



Soros Foundation-Kazakhstan

Annual Report

2013

Table of Contents

Introduction	3
I. Human Rights	6
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1.1 Human Rights Day Is Your Day!	8
1.2 Towards Education for All	10
1.3 Palliative Care Provision: the National Standard	12
II. Transparency and Accountability	14
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2.1 Open Local Budget Index	16
2.2 Mapping Digital Media: Kazakhstan	18
2.3 Kazakhstan Becomes EITI Compliant Country	20
III. Civic Engagement	22
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3.1 Civil Society Development Initiatives	24
3.2 Social Art and Youth	26
3.3 Employment of People with Special Needs	28

Introduction

Dear readers,

You are holding in your hands a traditional Annual report of the Soros Foundation-Kazakhstan (SFK), which provides a review of SFK's work in 2013. However, in this introduction I intend not to limit myself with the overview of our activities in the past year, but rather to reflect upon the outcomes of the four-year strategy that guided SFK in 2010-2013.

The SFK's strategy for 2010-2013 for the first time has articulated the foundation's role as a policy broker, strengthening the voice of civil society in their dialogue with the public and business sectors. We knew from the beginning that striking the right balance between the interests of the society and the state will not be easy, but we felt compelled to provide our contribution wherever the "window of opportunity" was still open.

For example, SFK took an active part in the work of the National Stakeholder Council of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) and provided support to civil society organizations involved in its implementation. As a result, in 2013 Kazakhstan was qualified as an EITI

compliant country. In 2012, SFK's joint efforts with the civil society organizations and the government led to a meaningful improvement in Kazakhstan's Open Budget Index from 38 to 48 points.

With the support from SFK, the National Standard of Palliative Care Provision was developed and approved in Kazakhstan. This document is a result of joint work of the Ministry of Health, public health experts and nongovernmental organizations.

SFK has also supported a number of meetings dedicated to the discussion of the draft Law 'On Broadcasting' – on the eve of our country's transition to digital broadcasting. Resulting dialogue between the state authorities, mass media professionals and NGOs led to some significant changes to the legislation which will better protect the rights of independent broadcasters.

Therefore, in situations where it was possible to bring together the civil society, the government and business, SFK would take the role of a 'catalyst' and

facilitated development of policies protecting the public interest.

Unfortunately, not every “window of opportunity” did open at the end. There was a lot of enthusiasm about Kazakhstan chairmanship in the OSCE, which could have brought liberalisation of country’s legislation. In the framework of OSCE chairmanship, SFK supported a number of forums, including the OSCE Parallel Civil Society Conference. However, liberalisation has not happened. In 2012-2013, the Foundation continued providing its support to the organizations interested in bringing Kazakhstan legislation in accordance with international standards and requirements in the area of human rights, and focused on strengthening capacity of human rights organizations.

It is necessary to underscore a number of innovative projects that were part of 2010-2013 Strategy of which we are very proud. Examples of such projects include an initiative focused on building the capacity of regional NGOs and projects aimed to support development of online media (including regional news outlets and outlets publishing in Kazakh language). We believe that working

across the whole country and building the capacity of local organizations is absolutely necessary for the promotion of the open society.

SFK has always prioritized young people and paid much attention to promoting open society values and ideals of a more humanistic, tolerant and just society to young people. The small-grant competitions “Act!”, “Open your eyes!” and other initiatives of our Youth Program serve as good examples of effective projects aimed at the youth.

In our opinion, we have achieved many of the goals and tasks that we had set for ourselves. SFK staff invested a lot of efforts, creative ideas and enthusiasm into their work. On behalf of the Board of Trustees I would like to thank our staff for this, and I hope that our well-built and energetic team led by Anton Artemyev, Chair of the Executive Council, will continue to promote open society values in our country.

Sincerely yours,

Nargis Kassenova,

Chair of the Board of Trustees, Soros Foundation-Kazakhstan

I. HUMAN RIGHTS

The situation with human rights in Kazakhstan remains unchanged despite relative improvement of the socio and economic situation in the country: international ratings on political rights and civil liberties often define Kazakh society as “unfree”. At the same time there are serious legislative changes taking place. In such circumstances it is very important to underscore the value of human rights, and any reforms in different spheres should take into account human rights based approach. Soros Foundation Kazakhstan stands precisely for this approach in the reform of the legislation. Every year on December 10th, which is the Human Rights Day, our Foundation participates in activities designed to draw public attention to the respect of human rights and a need to comply with them.

The right to dignity, justice and equality are fundamental for provision of palliative care and promotion of inclusive education.

In 2013 the Foundation supported a number of projects in the area of inclusive education, mainly aimed at training secondary school teachers in accordance with curricula that will address various nuances of working with children with special needs in a classroom.

Soros Foundation-Kazakhstan pays attention to the introduction of palliative care, a comprehensive system of measures, providing psychosocial and spiritual support as well as pain-control, and envisaging rights of terminally ill persons and their families.

HUMAN RIGHTS DAY IS YOUR DAY!

December 10th, 2013 was the 65th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, so Soros Foundation-Kazakhstan and Kazakhstan office of Freedom House invited human rights defenders, activists and students to a special celebration. The event took place under the slogan “Human Rights Day Is Your Day!”



