

COMMUNICATION ON ENGAGEMENT (COE)

Eurasia Foundation of Central Asia



Period covered by this Communication on Engagement

From: November 2010

To: October 2016

Part I. Statement of Continued Support by the Chief Executive or Equivalent

25 October 2016

To our stakeholders:

I am very pleased to confirm that Eurasia Foundation of Central Asia reaffirms its support to the United Nations Global Compact and its Ten Principles in the areas of Human Rights, Labour, Environment and Anti-Corruption. This is our Communication on Engagement with the United Nations Global Compact. We warmly welcome your feedback on its contents.

In this Communication of Engagement, we describe actions our organization has taken to support the UN Global Compact and its Principles, as suggested for a non-profit, non-governmental organization like ours. We also commit to sharing this information with our stakeholders using our primary channels of communications.

Sincerely yours,



Rinad Temirbekov
Executive Director,
EFCA Kazakhstan

Part II. Description of Actions

Highlights actions and initiatives our organization has undertaken under its core mission and commitment to support the ten principles of the United Nations Global Compact in recent years:

- 1) In response to Principles 1 and 2, and within the framework of “Strengthening CSO Networking for Human Rights Advocacy” project, the EFCA Kazakhstan has taken initiative to strengthen the capacity of local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in four regions of South Kazakhstan to effectively advocate for human rights and access to justice for vulnerable populations, including rural women, at-risk children and youth and people with disabilities through thematic human rights trainings for CSOs and government officials, mentorship programs, advocacy meetings and other activities.
- 2) In response to Principles 5 and 6, the EFCA Kazakhstan seeks to improve the lives of vulnerable groups, including persons with disabilities (PWDs), orphans, women, and those affected by conflict through organization of seminars to increase the quality of social services, development of information resources and materials for awareness-raising among target groups, development and promotion of social standards for government services and development of comprehensive solutions to the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and effective abolition of child labour.
- 3) In response to Principles 7 and 8, through various stakeholder engagement and meeting with policymakers, the EFCA Kazakhstan facilitates the development and promotion of the principles of corporate social responsibility (CSR) and sustainable development among companies in the electricity industry in Kazakhstan via increasing awareness about the concept of CSR among companies, the effective use of CSR instruments in daily operations and its adoption into corporate governance, as well as dissemination of the best practices in the sphere of CSR and sustainable development.
- 4) In response to Principle 10, the EFCA is an open and transparent organization, which does not tolerate corruption in EFCA, or amongst its partners. Any of the staff’s activities that are in any way connected with cheating, falsification of EFCA business documents, theft, embezzlement, bribery, or any other similar activities, are absolutely forbidden.

In addition, EFCA Kazakhstan performs awareness-raising campaigns in the areas of Human Rights, Labour, Environment and Anti-Corruption among Kazakhstani people, civil society organizations and other relevant stakeholders through giving presentations, sending out newsletters and updates, organizing meetings and forums.

Part III. Measurement of Outcomes

Examples of the most relevant qualitative and/or quantitative indicator to measure the outcome of the activities described in Part II above. For more examples, please see our annual report (attached) and [our website](#).

- 1) Improved level of organizational development of 40 local NGOs in the framework of “Strengthening CSO Networking for Human Rights Advocacy” project, which became recognized by local governments and communities as a source of information and knowledge about human rights and access to justice among vulnerable populations.
- 2) 2000 local community members, including vulnerable populations, increase awareness about their human rights and access to justice opportunities.
- 3) 1000 local community members, including vulnerable populations, demand that their human rights be respected.
- 4) Human rights CSOs are equipped with valuable experience and expertise, and credible data regarding barriers for vulnerable people to fulfill their rights and access free legal services.
- 5) Improved presence and reputation of human rights organizations’ network among local communities, and issues raised at parliamentary level to increase access to legal services for vulnerable people.
- 6) EFCA Kazakhstan in cooperation with International Academy of Business and Chevron Corporation created [NGO Expert Center](#) in the framework of “Civil Sector Capacity Building Initiative in Kazakhstan”, which became a source of knowledge and information on the institutional development of NGOs in Kazakhstan.
- 7) The EFCA has assisted 6 companies in developing and implementing Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) strategies.
- 8) A round table was held on the topic "Business and NGOs: mechanisms of interaction", organized by the EFCA within the framework of the project "Initiative on Capacity Development of NGO experts in Kazakhstan" with the support of Chevron company in Kazakhstan. It gathered together 6 business companies and various NGOs, government agencies with the aim to develop mechanisms for inter-sectorial cooperation and finding the joint solutions to social problems. The question of profitability of partnership between business and non-profit organizations has been raised.
- 9) EFCA, in partnership with Chevron and GSM Kazakhstan/Kcell, has also launched a website on CSR in Kazakhstan. Additionally, in 2011, EFCA spearheaded the creation of a CSR Club (with membership of more than 70 oil & gas industry companies) of Kazakhstan whose mission is to promote CSR culture through dissemination of best practices and standards that promote sustainable development.
- 10) In April, 2015 the EFCA in cooperation with the National Chamber of Entrepreneurs developed the National Concept of CSR which provided a unified approach to the promotion of CSR via deepening of the partnership between the state, business and civil society.
- 11) On 11-12 September 2014, 3 of EFCA staff members had successfully completed the GRI Certified Training Course based on G4 reporting Guidelines provided by the Consortium of Schwery Consulting, Pontis Foundation and Alternate Consulting.
- 12) 1500 copies of the first industry-specific business handbook on CSR and sustainable development in Kazakhstan, published in Kazakh and Russian languages, which serves as a guide for the stakeholder companies to develop CSR strategies.
- 13) Increased awareness among stakeholders regarding the effective use of CSR instruments in daily operations and the development of corporate governance.
- 14) Partnership across industries established among Kazakhstani companies through a competition for best CSR practices.



EFCA

EURASIA FOUNDATION
OF CENTRAL ASIA



Eurasia Foundation of Central Asia

2012-2013 Program Overview

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Our Mission

Eurasia Foundation of Central Asia mobilizes public and private resources to help citizens to promote effective solutions to social problems at the national and regional levels.

Our Vision

To have the greatest impact in fostering a society where citizens take responsibility for their own civic and economic prosperity.



