

Oxfam-Novib Research Project

Central Asia and Global Civil Society: Stage 2 – Regional Network Profiles

Second Draft Report by INTRAC Central Asia Programme

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Abbreviations Used in the Report

CBO – Community Based Organisation
CSO – Civil Society Organisation
NGO – Non-Governmental Organisation
SHG – Self Help Group
TOR – Terms of Reference

Section 1: Introduction and Description of Work in Stage 2

1.1 Background. This report represents the second stage in a research project “Central Asia NGOs and Global Civil Society Networks” carried out for Oxfam Novib from June 2006. The first stage report was delivered in August 2006 and presented basic information about CA civil society plus the results of a survey of NGO networking on the national, regional and international levels. The report also contained a methodological section examining the nature and capacity of networks and short notes on three key issues for Central Asia today – regional identity, civil society engagement in poverty reduction and gender programs. The second stage of research was commissioned in October 2006 and included the following main objectives:

1. Extend the survey of NGOs in Tajikistan and Uzbekistan and follow up on new ideas and contacts coming from them
2. Collect more information from key CS network coordinators working on a CA regional basis, regarding the membership and operation of their networks.
3. Identify more closely networking themes and organizations working within Novib’s aims 1 (sustainable livelihoods), 4 (the right to be heard – social/political participation) and 5 (gender and diversity- womens transformative leadership).
4. Development of practical recommendations for OXFAM NOVIB strategies in the CA region. (See Annex 1 – TOR)

1.2 Description of Work. The objectives of the second stage were achieved through the efforts of an expanded research team, based in INTRAC’s regional office in Kyrgyzstan with the help of local experts from Kazakstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan.

Information was collected using three main instruments:

- A questionnaire issued to network coordinators
- Analysis of secondary sources - information brochures of organizations, internet resources etc
- A focus group discussion with network representatives from the region

The main work and efforts of the team focused on the issue and completion of questionnaires. Information was collected on a total of 24 national and regional networks using a template provided by Novib. A total of 10 new networks were researched in Tajikistan and Uzbekistan and the information sent to INTRAC. At the same time, information on Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan networks received in Stage 1 was supplemented and re-arranged using the same format. At the end of the data collection phase, on 21 November, there was a full day review meeting of the research team in Bishkek, with participation of Zulfiya Toktakhodjaeva from Uzbekistan¹.

Two weeks earlier, the team had been able to make use of an opportunity provided by INTRAC’s open training workshop “Strategic Relations, Coalition Building and Networking” to discuss key issues around the aims, structure and operation of networks in the region². In the final session of the workshop on 8th November, a round table was organised on the theme «Development of Central Asian CS networking: practice and perspectives». Representatives of five Central Asian CSO Networks attended this event and exchanged ideas and information with workshop participants from Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan.

Parallel to the main research, INTRAC conducted a mini internet survey of ten global civil society networks chosen from the list provided by Oxfam Novib’s global department, so as to assess existing links and collaboration, also opportunities for further work on the main themes of Novib’s Central Asia program.

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¹ The consultant responsible for the Tajikistan research, Marifat Abdullaeva, was not able to come to Bishkek due to prior commitments.

² The trainers were Charles Buxton and Gulmira Jamanova.

Finally, during the same period, the INTRAC team took advantage of an invitation from the Institute of Social Studies in The Hague to present some ideas and findings from the first stage of work for Novib. A paper entitled “NGO’s in Central Asia – Partners in East-West Dialogue” was presented by Kulnara Djamankulova at the ISS conference on 8th December in Holland. At the same time the Stage 2 report was prepared and discussed in Bishkek and Oxford.

1.3 Structure of the report

The analysis of information requested by Novib proceeds in three main stages in this report. First, the team researched national and regional networks – looking at their structure, target group, area of work, needs etc. This data is presented as 24 individual tables in Section 2. (It makes the text quite heavy – but we understand that this is one of the key outputs from Stage 2 for Novib.) Second, the information was brought together according to country and Novib strategic aim in four country summary tables. Here the analysis moves towards the consideration of program and support opportunities for Novib. The country summaries are presented in Annex 2 (since there is inevitably an element of repetition of information taken from the individual tables). They are very useful for getting an overview of the data collected.

The results of the regional review meeting on 21 November are presented in full. Key opportunities for linking with global networks are presented in Section 3 (to relieve the main text, some important detail is put in Annex 3). In Section 4 we present a summary of program gaps, potential directions and mechanisms of support for Novib as discussed in November. The recommendations made at this meeting were extremely timely, concrete and useful – and cover all three Novib strategic aims quite well. Finally, the research team did more work to bring together the recommendations as five main options for Novib to consider. These are:

1. Preparation and discussions at a regional workshop in early 2007
2. Funding of individual organisations / networks
3. Filling the gaps in the organizational and institutional development of regional networks
4. Creation of a forum / coalition of CA regional networks around the themes of OXFAM NOVIB’s strategic aims.
5. Promotion or holding of major international events in CA region

... See section 4.2 for full details.

Thanks to Novib for providing INTRAC the opportunity to carry out research and begin some useful discussions in this rather new and undeveloped theme of regional networking and global CS links in Central Asia!

Section 2: National and Regional Networks

2.1 General. As a result of the team's work with questionnaires, a portfolio of 24 CS networks operating on the national or regional level in Central Asia was created. The questionnaires were based on standard questions reflecting the terms of reference.

The list of 24 national and regional networks for which data was obtained is as follows:

Kyrgyzstan:

1. Network "Ishenim"
2. Alliance of Mountainous Communities of Central Asia
3. Network "AgeNet Central Asia Without Borders"
4. Central Asian Platform (CAP)
5. Central Asia Alliance for Water (CAAW)
6. Association of Civil Society Support Centers (ACSSC)
7. Forum of Women's NGOs
8. Central Asia Crafts Support Association (CASCA)

Uzbekistan:

9. Business Womens Association of Uzbekistan "Tadbirkor Ayol" (BWAU)
10. Centre «Balim va Tarakkiet» (Knowledge and Progress)
11. National Association of Nongovernmental Noncommercial Organizations of Uzbekistan (NANNOUz)
12. «Mehr» - Association of Women's NCO of the Republic of Uzbekistan
13. Network of Partners in the framework of IOM Project «Prevention of Human Trafficking in Central Asia»

Tajikistan:

14. Regional Association of Micro Finance Organisations of Central Asia (CAMFA)
15. Network of Beekeepers of Ferghana Valley
16. NGO Network of Ferghana Valley «Valley of Peace»
17. National Association of Civil Society Support Centers (NA CSSC)
18. CA Network on Implementation of Central Asia Regional Project on HIV/AIDS Control

Kazakhstan:

19. EcoForum NGO, Republic of Kazakhstan
20. Association on Development of Civil Society (ADCS)
21. Central Asia Sustainability Development Information Network (CASDIN)
22. Network of Disabled Women's Organizations of CA
23. Regional Women's Network Program of the Open Society Institute
24. Electronic Information Network «FemLine»

The individual summary tables are given in the next section (2.2). The information includes both national and regional networks and is grouped both by country and by Novib aim. In the case of regional networks, they are entered according to the country which "nominated" them (this is often but not always the country in which the coordinating office is based – since several networks rotate their coordinating function). The networks are numbered according to the list given above.

2.2 Individual summary tables – national and regional networks

KYRGYZSTAN

Direction “Sustainable Livelihoods”

= 1 =

1.	Name of regional network	“Ishenim” Network (founded in April 1999)
2.	Geography of the activity and number of members	In total 11 members. Kyrgyzstan - 7, Kazakhstan - 3, Tajikistan - 1.
3.	Main aims of network activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To strengthen and activate of socially unprotected people for solving individual problems and to improve quality of their life. To strengthen possibilities of the network partners; solidifying the network through lobbying, mobilization of resources, spreading and development of Self-Help Group (SHG) concept and their federations on local and national levels.
4.	Target groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NGOs in the area of poverty alleviation and sustainable livelihoods, and which use the concept of SHG. The SHG concept was adapted from the experience of India and it suggests work on conceptual level and develops social, economic, legal and cultural directions.
5.	In which way will the interrelations be regulated?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The network works on a flexible basis, but with rules, a system of entry and annual member fees. Each member organization has a special budget for participation in Ishenim network activity.
6.	Who is the Coordinator of the network?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2006 the Coordinator of the network was NGO «Mehr Shavkat» (Aravan, Kyrgyzstan), and in 2007 it was NGO “JR” (Batken town, Kyrgyzstan). Coordinator system (management) in the network is based on rotation.
7.	With which international agencies and networks do you cooperate?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The network was created with the support of ACT CA (All Churches Together in Central Asia). At the present time, network members cooperate with “InterChurch Organization for Development Cooperation” (ICCO, Netherlands), with Central-Asian Platform and «AgeNet Central Asia No Borders».
8.	Possibilities to work at regional level (who and what promotes development of regional networks)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rotation system of network coordinators every year; this increased the potential of members on network management. Network members can make their own contributions to network activity (for example, research, working group meetings, etc); this increases trust of donors and other organizations. The «Ishenim» network has the possibility and plan of creating a multilevel network, through creation of mini networks. For instance, NGO «Arysh» (Kyrgyzstan) set up a network NGO of self house builders named «EREP», Public Fund «Development and Cooperation in Central Asia» (DCCA, Kyrgyzstan) created the network of southern NGOs «Saturn Yug». Law «On micro credit agencies» in the Kyrgyz Republic and other countries of Central Asia enables application and development of SHG concept for uplifting the communities. The donors, network members may act as facilitators for developing potential of the «Ishenim» network.
9.	Which regional issues and themes are able to promote progress of network interaction of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in Central Asia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dissemination of SHG Concept for comprehensive development, exchange of information, knowledge and experience between Network members. Lack of comprehensive and well-aimed state policy on improving the life levels of vulnerable sections of the population Providing financial and organizational sustainability of network members without the donor support
10.	Risks for the network organization (Who and what limits the development chances of net organizations at the regional level?)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The network focuses on economic issues, leaving out the conceptual issues of SHG. Crucial cultural, ideological aspects and lobbying are left out of attention. Issues of formalization of the «Ishenim» regional network remain unclear. There are problems such as within which country’s legislation should the legal registration be done. Network members are concerned about the issues of financing the

		institutional development and capacity building of the network.
11.	Contact information	E-mail: mehrshavkat@mail.ru , Web: www.dcca.kg/eng/ishenim/ishenim.htm

= 2 =

1.	Name of regional network	« Association of Mountain Communities in Central Asia » (AMCCA) (Created in June 2003)
2.	Geography of the activity and number of members	27 members - villages from 3 countries: Kyrgyzstan (13 villages), Kazakhstan (5 villages), Tajikistan (9 villages)
3.	Main aims of network activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assistance in sustainable use of natural resources of CA mountain regions (Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, and Tajikistan) aimed at improving life standards of mountain residents of these three countries. • Lobbying interests of territorial self government communities (TSG) at local, regional, national and international levels, as well as platform for dialogue between interested parties on sustainable development (SD) of mountain villages. • Joint partner efforts for developing the CA mountain regions based on sustainable use of natural resources, through engaging local communities.
4.	Target groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mountain villages and communities • Territorial community self governments (TSG)
5.	In which way will the interrelations be regulated?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Network is formalized and registered in the form of unification of legal personalities, and has registration in the Kyrgyz Republic. • Charter, Decisions of Management Board
6.	Who is the Coordinator of the network?	Network is governed by a Board (represented by its President) and Secretariat
7.	With which international agencies and networks do you cooperate?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Central-Asian Mountain Program (CAMP) – was an initiator of creating the AMCCA after the Mountain Summit in Bishkek (2002) devoted to the celebration of the International Year of Mountains; • The Alps Alliance; International Committee on protection of the Alps (CIPRA); • Swiss Bureau on development and cooperation (SDC); • Development and Cooperation Fund of Mountain Villages;
8.	Possibilities to work at regional level (who and what promotes development of regional networks)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of TSGs and improving partnership with local self governments for promoting sustainable development of mountain communities. • Extending the network activity on organization, exchange of visits between mountain communities of different countries, holding forums and conferences, preparation and dissemination of printed materials. • As regards regional network activity it is easier to find financial resources for implementing inter-country projects. • The number of organizations which want to join AMCCA is growing steadily.
9.	Which regional issues and themes are able to promote progress of network interaction of Organizations of Civil Society (CSO) in Central Asia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Securing exchange of experience on development of mountain communities and sustainable natural resource exploitation. • Developing organizational potential of the network members • Increasing the role of local self government through exchange of experience between the mountain areas of the regions. • Implementing the agreements on Mountain partnership, and the Alps and the Carpathian Conventions.
10	Risks for the network organization (Who and what limits the development chances of net organizations at the regional level?)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issues of localization of the regional network • It is challenging to carry out country / national projects in the network, and achieve solutions of specific tasks for a concrete country or the region. • Ways of work with communities, legislation in each country of the region is different. This raises the need to find mutually profitable directions for all members; this will help to develop the organizational potential of network members
11	Contact information	Email: alliance@camp.elcat.kg , Web: www.camp.kg