The goal of this celebration was to provide a public platform for informal explanation and discussion of human rights. **Viktoriya Tyuleneva**, director of Freedom House in Kazakhstan, mentions: *«The main goal that we set was to attract public attention to the subject of human rights. We wanted to tell real stories of real people, well-known defenders of human rights, and therefore to stimulate the interest of young people to the global movement for human rights».*

The program participants were offered a mini-presentation about prominent human rights activists, including Nelson Mandela, Mahatma Gandhi, Eleanor Roosevelt, Aung San Suu Kyi, Andrey Sakharov, Vaclav Havel, Wei Shinshen, Eli Weasel, Martin Luther King Jr., Oscar Arias Sanchez and others.

There was also a cartoon exhibition “A Story With No Words” of Kazakhstan’s artist Murat Alimov dedicated to freedom, equality, tolerance and rule of law. This exhibition gave participants a new, creative way of looking at human rights.

Participants of the event had informal conversations with some famous



Kazakhstan's human rights defenders and activists, representing such organizations as "Let's Defend Kok Zhailau", "My House", "Liberty," "Youth Information Service of Kazakhstan", etc. In their presentations all human rights defenders emphasized that human rights start with each individual person, his backyard, colleagues and friends, and spread further from his environment to the nation as a whole.

Kazakh human rights defender Galym Ageleuov says: *«We, human rights defenders, are the people who have made their choice to serve both as protectors and mediators. Our task is to change the situation gradually and to defend human right in a systemic way. Everything that happens in the country should cause a response from the society, and human rights defenders are the mediators that help form this response. If we won't do that, we will allow the same phobias and fears to reproduce».*

Soros Foundation Kazakhstan together with other stakeholders plans to organise similar events on an annual basis to strengthen public awareness of human rights, individual dignity and freedom.

TOWARDS EDUCATION FOR ALL

To date, one of the major tasks of modernisation of the existing system of education in Kazakhstan is to introduce certain changes in re-training of teachers working in the area of inclusive education. This requires substantial revision of existing curricula, learning new ways of work in the classroom, and creating opportunities for exchange of best practices.

Projects of Soros Foundation Kazakhstan in the sphere of inclusive education in 2013 were aimed to meet this task. With support from the Foundation, an organization called “A School for All” initiated development of special course “Basics of Inclusive Education” for pedagogy students at Kazakhstan’s universities.

The major results of the project (a training manual and curriculum for the new subject) were presented by a team of authors in the framework of two-day seminar attended by 38 teachers from 20 pedagogic institutions in Kazakhstan, as well as their colleagues from similar education institutions in Tajikistan. Participants of the training had an opportunity to learn about international experience in the area of inclusive education that was presented by Dr. Michele de Fosset (University of South Carolina, USA).

Along with this, the teachers of pedagogical universities learned about interactive strategies that could be applied in inclusive classroom. Active discussion that accompanied thematic sections of the event



demonstrated complexity and ambiguity of the future reform in education. Teachers of pedagogical institutions received useful and important information about inclusive education as a preferred form of learning process for children with disability – a comprehensive guarantee of child rights implementation.

The project will be continued as a series of trainings in five regions of Kazakhstan in cooperation with the regional pedagogic institutions.

A pilot project on development and implementation of inclusive education directed at quality learning of all students, was another important initiative in this sphere. The project was implemented by the public foundation “Scientific and Research Center of Civic Education” for five pilot schools in Akmola region: boarding school in Shyuchinsk of Burabay rayon, Abay school of Zerenda rayon, school no. 7 named after Yuriy Gagarin in Stepnogorsk, School no. 4, and school no. 18 in Kokshetau. During 3-day training school teams received an opportunity to learn about an inclusive school, criteria and indicators of inclusive practices, inclusive education strategic plan development at school level. Based on the acquired knowledge these schools have presented their development plans, based on their own context and tasks.

This project will be continued in 2014 with the establishment of the Resource center on inclusive education that would be based in one of the schools.

In 2013, in the framework of program “Legal Reform”, Soros Foundation-Kazakhstan announced a competition for Kazakhstan NGOs, educational institutions, independent research groups to implement a project on inclusive education.

Six Kazakhstan NGOs from five oblast cities won the competition: Almaty (“Sun Circle”), Uralsk (Child and youth public association

“Dostyk Alany”, Education center “Kaysar”), Karaganda (Kredo), Shymkent (Nazym-Shymkent), and Pavlodar (Pavlodar oblast branch “Bolashak”).

The results of all projects were reflected in developed re-training courses on inclusive education, which included information materials in Kazakh language, as well as in trainings, social commercials, public outreach events on inclusive education.

Quote

Michele de Fosset, international consultant on inclusive education, University of South Carolina, USA:

«Teacher training is the most significant and difficult step in promotion of inclusive education. It is important that teachers from the pedagogic universities support the idea of inclusive education, while the subject of inclusive education would be included in future programs for teachers' training. To implement inclusiveness to the fullest extent it is necessary to understand and accept the idea, that all children could study in one class and should have equal educational opportunities».

PALLIATIVE CARE PROVISION: THE NATIONAL STANDARD

Comprehensive promotion of palliative care in the Republic of Kazakhstan has its origins in the 2008 study entitled “Condition of Palliative Care Provision in the Republic of Kazakhstan”. This research, undertaken by nongovernmental organization and experts in the field of public health, showed that the system of palliative care provision was developing and it requires reforms targeting legislation development, introduction of new and modern practices of alternative forms of palliative care, development of the educational component and awareness of population on these issues.

Since then, the system of palliative care has seen many changes, which culminated in the adoption of the **National Standard on Palliative Care Provision in Kazakhstan in 2013**. This document regulates at the state level the area of palliative care provision as well as provision of other medical and social services.