This publication is made possible by the generous support of the Finnish people through the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland. The contents are the responsibility of Eurasia Foundation of Central Asia and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland.

2012 IN NUMBERS



22 000

Free legal consultations provided to vulnerable citizens



547

young citizens of 3 CA countries were trained to Western styles of journalism



2 814

people trained to and participated in conflict analysis, prevention, and mitigation



5 577

articles were published online by young CA journalists



7 000

citizens voiced their priorities and needs at 189 open budget hearings



1 264

Youth participated in EFCA's youth leadership and life-skills programs



65

Organizational development trainings conducted for NGO leaders



123

Partnerships with business, government and media leveraged



102 370

visits to EFCA supported websites:
www.equalbeforethelaw.org
www.kloop.kg , kloop.kz , kloop.tj
www.csrkz.org
www.ngoexpert.kz
www.edu.loans.kg
www.research.tj
www.youthbank.tj



1 039 582

total grant sum given by EFCA to support local community initiatives



Citizen Engagement and Good Governance

EFCA improves the involvement of civil society in solving social problems in local communities. Many people in Central Asia rely only on the government to solve their problems because they think that they are unable to change the situation in their communities by themselves. EFCA believes that the best way to improve the living standards of the population is through the interaction of citizens, governmental agencies and businesses.

INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF KAZAKHSTANI NGOS

In partnership with the **Chevron Corporation**, EFCA is working to strengthen the capacity of NGOs to meet the needs of local citizens through the Civil Society Capacity Building Initiative. In partnership with the International Academy of Business, EFCA launched the Center for NGO Expertise, a training and resource center which hosts regular professional development trainings designed to equip NGO leaders, trainers, and consultants with the skills and tools needed to improve the quality, impact, and sustainability of NGO services delivered to communities. In 2012, nearly 300 NGO and community leaders participated in on-site and regional trainings. The Center's diverse library of Russian and Kazakh-language training and management resources, available on-site and online at www.ngoexpert.kz, also supports the Initiative's goal of fostering greater professional development, opportunities for career advancement, and income generation within Kazakhstan's civil sector.

"In the training we gained the opportunity to systematize our knowledge, develop ourselves and our training abilities and see our work through the eyes of our colleagues. Even though I have over 7 years of work experience as a trainer under my belt, I learned a great deal of useful information and expanded my professional portfolio."

- **Gulzhan Aiberova**, NGO "Intellect" Center for Civic and Economic Education in South Kazakhstan

INCREASING COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT OF WESTERN KAZAKHSTAN

In collaboration with **Tengizchevroil LLP (TCO)**, Atyrau and Zhylyoi Community Engagement Program aims to promote citizen initiative in addressing local issues. EFCA Project in 2013 named "Our Public Spaces" aims to involve and mobilize the population for the improvement of its public vacation spots, it is supported by local NGOs. Thus, the results of independent needs assessment of the Zhylyoi and Atyrau population showed that the one of the main problems is poor condition or absence of landscaped public vacation spots for youth and children. Five projects were selected for financing in Kulsary. In total, mini-projects attracted over than 400 local residents, 11 local businesses and 3 government departments, in-kind contribution reached 8400 USD. And the major result of the project is friendship of neighbors, happy children, playing on the new playgrounds, and a lot of plans by the future improvement.

"These were two months of difficult and unfamiliar work for many people. There were ups and downs, joys and frustrations, and sometimes it seemed like I would not be able to bring it to an end. But now we can see the result of our work. People passing by can't take their eyes away from it. They always stop and compliment us. Before we didn't have anything, but now we have this thriving garden right here. There is still a lot of work to do but we are very proud of our courtyard and we love it! There are only few such remarkable courtyards like ours in the city and we were able to create it thanks to our partners - TCO and Eurasia Foundation of Central Asia."

Irina Gorbatenko, 36 years

INCREASING NGOs ACCOUNTABILITY IN KAZAKHSTAN

With support from the **UN Democracy Fund**, EFCA is promoting increased NGO accountability to communities for the delivery of quality services. The primary aim of EFCA's initiative is to improve the quality of NGO services and programs in Kazakhstan by strengthening the capacity of NGOs to effectively implement transparency and accountability tools and strategies which prioritize beneficiaries. In Kazakhstan, as elsewhere, NGO accountability is most often defined in terms of responsibility to the donor community. The quality and impact of NGO services and NGO legitimacy within the community suffer as a result. The project will address this issue by collaborating with diverse stakeholders to develop **NGO Accountability Guidelines** which emphasize the four accountability pillars of transparency, participation, evaluation, and self-assessment. Trainings, round tables, and the provision of small grants for NGO institutional development will serve to reinforce accountability principles and their practical application in NGO activities. The Initiative also engages the donor community in the campaign for more efficient, effective, and participatory programs and services from NGOs.

SUPPORTING RURAL CIVIL SOCIETY DEVELOPMENT (KAZAKHSTAN)

The **EU-funded EFCA's Rural Civil Society Support Program** supports the development of a more equal and democratic society by strengthening the capacity of civil society organizations to serve rural communities through targeted programs and services. The project takes a comprehensive approach to rural civil society development by working on three levels – first, by strengthening the institutional development and outreach capacity of the existing national network of NGO Resource Centers, with affiliates in each region; second, by facilitating trainings for rural NGOs in partnership with local NGO Resource Centers; and third, by providing small grants for rural NGOs to implement improved community programming and services for their beneficiaries. The project will contribute to strengthened relationships between rural NGOs and local state authorities, and, most importantly, promote improved services for rural populations and greater NGO visibility and integration within rural communities.

INCREASING TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRY IN KYRGYZSTAN

EFCA started in 2012 an **USAID-funded** program with dual objectives to improve cooperation and accountability between citizens and local government in public services delivery, and to increase transparency, and understanding in the extractive industry. During the initial 11 months, under objective 1, EFCA partner LARC provided legal assistance on rights to access public services including over 700 grassroots legal consultations to local citizens, and right-based awareness raising training to over 200 citizens. Under objective 2, EFCA partner research firm Oxus International completed a field-based assessment report on mining perceptions and company-community relationships across the country. EFCA and its partners used findings of the assessment report to select focus communities (<http://www.ef-ca.org/2013/05/lrci-report/>). EFCA and its partner Tree of Life established 6



"We need to change our thinking and move to another level! We just live our lives without planning! Every year we do the same thing, without making specific predictions and analysis!"