= 3 =

1.	Name of regional network	«AgeNet Central Asia No Borders» Network, (founded on March 1, 2005)
2.	Geography of the activity and number of members	Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan – in total 28 network members.
3.	Main aims of network activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribute into the increase of responsibility of state and civil society in improving the life of elderly people. Assistance in provision of a secure old age, adequate life for fulfillment of spiritual and material needs of citizens of the older generation.
4.	Target groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Old people's, support and accompanying NGOs working with elderly persons in the network member countries.
5.	In which way will the interrelations be regulated?	Entrance fee, membership fee, Charter and Ethical code.
6.	Who is the Coordinator of the network?	Public Union «Resource Center for the Elderly» (RCE, Kyrgyzstan), Term of coordinator activity – 2 years, with the right of re-election.
7.	With which international agencies and networks do you cooperate?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HelpAge International (UK), All Churches Together (ACT Central Asia), ECCA Counterpart Kyrgyzstan
8.	Possibilities to work at regional level (who and what promotes development of regional networks)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International donor agencies are interested in working through the «AgeNet» network in Central Asia. The activity of the network is being extended to Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan; moreover, an NGO from Russia has expressed interest in joining; in Turkmenistan a research study will be conducted on aged people's socio economic situation with a local NGO. «Madrid Plan of Action on improving life of aged people» signed by the CA countries enables the “AgeNet” network to work in cooperation with national governments. There is a partnership with HelpAge International and the Ecumenical Consortium «ECCA».
9.	Which regional issues and themes are able to promote progress of network interaction of Organizations of Civil Society (CSO) in Central Asia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Realization of «Madrid Plan of Actions» unites old people's and accompanying NGOs in CA countries. Many members of «AgeNet» network use the concept of <i>Self Help Groups</i> (SHG) in their work and manage micro credit agencies (MCA).
10.	Risks for the network organization (Who and what limits the development chances of net organizations at the regional level?)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members of the network have various organization aims, which do not always concern the support of the aged. The level of institutional development between members of «AgeNet» is unequal, and the network does not yet have a mechanisms for supporting potential members and forming an equal responsibility for results of network activity. At present moment the network «AgeNet» only works with 3-4 strong members. Other members and network committees do not initiate projects and are not actively involved in network activities.
11.	Contact information	E-mail: agenet@mail.ru , Web: www.agenet.org.kg

= 4 =

1.	Name of regional network	Central Asian Platform (CAP) (Central Asian Network on Lobbying the European Union) (Founded in June, 2005)
2.	Geography of the activity and number of members	Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan. The network includes around 20 member organizations
3.	Main aims of network activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lobbying Central Asian countries' interests on sustainable development in European Union policy, based on commonly agreed needs of the civil sector and national governments of Central Asian countries. Increasing access to European Union funds for provision of financial sustainability of target groups in the regional network.
4.	Target groups	Organizations working on alleviation of poverty, sustainable livelihoods, and democratization of society in Central Asian countries.

5.	In which way will the interrelations be regulated?	Membership fees, Provision on Network and working plan for the next year (2007)
6.	Who is the Coordinator of the network?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public Fund «Development and Cooperation in Central Asia», (DCCA, Kyrgyzstan). System of network management provides for rotation of coordinator role in the network for 1 year period.
7.	With which international agencies and networks do you cooperate?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Association of World Council of Churches related Development Organizations in Europe (APRODEV) is a financial organization of Central Asian Platform. APRODEV is a network of European NGO who lobbies the interests of the developing countries to the European Union. APRODEV cooperates with other European networks such as CONCORD and TRIALOG.
8.	Possibilities to work at regional level (who and what promotes development of regional networks)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CAP members are advanced NGOs with well-established contacts between them. CAP has concrete aims and directions to influence the policies of EU institutions. Members of CAP network have a big experience in creating and work with such networks as «Ishenim» and «AgeNet Central Asia No Borders». CAP cooperates closely with the European networks APPRODEV, CONCORD and Ecumenical Consortium «ECCA».
9.	Which regional issues and themes are able to promote progress of network interaction of Organizations of Civil Society (CSO) in Central Asia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is Agreement on Cooperation Plan (ACP) between EU and CA countries, according to which projects are carried out. ACP allows for CAP monitoring and project evaluation and Strategies of Countries Development (SCD) carried out by CA national governments countries, with the support of EU.
10.	Risks for the network organization (Who and what limits the development chances of net organizations at the regional level?)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The EU does not have a formal mechanism for consultation with CSOs in Central Asia. Thus many of EU policies and programs for CA countries have been created without consultation with civil society. EU works mainly on national government level, however is increasingly keen to work with non-state actors. The national policies and priorities of CAP member countries are very different from each other. The CAP Network does not yet have a mechanism for motivating active participation of CAP members.
11.	Contact information	E-mail: emil@dcca.org.kg , Web: www.dcca.kg/eng/ishenim/platform.htm

= 5 =

1	Name of regional network	Central Asian Alliance of on Water (CAAW) (founded in March, 2001)
2	Geography of the activity and number of members	Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan – 28 Water Committees and 2 Community Drinking Water Unions (CDWU)
3	Main aims of network activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assistance in sustainable water supply, sanitation and hygiene by changing the behavior of village communities and by using an integrated approach in managing water resources Promotion of leadership and decision making skills among rural youth, and thus to raise the status of “independent youth republics” set up in villages covered by the project. Assistance in promoting interests of communities through including them in the strategy of local authorities To help develop the Alliance and information exchange between members.
4	Target groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water Committees and Community Drinking Water Unions (public associations working on supply of pure drinking water in villages, also sanitation and hygiene for rural children)
5	How is the network management regulated?	Charter, Rules on Membership
6	Who is the Coordinator of the network?	Executive Body (Staff of CAAW represented by executive director)
7	With which international agencies and networks do you cooperate?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Secretariat on Water Network «AgeNet Central Asia No Borders» International and donor organizations: Novib-Oxfam, SDC, CIDA and UNICEF, ADRA - Kyrgyzstan, Counterpart Consortium, UNDP, DFID.
8	Possibilities to work at regional	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opening and developing new Water Committees (WC) by using many

	level (who and what promotes development of regional networks)	<p>years Alliance experience.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support exchange of experience between advanced and newer water Committees • Support by international organizations on solving problems on drinking water, sanitation and hygiene among local communities. • Encouraging cooperation between CAAW members with state structures and local self government bodies – to lobby the Water Committees’ interests.
9	Which regional issues and themes are able to promote progress of network interaction of Organizations of Civil Society (CSO) in Central Asia?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arranging exchange of information between network members, and experience about relations with local state bodies • Joint lobbying of interests on creation and improving the legal foundation for organizations working on water, apply integrated approaches to solving village issues on water resources management. • Development of strategies on sustainable life of organizations and systems created by them.
10	Risks for the network organization (Who and what limits the development chances of net organizations at the regional level?)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unstable political situation in members countries of the Network, force major situations • Lack of competence of local authorities • Lack of interstate agreements on mutual cooperation on water issues.
11	More important needs in developing network of CSO of Central Asia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a need for information and exchange of information, international experience • The network needs institutional support to extend information and dissemination activities on the regional and global level.
12	Contact information	E-mail: caawosh@mail.ru , Web: www.caaw.net

= 6 =

1.	Name of national network	Association of Civil Society Support Centers (ACSSC) (Founded in November 2002)
2.	Geography of the activity and number of members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kyrgyzstan – 10 CSSC members in all oblasts of the country • ACSSC is a national network organization. It was founded with the support of Counterpart Consortium and USAID in the framework of implementing civil society support programs in Central Asia. • ACSSC has good links with similar national networks: in Kazakhstan this is Association on Development Civil Society (ADCS), in Tajikistan it is National Association CSSC (NA CSSC), and other individual CSSCs in Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan.
3.	Main aims of the network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assistance in development of dynamic, effective and sustainable civil society in Kyrgyzstan • Promotion of interests of the civil society and protection of its subjects’ rights, and institutional support of noncommercial organizations
4.	Target groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civil Society Support Centers (CSSC), • NGO support organizations
5.	How is the network management regulated?	Charter and internal provisions
6.	Who is the Coordinator of the network?	Executive Body
7.	With which international agencies and networks do you cooperate?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AmCham – American Chamber and Industry Chamber • CIVICUS • Counterpart Int., USAID, Soros-Kyrgyzstan Foundation, Aga-Khan Foundation, European Union
8.	Possibilities work at regional level (who and what promotes development of regional networks)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are CSSC in all the regions of the country with rather strong potential for providing services on development and lobbying the interests of civil society organizations • The Association has formalized structure of management, interested Managing body • There are possibilities for regional cooperation with CSSC Associations in Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, and with individual CSSCs in Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan. The network has experience of holding CA regional conferences with ADCS (Kazakhstan) on NGO capacity strengthening

		<p>through building partnership in CA region.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It has significant experience on developing inter regional NGO connections, arranging exchange visits and internships for NCOs (non commercial organizations), development of network organizations, and management of grant programs. • The Association has a positive image with local NGOs and international agencies.
9.	Which regional issues and themes are able to promote progress of network interaction of Organizations of Civil Society (CSO) in Central Asia?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening organizational capacity and financial sustainability of the resource organizations for the civil sector. • Implementation of programs on community mobilization, promotion of interests of civil society and solidifying of institution of civil participation. • Exchange of experience with the most experienced networks, success stories and methodologies of NGO development.
10	Risks for the network organization (Who and what limits the development chances of net organizations at the regional level?)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tendencies in Central Asia to limit democracy, political situation in CA countries hamper the developing of links between country associations. • During the last three years the Kyrgyz government has issued several sub law acts and instructions, limiting the activity of NGOs and Media (for instance, decree №20 and №358). • Non-commercial organizations strive to build coalitions and interactions between each other. Nevertheless, as a rule, there is a lack of clear understanding of aims and objectives of such unions and possible ways of working together. This leads to conflicts between NGOs and the collapse of associations and coalitions.
11	More relevant needs in developing network of CSO of Central Asia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forming of a uniform understanding of aims, objectives, and ways of working in networks • Adequate and favorable political environment for development of networks in CA • Organizational and financial sustainability of NGOs • Common ethical code • Forming adherence to common values of all CSOs of CA
12	Contact information	E-mail: erkina@acssc.org.kg , Web: www.acssc.org.kg

Direction «Gender and Diversity»

= 7 =

1.	Name of regional network	OO «Forum of Women's NGOs of Kyrgyzstan» (Created in April 1996)
2.	Geography of the activity and number of members	The Forum is a national network, although it aims to extend its activity to the entire Central-Asian region. It has regional relations with Association of Women's NGOs of Uzbekistan «Mehr» and «Feminist League» of Kazakhstan
3.	Main aims of network activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To consolidate and strengthen Women's NGOs; to promote women, gender equality in society, increase of participation of women in public life through NGOs and other organisations • Institutional development of Women's NGOs • To form and develop a network of CA Women's NGOs in the area of gender equality
4.	Target groups	Womens' NGOs
5	How is the network management regulated?	Forum works on formal state registration, Charter and membership provision
6.	With which international agencies and networks do you cooperate?	The most sustainable global connections of the Forum are in the framework of participation in the network Asian-Pacific Womens Watch
7.	Possibilities to work at regional level (who and what promotes development of regional networks)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At present the Forum is the only organization in the CA region to have a consultative status in ECOSOC UN Committee on women's status. This has boosted its reputation at the regional level. • With its wealth of practical experience, the Forum can develop regional programs, in particular sessions on informing and training women's organizations about procedures and technologies of lobbying at international level.