Adoption of the National standard on palliative care is a success and result of work of the group of foreign experts in the area of palliative care, representatives of local NGOs and Kazakhstan state agencies.



In 2013, SFK's long-term partners, including public association "Credo", public foundation "Together Against Cancer", Youth Volunteer Center of Palliative and Social Care "Adamgershilik", public foundation "Amazonka" founded the Kazakhstan Association on Palliative Care. Its mission is to promote the creation and dynamic development of comprehensive system of palliative care in Kazakhstan. In the future, members of the association are planning to create a national development plan, information resource base and to support further research in the area of palliative care.

Currently, palliative care is provided in seven cities across Kazakhstan. A lot of people in Kazakhstan require palliative care, including patients with oncological, chronic, developing and progressing diseases, who experienced MI and ischemic strokes, suffering from AIDS and some forms of tuberculosis, as well as some senior citizens.

Gulnar Kunirova, president of the Kazakhstan Association of Palliative Care, says:

«The National Standard on Palliative Care Provision developed with the support of the Foundation was a breakthrough and created a basis for further promotion of those ideas in different directions: spread of ideology, educational component, institutional development, access to hospice, outpatient and home care, improvement of modern clinical treatment protocols, development of palliative care for children, etc.».

In 2013, the World Hospice and Palliative Care day (celebrated on the second Saturday in October) was held under the theme: "Achieving universal coverage in palliative care: debunking the myths". In this regard, the Association of nurses of Pavlodar oblast, a partner of SFK, organised a city rally to support improvement of the quality of life of patients with terminal condition as well as their relatives. During the whole month, Pavlodar activists (representatives of NGOs, health workers, and other stakeholders) organised information campaigns in public places, initiated TV and radio programs in local media. Also several movie theaters in Almaty and Astana showed a film «Support palliative care», created by the foundation "Together Against Cancer".

In partnership with the Foundation «Amansauylk» on the eve of the World Hospice and Palliative Care Day a special program was organised at the discussion platform «Radiotochka»: «How to help a terminally ill person and why palliative care is almost inaccessible in Kazakhstan?». The program participants were the representative of the center of palliative care, a president of the Amansauylk Foundation Bakhyt Tumenova, a doctor of multidisciplinary palliative care Sergey Gasyavichus, and a psychologist Oksana Okulskaya.

An international certified seminar for nurses providing palliative care "Help At the End of Life ELNEC" became a first example of cooperation between the Foundation and academia, developing an educational component of palliative care. With the support of the International Palliative Care Initiative (New York, US) five lecturers from the US, Romania and UK organised a week-long seminar for 40 nurses and doctors from Kazakhstan oncological hospitals, as well as for NGO representatives. During the seminar participants acquired new knowledge and skills regarding ten educational models of palliative care provision, they also exchanged best practices in supporting terminally ill patients, and their relatives and friends.

II. TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

A research on openness of local budgets that was undertaken for the second time in 2013 defined the degree of transparency and accountability in budgeting in all regions of Kazakhstan as 'below average'.

The citizens right to access to budget information and to participate in the decision making process, when their interests are affected, is one of the fundamental human rights. The results of the Open Local Budget Index indicate opportunities to improve transparency and accountability of local budgets, and to involve all stakeholders in the budget process.

In this regard, Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) is a fine example of cooperation between the government, business and society in the area of improving transparency and accountability. EITI is an international standard for transparency of revenues from extractive industries. The Republic of

Kazakhstan joined EITI in 2005 and after nine years the country was able to confirm its compliance with the standard.

Access to information and its dissemination are closely related to the use of information technology. Creation of common information space is a modern trend of development of national economies. Kazakhstan's transition to digital broadcasting is among the most important events in this regard. Digitalization of broadcasting provides a serious impetus to the development of new economy, it will create demand for the equipment produced by domestic manufacturers and will allow more efficient use of frequencies and will generate the so-called "digital dividend". That is why, the Foundation paid attention to the projects on digitalization of broadcasting, and in particular it supported Kazakhstan's participation in the global research 'Mapping Digital Media'.

OPEN LOCAL BUDGET INDEX

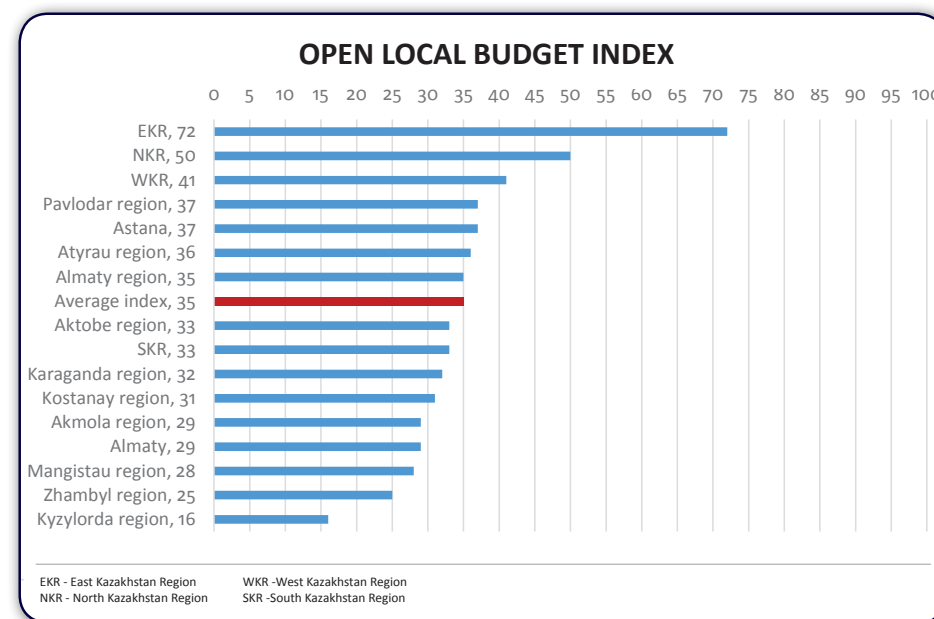
In 2013, the National Budget network of Kazakhstan with the support of SFK program “Public Finance Transparency” and expert support from the 'International Budget Partnership (IBP) presented results of their study on openness of local budgets.