Esenbek Bedelov, human rights defender from Naryn province

public reception centres to disseminate objective information on mining and environmental protection and conducted several public hearings. The project also started promoting the transparency of the mining sector by facilitating implementation of Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative (EITI) through providing small grants to local NGOs.

OPENING AND UNDERSTANDING LOCAL BUDGETS IN KYRGYZSTAN

The **World Bank-funded** "Budget Literacy and Access to Information" project was designed to build capacity of local governments, local councils, and CSOs in participatory and transparent budgeting. EFCA trained over 1,200 local government staff, local council members, CSOs representatives, and active citizens in budgeting processes in all 40 districts and major towns of Kyrgyzstan. Trainees learned to develop more transparent budgets reflecting community needs. The project improved participative mechanisms by helping 189 local governments organize open budget hearings involving over 7,000 citizens. The follow-on TAB-PAL project's overall goal is to promote a peer-to-peer (PTP) learning approach by providing opportunities for LSG and CSO representatives to discuss local budgeting issues, share relevant experiences, challenges and tested solutions. EFCA organized in 2012 11 peer-to-peer study tours involving over 100 local government and council representatives across the country. EFCA and its partner Institute for Public Analysis (IPA) has also developed a dedicated website (www.msu.kg) to address needs of local officials, and providing updated information and innovative approaches in local government.

ENGAGING CITIZENS IN BUDGETING PROCESSES IN TAJIKISTAN

EFCA has conducted a nationwide research on the current legislation and practices related to civil society participation in the budgeting processes. More than 2,500 citizens were surveyed to measure their awareness and engagement in budget processing as well as their access to information. Additionally, CSOs actors and representatives from government officials were interviewed to ensure an out-reach in-reach perspective. Research results will contribute to the development of a citizens' budget methodology. An Openbudget.tj website will be launched to provide interested citizens, CSOs representatives with access to all documentation related to budgeting processes in Tajikistan. This program is funded by the **World Bank**.

Rule of Law and Access to Justice

An independent judiciary is fundamental to the protection of civil and economic rights. EFCA works to make justice available to all citizens, especially to vulnerable groups, improving legal education, strengthening judicial systems in concert with government ministries and nongovernmental experts, and by educating people about their rights.



PROVIDING ACCESS TO JUSTICE IN CENTRAL ASIA

In 2011, Eurasia Foundation of Central Asia launched the **Equal Before the Law (EBL)** program, an ambitious multi-year, multi-country initiative to improve access to justice for vulnerable people in Central Asia. EBL provides pro bono legal services, works to improve the curricula of Central Asia's law schools and has established networks of likeminded organizations to maximize the program's impact. EBL's 32 lawyers provide consultations to vulnerable people across southern Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. With assistance from EBL, 15 professors are developing new course materials that include access to justice for vulnerable persons for the leading law schools of Central Asia. EBL has also established a network of more than 150 civil society organizations that provide legal assistance to vulnerable groups. Membership in the network entitles them to access to EBL's lawyers and makes them eligible for training. To date, the program has provided more than 22,000 legal consultations, primarily to women. The program is funded by the **MFA of Finland**.

INCREASING LEGAL LITERACY IN TAJIKISTAN

The program provides entertaining and educational information on the legal process to a broad audience of Tajik television viewers. Eight episodes were filmed on issues related to divorce, domestic violence, right to an attorney, etc. The episodes are going to be screened on the Tajik national Safina channel to reach out people in rural Tajikistan. In more remote areas where electric-



"When I heard that lawyers provide free legal aid, I did not believe it, but it turned out that I needed to decide on the division of property, and I have already been cheated by a few lawyers. With no money and confidence in the legal system, I have decided to turn to the EBL lawyer. It was the first time I received clear information about my rights; moreover, I've got help in filling out all the paperwork and deal successfully resolved. Such assistance has given me confidence in my legal rights".

Turdykyz I., Shymkent

“Some relatives and acquaintances called me to ask the Ombudsmen office’s phone number after watching a few episodes”.

N. , one of the actresses from Dushanbe

ity shortages are frequent, DVDs will be distributed. The program also seeks to improve secular legal literacy among formal and informal community leaders, university students, and young people through film screenings and discussions. This program is funded by the **U.S. Embassy in Dushanbe**.

COLLABORATING FOR HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOCACY

In cooperation with **European Union Representative Office in Kazakhstan**, EFCA’s **Strengthening NGO Networks Project** is aimed at strengthening the organizational capacity of an existing network of civil society organizations in Southern Kazakhstan to effectively advocate for improved access to justice and human rights for vulnerable populations, including rural women, at-risk children, youth, and people with disabilities. Following a comprehensive institutional development assessment of network members, NGO leaders, active community members, and local authorities will receive training in community research, data analysis, project management, and advocacy and awareness-raising. Selected NGOs will be awarded with small grants to fund the implementation of community advocacy programs which put new skills into practice and promote improved services for vulnerable community members. The project will promote skills transfer and autonomy at the local level to engage citizens in the process of community change, as well as contribute to greater recognition of the NGO network among local authorities and community members as a trusted resource for accessing legal assistance.

ADDRESSING ISSUES OF CORRUPTION IN KAZAKHSTAN BUSINESS LAW

Together with the **Royal Netherlands Embassy in Kazakhstan**, EFCA’s initiative combines diverse stakeholders in the fight against

corruption at the policy level through the promotion of independent expert analysis. In partnership with local business unions, and the Institute of Legislation at the Ministry of Justice, EFCA trained over 50 experts in the use of anti-corruption software, Saraptama. The software was designed to identify loopholes and contradictions in proposed legislation which are susceptible to exploitation and corruption. Trained experts used the software to analyze five draft business laws, and the results were presented to members of Parliament along with recommendations for necessary amendments. In addition to battling corruption at the level of business law, the initiative contributed to the increased capacity of partner organizations to conduct independent legal analysis.