8.	Which regional issues and themes are able to promote progress of network interaction of Organizations of Civil Society (CSO) in Central Asia?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promoting women leadership at the decision making level, based on consolidation of CA Women's organization and application of 'soft' mechanisms, The Beijing Platform of Actions and «hard» Conventions, (CEDAW-Convention on abolition of all forms of discrimination in relation to women) Increase of potential Women's NGOs through institutional development
9.	Risks for the network organization (Who and what limits the development chances of net organizations at the regional level?)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forum is one of the oldest Women's organizations of Kyrgyzstan. At present it is going through challenges because of obsolete material and technical facilities, and unsustainable financial resources
10	More important needs in developing network of CSO of Central Asia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of mechanisms of network on national level Fortifying institutional, organizational, and financial resources
11	Contact information	E-mail: janay@elcat.kg , Web:

= 8 =

1.	Name of regional network	Central Asia Crafts Support Association (CACSA) (Founded in March, 1999)
2.	Geography of the activity and number of members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 60 members – Kazakhstan – 5, Kyrgyzstan – 26, Tajikistan – 4, Uzbekistan – 18, Mongolia – 1. The idea for the creation of the Association came from NGO partners, the organization AID to Artisans (ATA) - American organizations, supported by USAID, and it supported development of Central Asian artisanship from 1994 to 1998. By the end of the project ATA in June of 1998 the partner organizations in Central Asia decided to continue their work in a new form - in Association.
3.	Main aims of the network activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revival and development of crafts, consolidation of efforts of craftsmen in interests of mutual enrichment of Central Asian cultures and integration of CA peoples to the world market. Promotion of cultural diversity Protection of economic interests, civil and social rights of Central Asian craftsmen.
4.	Target groups	Craftsmanship organizations, Associations of CA, craftsmen (7 thousand)
5.	How is the network management regulated?	The network is managed by General Meeting and directions made of representatives of all countries of the region.
6.	Who is the Coordinator of the network?	Executive body, head office in Bishkek.
7.	With which international agencies and networks do you cooperate?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Member of World Artisan Council on Pacific Ocean - Asian region "Aid to Artisans", Counterpart Consortium provided financial support and technical assistance UNESCO is a partner of the Association Eurasia Fund, European Commission
8.	Possibilities of the network to work at regional level (who and what promotes development of regional networks)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stimulate professional growth, extend economic and cultural links of craftsmen and promotion of their products at international market; Protection of professional, civil, economic and social rights of Central Asian craftsmen. Promote development entrepreneurship and income generating activity of craftsmen through launching system of micro crediting, both for the artisan communities, and individual masters. Inter relations with international, state, public and private organizations in Central Asian countries, interested in cooperation with the «Association» and in Development of Traditional Artisanship of Central Asian people (AODTACA). The network plans to create and develop regional net resources for centers on training and marketing in all Central Asian countries.
9.	Which regional issues and themes are able to promote progress of network interaction of Organizations of Civil Society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifying strategic approaches to bring structure artisan sector of the region, with Kyrgyzstan as a pilot country. Improving exchange of information and cooperation between organizations, supporting development of artisanship in CA countries;

	(CSO) in Central Asia?	<p>creating and maintaining database of crafts and craftsmen.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attraction of attention of the world community to artisanship and the traditional culture of Central Asian peoples through arranging and participating in regional and international cultural programs and campaigns • Lobbying interests of craftsmen on the legislative level in countries – network members. • Promotion to increase of quality of artisan work and their normality with international standards, by training centers based on the example of craftsmen group
10	Risks for the network organization (Who and what limits the development chances of net organizations at the regional level?)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weak mechanisms of institutional support from governments, the business and civil sectors for regional interaction of artisan organizations and unions • Virtual lack of economic integration in the region • In the work of CACSA, much attention is given to economic and business issues of craftsmen's work; less is given to the development of capacity for promoting the political and social rights of the network members, as well as strengthening empowerment
11	Contact information	E-mail: cacsa@infotel.kg , Web: www.cacsa.kg , www.catgen.com/cacsa ,

UZBEKISTAN

Direction “Sustainable Livelihoods” and “Gender and Diversity”

= 9 =

1.	Name of national network	“Tadbirkor Ayol” Businesswomen Association of Uzbekistan (BWAU)
2.	Geography of the activity and number of members	Republic of Uzbekistan BWAU is a national network
3.	Main aims of the network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribution to advancement of women's entrepreneurship • Participation in improving legislation in the area of entrepreneurship and private sector in general • Training of women among unemployed, on business skills • Professional skills improvement for women-entrepreneurs
4.	Target groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • women entrepreneurs • Unemployed women
5.	How is the network management regulated?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Head office is in Tashkent • In each oblast of Uzbekistan there is an oblast satellite office of BWAU • In each city and many rayons there are BWA offices
6.	With which international agencies and networks do you cooperate?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNDP, ADB, World Bank, European Union, The Islamic Bank
7.	Possibilities work at regional level (who and what promotes development of regional networks)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BWA of Uzbekistan was an initiator and gave support in creating BWA in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan • BWA promotes advancement of cooperation with BWA of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan in the framework of training women of rural areas of the region for professional skills in projects of Artisan Chamber of Reinhausen, Germany • Cooperation of associations of business women of the region has the potential of growing into a BWA network of CA. However, at the moment the activity format of BWA CA has not specifically determined.
8.	Which regional issues and themes are able to promote the development of networking between Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in Central Asia?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation of free economic zone in the CA region • Development of trade and exchange of goods between women's entrepreneurship structures • Organization of regional trade fairs, exhibitions • Joint conferences with state bodies of the members countries on issue of economic integration in the framework of Shanghai Organization of Cooperation (ShOS) and European and Asian Economic Cooperation (EurAsEC)
9.	Risks for the network organization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of concrete action on implementation of agreements on Cooperation

	(Who and what limits the development chances of net organizations at the regional level?)	<p>development in the region</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Growing negative attitude of state structures and society towards non-governmental organizations • Shortage of financial resources for increasing cooperation on the regional level • Almost complete lack of support from donors which assisted NCOs in the past • Lack of concrete action on support of NCOs at the decision making level • Complicated customs and visa procedures are a barrier to free advancement of economic cooperation in the region • Inadequate mechanisms of regional cooperation between CA countries on all areas – politics, economics, and social construction
10.	More relevant needs in developing network of CSO of Central Asia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extension of information exchange, sharing work experience between the NCO network in the region
11.	Contact information	E-mail: bwa@ars.uz

= 10 =

1.	Name of network	Centre «Balim va Tarakkiet» (Centre “Knowledge and Progress)
2.	Geography of the activity and number of members	Republic of Uzbekistan (across the Republic)
3.	Main aims of the network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotion to formation and development of civil society through provision of training and other services to citizens and organizations; • Increasing legal consciousness and legal culture among citizens, particularly women; • Promotion in uplifting women’s public status, and promotion of their interests; • Creation of conditions for increasing prestige of trainer work and trainings services in society.
4.	Target groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primarily rural population: women, men, and youth • Secondary beneficiaries are representatives of state structures. At the same time the trainers are also beneficiaries, getting trainings on improvement of qualifications, TOT.
5.	How is the network managed? How are members represented in the structure?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through representatives - senior trainers, on average 5-6 trainers in each oblast
6.	Who is the Coordinator of the network?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chairman of the Council • Coordinator of Training Program.
7.	With which international agencies and networks do you cooperate?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • US Agency for International Development (USAID)
8.	Possibilities work at regional level (who and what promotes development of regional networks)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seven year work experience of members of the Centre • Most of the trainers themselves are founders and leaders of NGOs. • Trainers have gained respect in their regions among citizens, organizations and good contacts for cooperation with various structures, including authorities.
9.	Which regional issues and themes are able to promote the development of networking between Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in Central Asia?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase of women’s status, gender balance in society • Development and expansion of democratic institutions in rural areas • Legal and economic education of farmers, women, mobilization of all society.
10.	Risks for the network organization (Who and what limits the development chances of networks at the regional level?)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State structures, low level of state officials in the area of civil society progress.
11.	More relevant needs in developing CSO networks in Central Asia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education, exchange of experience, creation of coordination of the Centre, • information exchange and conferences, forums with broad participation of various structures
12.	Contact information	E-mail: centerbvt@mail.uz

Direction “The right to be heard”

= 11 =

1.	Name of national network	National Association of Non-governmental Non-commercial organizations of Uzbekistan (NANNOUz)
2.	Geography of the activity and number of members	Republic of Uzbekistan
3.	Main aims of the network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> provides comprehensive support to various NGO and assists their activities, directed at further liberalization and democratization of public life, strengthening democratic values, and promotes the increase of their role in all areas of societal life; consolidates the activity of organizations of “third sector”, develops partnership between them, participates in meeting NGO needs for reliable and authentic information, and in adequate informational and scientific and methodological support; promotes development of NGO programs targeted at nurturing mutual understanding, tolerance, and patriotism, respect of the national and cultural heritage of peoples of Uzbekistan;
4.	Target groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) registered in Ministries of Justice
5.	How is the network managed? How are members represented in the structure?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council of NANNOUz includes 2 members from each oblast of the Republic
6.	Who is the Coordinator of the network?	Central administration of NANNOUz in Tashkent
7.	With which international agencies and networks do you cooperate?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All negotiations with international foundations and donor organizations Joint initiatives with UNDP and OSCE
8.	Possibilities work at regional level (who and what promotes development of regional networks)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cooperation at regional (CA) level is not yet established Under NANNOUz there is a Foundation for NGO support. The main aim of the foundation is accumulating and redistribution of financial (grant) resources for civil society organisations.
9.	Which regional issues and themes are able to promote the development of networking between Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in Central Asia?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of civil society Initiatives on promotion and protection of NGO interests Promotion of Millennium Development Goals Institutional development of NGOs
10.	Risks for the network organization (Who and what limits the development chances of networks at the regional level?)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Changing political situation Exclusion of NGOs from regional and regional development programs
11.	More relevant needs in developing CSO networks in Central Asia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development cooperation between national coalitions and associations for resolving regional development issues of CS
12.	Contact information	Website: www.ngo.uz

Direction “Gender and Diversity” & “The right to be heard”

= 12 =

1.	Name of national network	«Mehr» - Association of women’s nongovernmental noncommercial organization (NGO) of the Republic of Uzbekistan
2.	Geography of the activity and number of members	The Republic of Uzbekistan «Mehr » is a national network
3.	Main aims of the network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consolidation of activity of members the Association, women’s organizations and NCOs working with women’s problems, provision and protection of interests of women’s NCOs, promoting women’s role in NCOs in public, political and state life in the Republic of Uzbekistan; Strengthening of capacity of the women’s movement; undertaking actions

		<p>on gender equality at the decision making level;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring implementation of UN Convention «On abolition of all forms of discrimination in relation to women» and the Beijing Declaration and Platform Action, as well as similar national and international documents; Cooperation on partner projects and exchange of information, carrying out connections with international public and state organizations, foundations, and movements.
4.	Target groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Non-governmental organizations managed by women and / or whose work is devoted to the reinforcement of women's role in the political, economic and public life of the country
5.	How is the network managed? How are members represented in the structure?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members of the Union are about 50 organizations from all regions of Uzbekistan 5 members of the Board are leaders of large women's NCOs in oblasts The highest body of the Association is the general meeting, between general meetings – a Management Board which includes leaders of 11 more well-known (influential) women's NCOs
6.	With which international agencies and networks do you cooperate?	UNDP, OSCE, ODIHR, Agency of Social Technologies (Kyrgyzstan)
7.	Possibilities of the network to work at regional level (who and what promotes development of regional networks)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advancement of regional links and promotion of regional programs and projects. In the past such programs and projects used to be initiated by international donors; now this is limited Cooperation is possible through participation in international conferences and forums, but often the exchange of information is quite limited
8.	Which regional issues and themes are able to promote the development of networking between Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in Central Asia?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arrangement of common regional trainings on such areas as implementation of Millennium Development Goals, and Strategy of ADB on reduction of poverty level Directions on democratization, included in document on Shanghai Organization of Security, and EurAsEC Perfection of legislative base of civil society on the base of model laws Training on gender mainstreaming as a state structure, and NGOs
9.	Risks for the network organization (Who and what limits the development chances of networks at the regional level?)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Change of political situation in CA countries Stagnation of intergovernmental relations in CA and weak regional cooperation between CA governments Reduction of donor grant for CSOs Economic problems of CA countries Financial constraints in network management
10.	More relevant needs in developing CSO networks in Central Asia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stimulation of creation of regional networks on the basis of national associations and unions and supporting them in the long-term Establishing positive image of CSOs in the media and in society Creation of printing body for the internet issues, on regional cooperation
11.	Contact information	Email: zulfiya@imkon.uz