Open Local Budget Index (OLBI) was developed based on the results of research data, collected in 2012 from 16 administrative territorial units of the Republic of Kazakhstan. In accordance with the research methodology, representatives of local civil society (university professors, experts, independent researchers, etc.), as well as employees of state agencies, who work with development, approval, execution or monitoring of budget were involved in this project.

OLBI represents a relevant and effective tool for measurement of effectiveness of budget process. It estimates a degree of transparency of a budget process at local level, including rayon, oblast, cities of regional and national significance, and the capital. Indices of different regions of Kazakhstan identify differences in the budget process across the country, and motivate local government representatives to improve information transparency. Index also determines which regions provide more opportunities for their citizens to participate in the budget process.

Open Budget Index (OPI) developed by the International Budget Partnership (IBP) since 2006, had inspired development of the Open Local Budget Index.

OLBI is based on a survey (that includes 60 questions) of experts who evaluate openness of the budget process at local level. Although



35

out of 100 is the average score for the openness of local budgets in the regions of Kazakhstan.

presented in 2013, the Index was developed based on data from 2012. The OLBI results show low relatively level of accessibility of budget information and openness of budget process at the regional level.

Unfortunately, the highest rating of 100 points that is assigned when the local budget is fully open and transparent, was not achieved in any oblast. The average rating in Kazakhstan is only 35 points.

For example, in a category on openness of planning and preliminary budget development, local governments scored 21 points on average. As to another category of the Index - openness of the review and approval of the budget - the local administrations scored 46 points. The average level of openness in budget execution was 39 points, while 'Annual performance report' reached 35 points on average.

To conclude, there are still many opportunities for improvement of budget processes at the local level, including involvement of local communities in the discussion and planning of budget expenditures, as well as public monitoring of budget effectiveness in the regions.

Quote

Zhanibek Khasan, director of public foundation «Zertteu Research Institute»:

«Budget development and execution of the budget have an impact on everyone, and especially on vulnerable groups. The majority of citizens of Kazakhstan cannot participate in the budgeting due to the lack of knowledge and limited openness of the budget process or accountability of state agencies. At the same time, active involvement of the public and NGOs in the decision-making process is one of the fundamental human rights. From the economic point of view, public monitoring of budget execution allows to improve their intended use and impact of government development programs».

The entire report could be found at the SFK`site www.soros.kz

MAPPING DIGITAL MEDIA: KAZAKSHTAN

Soros Foundation-Kazakhstan has taken an active part in the discussion of the country's transition to digital broadcasting. Public monitoring of state regulation of electronic media, as well as information campaign to defend private regional broadcasters, are among the strategic priorities of the Foundation's Media Support Program. Since 2010, the Open Society Foundations have been supporting the global research "Mapping Digital Media" in 60 countries around the world. By the scale of its the geography, this research is comparable with the map of first UN member states.

In October 2013, "Mapping Digital Media: Kazakhstan" was presented in Kazakh, Russian and English in Astana in the framework of the Forum "Broadcasting in the Digital Age: Kazakhstan's Reality and Global Trends", which was organised by the National Association of TV and Radio Broadcasters of Kazakhstan (NAT).

«The map of digital media' is the first large-scale research attempting to analyse digitalization and rapid development of information technologies and their influence on mass media pluralism and citizens' access to public information in Kazakhstan. In those countries where the process of digitalization is less active, the project should motivate market players and other stakeholders to participate in these changes to affect the outcome.

In July 2012, pilot digital TV broadcasting was launched in five Kazakhstan cities, including Almaty, Astana, Karaganda, Zheskazgan, and Zhanaozen.





According to estimations of SFK partners, with the complete switch-off of analogue broadcasting in June 2015, every second Kazakhstan citizen who receives a signal through a conventional antenna, risks to be left without access to television. By comparison, in the developed countries that successfully completed digitalization, the share of population who needs to acquire receivers is less than 10 per cent. In the UK, which completed its “digital transition” in October 2012, a full-scale public information campaign was launched four years in advance of the official date of a “switch-off”.

In addition to technological benefits for consumers, such as image enhancement, digitalization can bring significant additional revenue for the state, which should be subject of public monitoring as any other form of public finance.

Introduction of digital TV and radio broadcasting for Kazakhstan will help develop new communication technologies, and this eventually will

enhance the quality of life of our citizens. Judging by the fact that the EU revenues from digitalization of broadcasting made 250 billion Euro, transition can bring a very big “digital dividend” to Kazakhstan too.

