by the Arzhan public foundation.

At this stage, two projects are being launched based upon the experience of the Arzhan social fund. The UN Development Program in its project co-funded by the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of Population aims at development of “The Accessibility Map” on a national scale, whereas the City Administration of Almaty plans to develop its own accessibility map for people with disabilities living in the southern capital. The organizers of the project “The Availability Map”, public foundation “Arzhan” act as partners in both projects.

Svetlana Spatar

Volunteer of the project

There is no doubt that the project should go on. It can never have a final stage because life goes on, the situation in the city changes. New facilities appear, old ones are repaired, some places become accessible, whereas others become inaccessible. That is why such information should be extended to the attention of all parties concerned, both of common residents of the city and of those who make decisions.



The School of Coaches

Engagement of volunteers into the process of resolving social problems is an integral indicator of the development of civil activism in the country. In Kazakhstan, the institution and culture of volunteering are still going through the stage of development. A small percentage of non-governmental organizations are able to engage volunteers and efficiently use their work in implementation of social projects.

According to research “The Analysis of the State of Volunteerism as a Development Resource in Kazakhstan” conducted by the UN Volunteers Program in Kazakhstan along with the Ministry of Culture and Information of the Republic of Kazakhstan, only 12.5% of the organizations polled engage volunteers into their activities. According to the results of the poll, 9 out of 10 companies were interested in engagement of volunteers.

In order to assist the non-governmental organizations in the search for and engagement of volunteers the SOS Team (a joint initiative of the UN Volunteers Program and Charity Fund “Seimar Social Fund”) supported by the Soros Foundation-Kazakhstan developed a comprehensive training program which covers all aspects of organization of volunteer activities in implementation of social programs and projects.

Training program “The School of Coaches” includes seminars and trainings conducted by invited Kazakhstani and foreign specialists in the field of project management, fundraising, financial audit, journalism and electronic media as well as public relations and psychology. Seminars and trainings were conducted both in the Russian and Kazakh languages, which was especially appreciated by the participants of the project.

The first educational guidance on the methods, technologies and tools for arrangement of volunteer activities and social projects both in the Kazakh and Russian languages was worked out as part of the project.

In 2013-2014, the project will be extended to all regions of Kazakhstan and will be driven by the needs of NGOs in project management and control over volunteers in each specific region.



The School of Coaches project was implemented in two stages. Leaders of non-governmental organizations which engage in general development of volunteer programs and administration of volunteer projects were the target audience for the first “School of Coaches”. The second stage of the project was intended for the leaders of volunteer projects and the coaches of volunteer programs.

A specific feature of the second stage of “The School of Coaches” was a special session on the issues of joint work of leaders of volunteer programs and the heads of non-governmental organizations from various regions within a unified volunteer network. The seminars and trainings of the project’s second stage also touched upon issues of cooperation with state bodies, in particular, with the Ministry of Education and Science and the Office for Interaction with Non-governmental Organizations of the Ministry of Culture and Information.

The School of Coaches project won recognition of the National Volunteers Network (NVN) which called it a resource project and included it into the list of its main projects. Jointly with NVN, a decision was made to implement the project annually in order to train qualified staff and develop unified standards for domestic volunteer activities.

Currently, participants of the School of Coaches project continue implementation of their projects in 12 regions of Kazakhstan. They include the Center for Volunteer Initiatives “If Not Us Then Who” in the Mangistau region launched by the “Eco Mangistau NGO” and the project of the school of volunteers “Just Make a Step” in the South Kazakhstan region which works under the South Kazakhstan branch of social fund “The Youth Information Service of Kazakhstan”.

Elena Shvetsova

Director of the Southern Kazakhstan regional social fund “MISK”

Our organization has never had so many volunteers who stayed on as we had after this project. 70% of participants stayed on. I consider it as a good indicator. Some volunteers who participated in the school are now in the staff of the organization and they are showing good results. It is one of the brilliant projects which gave birth to new ideas and projects.



Building Up the Capacity of Regional Non-governmental Organizations

Responding to various requests of regional non-governmental organizations on arrangement of training events aimed at building up their organizational capacity and comprehensive resource support of organizations, in 2012, the Soros Foundation Kazakhstan resumed its work in the field of capacity building and empowerment of non-governmental organizations by launching a special initiative on development of civil society.