= 13 =

1.	Name of network	Network of Partners in the framework of IOM Project «Prevention of Human Trafficking in Central Asia» / NGO «Istikbolli Avlod» of Surkhandarya oblast
2.	Geography of the activity and number of members	Surkhandarya oblast, southern Uzbekistan
3.	Main aims of the network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information and awareness raising activity for increasing information consciousness of population about risks of illegal migration; provision of legal, social and other services to the victims of human trafficking; rehabilitation and integration support.
4.	Target groups	Population of Surkhandarya oblast of RU
5.	How is the network managed? How are members represented in the structure?	Each partner participates in individual plans of activities, agreed upon by regional coordinators.
6.	Who is the Coordinator of the network?	Nodira Karimova
7.	With which international agencies and networks do you cooperate?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Network partners of IOM Project «Prevention of Human Trafficking in Central Asia» in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan: information

		cooperation and other partnership
8.	Possibilities for work at regional level (Who and what promotes the development of regional networks?)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More important aspects of implementation of own plans is tight and mutually profitable cooperation with state structures, own resources and technical facilities.
9.	Which regional issues and themes are able to promote the development of networking between Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in Central Asia?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The more priority work in the network is work with youth, as a potential risk group on many issues. • For more effective work in this direction, each partner organization has created youth (volunteer) groups, whose coordination became the responsibility of our organization. • Development and formation of genuinely working volunteer movements as a consequence will promote progress of civil society. Formation of sustainable and working organizations, on whose basis to open a new organization, i.e. use of existing resources, good basis for the new.
10.	Risks for the network organization (Who and what limits the development chances of networks at the regional level?)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited number of financing organizations, lack of access to state orders on social projects, both on regional and republic level.
11.	More relevant needs in developing CSO networks in Central Asia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Constant access to information • Potential to develop human potential • Increase of number of regional projects • Technical Capacity building
12.	Contact information	E-mail: i_avlod@mail.ru

TAJIKISTAN

Direction “Sustainable Livelihoods” & “The right to be heard”

= 14 =

1.	Name of regional network	Regional Association of Micro Financial organizations CA (RA MFO of CA)
2.	Geography of the activity and number of members	Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan - around 200 organizations
3.	Main aims of the network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lobbying of interests of Micro financial organizations in state bodies (National Banks) • Promotion of services for members, trainings, credit bureau, exchange of experience, development of standards of activity
4.	Target groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organizations, working in micro financial industry
5.	How is the network managed? How are members represented in the structure?	There are membership fees, provision, and working plan, for the next year, budget until 2008 is confirmed, AMFOT – Association of Micro Financial Organizations of Tajikistan
6.	Who is the Coordinator of the network?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AMFOT • The governance system provides rotation system for 1 year.
7.	With which international agencies and networks do you cooperate?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GTZ (Germany) • InterChurch Organization for Development and Cooperation (ICCO, Netherlands) • USAID
8.	Possibilities for work at regional level (Who and what promotes the development of regional networks?)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Network members are advanced MFOs with established tight connections. • The Regional Association of MFOs has concrete aims and directions, to influence the policies of state bodies • Lack of support by international donor organizations
9.	Which regional issues and themes are able to promote the development of networking between Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in Central Asia?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of micro financing in Central Asia region • Improvement of life of population through development of private entrepreneurship

10	Risks for the network organization (Who and what limits the development chances of networks at the regional level?)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instability of political situation in individual states • Instability in Central Asia in general
11	More relevant needs in developing CSO networks in Central Asia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vision of gain for own organization from participation in the network
12	Contact information	Email: amfot-ed@mail.ru ; amfot-assistant@mail.ru

= 15 =

1.	Name of regional network	Network of Beekeepers of Ferghana Valley
2.	Geography of the activity and number of members	Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, around 5 associations of beekeepers
3.	Main aims of the network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint coordination of activity in the Ferghana Valley. • Support to network members in solving border issues (eg border crossing areas) • Lobbying of interests of organizations of beekeepers at the government level in the Ferghana Valley
4.	Target groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Association (unions) of beekeepers of Ferghana Valley
5.	How is the network managed? How are members represented in the structure?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision on network membership
6.	Who is the Coordinator of the network?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinator is the Union of beekeepers of Ferghana oblast. Chairman is Sherali Siyarkulov
7.	With which international agencies and networks do you cooperate?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some individual network members cooperate with international organizations.
8.	Possibilities for work at regional level (Who and what promotes the development of regional networks?)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At present there are possibilities. Network activities should be industry-specific • Close relations between public organizations in the region.
9.	Which regional issues and themes are able to promote the development of networking between Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in Central Asia?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreements between CA countries in economic cooperation
10.	Risks for the network organization (Who and what limits the development chances of networks at the regional level?)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change in foreign policy of state, which negatively affects the work of non-commercial organizations. • Financial sustainability
11.	More relevant needs in developing CSO networks in Central Asia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holding exchange programs with more advanced networks in the region, and also on international level.
12.	Contact information	Email: ari@rol.uz

Direction «The right to be heard»

= 16 =

1.	Name of network	NGO network of Ferghana Valley «Valley of Peace»
2.	Geography of the activity and number of members	Ferghana Valley – Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan
3.	Main aims of the network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribute to conflict prevention, reduction of tension, and promotion of regional cooperation in Ferghana Valley.
4.	Target groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The network partners of «Valley of Peace» are 30 non-governmental organizations of three countries of Ferghana Valley, working on problems of the Valley.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These organizations have experience of work with border communities, and they cooperate closely with local self government, business and state government structures.
5.	How is the network managed? How are members represented in the structure?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are membership fees, Charter of the network, Ethical Code, and Strategic Plan
6.	Who is the Coordinator of the network?	<p>Country Coordinators of the network are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public « Fondation for Tolerance International» (FTI), Kyrgyzstan • Association of Scientific Technical Intelligentsia of Khujand (ASTI), Tajikistan • Ferghana oblast center of social and legal support of women and teenagers «Ishonch», Ferghana, Uzbekistan.
7.	With which international agencies and networks do you cooperate?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One of the international partners of «Valley of Peace» is Network GPPAC (Global partnership for prevention of armed conflicts)
8.	Possibilities for work at regional level (Who and what promotes the development of regional networks?)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Network members are developed NGOs with close and well-established connections. • Network members of «Valley of Peace» have substantial experience of networking
9	Which regional issues and themes are able to promote the development of networking between Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in Central Asia?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity building of Network members
10	Risks for the network organization (Who and what limits the development chances of networks at the regional level?)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unstable political situation in the countries
11	More relevant needs in developing CSO networks in Central Asia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to increase potential of Network members • Exchange of experience • Trainings on capacity building
12	Contact information	Email: asti@sugdinter.com ; web: www.dolina-mira.org

= 17 =

1.	Name of national network	National Association of Civil Society Support Centers (NA ACSSC)
2.	Name of network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Republic of Tajikistan, 7 members CSSC in the Republic. • NA ACSSC has links with Association of CSSC (Kyrgyzstan), Association on Development of Civil Society (Kazakhstan), with we worked in common Central Asian program administered by Counterpart Consortium by support of USAID.
3.	Main aims of the network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing development of civil society in Tajikistan
4.	Target groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civil society organizations • NGOs
5.	How is the network managed? How are members represented in the structure?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision on membership in organizations • Participation in governance of the Association on rotation basis
6.	Who is the Coordinator of the network?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At present on rotation basis • Executive director of NA ACSSC is director of ACSSC «Shahrvand» Saidaliev Dodarbek.
7.	With which international agencies and networks do you cooperate?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PDO of Poland, Bulgaria, Slovakia, and Georgia; • PDO of Great Britain • Counterpart International and IREX • ACSSC networks in Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan
8.	Possibilities for work at regional level (Who and what promotes the development of regional	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NA ACSSC has great potential of working at country and regional level. The network members have adequate intellectual and technical potential, work experience and, high reputation among population, local self government, and international organizations.

	networks?)	
9.	Which regional issues and themes are able to promote the development of networking between Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in Central Asia?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social partnership of all sectors of civil society; • Monitoring and evaluation of projects implemented by international organizations and governments; • Monitoring and evaluation of Country Development Strategy
10	Risks for the network organization (Who and what limits the development chances of networks at the regional level?)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NA ACSSC works with local government bodies which often ignore the interests of CSOs • National policy concerning CSOs and priorities of each country are rather different • Lack of mechanism of encouraging active engagement of network members
11	More relevant needs in developing CSO networks in Central Asia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint meetings, discussion of priorities, participation in developing regional policies and strategies for joint activities, mutual support and collaboration.
12	Contact information	Email: csskulob@rambler.ru

Direction “Gender and Diversity”

= 18 =

1.	Name of network	CA Network on implementation of Central Asia regional project on HIV/AIDS control
2.	Geography of the activity and number of members	Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan - around 20 organization members
3.	Main aims of the network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • exchange of experience of information in the area of struggle against HIV/AIDS; • joint actions directed at increase of effectiveness of existing and new programs on fight against HIV/AIDS; • development and extension of cooperation, between both governments and non-governmental organizations working on HIV/AIDS; • Promotion and implementation of programs developed by the parties for prevention of further spread of HIV/AIDS among young people.
4.	Target groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Populations of the network countries and providing such services which are not provided at adequate level or are not provided at all, by the states and other organizations • Increase of education level and reduction of poverty among the population of the network countries.
5.	How is the network managed? How are members represented in the structure?	Memoranda on cooperation have been concluded which elaborate all the details
6.	Who is the Coordinator of the network?	Coordinator for Tajikistan is the Association «Woman and Society» Overall coordination is carried out by «Congress of Women of Kyrgyzstan»
7.	With which international agencies and networks do you cooperate?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNDP
8.	Possibilities for work at regional level (Who and what promotes the development of regional networks?)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The NGOs in this network are active and strong NGOs in their own regions; they have a wide experience of project implementation. • Creation of the network helps promote implementation of projects at the inter-state level
9.	Which regional issues and themes are able to promote the development of networking between Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in Central Asia?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreements between CA countries • Common problems on fight against AIDS • Conclusion of memoranda on cooperation
10.	Risks for the network organization (Who and what limits the development chances of networks at the regional level?)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National policy and priorities of each CA member state vary • lack of mechanism of motivating active engagement of CA network members
11.	More relevant needs in developing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For development of network interaction of CSOs in CA, the biggest

	CSO networks in Central Asia	<p>contribution would be tightening of economic, political, and inter-governmental links in CA.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Also need for consultative and financial support from international organizations at the initial formation stage of networks.
12	Contact information	Email: congresswomen@intranet.kg

KAZAKHSTAN

Direction "Sustainable Livelihoods"& "The right to be heard"

= 19 =

1.	Name of regional network	EcoForum NGO, Republic of Kazakhstan
2.	Geography of the activity and number of members	Kazakhstan There is also an EcoForum NGO of the Republic of Uzbekistan
3.	Main aims of the activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> protection, preservation and restoration of environment through uniting intellectual capacity, material and financial resources, coordinating potential of the Ecoforum members Protection of Ecoforum members' interests
4.	Target groups (for whom does the network work?)	Ecoforum Members – Ecological NGOs
5.	With which international agencies and networks do you cooperate?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Global Water Partnership (GWP) CACENA, GWP – Global Water Partnership Central Asia network on environment
6.	How many CA countries and organizations are members of the regional net?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan 5 countries of CA
7.	Main aims of the network activity	Cooperation in the area of protection of environment, water partnership with aim of promoting integrated management of water resources.
8.	Status organization in regional the net (How is the representation of the network regulated in the net?)	EcoForum of Republic of Kazakhstan is member of Public Council network and GWP
9.	Who is the Coordinator of the network?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional Secretariat and Council Public Council
10.	Possibilities work at regional level (who and what promotes development of regional networks)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information and communication on the net, annual regional conferences, seminars, meetings of the Public Council, and Secretariat
11.	Which regional issues and themes are able to promote progress of network interaction of Organizations of Civil Society (CSO) in Central Asia?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trans border waters, preservation of mountain ecosystems, preservation of biodiversity and ecological education
12.	Risks for the network organization (Who and what limits the development chances of net organizations at the regional level?)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weak technical, information and material possibilities (facilities) for the integration process Political changes in the countries
13	Contact information	E-mail: kaisha@nursat.kz , ecotay@os.kz , Web: www.ecoforum.kz

Direction «The right to be heard»