“[Saraptama] is not only an interesting program for analyzing corruption, but it could also be used for other types of legislation analysis, by changing certain parameters and factors, but leaving the logics of the program. The program is interesting in that its administration allows for monitoring, and we can see how our changes influence legislation – it’s not simply a data set. This is very important. I speak for all of us when I say that we are very glad to be part of this project”.

Svetlana Bychkova, deputy of lower parliament

BUILDING LGBT PEOPLE’S CONFIDENCE IN THEIR FUTURE

EFCA seeks to address the constant amalgam made between LGBT people and HIV due to the concentration of programs implemented by international organizations on HIV prevention that neglect the social perspectives of marginalized groups. A research will be conducted to identify the principal obstacles faced by LGBT people (including social constraints and self-perception). Results will be used for improving the implementation of LGBT-focus programs. Also, the action aims to contribute to overcome the isolation in which the LGBT community lives in Tajikistan by organizing regular social events. Building LGBT people’s self-confidence will also occur through increasing their awareness of their rights and responsibilities. This program is funded by **the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany** in Dushanbe.



Improving the Lives of Young People

EFCA seeks to improve the social, economic and political opportunities for youth between the ages of 14 and 28. Young people make up to 26 percent of the population of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. They find themselves increasingly marginalized in society and are often identified as instigators of conflict or religious radicalism. EFCA develops young people's skills, protects their rights and helps them to find employment and participate in their society and community.



"At the 2nd session of the Youth Council, Bakhmani announced an innovative and ambitious project. Principally it involves replacing a component of a hydro-power station (providing electricity for the three neighboring districts, alternately). At present the station generates 100kW per hour (fallen from 600kWh prior to the installment of the alternating component). Crucially, the potential yield of electricity produced via project implementation would be sufficient to supply 400 households in the district".

Bakhmani, YC member from Tekharv

SUPPORTING YOUTH ENTREPRENEURSHIP (KAZAKHSTAN)

In partnership with **Saipem** and **ERSAI** companies, EFCA is fostering youth entrepreneurship in Western Kazakhstan. The goal of EFCA's **Professional Orientation and Entrepreneurship Development program** is to promote the growth of small business in the Kuryk community, home to a large number of unemployed youth. The three-fold project approach – technical skill building, networking with the local business community, and support for business plan implementation - will ultimately contribute to the strengthened capacity of local residents, ages 18-29, to plan and implement small business activities in the community, contributing to the local economy and potential job creation.

KYRGYZSTAN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT LED BY YOUTH' IDEAS

With **Kumtor Gold Company** support, EFCA started establishing six new YouthBanks in Issyk-Kul province to address lack of economic opportunities, and social marginalization of young people. Each YouthBank is expected to be composed of a group of 8-10 volunteer aged 14 to 25 which acts as local grant-making committee. YouthBank members reach out to other young people to assess community needs and fund youth-led initiatives for community development. The project will support approximately 120 community-based projects ranging from \$500- \$2,500 each across six localities in Issyk-kul province.

"We've learned not only how to solve our problems, but to also prevent these problems. We learned all this from Youth Bank".

YouthBank member from Arka village, Kyrgyzstan



"Increasing prices of electricity will increase the provision of services?! People in rural areas will be unable to pay; where will they find money? As always, the harshest efforts are required from the most vulnerable people".

Debate tournament in Khorog

PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISM SCHOOL FOR YOUTH OF CENTRAL ASIA

Thanks to **US Department of State** support, EFCA is giving opportunities to a group of young journalists in Kazakhstan (kloop.kz), Kyrgyzstan (kloop.kg) and Tajikistan (kloop.tj) to build their capacities in international standards of journalism and reporting and to publish in independent media. The **"Professional Youth Journalism Program in Central Asia"** project (PYJP) operated four media schools in Almaty, Bishkek, Dushanbe, and Osh, in close cooperation with EFCA Bishkek-based partner KLOOP Media Foundation. Over 500 high-school and university students were trained at the 4 media schools in international standards of journalism, enabling them to produce and publish over 5,500 quality articles on the internet. The three country websites recorded an average of over 28,000 visits monthly, and proved among the most reliable and popular news sources for general public across the region.

"When I started the program in April [2012], I was both the youngest and the least experienced. Most people didn't even notice me. When my first article was published on the website, and when I brought home my first payment, my parents and my friends at school started to treat me differently. I now know that I can change my life and the lives of those around me".

Sharofiddin Gieszoda, a 14-year-old student at Dushanbe Media School

REDUCING YOUTH RADICALIZATION IN TAJIKISTAN

With the support of the **Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Denmark** EFCA seeks to reduce the threat of political and religious radicalization amongst the youth. This project aims to engage youth in the social, political and economic life of their communities in order to make radical religious movements less attractive options. This will be achieved through the education of young people on the causes of radicalization and the distribution of grants, following the YouthBank model,

to be spent in youth led community projects. EFCA works in conjunction with local religious leaders, political authorities, other NGOs and young people to give them the knowledge, tools and opportunity to facilitate a coordinated approach to the triggers of radicalization.

"In Muminobod, based on the fact that many disabled youths are unable to attend to school due to their poor health and high level of poverty, the leader of the Youth Bank, Navruz, offered to teach youth and more specifically disabled youth invaluable computer skills."

BUILDING YOUTH CONFIDENCE IN DEMOCRACY IN PAMYR, TAJIKISTAN

44 young people were democratically elected by their peers from across GBAO to participate in a Youth Council. This council meets every two months to discuss young people's and communities' concerns. 51 small and medium-size projects are about to be implemented, via a small grants mechanism, to affect positive change in communities. By engaging young people, this Youth Council contributes to prevent massive migration to Russia as it also helps them build a respected position in their society. This program is funded by the **United Nations Democracy Fund**.

VOICES OF YOUTH

EFCA aims to stimulate debate among young people in rural Tajikistan on development challenges and opportunities as young leaders often have innovative and remarkable views on these questions. Debate tournaments are held in Khorog, Kulyab, Garm, Khujand and Isfara and more than 100 young leaders have already participated. Debate questions focus on education, corruption, public services, women's contribution to the development of Tajikistan and others. In parallel, a research was designed to identify young people's recommendations for future development programming. This project is funded by the **World Bank**.