Recently, the number of educational programs, seminars and training aimed at building up the capacity of non-governmental organizations has decreased significantly as well as did the number of comprehensive programs for the resource support of non-governmental organizations. Because of the limited number of proposals, regional non-governmental organizations which are at their initial and average levels of development have the least access to such programs.

As a result, those non-governmental organizations fail to obtain the required practical experience in management of projects, to accumulate the project “history” which is necessary for the organization to participate in big grants competitions. The terms and requirements of international and Kazakhstani donors’ grant competitions and government contracting tenders are often too complicated for average and beginning level non-governmental organizations. Their chances to win competition against more experienced organizations are very scarce.

As for separate trainings on specific topics, without a solid consultative support, they do not make any serious impact on the capacity of organizations. The organizations which have limited experience need the biggest methodological support, advice of consultants, especially at the stage of practical application of the knowledge obtained. However, because of limited offers on training for non-governmental organizations, the organizations often attend trainings developed, as we say “based on the topic” but not upon the needs of the participants. As a result, the theory remains separated from practice and does not facilitate building up the organizations’ capacity.

Building up the Capacity of Regional Non-governmental Organizations project implemented as part of the SFK’s special initiative was based on the reverse principle. The program of trainings and seminars for all the participants of the project was developed based upon evaluation of their needs conducted by three experienced and quali-



Vitaly Kulik

Director of social corporate fund “ZUBR”

The seminar participants are not “first-timers” in the sector at all; they have experience of more than one seminar and training. It is important for them not only to obtain knowledge but also to have an opportunity to apply it in real practice in the course of the training process; to “synchronize watches” with other organizations, and to understand how to win in competitions.



fied operators of the project: Social Corporate Fund “ZUBR” in the East Kazakhstan region, the public association “Ecocenter” in the Karaganda region and public association “Bereke” in the South Kazakhstan region. Upon the completion of the training, participants of the project were given opportunity to take part in a tender for mini-grants. During implementation of mini-projects, the winners of the tenders received consultative, informational and methodological support from the operators of the project.

According to participants of the project, application of the obtained knowledge in practice yielded results. The Altyn Dala social fund won recognition of the local administration immediately after it began implementation of its mini-grant project.

*“The capacity of our organization has definitely increased in the course of implementation of this project! These days, representatives of the Altyn Dala social fund are invited to all social events and seminars in the region, are included into the regional committee for protection of the rights of consumers and into the Commission on Youth Affairs”, said **Fatima Khampieva**, representative of the Fund.*

*“Implementation of the mini-project opened an opportunity for our organization to work in the area which is very significant for our region that is support to young people with disabilities. Due to the project steps were taken towards providing access to training programs and ensuring equal opportunities for everybody. All this is just mandatory for the freedom of expression, removal of barriers which hinder communication, and of the stereotypes in the society. Due to the project, young people felt their civil responsibility and social significance”, noted **Birzhan Sabirov** who represents public association “Sozak Zhastary”.*

The significance of combining theory and practice in the project was appreciated also by **Meruert Kurmashova**, Director of the Ecocenter public association: *“The value of the project “Building up the Capacity of Regional Non-governmental Organizations” in the Karaganda region lies in the fact that there is no time gap between the educational process and application of the knowledge in practice. Participants may start practicing immediately upon completion of the training,” she said.*