= 20 =

1.	Name of national network	Association on Development Civil Society (ADCS) (registered in 2004)
2.	Geography of the activity and number of members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kazakhstan ADCS is a national network organization. It was founded with the support of Counterpart Consortium and USAID in the framework of implementing programs of supporting initiatives of civil society in Central Asia.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ADCS has good links with similar national networks: In Kyrgyzstan it is Association of Civil Society Support Centers (ACSSC), in Tajikistan it is National Association CSSC (NA CSSC), and other individual CSSCs in Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan.
3.	Main aims of the activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of civil society in the Republic of Kazakhstan through integration of efforts and resource mobilization of NGO, state, and private sector, as well as international organizations. ADCS offers a set of services which include trainings, technical support, research and program management; All of these are directed to building the capacity of communities and organizations which provide services to communities; These are organizations such as NGOs, Business Associations, resource centers and other organizations.
4.	Target groups (for whom does the network work?)	<p>Members of Association</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Centers of support of civil society (CSSC), NGO support organisations
5.	How is the network managed? How are members represented in the structure?	Charter and internal provisions
6.	Who is the Coordinator of the network?	Executive Body
7.	With which international agencies and networks do you cooperate?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AmCham – American Chamber and Industry Chamber IPEN – International Program Evaluation Network USAID, UNDP
8.	Possibilities for work at regional level (Who and what promotes the development of regional networks?)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ADCS unites centers of support of civil society from eight regions of Kazakhstan. Each member organization of the Association is created, also, network of subjects of civil society in their own region; this, in all, provides the Associations the coverage of more than 80% of Kazakhstan NGOs. Grant portfolio of ADCS is 385, 000 USD, which amount is invested in support of sustainable development of the following directions: Association has formal governance structure, interested Management Body Possibilities of regional cooperation with Associations of CSSC in Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and other individual CSSCs in Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan. The network has experience of holding CA regional conferences with ACSSC (Kyrgyzstan) on NGO capacity strengthening through building partnership in CA region.
9.	Which regional issues and themes are able to promote the development of networking between Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in Central Asia?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional programs for resource organizations of civil society on development of technologies of social partnership; mechanisms on investment attraction in community advancement; Impact evaluation programs and projects on advancing of civil society Holding joint research and analysis of tendencies in advancing civil society in CA Exchange of experience with best practitioners, success stories and methodologies of NGO development, joint campaigns
10.	Risks for the network organization (Who and what limits the development chances of networks at the regional level?)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional contacts of CSO in the region are not stable Varying political and economic situation in the countries of the region
11.	More relevant needs in developing CSO networks in Central Asia	E-mail: jamila@argonet.org , argo@cpart.kz , Web: www.argonet.org

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1.	Name of information network	Central Asian Sustainable Development Information Network (CASDIN) Founded in 1994. CASDIN works as an information resource network for NGOs of Central Asia.
2.	Geography of the activity and number of members	Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan (to a greater degree), Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan
3.	Main aims of the network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote consolidation of the ‘third sector’ in Kazakhstan and Central Asia Promote getting the CSO Central Asia voice heard at regional and international level; Disseminate data on non-governmental organizations of Kazakhstan and

		Central Asia, for popularization of NGO work
4.	Target groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecological NGOs • Resource NGOs • Experts on sustainable development
5.	How is the network management regulated?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CASDIN is an informal type of network • membership is regulated through subscription to electronic information service
6.	Who is the Coordinator of the network?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gulmira Djamanova, Kazakhstan
7.	Opportunities of the network at regional level (who and what promotes development of regional networks)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A great experience of publication and distribution of information analytical bulletin «Sustainable Development» for representatives of civil society organizations in Central Asia • Aspiration of the network to work as an independent union • Good reputation of the network
8.	Which regional issues and themes are able to promote progress of network interaction of Organizations of Civil Society (CSO) in Central Asia?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of NGO CA potential on financial sustainability • Creation of regional sources information for CA civil sector
9.	Risks for the network organization (Who and what limits the development chances of net organizations at the regional level?)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By pursuing its aims, and fulfilling its program objectives as much as possible, CASDIN left little attention to the question of organizational development of the network.
10.	More immediate needs in developing network of CSO of Central Asia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of organizational and financial sustainability
11.	Contact information	E-mail: casdin@nursat.kz , Web: www.casdin.kz

Direction “Gender and diversity” & “The right to be heard”

= 22 =

1.	Name of network	Network of disabled women’s organizations of Central Asian countries
2.	Geography of the activity and number of members	26 organizations: Kazakhstan – 11, Uzbekistan – 3, Kyrgyzstan – 8, Tajikistan – 2, Turkmenistan – 1.
3.	Main aims of the network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvement of situation of women with disabilities in Central Asia through strengthening capacity of organizations of disabled women and their networks, as well as promotion of their creation and advancement.
4.	Target groups	Women with disabilities and their organizations
5.	How is the network managed? How are members represented in the structure?	Coordinator Representation is regulated at the moment only by multilateral agreement.
6.	Who is the Coordinator of the network?	Public Union «Association of disabled women’s organization «Shyrak» Lyazzat Kaltaeva is chairwoman
7.	With which international agencies and networks do you cooperate?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Association «Connus», Finland
8.	Possibilities for work at regional level (Who and what promotes the development of regional networks?)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initiator of network – the above mentioned organization. The network is supported by Connus Association, Finland, in the framework of Connus project
9.	Which regional issues and themes are able to promote the development of networking between Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in Central Asia?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to improve the existing policy and legislation in relation to rights of disabled women • Common language of international communication and shared history, culture and national characteristics. • Geographical neighbours
10.	Risks for the network organization (Who and what limits the development chances of networks at	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Political instability, closed systems. • Differences in economic development. • Visa and communication problems (lack of direct transport connections).

	the regional level?)	
11.	More relevant needs in developing CSO networks in Central Asia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need of information resources and access to information. Mechanisms of inter state agreements on network support cooperation.
12	Contact information	E-mail: lyazzat_ik@mail.ru

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1.	Name of regional network	Regional Women's Network Program of Open Society Institute
2.	Geography of the activity and number of members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CIS countries and Eastern Europe. In total 24 countries. • Each CA country has representation of the network organization: Tajikistan – Soros Foundation, Kazakhstan – Feminist League, Uzbekistan – Embassy of Switzerland in Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan – Soros Foundation Kyrgyzstan. Organizations invited to cooperation to implementation of network programs of OSI are automatically part of the network.
3.	Main aims of the network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support and coordination of women's organizations in member states on the themes: 1) Gender education. 2) Women's rights, Gender analysis of social and legal reform. 3) Image of women, Gender stereotypes and information technologies. • Support of women's initiatives
4.	Target groups	Organizations and Foundations supporting women's initiatives
5.	How is the network managed? How are members represented in the structure?	Organization – network representative in the country is appointed as OSI after monitoring and evaluation of the work of women's organizations in the country.
6.	Who is the Coordinator of the network?	From 2000-06 - Institute of Social and Gender Policy (Russia).
7.	With which international agencies and networks do you cooperate?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The network is part of such international women's networks as AWID.
8.	Possibilities for work at regional level (Who and what promotes the development of regional networks?)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Without the financial and technical support from programs and projects, this network would be very difficult to maintain.
9.	Which regional issues and themes are able to promote the development of networking between Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in Central Asia?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional projects on common themes • Research on common themes and common methodologies • Comparative analysis and research. • CSOs in Central Asia virtually do not see women as equal partners, and this itself would be a regional theme
10.	Risks for the network organization (Who and what limits the development chances of networks at the regional level?)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Political situation • Technical and financial resources. • Motivation of specialists at local level.
11.	More relevant needs in developing CSO networks in Central Asia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thematic educational programs. • Adequate institutional support to organizations. The NGO sector often cannot retain good specialists because of limited resources for salaries; this reduces the effectiveness of programs and initiatives. • Good technical NGO facilities, including possibility to travel both in and between the countries.
12	Contact information	E-mail: feminist@women.kz

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1.	Name of information network	Information electronic network «FemLine» (works since 1998)
2.	Geography of the activity and number of members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activity of network at several levels: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ ALmaty - 68 beneficiaries ○ Kazakhstan - 160 beneficiaries ○ Countries of Central Asia - 140 beneficiaries ○ CIS countries - 261 beneficiaries

3.	Main aims of the network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dissemination and quick exchange of information on regional level. On average annually there are 280-310 issues.
4.	Target groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Women's / feminist organizations Gender experts
5.	How is the network managed? How are members represented in the structure?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initiator and moderator Any organization or interested party has the right to place information, make announcements, initiate collection of signature for public initiatives.
6.	Who is the Coordinator of the network?	Public Union «Feminist League» (Kazakhstan)
7.	With which international agencies and networks do you cooperate?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Women's Network program of Open Society Institute
8.	Possibilities for work at regional level (Who and what promotes the development of regional networks?)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good reputation of the network Technical and financial resources of the NGOs taking part in the dialogue
9.	Which regional issues and themes are able to promote the development of networking between Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in Central Asia?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This network includes themes: gender equality, including exchange of opinions and experience on issues of legislation, practice of application of national law, comparative analysis of current legislation, and cases of discrimination against women, especially related to regional trafficking of women and children, and migration problems. Also timely information on upcoming seminars, conferences and publication of product – documents of the activities.
10.	Risks for the network organization (Who and what limits the development chances of networks at the regional level?)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inadequate technical and financial NGO resources.
11.	More relevant needs in developing CSO networks in Central Asia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For this kind of network cooperation it is very important that network members have information on technologies, knowledge of rules of cooperation in the network, technical resources and financial support of the organization.
12.	Contact information	E-mail: femline@women.kz , Web: www.women.kz

2.3 The external environment for civil society networking. The analysis of activities and opportunities for CS networking in the four CA states studied showed the following:

1. At the present time, there are virtually no civil society networks with sufficient capacity to support an equal level of activity across the four Central Asian states - Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. In other words, while networks may have formally adopted the aim of working across the entire region, in practice these aims remain not fully realized;
2. There are several groups of strong organizations in CA with similar aims and resources operating at the national level – for example, the national associations of civil society support centres, or the Associations of Business Women. Potentially, these national unions could create powerful regional networks;
3. CSOs' ability to develop work at regional level depends on their base and opportunities at local and national level. Here we can note the following:
 - *Kazakhstan.* The recent reduction in donor support, especially from US sources, has weakened the NGO sector at a time when new mechanisms of government financing – eg the system of “social orders” – are not yet consolidated and in general relations between NGO and the state and business sectors are still quite limited. This fragile situation does not help Kazakhstan CSOs develop work on the regional level.
 - *Kyrgyzstan.* The more liberal political regime and more favourable institutional environment for NGOs in Kyrgyzstan means that the country currently enjoys a kind of «leader» status in the CS sector in Central Asia. This means Kyrgyzstan acts as a «center of gravity» for donor resources available for the development of regional projects, including those of a network type.
 - *Uzbekistan.* As a result of the change of government policy in relation to NGOs and the CS sector, around 80% of local NGOs and most international agencies supporting their work were closed down. At the moment, the majority of CSOs are pro-governmental NGOs whose activity is controlled by the state.
 - *Tajikistan.* In contrast to Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan, the presence of a large number of donor organizations in Tajikistan (many involved in CS development) gives local CSOs the chance to develop and network with each other. However, regional CS networking in Tajikistan is mostly limited to the Ferghana Valley area, uniting CSOs working in border areas with Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan. Moreover, in practice most CSO interaction in Ferghana Valley takes place between CSOs from Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, while interaction between CSOs from Tajikistan and Uzbekistan is the weakest.
 - *Regional.* It is noteworthy that in all four states more and more pro-government NGOs are being set up, and the authorities are trying to introduce stricter control on the work of CSOs.

In Annex 2, country tables are given summarizing the data from the individual networks. Following the format proposed by Novib, these bring together information on opportunities / strengths, common themes for cooperation, and risks / challenges / needs.

Section 3 – Findings on Global Networks

3.1 Global networks survey A short internet-based study was made in October-November 2006 of ten global CS networks chosen from the Novib Global Programs Bureau list, covering basic information about the network, its contacts or representatives in the CA region, priority areas or themes in 2007-08, and information / reports published focusing on the EE and FSU region.

The networks studied were: Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID), Bank Information Centre (Bank Watch), CIVICUS, Human Rights Watch, International Gender & Trade Network (IGTN), International Lesbian & Gay Association (ILGA), Social Watch, Toolkit Citizens Participation, Trade Information Project (at the Institute for Agriculture & Trade Policy - IATP), and Women in Development Europe (WIDE). These networks were chosen so as to get a reasonable coverage of Novib aims 1, 4 and 5.