Education Development

Since the fall of the Soviet Union, there has been a marked decrease in the quality of education throughout most of the region. EFCA seeks to improve the quality of education at all levels in Central Asia. EFCA is working to enhance the skills of educators, improve curriculums and increase access to education, especially for vulnerable youth. EFCA works with a range of partners to meet the specific needs of each country.



INCREASING ACCESS TO HIGH-QUALITY EDUCATION IN KYRGYZSTAN

With support from **USAID** and micro-credit organizations EFCA completed in 2012 a pilot Student Loan project to improve students' access to vocational and higher educational institutions, which curricula are in line with employers' needs. Over 8,400 young people attended the project job fairs advertizing over 14,000 vacancies in the private sector, non-profit and public organizations. The project increased students awareness on the importance of investing into quality education by providing over 10,000 individual consultations, and a country-wide media campaign. The project further improved links between employers and students to support and complement the Student Loan Program.

"In my fourth year, when the time came to pay my fees for the next year, my family and I didn't have the money. But I wasn't prepared to take an academic leave or especially to quit my studies. Higher education is one of my priorities; I think that it enables me to fulfill myself and live an interesting and happy life. Then I heard about education loans which were cheaper than borrowing with high interest rates".

Asel Adamisaeva, a 5th-year student of the Kyrgyz Russian Slavic University in Bishkek

IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF VOCATIONAL TRAINING (KAZAKHSTAN)

EFCA's **"Improving the Quality of Vocational Graduates"** Project in Atyrau oblast funded by the **Chevron Corporation** is designed to improve the quality of vocational schools in key technical areas currently in demand in the labor market. The project team worked with TengizChevroil to identify content areas in need of modernization and to develop curricula in line with the requirements of the oil and gas industry. Instructors at the Kulsary Technical Lyceum #9 were trained to use new equipment and implement the new curricula. The project was

featured at the International Conference on Vocational Education in Astana in 2012 as a positive example of government, business, and educational partnership and was officially approved by the Ministry of Education and Science for pilot implementation.

"By conducting applied research studies in this project we were able to develop the scientific and methodological skills of our specialists. Our specialists learned about professional standards, how to determine employer requirements and work on the basis of these competencies to design training modules, create multimedia training aids, etc. Through the course of the project, we received valuable results in improving vocational education content which corresponds with modern tendencies in education and the needs of the labor market".

Janat Dalbayev, Center for Vocational Education Development and Qualification

INNOVATIONS IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION (KAZAKHSTAN)

EFCA's **"Happy Childhood"** project supported by **AGIP** aims at improving education and care services in kindergartens in Makat District, Atyrau Oblast. EFCA developed a two-part training plan to target the needs of both kindergarten administrators and care-takers. Besides trainings, EFCA provided each kindergarten with new methodological and teaching materials in both Kazakh and Russian. Inspired by the trainings, kindergarten staff equipped and arranged seven classrooms in accordance with the Montessori model of teaching, which prioritizes child interests and exploration. Kindergarten staff demonstrated high levels of interest in integrating their own professional development with new early childhood education methods.

"Using Montessori methodology gives children freedom of thinking and freedom of development, through interaction with their environment. The first day we divided the classroom into zones and equipped it with materials, the

children were a little afraid. But after they started to touch the materials, they understood that everything is available and they have access to everything. The generally accepted pre-school education system is more stereotypical and has a lot of prohibitions. But for children the best is freedom of choice, when children can choose what to do independently. Children love the theater stage very much and when we created one, everybody was trying to play there. The photographer from Atyrau mentioned that there is not such a well-equipped class even in the city," -

Kakima Nurkosimova, care-taker from "Balbobek" Kindergarten, Makat settlement.

IMPROVING ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS (KAZAKHSTAN)

In partnership with **AGIP-NCOC**, the "**Closer to Nature**" project aims at increasing environmental awareness and activity among youth in the Tupkaragan District, Mangistau Oblast. A peer education model was used to develop eco-clubs and youth environmental projects in three schools; following initial training with partner organization 'Posadi Derevo', 27 8th graders led eco-club lessons for 119 7th graders on topics such as water resources, waste management, biodiversity and personal hygiene. As a result, all three schools of the Tupkaragan District were exposed to a new approach in environmental education and are in the process of planning environmental awareness projects in their communities.

IMPROVING PRE-SCHOOL EDUCATION IN WESTERN KAZAKHSTAN

In collaboration with **ERSAI**, EFCA's **Growing Together Pre-school Education Initiative** for kindergartens in Mangystau oblast aims to improve the quality of early childhood education offered in homes and schools within the community. A Capacity Assessment conducted by EFCA in July 2012 revealed that kindergartens in the region face considerable challenges in the delivery of quality early childhood education, including limited professional development opportunities, lack of appropriate teaching and development materials, and limited parent involvement and interaction. Intervention prioritizes improved teacher qualifications, parent partnerships, and community engagement to improve the quality of classroom teaching and parent/child interactions in Kuryk.

PROMOTING THE COMMUNITY ACTIVE SCHOOLS MODEL IN KAZAKHSTAN

The EFCA's **School Education Development Program** funded by **ERSAI Company** adapts the internationally-renown Community Active Schools model, in which the local school becomes a center of community life by opening its doors to parents, families, and local professionals. By promoting a series of professional education activities, after-school interest groups, and a healthy lifestyle program, schools not only broaden their curriculum and promote community awareness, but improve teaching practices in the classroom, and see increased interest and involvement on behalf of students. This pilot project in Western Kazakhstan will enable students to make well-informed and healthy choices, encourage positive community contributions from young people, strengthen community partnerships, and improve the overall quality of life in rural communities.

BUILDING YOUNG TAJIK SCHOLARS' SKILLS

In response to the lack of independent and valuable sources of information about Tajikistan, EFCA established the Tajikistan Analytical Center, the first of its kind in Tajikistan (<http://research.tj/about/center/>) which aims to build the research capacities of young Tajik scholars. Additionally, the Tajikistan An-

alytical Center aspires to provide first hand analysis to policy makers to better meet local communities' needs and increase the positive outcomes of programs implemented. Academic publications help to form a base of knowledge about local society and politics that civil society actors can build upon for future programming. A team of 10 local academic researchers and graduate students has been selected. They were given training in research design and methodology. They also conducted the in-depth research on youth's perceptions of their future across Tajikistan. As part of the program "Voices of Youth" funded by the **World Bank**, more than 100 young people were surveyed and interviewed.