Most importantly, digitalization must not cause disappearance of independent media outlets in what is already an almost flat media landscape. The problem of deficit of TV and radio frequencies, repeatedly raised by independent experts, should not be a limiting factor. With an adequate distribution of the frequency’s spectrum, digitalization will provide a number of technical opportunities in opening new TV channels. For example, in India, which completed its ‘digital transition’ last year, the free package includes about 100 channels.

Quote

Sholpan Zhaksybayeva, acting director of NAT Kazakhstan:

«Kazakhstan agencies on communication and information should make allocation of 'digital dividend' open, inviting representatives of the civil society and TV and radio industry to participate in the discussion. I think that media industry, including leading broadcasters, national and regional representatives of civil society should have access to this information today, so with the completion of 'digital transition' frequencies provided for TV and radio broadcasters would not become property of mobile operators as it happened in some European countries».

The full version of this report you can find on www.soros.kz

KAZAKHSTAN BECOMES EITI COMPLIANT COUNTRY

In 2013, Kazakhstan confirmed its status as a country compliant with requirements of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI). Soros Foundation-Kazakhstan, supporting EITI in Kazakhstan since its beginning, welcomed this decision of EITI International Governing Board and called for all stakeholders not to stop at this important milestone but to focus on further development of EITI in Kazakhstan.

EITI is an international standard allowing for transparency of extractive industry revenues. Implementation of this Initiative assumes publication of information about payments of extractive companies to the state budget, as well as revenues received by the government of resource-rich countries. In the framework of this initiative, extractive companies should present information about their tax and non-tax payments to the governments and state companies of the countries where they work, while government should publish reports about their

revenues. Afterwards, an independent third party does reconciliation of this information and publishes the final report.

The Republic of Kazakhstan joined EITI in 2005. In 2006, the National Council of Stakeholders was established to implement this initiative. The Council comprised of members of the Parliament, representatives of government agencies, extractive companies, and NGOs. In the course of eight years since Kazakhstan joined EITI, the Council achieved meaningful results in organization of multi-stakeholder dialogue and in regular publication of EITI reports.

Since 2005, the Council produced seven EITI reports so far. Publication of these reports helps provide more transparency and openness in the management of revenues from the extractive sector, provides access to important public information for citizens, and increases effectiveness of revenue management and the investment climate.

Quote

Tanya Burdet, expert of the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2):

«Public participation assumes implementation of basic democratic principles that many countries have adopted or are aiming at. This provides a comprehensive approach to this question on behalf of the state, and the public. As a result, civil society realises that decisions would reflect their needs, that companies can oversee their risks and manage them, and become more effective and efficient. The government can support implementation of democratic rights of their citizens through their active involvement in all those processes».

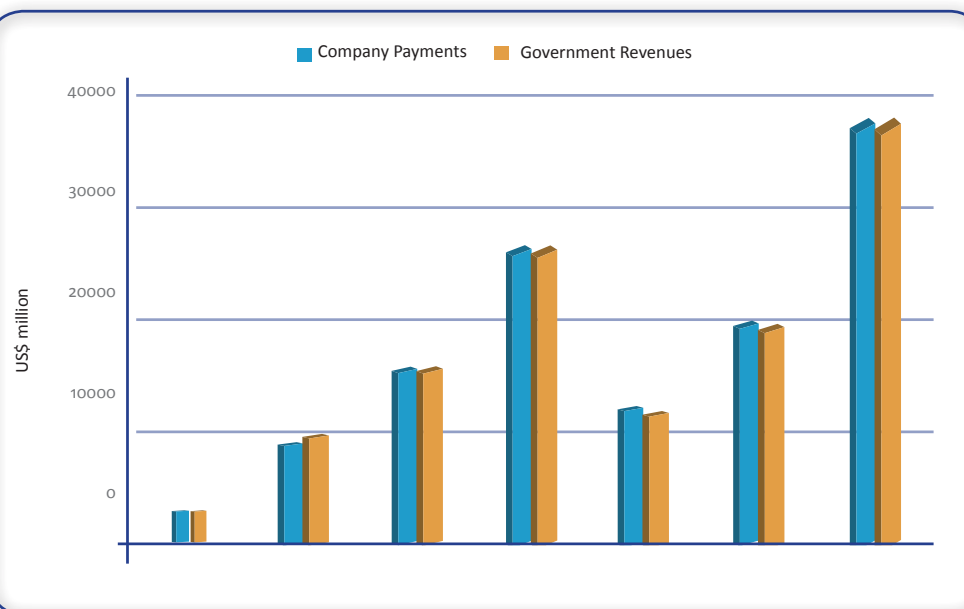
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EITI reports have been produced since 2005.

Kazakhstan's compliance with EITI criteria became possible because of effective cooperation between all stakeholders at the national level. In 2013, the Foundation together with the British Embassy in Astana supported the joint project of Atyrau organization "Independent Generation of Kazakhstan" and Association of producers of West Kazakhstan oblast "Zaman" aimed at development of cooperation between representatives of business and citizens at the local level.

Certified five-day training for representatives of public associations allowed participants to improve their knowledge about modern and effective tools of work with local authorities, companies and communities, mass media and NGOs, interested in supporting initiatives on creation and operation of public councils on social investment projects of extractive companies.

Participants of this training included NGOs from Aktobe, West Kazakhstan, Kyzylorda, Mangystau and South Kazakhstan oblasts. The trainer was Tanya Burdet, one of well-known experts of International



Association for Public Participation (IAP2), which had worked with representatives of Kazakh civil society in the past.