3.2 Survey findings in brief

The findings of the survey of global networks were discussed alongside the 24 national and regional networks at the end of November. The following points were made:

Opportunities for further/wider networking

- Alternative reports are welcomed by many international agencies
- Key global events of CS – World Social Forum, Civicus global meetings, CS meetings around WTO, G8 – are an opportunity for CA CSOs to create a regional agenda
- The Bank Watch network in CA gives CS an opportunity to monitor IFI's (eg WB, ADB, EBRD) from common positions. (Several of the regional / country partners in this field are ecological NGO's and networks)
- A number of expert womens / gender networks have links / members in CA (eg AWID, IGTN)

Common Themes

- Good resources / toolkits are available for analysis and training purposes from Global Networks (eg Civicus MDG toolkit, Toolkit Citizens Partnership, or the Civicus CS index)
- The strong interest from Oxfam – Novib in community development and local economic development (Aim 1) can be supported by global networks working with MDGs. The MDGs give a regional or international framework on development priorities and campaigns (see Civicus, Social Watch, and Global Call to Action Against Poverty)
- Governance and citizens participation – these are key themes in Novib Aim 4 which global CS can support
- There is a strong link between gender, social and economic themes in global women's networks – eg women and trade, employment, leadership (Aims 1,4,5)
- Interest of international women's organizations in issues for women in Muslim societies – rights, family, diversity (Aim 5)

Challenges and needs

- While most NGOs acting as links or coordinators for global CS networks are well known in themselves, often their role on behalf of the network is not widely known
 - Regional networking and conferences on critical issues are weakly supported by donors. This is a clear opportunity for Novib to do something distinctive
- Some key global networks studied have little or no CA representation. Novib could help make first contacts
- Russia's expected entry to WTO in 2007 will make trade and development issues topical in the CIS region – CSOs must be able to find relevant information and respond
- Human rights global networks may experience hostility from some CA governments. While supporting local activity on political and social rights, donors need to avoid putting NGOs at risk

Further information from the survey is given in Annex 2 on: 1) local contacts / coordinator organizations for the 10 networks; 2) priority areas for key networks in the next year.

Section 4 – Recommendations

In Sections 3 and 4, a number of opportunities for further networking at national, regional and global level were identified. For Novib, there are clearly a number of possible ways to proceed with support for CS networking.

First, we consider the options for each of Novib's strategic aims – looking at 1) issues and gaps in the development of networks; 2) possible directions for support; 3) recommendations on mechanisms. These tables were made up on the basis of INTRAC's consultations with representatives of regional networks and Central Asia NGOs.

Second the INTRAC team presents a number of options for Novib (or other agencies) wishing to support network development in Central Asia.

4.1 Recommendations made by network representatives and regional experts (November 2006)

Issues /gap in development of regional networks	Possible directions of OXFAM NOVIB support of regional network interaction of CSOs in CA	Recommendations on mechanisms
Strategic aim 1. OXFAM NOVIB «Sustainable Livelihoods»		
<p>Institutional conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotion of MDGs in the region is implemented in isolation from those groups to which they are directed • Insufficient data on specific steps of achieving MDGs • Development of National development and poverty reduction strategies is being carried out without discussion with CS • Policy of the micro-financing agencies is removing microcredit projects from the arena of civil society into business <p>Potential of NGOs and networks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is little practical information on NGO experience in using the resources of international conventions, declarations • Lack of access to information on interstate agreements on the level of CA, CIS, EurAsEC, SHAC (Shanghai Agreement on Cooperation). • Few NGOs connect their own activities with the promotion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use the promotion of MDGs as a public activity of interested parties • Development of initiatives in the framework of MDGs could cover the following directions /themes: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. strategies involving the regional networks CSO into monitoring and evaluation of MDGs and country development strategies 2. comparative regional research, regarding the monitoring and evaluation of MDG and country development strategy implementation 3. strategies and mechanisms for inter-sectoral (state, NGO, business) interaction 4. strategies and mechanisms of CSO networks' participation in initiatives on forming and promoting interstate agreements in the region 5. Extension of CSO role in shaping micro-finance policy 6. development of legislative basis for protection of farmers' interests 7. lobbying legislation on land and use of water 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organisation of a regional union of networks working in the area of sustainable livelihoods • Organisation of educational programs for the members of a regional union of networks, to develop skills in the analysis of strategic government documents and policy development • Bringing in comparative international experience

of MDGs in the region		
Strategic aim 4 . OXFAM NOVIB «The Right to be Heard»		
<p>Institutional conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weak impact of CSOs on policies of donor agencies and international institutions • Inadequate mechanisms of interaction between state structures and civil society representatives • Lack of advanced mechanisms of social partnership • Lack of interest from public servants in considering CS opinion and negative attitude of state structures to public unions • Weak and dependent media and political parties and institutions and state structures • Isolation of NGOs from other CSOs – eg community organizations and the media. • Weak connection of CSOs with state structures and local level governance <p>Potential of NGOs and networks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Little work experience of network members on macro level • Lack of practical skills among NGOs in building coalitions • Part of the NGOs insist on their own interests, not the interests of their target groups • Unstable nature of a significant number of networks and low effectiveness of their work • creation of insufficiently representative networks; those created by «order» of donors • marginalization of interests of vulnerable groups - women, disabled, children, rural residents, ethnic minorities, refugees, and other in the agenda of civil society 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of initiatives on lobbying the interests of the region in donor policy / eg EC and WB structures • Campaigns and presentations on advancing CA voice on the global level • Boosting of work with the media • Development of networking by CSOs with vulnerable and excluded groups • strengthening trade unions and associations and lobbying civil interests through them • Strengthening the national scope of network activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation of Central Asia Union/ Federation of CSO networks • Develop a concept of interaction of regional networks • Holding regional conferences on social partnership and promotion of civil activism • Creation of special focus networks of interested parties on issues of migration • Promotion of partnership among national NGO networks with CS organizations in states of Europe, Asia, and America • Creation of single regional website for NGOs <p>Campaigns and presentations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on key global CS events: GCAP and MDGs via Civicus in Kg, Taj and Uzb • World Social Forum – send participants • WTO – develop information for CA on accession issues • Fund stands and information on global and regional networks at NGO fairs in CA • Create a film about CS networks in the region • Hold a Regional conference “Alternative Report” to bring together innovatory work on international reports and conventions, explore best ways of increasing CA inputs
Strategic aim 5. OXFAM NOVIB «Gender and Diversity»		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are many strong NGOs in the region working on gender; however, there are no agreed mechanisms for 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highlight such themes as «Gender and Religion»; «Gender and Entrepreneurship», «Gender and Economic Policy» 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation of CA networks within the MDG framework, eg «MDG CA

<p>interaction between womens NGOs on the regional level</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear divergence in level of success achieved in promotion of gender problems on macro and micro level • Gender is not treated as a cross-cutting theme in civil sector • Low quality of gender statistics • Low level of gender sensitivity in society and governance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unite efforts for effective implementation of MDGs, CEDAW • Promote regional programs to counteract social exclusion of various vulnerable groups • Develop programs on measurement of empowerment in gender relations with view of regional context • Conduct research on gender relations in NGOs promoting gender equality • Development of methodologies of study of gender relations on regional level, on micro level with view of local context • Stimulating NGO work in the area of such issues of drug trafficking HIV/AIDS, human trafficking, illegal labor migration 	<p>Gender Forum», “Gender mainstreaming CA Network ”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation of regional information materials on gender themes in the MDG framework • Creation of a regional group for public monitoring on implementation of laws on gender equality in the CA countries
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4.2 Main options for Novib support to regional networking

After considering the expert recommendations presented above, the INTRAC team developed five potential approaches for Novib to consider:

Option 1: Preparation and Discussions at a Regional Workshop in early 2007

Novib already plans a workshop to disseminate and discuss the results of the research project. We recommend that a regional working group is set up to develop this idea, also that Novib staff take the chance during their visit to Central Asia to meet some of the organizations covered in this research.

This would help to develop the approach recommended in INTRAC’s Stage 1 report – viz, develop network cooperation between local partners/beneficiaries and international organizations, determining needs from the “bottom-up”; ensure clear, transparent mechanisms for development of an actual agenda, formulation of policy, decision making, based on participatory principles.

INTRAC recommends that this initiative takes a practical approach of benefit to key networks. For example, the resources and toolkits available from global networks for MDGs could be promoted at the first meeting, with a view to supporting their use by networks in CA. INTRAC could approach UNDP offices in the region for their support and ideas in this area.

Option 2: Funding of individual organizations / networks

Novib’s strategy papers give an indication that Novib would like to support key networks working in strategic aims 1, 4 and 5. The information provided by INTRAC in Stage 2 should assist Novib staff considerably in looking at some options.

It is important to note that an approach by Oxfam Novib focused on support to existing networks could have both plus and minus aspects. We can mention the following:

3 plus points of supporting an existing network	3 minus points
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Networks usually have established structures/ procedures of governance and therefore support of an existing network will not be burdened with big organizational expenses	The more advanced networks are sometimes closely associated with a particular international agency or program. Support for such networks needs to take such factors into account
Networks are well known on many levels, and Novib can thus rely on their reputation, experience and links with the external environment	Well-established networks sometimes have a negative image as «rich» organizations «far» from the «real» needs of local CSOs. Changing this kind of image could require additional investment.
Networks usually possess particular norms / rules of internal and external interaction. Consequently, they can organize events quickly and efficiently	The established “custom and practice” of the network could hold back the introduction of new ideas and values related to the promotion of the voice of CA CSOs

Option 3: Filling the gaps in the organizational and institutional development of regional networks

Strengthening the voice of CSO networks in CA means tackling issues related to their organizational and institutional capacities. Here Novib could finance information, education and consultation services which support a number of networks working in its strategic aim areas. The services could be provided with a local partner or by setting up a local resource unit specializing in regional networking, global links etc. A strategy of general network development and support could provide:

- Training / support for networks organized on a regional basis, workshops or round tables led by best-practice proponents on such themes as membership, decision-making, organization, strategic thinking (these were key issues at INTRAC’s open training workshop on coalition and network building in November 2006)
- Mechanisms of institutional support for sustainable communication between local and global civil society;
- Development of targeted bilateral information canals between CA CSOs and global civil society – building on the information collected by INTRAC in Stage 1-2;
- Support for professional networks which directly build capacity for CS: e.g. evaluators, researchers, think tanks, fundraisers
- Assessment of training and information needs in internet use and website design

Option 4: Creation of a Forum / Coalition of CA regional networks around the themes of OXFAM NOVIB’s strategic aims.

Following from the workshop planned in early 2007 (see Option 1), Novib could assess whether there is interest in creating a “union of networks” (ie existing networks) in the intersection of Novib’s strategic aims: for example, *entrepreneurship, the fight against poverty, or strengthening of womens empowerment*. This idea reflects the need to help unite networks based on professions, or around a single concept or activity area (eg development of self help groups) identified in the Stage 1 report. It is clear that such a union would require a network base or coordinator to operate effectively. So one crucial issue would be how to choose between candidates for such a position.

Once again, it would be useful to think of practical projects which can involve network members. Ideas which are timely and potentially of interest in the region include: 1) MDGs – see above; 2) WTO accession and its benefits or disbenefits for poorer communities, workers and entrepreneurs; 3) Womens rights in development. The WTO theme could be developed with the IGTN working group (mentioned in global opportunities, Annex 3); womens rights – by

commissioning a small regional research project working with AWID on the use and effect of rights based gender programs in Central Asia.

Option 5: Promotion or holding of major international events in CA region

It is obvious that strengthening the voice of Central Asian civil society at the global level depends largely on the visibility of the region as a whole. One way of tackling the invisibility / isolation of Central Asia would be to encourage the holding of international events in the region – ideally, regular events on themes important to CA / global civil society. Thus, support from OXFAM NOVIB could be focused not on a particular network or group of organizations, but around an important theme or activity for the CS sector, coordinated by a group of national and regional networks.

This approach could help achieve other recommendations made in the Stage 1 report: viz, actualize the agenda of civil society at global level; make visible the potential of international networks; make visible at international level the interests / positions of local CSOs; develop the skills of local organizations in using video and TV films for information dissemination in international networks.

This option clearly needs wider support than simply Oxfam Novib. However, Novib could make a contribution to this by considering the holding of an international event in Central Asia in one or two years' time, co-sponsored by other international agencies and global CS networks. At such an event, the results of regional networking activities in CA could be presented and discussed with representatives from CS in other regions of the world.

In conclusion, there are many interesting and exciting possibilities in this area. Novib may decide to simply support one or two key networks. Or Novib may wish to consider wider support to networks – in which case further joint discussions would seem to be essential (eg during the 2007 visit and workshop). These discussions could help develop more concrete proposals and plans involving a range of parties in a new program to support regional networks and strengthening the voice of CSOs in CA.