"After the trainings, my classmates and I started to organize eco-trainings for 7th graders at our school. At the beginning, acting like a teacher and explaining eco-topics to my peers was quite difficult for me, but then I really enjoyed working with them. From the eco-classes I've learned many interesting things I didn't know before. I did not know that bottles and plastic bags decay for so long and produce toxins. And it was also interesting to learn that we can recycle waste and do something useful with it. Now I really care about saving water and electricity at home. I always remind my sisters and parents that they should turn off the light and save the water. If we don't save now, then one day we can be short of water."

Raushan Sarkenova, 8th grade student, Gorky School



Support to Vulnerable Groups

EFCA seeks to improve the lives of Central Asia's most vulnerable groups, including persons with disabilities (PWDs), orphans, women and those affected by conflicts. With a decline in the level of support from the government, these groups find themselves desperately poor, isolated and unable to access basic rights and services. EFCA is working to increase incomes, protect rights and improve the quality of services available for vulnerable groups.



"My son wakes up and immediately gets ready for school. He has adapted very quickly here. At home, he sits down to do his homework. Before he did not even know letters, and now he is beginning to read and write, count figures. I tried to teach him at home by myself, but I got nowhere. In the resource centre he learned everything very quickly."

Valentina Kiseleva, a care giver of a child with special needs

INCLUSIVE EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES (KYRGYZSTAN)

In the framework of the **OSI**-funded project **"Improving Education and Social Protection for Children with Disabilities (CWDs)"** phase III, EFCA raised awareness of caregivers, teachers, PMPC members, and CSOs on rights of CWDs to an inclusive education with information packs, trainings and consultations. A pilot Education Resource Centre was established within the Lebedinovka school in Bishkek and run a 6-month pre-primary education program designed to prepare CWDs to join mainstream primary school. Following Kyrgyzstan's 2011 signature of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), EFCA organized a working group to provide recommendations to harmonize national legislation for ratification of the Convention.

IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES IN TAJIKISTAN

With support from **DfID** the EFCA is landscaping a sensorial garden at the Kishti Rehabilitation Center in order to improve the quality of life and the environment for the 50 children with disabilities attending the center. This sensorial garden is designed to incorporate different stimuli for the senses of the children and to create a relaxing environment. Also, EFCA is organizing activities that bring together mothers and children such as pottery and baking.

"Pottery helped my child. It is one of the rare activities that he likes to do; and it is good we can do it together."

Gultchera, one of the mothers at the Autism Centre

EASING TRANSITIONS FOR VULNERABLE GROUPS (KAZAKHSTAN)

The **"We are Together"** Orphanage Consolidation Project was designed by the EFCA team to support vulnerable youth and care-takers through the merger of two orphanages. To reduce stress, ease the transition for youth from both orphanages, and help





“After leaving the orphanages, most of the graduates are not prepared to live by themselves and need support in the first stages of adaptation to the conditions of independent living. This support is to be provided for by the orphanages themselves as well as by those of “youth homes” and educational institutions, or even by public institutions and non-profit organizations. Advocating for New Standards of Social Services for Orphan Graduates in Kazakhstan will give these kids support as well as an opportunity to successfully fulfill their lives” –
Asiya Khayrulina, project expert and president of the Women’s League of Creative Initiative organization.

prepare all youth involved for independent life following institutional care, professional development trainings were held for 12 orphanage staff members, addressing such topics as psychological support for vulnerable youth, behavior management, and conflict prevention strategies and practices. In addition, a youth leadership program, ‘School of Leadership’, was organized for youth for both orphanages to exercise leadership skills, build confidence, and gain self-awareness. The program concluded with the ‘Week of Kindness,’ a series of community projects designed to give participating youth practical experience in applying their new skills. The project was supported by the initiative group **Friends of Atyrau**.

SUPPORTING A NEW GENERATION OF LEADERS (KAZAKHSTAN)

Funded by the **AES Group of Companies**, EFCA’s “**Way to Success**” Initiative in Shulbinsk, East Kazakhstan was designed to meet the need for improved socialization and life-skills among orphaned youth, increased opportunities for vocational training and employment opportunities among orphanage graduates, and greater quality of care by professionals working with orphaned youth. As a result of the leadership program, 90 youth gained professional certifications, implemented 15 community volunteer projects, and joined interest clubs to gain practical skills needed for independent living (finance management, job search, family dynamics, etc). In addition, a Youth Resource Center was created to provide support for orphanage graduates in areas such as employment, housing, education, and communication skills. Trainings for orphanage care-givers and psychologists resulted in the creation of a local Association of Psychologists, which, on its own initiative, developed targeted resource materials for teachers and care-takers of vulnerable youth.



INDEPENDENT LIVING FOR ORPHANAGE GRADUATES (KAZAKHSTAN)

With the support of the **BOTA Foundation** and the Committee for Children’s Rights Protection of the Ministry of Education and Science, EFCA’s New Standards of Special Social Services for Orphan Graduates project advocates for new standards of social services for orphan graduates in Kazakhstan at the policy level. The project builds on EFCA’s ten years of experience promoting foster care, deinstitutionalization of orphans and social adaptation of orphanage graduates. The project aims to strengthen the existing prevention system of child abandonment in Kazakhstan by providing systematic social and psychological assistance for orphanage graduates with the goal of supporting successful independent living. The new standards for social services drafted by a group of child protection experts will be promoted among policy-makers as well as among the general public.

“I participated in the School of Leadership and the Week of Kindness. The project helped me to realize that I am a leader. I always try to be the first, I’m confident and my classmates usually listen to my ideas. Also, during the trainings I realized that I should have a life goal. I want to become a professional lawyer. I have the needed background, intentions and desire. Even now if some conflicts or misunderstandings occur in our orphanage I try to listen to both sides, to understand who is right and to protect them impartially. Also, during one of the School of Leadership sessions, I asked for forgiveness for the first time in my life, before I didn’t do that.”