*«Such training and education programs are designed to build capacity of nongovernmental organization and provide the basis for further constructive dialogue between the society, government and business. This training not only helped NGO leaders to learn about international standards of public participation in the decision making process at the local level, but also encouraged them to apply this knowledge in their regions», said **Ulugbek Tnaliyev**, director of the 'Independent Generation of Kazakhstan'.*

III. CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Civic engagement means a responsible attitude to the environment, an opportunity to realize own ideas. The state stops bearing sole responsibility for its citizens' welfare, as citizens transform from passive observers to active members of the society. As a result, the economy receives an additional impetus to the development due to increasing number of independent, responsible and creative professionals.

All projects of the SFK's Youth Initiatives Program are based on this approach. Grantees and partners of this program are caring, active young people, who aspire to change the world around them. They are using different methods. Some create films to persuade

their peers that 'there is always a solution', some force peers to think about their role in the world and society, others are using photographs, illustrating how we change the city where we live, and organise trainings for their peers.

Most often these people have an active position, they are members of NGOs, especially those who live in the regions and work with small but demanding target audience. During 2012-2013, the Foundation implemented several projects, aimed at building potential of these organizations, helping them to become more efficient in their work for the benefit of society.

CIVIL SOCIETY DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES

The concept of implementation of civil society development initiatives in 2012-2013 was aimed at capacity building and creation of conditions for further enhancement of roles of the civil society. Development of regional NGOs became one of the major directions. Based on results of two years the project covered 8 oblasts, including Almaty, Aktobe, Karaganda, East Kazakhstan, Kostanay, North Kazakhstan, Pavlodar, and South Kazakhstan oblasts. Zubr, SMEDA, Bereke and EcoCenter were the partners of this initiative.

First, each resource center conducted needs assessment of regional NGOs. After processing these data, they came up with a work plan which included necessary trainings, and after that they organised a small-grants competition.

The history of a young leader of Sozak Zhastary Birzhan Sarzhanov is a successful example of this initiative. At the initial stage Birzhan faced several organizational problems. Despite difficulties, Birzhan Sarzhanov and his team took part in the small-grants competition. The project they developed proved to be very relevant for Suzak rayon, since it was directed at promoting rights of people with special needs. Today Sozak Zhastary is an organization working effectively with rural youth, and providing information services to developing civil society organizations.

In the framework of the this project, SFK supported publication of several brochures, manuals aimed at capacity building of NGOs. The first collection of guidelines on organizational development of NGOs, published by AIDS foundation West-East (AFEW) is worth noting. The collection includes essays 'From an initiative group to a professional organization' and 'Strategic planning in an NGO'.

In addition to series of trainings in the regions, during two years of its operation,



50

grants have been awarded
within two years of the Special
Initiative implementation.

the Initiative awarded travel grants that allowed NGO leaders and staff to participate in seminars, trainings, internships, short-term courses and other training activities in the field of organizational development.

In 2013, some of the applicants for travel grants expressed their interest in participating in the Fundraising School organised by the Center of NGO development in St. Petersburg, Russia. The Foundation received more than 100 applications from all oblasts of Kazakhstan .

«After training at the Fundraising School some of the stereotypes in my mind were broken, for example, that it is impossible to attract private donations in small towns, or some methods won't work...», says Nadezhda Nuzhnykh, who represented the Center of women support “Nezabudka” (Ridder). According to the other participant, Sergey Gulyaev from Decenta (Pavlodar), «...training provided an opportunity to 'synchronise watches', to compare the situation with NGOs in Kazakhstan with what is going on in Russia. The trip provided an opportunity to receive new interesting ideas for implementation».

Moreover, SFK attention in 2013 was directed at the problem of development of new leaders and development of resource centers. The Foundation organized a study tour to the Center of NGO Development for the most experienced and professional nongovernmental organizations. Participation in this internship allowed to receive new and unique information about the third sector, to have access to advanced social technologies, experience and organization of the work in one of well known and strong non-commercial organizations in Russia and

CIS. Acquired knowledge could be adapted to Kazakh reality and applied for development of non-commercial sector.

Two-day workshop “Social Marketing: Technologies for Effective Society Involvement” conducted by Grigory Shvedov, famous Russian human rights defendant and journalist, editor of internet publication '[Caucasian Knot](#)', attracted interest from many non-profit organizations, community groups, charities, involved in public activities and interested in learning how to communicate with different target groups of population, how to build trust, and how to attract new supporters. Fifteen representatives of different NGOs took part in the master-class, and based on the results of this training, three projects were supported by the Foundation: “Information Campaign on Effective Treatment of Oncological Diseases at Early Stages in Karaganda” (Youth volunteer center of palliative and social care Adamgershilik), “We Met” (Club house Alrami), and “A Right to Health is a Right to Live” (Amansaulyk).

With the support from the foundation, two trainings took place for mass media representatives and NGOs: “Major Technologies/Methods of Civil Society Web-Project Promotion”, “Basics of Internet Marketing for Civil Society”, “Application of Search Engine Optimisation in Socially Important Projects”. Projects were led by the public foundation MediaNet. Judging by the number of received applications (more than 180 from all oblasts of Kazakhstan), these training were in high demand.

Forty people from 12 media organization and 23 NGOs from different regions of Kazakhstan attended this training. After the training Rysgul Ramazanova, a correspondent of the newspaper “Ne Khabar?!” started to develop and to optimise the website of her newspaper, and then introduced the newspaper in social networks including Facebook and V Kontakte, currently read by 500 readers. Representatives of Komektes and Legal Media Center applied their knowledge to renew their official websites. Sergey Khandyukov from the newspaper 'The Kostanay News' developed a strategy to promote it in social networks, and is trying to SEO-optimize the new website of the newspaper.