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Kulnara Djamankulova – Program coordinator, INTRAC Kyrgyzstan

Janice Giffen – Researcher/ capacity building specialist, INTRAC, UK

Naomi Stockley – Research assistant, INTRAC, Kazakhstan

Annex 1: Terms of reference for second stage of work

1. Detailed **aims** of second stage:

1. Extend the survey of NGOs in Tajikistan and Uzbekistan and follow up on new ideas and contacts coming from them
2. Collect more information from key CS network coordinators working on a CA regional basis, regarding the membership and operation of their networks.
3. Identify more closely networking themes and organizations working within Novib's aims 1,4,5.
4. Present issues around networks from the stage 1 report for Novib at the ISS meeting in Holland in December 2006

2. Agreed **activities** to achieve these aims:

1. Survey of NGOs in Tajikistan and Uzbekistan:

Selection and email briefing of locally based consultants

Work by local consultants in T&U using questionnaires and interviews

Visit by a member of the research team to Uzbekistan to discuss results, sensitive issues etc

Alternatively/additionally, invite Uzbekistan (and Tajikistan?) researcher to Bishkek. (Eg to INTRAC's Open Training workshop "Strategic Relations and Networking" 6-8 November.)

Add T&U NGOs to general list from stage 1

Discussion of results in the research team

2. Further information from regional networks

Create a new questionnaire (simplify the one sent to International Agencies) and send by email or use in phone or face-to-face interviews with regional networks identified in stages 1 & 2

Develop the table of global and regional networks created in stage 1 to show more on CSO membership, activities, etc

Discussion of interim results with key network coordinators (November)

3. ISS presentation

Review and reorganize the stage 1 report (we may not have time to include stage 2 material)

One member of the team to travel and present the report in Holland in December 2006

3. Action Plan

16-22 Oct	Confirm TOR and budget from Novib Arrange local consultants in Tajikistan and Uzbekistan
23-29 Oct	Carry out data collection in T&U, with regional and global networks
30 Oct-5Nov	Data collection continues. Visit by team member to Uzbekistan
6-12 Nov	"Strategic Relations and Networking" Workshop / round table on networks Integration of new data and analysis
13-19 Nov	Writing up of results Preparation of ISS paper
20-26 Nov	Submission of stage 2 report
8 Dec	Team member visits Holland for ISS meeting
Mar-Apr	Novib workshop in the region

5. Format for networks data

Novib have specified the format which they need for the information on regional networks. This data should be collected according to sectors, with special focus on sectors relevant to Oxfam Novib, as follows:

Network:	
Geographic coverage	
Main aims	
Target groups	
Global links (i.e. is this network part of a global network or alliance?)	
Opportunities (favorable actors and factors)	
Risks (negative actors and factors)	
Gaps that Novib can potentially fill	

Annex 2: Country summary tables – national and regional networks

Summary table on Kyrgyzstan networks

	Network	Opportunities / strengths	Common themes for cooperation	Risks/ Challenges
Direction: Sustainable Livelihoods				
Network «Ishenim» Alliance of Mountain Communities of Central Asia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • System of rotation of coordinator of the network on annual basis increases the potential of members on governance of network organizations. • Members of the network have the chance to make their own contributions for the network (doing research, meetings), which increases trust by the donor and other organizations. • Members of the regional network solidify their impact through creation and advancement of their local networks • Laws on micro financing in Central Asia promotes application and advancement of SHG concept for developing communities. • Development of Territorial Self Governments (TSG) and improvement of partnership with local self governments for cooperation in sustainable development of local communities. • Extension of network on organizational exchange of visits between local communities of different countries, forums and conferences, preparation and dissemination of printed publication. • In the framework of regional networks it is easier to find financial resources for implementation of network intergovernmental projects. • Number of organizations who want to work in net organizations is growing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dissemination of SHG concept for comprehensive development, exchange of information, knowledge and experience between network members. • Creation of comprehensive and well planned state policy on improvement of situation of vulnerable social groups • Provision of financial and organizational sustainability to network members without donor support • Organizational exchange of experience on advancement of local (mountain) communities and sustainable use of natural resources. • Building organizational capacity of network members • Implementation of National development programs and poverty alleviation in support of Artisans, international agreements and conventions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The activity of the network is more focused on economic issues, leaving out other conceptual issues of SHG. Other issues of cultural, ideological, and political aspects, as well as lobbying, are left out of attention. • It is unclear how best to formalise regional networks. There is also the issue of legislation; on which country's legislation will the network operate in legal terms. • In the network it is more difficult to promote country / national projects and achieve their solution and specific aspects, for a specific country or the region. • Approaches to work with work in communities, legislation in members countries of network are different, and it raises a question of search of commonly profitable directions of developing organizational capacity of network members. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members are concerned with issues of finance for institutional advancement and capacity building for the network
Direction: The right to be heard				
Network «AgeNet Central Asian No Borders» Central Asia Platform	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International donor agencies are interested in working through regional networks on Central Asia. • There is tendency for organizations to widen out beyond the borders of the Central Asian region. • International conventions (for example, Madrid 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of international conventions and agreements (Madrid Plan of Action, Agreement Plan of Cooperation) unites interested NGO for joint network in the region. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members Networks have different organizational aims, which do not always coincide with the aims of the regional networks. • Some networks work only on the account of 3-4 strong members, or strong 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a need to 'even out' capacity and develop equal responsibility among network members. • There is a need to

<p>Central Asia Alliance for Water</p> <p>Association of Civil Society Support Centers</p>	<p>Plan of Action, and various International conventions) signed by all governments of Central Asia allows regional networks to capture most of the countries of the region and improve cooperation with national governments.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member’s networks have a sound potential and work experience. • Regional networks usually have support from international agencies and networks. • National network have a strong potential in lobbying the interests of CSOs with government • There is experience on advancement of inter-regional NGO connections, arranging exchange of visits and internships for NGO members, advancement of network members, and management of grant programs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint monitoring and evaluation programs and projects implemented by national governments of Central Asia, according to the intergovernmental agreements and conventions. • Arrangement of exchange with necessary information between the network participants, experience sharing on work with local state authorities • Joint lobbying of interests of Network participants on creation and perfection of legal base for the organization, carrying out joint programs • Development of strategies on sustainable livelihoods for the organizations and local structures and programs created by them 	<p>executive body. Thus, interests of some members may be left without attention</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other members and network committees do not initiate projects and are not actively engaged in the network. • In the system of international organization (such as EU) there are no mechanisms of consulting with civil society organizations, while developing policies and programs concerning CA. • Instability of political situation in members countries, force major cases – negatively impact the networks activity. • Lack of competence of local government exacerbates development of partnership and use of integrated approach. • Tendencies in Central Asia to limitations of democracy, political state in the countries do not allow effective network cooperation between country networks. 	<p>develop a system of motivating active participation of members in the network.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to create a shared understanding of aims, objectives of the network, technologies and cooperation • Organizational and financial sustainability of NGOs • Developing a single ethical code, values of the network – for all CSOs in CA
<p>Direction: Gender and Diversity + The right to be heard</p>				
<p>Forum of women’s NGO of Kyrgyzstan</p> <p>Central Asian Association in Support of Artisans</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation in global networks and consultation status in international organizations (ECOSOC UN Committee on women’s status, World Artisan’s Council) provides a certain reputation among the national and regional NGOs. • The Forum, having practical experience, is able to develop regional programs or some sessions on informing and training of women’s organizations for lobbying procedures on international level • Contribution to professional growth, extension of economic and cultural connections of artisans and promotion of their products at world market; • Protection of professional, civil, economic and social rights of Central Asian artisans. • Cooperation with international, governmental and public and private organizations of Central Asia interested in cooperation with the «Association» and development of traditional craftsmanship of Central Asia (ADTCCA). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotion of women’s leadership on decision making level on the basis of consolidation of CA of women’s organization and use of «soft», «hard» mechanisms and Beijing Platform of Action and Conventions, (CEDAW-Convention on Abolishing all forms of Discrimination Against Women) • Increase of capacity of women’s NGO through institutional development • Attraction of attention of international community to arts and traditional culture of peoples of Central Asia through arranging and participating in regional and international cultural program and campaigns 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forum is one of the oldest women’s organizations of Kyrgyzstan. Currently it is having difficulties because of obsolete material facilities, unsustainable financial resources • Inadequate mechanisms of institutional support – at the level of countries of the region, business and civil sectors for regional cooperation of craftsmanship organizations, unions • Virtual lack of economic integration in the region • The network is more focused on promotion of economic, business, issues on work of artisan organizations, while it pays less attention to questions of development of capacity on promotion of political and social rights of network members, empowerment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of mechanisms of network activity on national and regional level • Reinforcement of institutional, organizational, financial facilities

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of strategic approach to structuring of artisan entrepreneurship in the region • Lobbying interests of artisans at legislative level of CA states. 		
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Summary table Uzbekistan networks

Network	Opportunities / strenghts	Common themes for cooperation	Risks/ Challenges	Needs
Direction: Sustainable livelihoods + Gender and diversity				
<p>“Tadbirkor Ayol” Businesswomen Association of Uzbekistan (BWAU)</p> <p>Knowledge and Progress</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subdivisions in oblast and rayon centers • Sustainable connections with state structures • Implementation of partner projects with ABWs in other CA countries • Experience of working with international donors • Trained human resources – experts, trainers, tested training programs on development of entrepreneurship • Trained trainers for teaching women farmers • Association of Farmers of Uzbekistan formed up 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Microfinancing and micro credits • Development of women’s entrepreneurship • Lobbying legislation on land and water use • Projects on providing employment (self-employment) to the population • Developments in statistics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of cooperation among CA countries on solving the common economic problems (trade, customs, visa regime) • Lack of effective mechanisms of implementation of strategies on poverty reduction (MDG, WB, and ADB.) • Lack of coordination in donors’ activity on the regional level • Inadequate mechanisms of social partnership • Need in development of professional training system • Inadequate development of concept and technologies on protection of interests various excluded groups of population (disabled, aged people, orphans) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reinforcement of professional Unions and Associations and lobbying through their CS interests • Exchange of experience (forums, conferences, publications, Internet forums, • Creation of Regional Coordination Council on development of women’s entrepreneurship in CA (as a long term project for 3-5 years); • Develop themes on «Gender and Economics», «Gender and World Trade»
Direction: The right to be heard				
National Association of NGOs of Uzbekistan – NANNOUz	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State support and financial resources • Website • New legislation «On state guarantees of NGO activities» is being lobbied 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reinforcement of CS voice in the region • Creation of positive image of CS institutes in Media 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of financial, institutional sustainability of NGOs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation of CA Union of NGO networks • Development of mechanisms to include CS in working out development programs for the region • Creation of a regional website for information exchange in the project framework (3-5 years)

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Setting up of internet forums, electronic publications, newspapers, journals and brochures
Direction: Gender and diversity + The right to be heard				
<p>“MEHR” Association of Women’s NGOs of Uzbekistan</p> <p>Generation with a Future</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mutually beneficial relations with women’s NGOs Human and technical resources Work experience in state structures, parties, national institutes on support of family and women Annual forums of women’s NGOs Publicity in international networks APWW, NEWW, OSCE Protection of women’s rights Good reputation in networking Relations with international organizations, with IOM 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of international agreements (MDG, CEDAW, and other Conventions) Monitoring of implementation of international agreements and conventions Government and governance on national and regional levels Projects on drugs prevention, HIV/AIDS, human trafficking, illegal trade migration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Negative attitude to NGOs in state structures Lack of political will of the country’s leadership Reinforcement of religious and patriarchal traditions Financial challenges Reduction in number of women’s NGOs Low level quality of gender statistics and gender assessment Need in support of initiatives on providing gender equality in policy and economics Development and dissemination of experience on Gender research and gender education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assistance in developing strategies on gender equality lobbying law «on equal rights and possibilities» lobbying of legislation on prevention of human trafficking Creation of regional network on securing gender equality in the region (Central Asia Gender Equality Network – CAGEN) Organization of forums, conferences and trainings for women managers in NGO jointly with representatives of the legislative power

Summary table on Tajikistan networks

Name of network	Resources / strengths	Common themes for cooperation	Risks/ Challenges	Needs
Direction: Sustainable Livelihoods + The right to be heard				
Regional Association of Micro finance organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has formalized governance structures Large number of members (more than 200 micro loan organizations) Clear mechanism for coordination of action and regulation of meetings Developed and implemented program of actions (business plans) Clear success in joint activity (development of common approaches to the products offered by micro-credit organizations) Cooperation with state bodies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effective use of resources; Financial audit and control over use of resources Financial prognosis Strategy of securing financial life support Diversification of financial resources Institutional Development Social partnership 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inadequate financial sustainability. Membership fees do not cover even minimal expenses Dependence on donors’ on financing Contradiction between legislative and banking normative documents Transformation of noncommercial MFO in commercial Weak market of professional services on micro financing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development mechanism of consolidation of and potential of network members Development of legal mechanisms