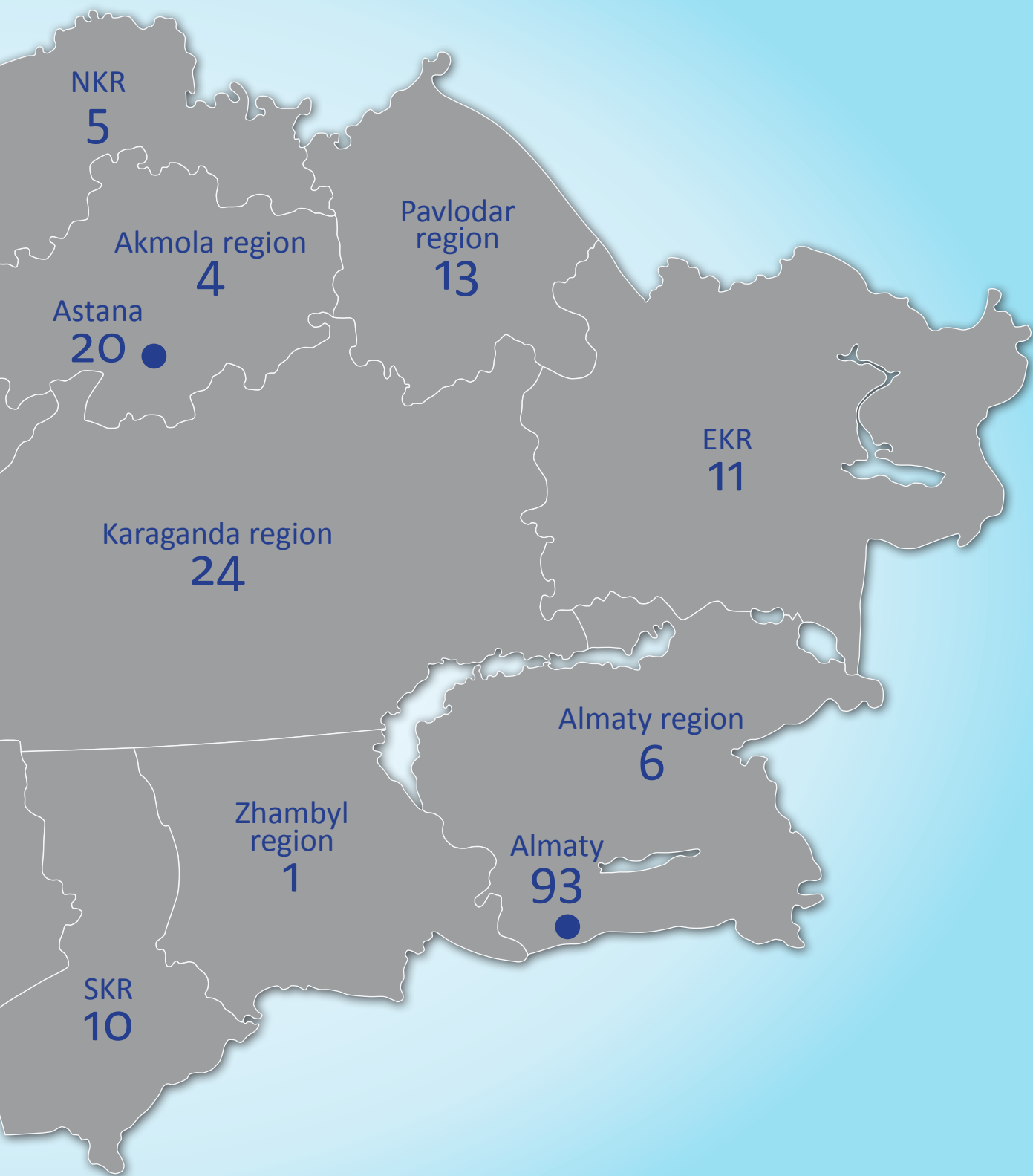
Sixty six non-governmental organizations took part in the project; 28 of which were selected by the ZUBR social corporate fund, 28 were selected by the Ecocenter public association and 10 were selected by the Bereke public association.