SOCIAL ART AND THE YOUTH

Social art, due to its visual brevity, simplicity, clarity, depth and poignancy, is appealing to young people. The Youth Program of the Soros Foundation-Kazakhstan has a good record of supporting social art and creativity projects. Calls are aimed at inviting young people to express their view regarding social problems and to highlight the role of new generation in solving them through the means of arts. For this purpose, the Foundation asks from the young people to choose the topic or a social problem, which is relevant to them.

В 2013 году на конкурс короткоIn 2013, SFK received 70 scenarios as part of the open call, and the expert committee chose only two – the feature film “Constructers”, and an animated story about corruption “5000 tenge”.



In the feature film “Constructers” the author reveals a topic of social injustice, discrepancy between real life of people and administrative system of power, vulnerabilities of young people in

difficult life situations. Film received good reviews at several foreign film festivals.

Animated film “5000 tenge” is trying to reply to the question: what money could 'feel' when it is used for the bribe? The plot allows to follow the lifetime of one bill.

Also in 2013 two films were produced in Kazakh language – *Eles* (Ghost) and *Menin Kolymnan Usta* (Hold my hand). The first film covers a number of topics: teenagers living in remote settlements facing detrimental environment; everyday lives and future prospects; consequences of testing and research related to biological weapons; right to be educated. The second film touches upon the problem of severe illness and quota based treatment. In the film 'Hold My Hand' a teenager with leukemia and a man experiencing midlife crisis, are helping each other to find the meaning of life and as a consequence, life itself.

An exhibition of unique photographs “**Interweaving realities**,” organised with the support of the Foundation at the Tengri-Umay gallery, demonstrated what changes are taking place over time in country's architecture, and gave a artful assessment of the process happening to our cities.

The exhibit presented a huge factual material of cities including archival photographs from republican and local history museums, description of buildings in travel notes, collected by the author, a photographer Ilya Martynov.

This material was collected during his trips across Kazakhstan, with a total duration of 38 days as he covered a distance of 18,426 km. Processing of images took eight months. As a result, the exhibition presented 117 works, executed in a technique of collage and overlay images. Every photograph traced changed that occurred in Kazakhstan over the past 50 years.

Quote

Ilya Martynov, author of the exhibit “Interweaving realities”:

«Kazakhstan is a country of enormous proportions. Before my trip I thought that I know everything about my country, but I experienced something wonderful and unknown at every turn of my trip. It is extremely difficult to combine the old and the new photographs on one canvas. But it was even more difficult to find a building or a street corner shown in old photos. Even museum workers could not indicate the location on the map, while passers-by had no idea about the old street names. Through my works I wanted to create a dialogue with the society about changes taking place with the architectural heritage of the country, to rethink the meaning today. I hope I was able to show this».

EMPLOYMENT OF PERSONS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

According to official data, there are about 570 thousand people with special needs, and only 17 thousand or 3% of them have regular employment. Despite the 2005 Law “On Social Protection of People with Disabilities in the Republic of Kazakhstan”, which provides employment quota of 3% from the total number of jobs, in reality there are few organizations and institutions implementing this law. However, 70% of the total number of people with special needs can and want to work.

One of the most common causes of this situation is the lack of basic skills among people with special needs: they do not know how to work on their resume, how to go through the interview, or how to read an employment contract. These skills could be acquired during additional courses, but people with special needs often lack funds to attend them. SFK pays attention to this issue, and in 2013 the Foundation supported several projects aimed at supporting people with special needs and their employment within the framework of its Youth Initiatives program.



Thus, “Youth Organization of People with Special Needs “Zhiger” within the project “Promotion of an American Model of Social Integration of People with Disabilities” organised several seminars and trainings on employment, access to information and infrastructure, capacity building for people with special needs from several regions of Kazakhstan. The training drew on US experience in promoting employment of persons with special needs after the enactment of ADA – Americans with Disabilities Act. Three international experts (two of them were blind) in the sphere of disability and social integration in the US led these seminars and trainings. The event attracted 30 young people with special needs from all Kazakhstan at the age from 20 to 35, as well as 20 potential employers, who presented both private and public sectors.

*«In Kazakhstan people with special needs face many different problems: with transportation and communication, provision of quality care, access to education, and employment. For the past five years our organization was focused on the integration of young people with special needs in different spheres of society. And we, like anyone else, understand that full integration is possible only when they can find employment. Work is not only a source of income, but also a way of self-realisation», – says the president of the organization **Parkhat Yusupdzhanov**.*

To solve this problem in her own city, Olesya Li, a city resident from South Kazakhstan oblast, implemented a project (supported by the “Youth Initiative” program) to develop professional skills in young people with impaired hearing.