Vera Gingilyan, 7th grade student

CSR and Volunteering Promotion

More and more companies in Central Asia are trying to take responsibility for their employees, the community and the environment. Since 2000, EFCA has assisted more than 50 companies in developing and implementing their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) strategies. EFCA promotes CSR in the region and helps companies realize the many advantages to doing business responsibly. Volunteering in needy communities, opportunity to share skills and talents changes people's mindsets and improves social cohesion. EFCA tries to provide people with chances to promote good that in return produces a feeling of self-worth and respect.



CSR CLUB OF KAZAKHSTAN

EFCA invited diverse CSR stakeholders to create the **CSR Club of Kazakhstan**. The mission of the Club is to promote the formation and development of a culture of Corporate Social Responsibility by promoting and disseminating best practices and standards aimed at developing partnerships between state, business and civil society in order to promote sustainable development of Kazakhstan. The Club members meet bimonthly to discuss ongoing developments in the CSR sector and serve as an expert panel for EFCA's ongoing CSR initiatives.

NATIONAL CONCEPTION FOR CSR

In an effort to address the lack of coordination among CSR initiatives in Kazakhstan, with support from the **Royal Netherlands Embassy in Kazakhstan**, EFCA introduced the project "**Developing a Unified Approach to CSR Promotion in Kazakhstan**" in collaboration with the Kazakhstani Business Forum for Sustainable Development and Atameken Union. The main goal of the project is to create a platform for the engagement of all key stakeholders in the development of a systematic approach to CSR promotion. Research of CSR situation and tendencies in Kazakhstan and research of tax incentives will be followed by the creation of a CSR concept working group, comprised of the representatives of business, government, academia, and the civil sector. The group will develop a draft CSR concept for promotion at the national level.

"It is essential to participate in the lives of local communities because for running successful business in Kyrgyzstan, companies need to streamline its relations with clients on the partnership level."

David Grant, the Chairman of the Board of Talas Copper Gold



“Indeed, I did not expect to enjoy the project so much. I thought we will teach children, but in turn we learned so much from them”.

Natalya Shataya, Shell volunteer

COMPANIES SUPPORT VULNERABLE GROUPS (KYRGYZSTAN)

EFCA organized in October 2012 a Grand Gala evening raising over US\$11,000 to support children with special needs in the Ayar-Bala Rehabilitation Center in Talas province. Raised funds supported the renovation of the center infrastructure (water and heating systems), purchasing additional equipment. Donor organizations included private sector companies such as Talas Copper Gold and Kumtor Company, Hyatt Regency, and Turkish Airlines.

PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE SOCIAL INVESTMENTS IN KYRGYZSTAN

EFCA completed consultancy work for the **Kumtor Gold Company** in September 2012 to assess and improve effectiveness of its local development investments in Ton district in Issyk-Kul province. EFCA review included the company-funded micro credit program, training and consulting activities for local citizens on developing business plans and the creation of small-sized income-generating businesses. EFCA also reviewed other efforts to improve cooperation between Kumtor Gold Company and local communities, including relationship management. EFCA made specific recommendations to Kumtor Gold Company to build its image as a local business actor committed to economic sustainable development.

CORPORATE VOLUNTEERISM FOR COMMUNITY CHANGE (KAZAKHSTAN)

Together with **Shell Kazakhstan Development B.V.**, EFCA is promoting corporate volunteerism to benefit community youth.

The goal of EFCA's **“Open Your Shell”** project is to engage Shell employees in volunteer activities so as to contribute to the socialization of orphans in Astana. In order to prepare volunteers to work with orphans, EFCA conducted trainings for Shell employees on the principles of volunteering and the issues faced by orphans in Kazakhstan. EFCA partnered with the Center for Social Adaptation of Children, a local NGO with expertise in the area of orphans and child protection from Astana, to coordinate logistics and provide on-the-ground support for the project. As a result, Shell employees mentored local youth in self-defense, art-therapy and public-speaking skills, organized a concert for vulnerable youth in Astana commemorating the International Day of Kindness, and took part in an official ceremony and concert at Akkol orphanage.

ONE MILLION HOURS VOLUNTEERING (TAJIKISTAN)

EFCA is recruiting 400 Professional Mentors who will give 81,000 hours of their time to help young people and women from rural Tajikistan. This first-of-its-kind approach in Tajikistan will build the capacity of marginalized groups to positively influence their own development, while innovatively engaging the country's skilled professionals as national volunteers with the mindset and active commitment to reduce inequality. This volunteering action aims to encourage professional and influential Tajik citizens to understand and take responsibility for development challenges faced by marginalized women and youth in their own communities. This project is funded by the **Voluntary Services Overseas (VSO)**.

Conflict Prevention

The events of June 2010 in the Fergana Valley have stressed the importance of preventing conflict and reconciling groups after conflict has occurred. EFCA brings together young people, women, local organizations and civil society from different groups so that they may take measures to prevent conflict and promote reconciliation in the Fergana Valley.



"At the beginning we felt that the chairwoman of our territorial council "Sputnik" is underestimating our ability to handle the activities. But having observed our activities and our enthusiastic approach to what we were doing she changed her mind and now she offered her help and assistance in coordinating the implementation of small projects together with the residents."

Maya Bagysheva, a member of Womens PeaceBanks from Jalal-Abad

EMPOWERING WOMEN TO LEAD RECONCILIATION AND PEACE BUILDING INITIATIVES (KYRGYZSTAN)

With **USAID** support EFCA initiated in 2012 the "Women's Peace Banks" (WPB) project to promote women's role in local peace-building initiatives in Osh and Jalal-Abad cities, following the June 2010 inter-ethnic violence. EFCA established 16 WPBs to select and fund small-scale community-based inter-ethnic reconciliation initiatives, designed and implemented by local residents. The WPBs' participants will attend a school of conflict mediation to strengthen conflict mitigation skills. A series of forums will enable WPBs participants to share best practices and enhance cooperation between WPBs and local authorities.