The number of grants issued as part

Total: 210



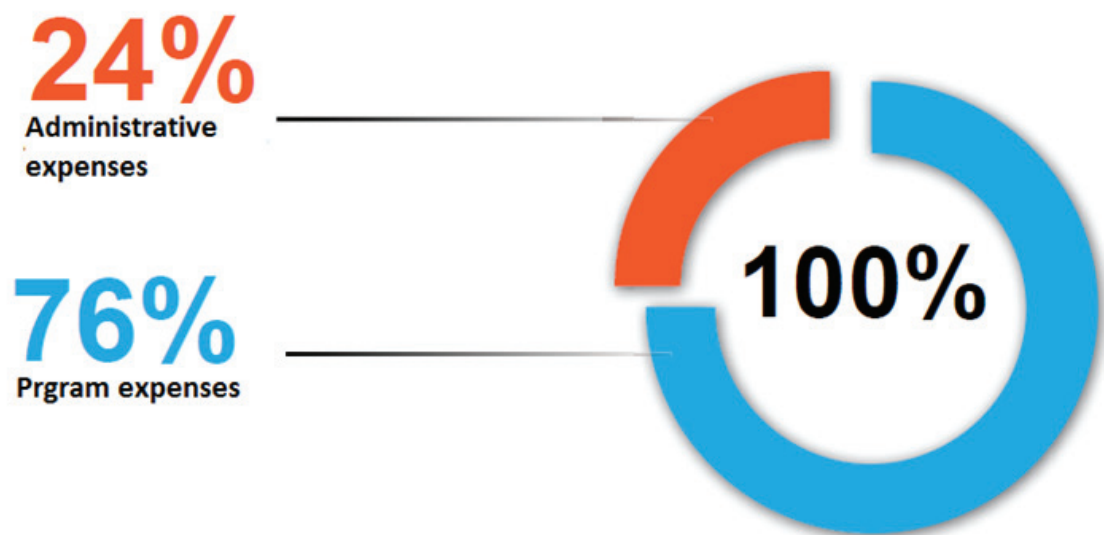
of the Soros-Kazakhstan Foundation`s programs



Financial Report

Funds Allocated, 2012

Program	Amount (tenge)
East-East: Partnership Beyond Borders	11 422 255
Legal Reforms	131 126 077
Media Support	54 609 354
Youth Initiatives	74 834 828
Public Finance Transparency	137 096 861
Other Program Expenses	24 026 098
Administrative Expenses	139 314 343
Total	572 429 816





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Report of the Independent Auditors on the Summary Financial Statements

To the Management Board of Corporate Foundation “Soros Foundation – Kazakhstan”

The accompanying summary financial statements, which comprise the summary statement of financial position as at 31 December 2012, the summary statements of comprehensive income, changes in fund balance and cash flows for the year then ended, and related note, are derived from the audited financial statements of Corporate Foundation “Soros Foundation – Kazakhstan” (the “Foundation”) as at and for the year ended 31 December 2012. We expressed an unmodified audit opinion on those financial statements in our report dated 21 May 2013.

The summary financial statements do not contain all the disclosures required by International Financial Reporting Standards. Reading the summary financial statements, therefore, is not a substitute for reading the audited financial statements of the Foundation.

Management’s Responsibility for the Summary Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation of a summary of the audited financial statements on the basis described in Note 1.

Auditors’ Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the summary financial statements based on our procedures, which were conducted in accordance with International Standard on Auditing (ISA) 810 *Engagements to Report on Summary Financial Statements*.

Opinion

In our opinion, the summary financial statements derived from the audited financial statements of Foundation as at and for the year ended 31 December 2012 are consistent, in all material respects, with those financial statements, on the basis described in Note 1.



KPMG Audit LLC

21 May 2013

«КПМГ Аудит» ЖШС, Қазақстанда тіркелген және KPMG Europe LLP бақылауындағы жауапкершілігі шектеулі серіктестік; Швейцария заңнамасы бойынша тіркелген KPMG International Cooperative («KPMG International») қауымдастығына кіретін KPMG тәуелсіз фирмалар желісінің мүшесі.

KPMG Audit LLC, a company incorporated under the Laws of the Republic of Kazakhstan, a subsidiary of KPMG Europe LLP, and a member firm of the KPMG network of independent member firms affiliated with KPMG International Cooperative («KPMG International»), a Swiss entity.

Corporate Foundation "Soros Foundation – Kazakhstan"
Summary Statement of Financial Position as at 31 December 2012

	2012	2011
	USD	USD
<u>ASSETS</u>		
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	67,303	374,029
Receivables	703,995	324,031
Prepayments	37,021	45,392
Other assets	1,141	-
	809,460	743,452
Non-current assets		
Property, plant and equipment	112,362	106,020
<u>TOTAL ASSETS</u>	921,822	849,472
<u>LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE</u>		
Current liabilities		
Payables	110,259	52,534
Accruals	686,761	678,409
	797,020	730,943
Fund balance	124,802	118,529
<u>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE</u>	921,822	849,472

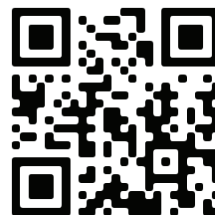
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