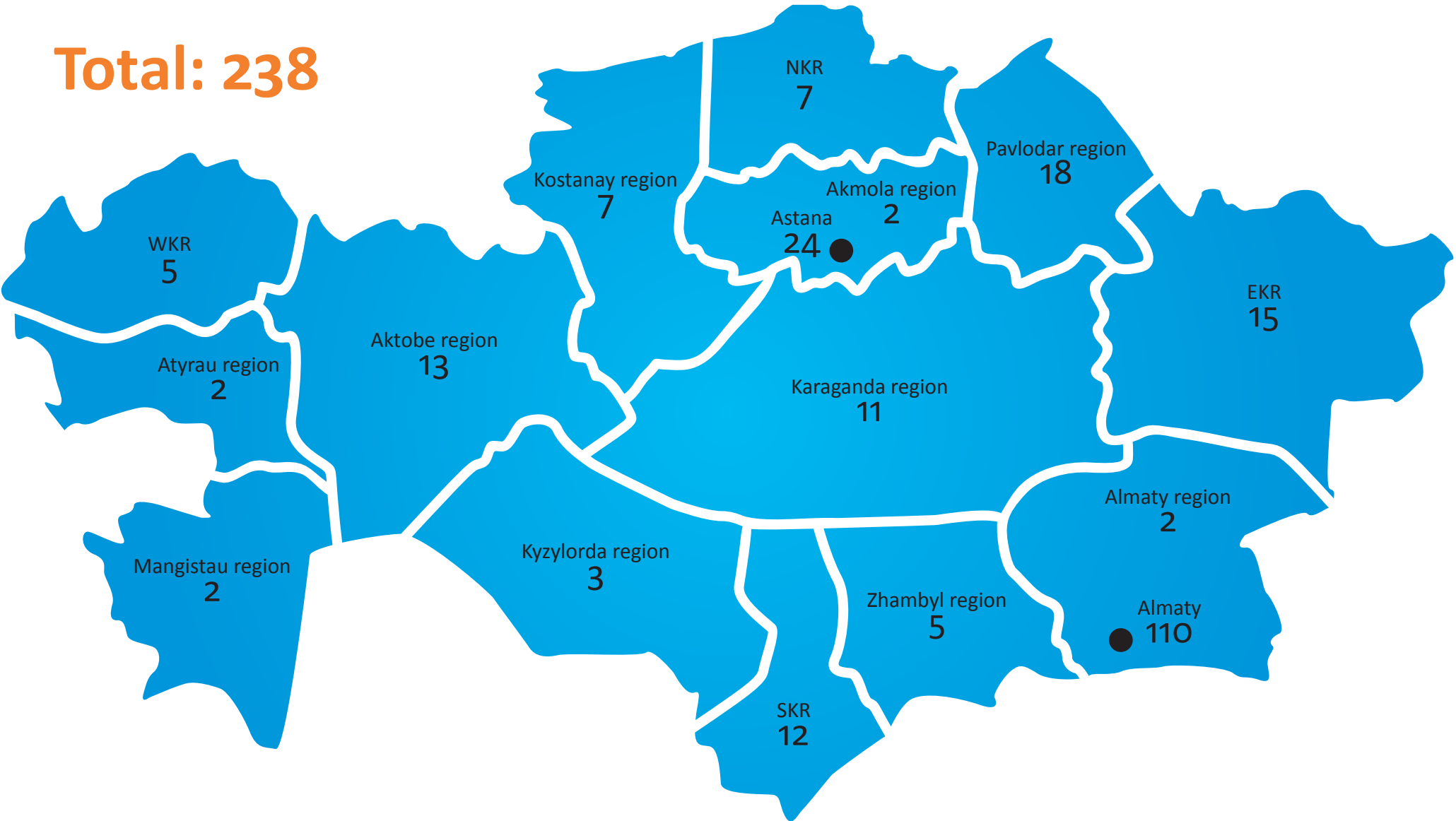
*“The main objective of the project was to involve the youth of South Kazakhstan, as well as social networks users with impaired hearing (who use sign language) in training on the following topics: how to write a resume, how to do an interview and sign an employment contract. To solve this issues we decided to organise a training and prepare several commercials”, says **Olesya**. According to her, “commercials were unique because youth with impaired hearing could learn about successful interviews, developing competent resume, about their own job duties and responsibility of the employer”.*

In the framework of the mentioned project in South Kazakhstan oblast, a local organization supporting youth employment organised educational training in some of the parts of the oblast, The first training was organised for students of a boarding school for the deaf. Training was conducted by trainers of the Foundation “Youth Information Service of Kazakhstan”, Gulshat Mukhtdinova and Tatyana Nagayeva. With support of sign language interpreter Khairuddin Shakhbudinov, information was provided to young beneficiaries. Three trainings were organised for three different groups. Two hour training was held for students of the boarding school for children with impaired hearing №2 in village Lenger of South Kazakhstan oblast. During the training students had an opportunity to see the presentation that provided a visual support for everything that was presented during the training. 133 students participated in this training, including 76 students of boarding school no. 1 and 37 students from boarding school no. 2.

Educational videos with translation into sign language are available to all persons with hearing impairment, who have Internet [access](#).

THE NUMBER OF GRANTS ISSUED AS PART OF THE SOROS KAZAKHSTAN FOUNDATION'S PROGRAMS.

Total: 238



FINANCIAL REPORT

Funds Allocated, 2013

Program	Amount (tenge)
East-East: Partnership Beyond Borders	14 344 663
Legal Reforms	204 178 970
Media Support	44 383 693
Youth Initiatives	68 903 720
Public Finance Transparency	134 671 475
Other Program Expenses	14 785 826
Administrative Expenses	170 549 633
Total	651 817 980



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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 2013, the summary statements of profit or loss and other 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 2013. We expressed an unmodified audit opinion on those financial statements in our report dated 21 April 2014.

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 the Foundation as at and for the year ended 31 December 2013 are consistent, in all material respects, with those financial statements, on the basis described in Note 1.

KPMG Audit

KPMG Audit LLC

21 April 2014



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