BUILDING TRUST AND COOPERATION IN KYRGYZ-TAJIK BORDER COMMUNITIES (KYRGYZSTAN, TAJIKISTAN)

EFCA completed in 2012 the 2-year project "Cross-Border Youth Cooperation", addressing local conflict flash-points and reducing vulnerability to conflict in 4 pairs of communities along the Kyrgyz-Tajik border. EFCA organized cross-border social events and applied the YouthBank model to promote youth interaction and cooperation across ethnic and community lines. Youth-led small-scale projects contributed to improving border communities livelihoods. EFCA trained 350 residents on hands-on techniques for conflict mitigation, held 2 Schools of Conflict Management, and established the Rapid-Response Funds (RRF) mechanism for community-based organizations (CBOs) to address root causes of tensions via small projects and problem-solving meetings. The project made a 25-minute film on youth-led peacebuilding efforts at Kyrgyz-Tajik border, which was broadcasted on local and regional TV channels.

"I strongly believe that regular meetings with the customs officers will have a positive impact on the everyday lives of community members who cross the border regularly. At the end of the day, what matters most is peaceful coexistence in the region, peaceful life without any conflicts, peaceful future for our children..."

Ugulay Shernazarova, a resident of Tagoyak village, Republic of Tajikistan

PROMOTING YOUTH RIGHTS, INCLUSION AND POLITICAL ENGAGEMENT (KYRGYZSTAN)

EFCA completed in 2012 the "Youth Rights, Inclusion and Political Engagement in Southern Kyrgyzstan" project, designed to achieve larger political participation of young people, better awareness of youth rights, and promote a more inclusive and pluralistic Kyrgyz society. EFCA project involved youth participation in multi-ethnic workcamps, Forum Theaters, radio shows and films to increase interaction among youth and awareness on youth rights. EFCA convened youth-led focus groups to identify local needs and priorities, trained CSOs and local authorities on encouraging youth empowerment initiatives, and organized round-tables for young leaders to participate in decision-making with local authorities. The project provided young people with opportunities to become active citizens in their communities.

"Young people make recommendations, but unfortunately our ideas don't become real. This is because they're either impractical or not prioritized. These training sessions built my skills to participate actively in local planning and implement these recommendations."

Bibigul Abdykadyrova, local youth committee in Kurshab village



Local Economic Development

EFCA promotes entrepreneurship and local economic development by strengthening cooperation among the public, private and civic sectors. The Foundation engages all levels of society with local programs that seek to remove governmental barriers to small business growth, help entrepreneurs gain access to capital and skills training.

SUPPORTING LOCAL CRAFTSMANSHIP IN KAZAKHSTAN

With the support of **Chevron Munaigas Inc.**, In 2012, EFCA supported the registration of first Union of Artisans of Kazakhstan, whose purpose is to improve the status of artisans, preserve and promote the cultural and traditional values of Kazakhstan's diverse peoples, and create a resource network for Kazakhstan's wide-spread artist community. The Union represents the final project in EFCA's six-year initiative to increase the business acumen of Kazakhstan's craftsmen and improve the competitiveness of Kazakhstan's crafts on local and regional markets. The Union has become a national member of both the World Craft Council and its Pacific Regional Office. This membership allows the Union to access information about international events. The Union represents Kazakhstan's successful integration into the international crafts movement.

SUPPORTING YOUTH ENTREPRENEURSHIP (KAZAKHSTAN)

In partnership with **Saipem and ERSAL** companies, EFCA is fostering youth entrepreneurship in Western Kazakhstan. The goal of EFCA's Professional Orientation and Entrepreneurship Development program is to promote the growth of small business in the Kuryk community, home to a large number of unemployed youth. The three-fold project approach – technical skill building, networking with the local business community, and support for business plan implementation - will ultimately contribute to the strengthened capacity of local residents, ages 18-29, to plan and implement small business activities in the community, contributing to the local economy and potential job creation.

“The idea of the establishment of the Union was first expressed in 2008 at the international conference “Revitalizing crafts in Kazakhstan”, but the artisans were not ready at that time. For the Union's sustainability it was necessary to have the initiative coming from the artisans themselves. The establishment of the Union is a timely and important step forward.”

Aizhan Bekkulova, the Chair of the Union of
Artisans of Kazakhstan.

Eurasia Foundation of Central Asia Financials

Statement of Financial Position as of December 31, 2012

Assets	2011	2012
Cash and cash equivalents	\$1 587 508	\$1 466 722
Investments	\$50 855	\$6 253
Grants, accounts and other receivables	\$1 331 740	\$1 474 680
Prepaid expenses	\$38 345	\$19 404
Fixed assets, net of accumulated depreciation and amortization	\$63 565	\$56 926
Advances and deposits	\$12 564	\$22 999
Total Assets	\$3 084 577	\$3 046 984

Liabilities and Net Assets	2011	2012
Liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$45 345	\$60 169
Grants payable	\$1 029 076	\$971 558
Total Liabilities	\$1 074 421	\$1 031 727
Net Assets		
Unrestricted (generated from corporations, trustess, staff etc.)	\$102 362	\$118 791
Donor funds	\$1 907 794	\$1 896 466
Total Net Assets	\$2 010 156	\$2 015 257
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$3 084 577	\$3 046 984

Statement of Activities and Change in Net Assets for the Year Ending December 31, 2012

Revenue	2011	2012
Grants and contributions	\$4 815 312	\$4 011 897
Unrestricted funds	\$7 872	\$3 733
Total Revenue	\$4 823 184	\$4 015 630

Expenses	2011	2012
Program Services:		
EFCA Kazakhstan	\$1 543 874	\$1 248 254
EFCA Kyrgyzstan	\$1 870 813	\$1 717 345
EFCA Tajikistan	\$541 023	\$414 793
Supporting Services:		
Management and Administration	\$556 992	\$630 137
Total Expenses	\$4 512 701	\$4 010 528
Change in net assets	\$310 483	\$5 101
Net assets at year start	\$1 699 673	\$2 010 156
Net Assets At Year End	\$2 010 156	\$2 015 257

Complete audited financial reports are available upon request.

DONORS AND PARTNERS

Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark
Commission of the European Union
US Agency for International Development (USAID)
The World Bank
Kumtor Company
Open Society Institute
US Embassy
British Embassy
German Embassy
Embassy of Finland
Embassy of New Zealand
Chevron Corporation
Tengizchevroil
AGIP-NCOC
Ersai Company
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Volunteer Services Overseas
US State Department
AES Group of Companies
Royal Netherlands Embassy
UN Democracy Fund
ExxonMobil Kazakhstan Inc.
Saipem



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