<p>Network of Beekeepers of Ferghana Valley</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience of legislative initiatives and use of advocacy instruments; development of recommendations on the law «on micro financial organizations» • Experience of analytical work on issues of studying the inconsistency of legislative and normative bases • is a union based on profession • experience of joint activity; clear common aims • network members have adequate potential, because many of them had trainings with the support of Eurasia, PRAGMA, and network of «Dolina Mira» • has support from state structures • individual financial basis, based on membership fees • experience of holding systematic and international and regional fairs • experience of production promotion & effective advocacy: • border beekeepers may cross the border to carry out their professional activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issues of promotion of professional interests of network members • acquiring new technologies through exchange of experience • improving qualifications • effective use of advocacy instruments. • Marketing basics • Development and implementation of coalition projects. 	<p>Support of members in case of natural disasters affecting beekeepers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low effectiveness of public policy 	<p>for CS support by the state</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • regional fairs
<p>Direction: The right to be heard</p>				
<p>Regional Network of Ferghana Valley «Dolina Mira»</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has formal structures (3 countries – 3 coordinators) • Functions on regional level • Systematically increases potential of its members • Has jointly developed strategy for the next three years • takes into account the national peculiarities of the country • tries to resolve border problems; high interest of NGO – network members in solving own border problems • promotes increase of potential of network members in implementation of their projects through network programs of small grants; implementation of network projects • reinforces regional partnership • has experience of interacting with other networks (for example with GRINGO) • Works with global network – Global cooperation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conflict Studies and tolerance • Monitoring and Evaluation programs, projects • PR • Financial sustainability of NGO • Regional cooperation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • varying political conditions of NGO activity – network members • travel complications in relation to visa regime • ambiguous evaluation of network by state bodies of various countries (suspicion and accusation in illegal collection of data) • different levels of institutional development • solving numerous border problems is connected with Governmental agreements and level of intergovernmental relations • Unstable political situation in 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase of knowledge in legislation and human rights; analysis skills; report writing and project applications, inadequate communication skills. • Needs in <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increasing of members' potential 2. Exchange of experience with other networks 3. Implementation of joint projects 4. Institutional development of network members

National association of civil society support centers – NA CSSC	<p>against armed conflicts (GPPAC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trust of the network by border communities, leaders of local state bodies and police services Formal governance structures Works on national level Coordination is on rotation basis Network members have a single target group One of the most experienced organizations in the non-governmental sector. Has a good support from state structures Has good intellectual and technical potential, work experience Good image among population, local government bodies and international organizations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of potential members of the network Social partnership and advocacy Joint research Fundraising monitoring and evaluation projects, implemented by international organization and government of the country; Monitoring and evaluation of Country Development Strategy Promotion of NNO/CS (resources) interests 	<p>FV and in individual states</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of financial support by donors considerable geographical spread of network members problems in provision of communication Strengthening the voices of poor is not always encouraged by state officials on local level Increasing of monitoring to ensure transparency in work of local self government causes negative attitude to CS The state may restrict CS activities just as to feel more secure in an unstable environment lack of mechanism motivating active engagement of members 	
Direction: Gender and Diversity				
Central Asia Network on implementation on HIV/AIDs Control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The network functions on regional level Has sufficient number of members (20) Network members have adequate intellectual potential Specific objectives and aims Members need to develop a single vision of the fight against AIDS on the regional level (strategy 60+) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HIV/AIDs and youth HIV/AIDs and vulnerable groups of population Social partnership Uptodate communication resources and their use in prevention of HIV/AIDs Alternative methods in prevention of drug addiction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Crucial problems of HIV/AIDs in CA. Lack of regional approach in solving HIV/ AIDS prevention Inadequate number of HIV-service organizations in Tajikistan There are sometimes problems on understanding the importance of work on HIV/AIDs among state structures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthening the potential of umbrella organizations of network members

Summary table on Kazakhstan networks

Network	Opportunities / strenghts	Common themes for cooperation	Risks/ Challenges	Needs
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Direction: Sustainable livelihoods + The right to be heard				
EcoForum NGO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information and communication in the network Regular participation in regional education and discussion projects Established contacts with international networks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trans border water flows Preservation of mountain ecosystems Preservation of biodiversity ecological education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inadequate technical, informational and material provision of integration process Political changes in the countries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promotion of inter-regional dialogue Support of regional network projects Introduction of information and technologies in the network (skype, video & on-line conference)
Direction: The right to be heard				
Association on Development Civil Society (ADCS) Central Asian Sustainable Development Information Network (CASDIN)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> formal structure of the governance sustainable connections at the local level established contacts with similar organizations in all CA countries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional programs for resource organizations of civil society on development of social partnership technologies; mechanisms to attract investment in community progress. Holding assessment on the impact of programs and projects on civil society development Holding joint research and analysis of tendencies in advancing CA civil society 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional contacts of CSOs in the region are not sustainable Various political and economic situation in countries of the region 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exchange of experience with best practitioners, success stories and methodologies of NGO development Holding joint campaigns
Direction: Gender and diversity + The right to be heard				
National networks of Disabled Women's organizations Regional Women's network programs of Open Society Institute National electronic information network «FemLine»	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work on the net is supported by the Association «Kuenning», Finland technical skills of the network members knowledge of rules of interaction in the net technical resources Publicity in the network technical and financial resources of NGOs joining the dialogue 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is necessary to improve the implementation of policy and legislation concerning women's rights with limited physical abilities implement regional projects on common themes holding comparative evaluation and research of gender policy situation in the region countries based on the common methodology Development of regional and national strategies on gender equality Promotion of legislation on gender policy and implementation mechanisms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inadequate mechanisms of intergovernmental agreements (on CA level) Political situation in countries of the region lack of effective mechanisms of motivating of network members and specialists 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provision of information Extension of technical and financial possibilities

Annex 3: Global Networks Active in Central Asia – Further Information and Opportunities

1. Introduction

A short internet-based study was made in October-November 2006 of ten global CS networks chosen from the Novib Global Programs Bureau list. The areas set for study were:

- Basic information about the network, its aims and coverage
- NGO contacts or representatives in the CA region
- Priority areas or themes for the network in the next year (2007-08)
- Interesting reports and papers published by the network which mention or focus on EE and FSU region

The global networks are listed below, along with information given on the websites about their contacts / representatives in the region.

Global CS Networks	CS contacts and representatives in CA region (as per website)
Association for Womens Rights in Development	Rural Womens NGO Alga, Kg
Bank Information Centre (Bank Watch)	Green Salvation (Kaz), Human Development Center "Tree of Life" (Kg) , Kyrgyz-American Bureau of Human Rights and Rule of Law
CIVICUS	NGO Coalition "For Democracy and Civil Society" (Kg)
Human Rights Watch	None
International Gender & Trade Network	Business Womens Association (Uzb)
International Lesbian and Gay Association	NGO Labrys (Kg)
Social Watch	Centre for Gender Studies (Kaz)
Toolkit Citizens Participation	None
Trade Information Project (or IATP)	None
Women in Development Europe	None

Notes:

- The information available on local contacts was often quite scanty, and the type of contact mentioned varies significantly according to the aims and structure of the particular global network. Some local contacts are described as members, others as focal points, others as affinity organisations. In the case of IGTN, there is a study group for CA with a regional coordinator.
- All the organisations given in the list above are known to the INTRAC research team. However, only BWA and HDC Tree of Life figured in INTRAC's Stage 1 email survey. The others did not send back the questionnaire and they were not mentioned by other NGOs. HDC Tree of Life and NGO Alga are long-term partner organizations of INTRAC and are major NGOs with networks of local NGOs / CBOs (rather similar to our case study of Baspana); the Coalition for Democracy & Civil Society has evolved into an association based on individual rather than organizational membership; we hoped to contact Kg Bureau for Human Rights at a meeting of the ADB NGO Forum but were not able to do so; the Centre for Gender Studies is a useful contact point but does not publish regular information and is more an academic than a CS player. From the list above, one organization figures prominently in our Stage 2 research; this is BWA, Uzbekistan.

- Where global networks have no members, this does not mean in all cases that they have no contacts. Eg Human Rights Watch has an office in the region and has published several important and influential reports – but while the reports are listed on the website, no local CSO partners are named.

2. Some Key Themes and Opportunities in 2007-08

A summary of opportunities for working with global networks was given in the main text. Below we expand a bit on this, quoting from the information provided by the networks.

- **Millennium Development Goals – campaigns and materials from CIVICUS**

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) Programme convenes civil society to use the MDGs as a unifying framework to galvanise joint mobilisation and activism by building bridges between trade unions, faith-based organisations and service-oriented, development, environmental and human rights NGOs... The Secretariat of the Global Call to Action against Poverty (GCAP) is based at CIVICUS, and is an integral activity of the MDG Programme... (A GCAP group is said to be forming in Turkmenistan. No other groups are mentioned for CA region). CIVICUS has produced a Campaigning Toolkit for CSOs engaged in the Millennium Development Goals. The manual aims to build upon material that already exists from other sources. It provides a framework and a starting point for those interested in linking their efforts with the MDG Campaign at all levels. The toolkit can be found at www.civicus.org/mdg/title.htm.

- **Womens movement - AWID's theme programs**

These programs appeared to give a very full and relevant set of themes:

Feminist Movements and Organizations: <http://www.awid.org/femo/>

Through the "Feminist Movements and Organizations" program, AWID promotes reflection and action on ways to strengthen women's movements and organizations worldwide. The goal of this program is to assist them in their struggles and help them develop ways to work that support their values.

- ***Gender Equality and New Technologies:*** <http://www.awid.org/gent/>

The Gender Equality and New Technologies program addresses the pressing need to grasp the impact these technologies may have on women's rights, to cast a critical eye on the technologies themselves, and to explore their potential long-term effects. AWID develops analyses, frameworks and arguments that ensure technological change supports, rather than threatens, the drive towards gender equality.

- ***Women's Rights and Economic Change:*** <http://www.awid.org/wrec/>

Economic changes – including trade liberalization, structural adjustment and privatization policies – have resulted in dramatic increases in poverty and insecurity for poor women. Despite numerous efforts by women and their allies around the globe to secure empowerment, fundamental human rights continue to be violated and women's needs are increasingly marginalized in the global economy. Through the Women's Rights and Economic Change theme, AWID works towards developing more effective strategies to deal with these formidable challenges.

- ***Young Women and Leadership:*** <http://www.awid.org/ywl/>

By promoting a rights agenda by and for young women around the world, the Young Women and Leadership program creates spaces where young women can articulate their priorities, speak out about their concerns, and build leadership.

- ***Women's Human Rights Net:*** <http://www.whrnet.org/>

From neoliberal globalization to patriarchy, fundamentalisms and militarization WHRnet provides accessible summaries, interviews with leaders in the field, relevant human rights mechanisms, new resources, campaigns and the latest news in the field.

- **Monitoring poverty related programs and conventions - Social Watch groups**

Social Watch is an international network informed by national citizens' groups aimed at following up the fulfillment of internationally agreed commitments on poverty eradication and equality. These national groups report, through the national Social Watch report, on the progress - or regression - towards these

commitments and goals. The Social Watch groups, organized on an ad hoc basis, have a focal point in each country that is responsible for promoting the initiative; submitting a national report for the yearly publication; undertaking lobbying initiatives before the national authorities to hold them accountable for the policies in place regarding the agreed commitments; promoting a dialogue about the national social development priorities and developing an active inclusive strategy to bring other groups into the national group. A report was posted on poverty reduction in Kazakhstan in 2006.

- **A women and trade research group - International Gender & Trade Network**

The IGTN is a Southern-led network that builds South/North cooperation with the aim of developing more just and democratic trade policies from a critical feminist perspective. IGTN is currently organized in eight regions: Africa, Asia, Caribbean, Central Asia, Europe, Latin America, North America, and the Pacific.

In 2004, IGTN-Central Asia (IGTN-CA) began developing a research, advocacy, and economic literacy project through a grant from the Ford Foundation. The technical resource group comprises eight members from Uzb, Kg, Taj and Kaz, coordinated by Gulnora Makhmudova - Coordinator (BWA - Uzbekistan)

As part of the project, research will be conducted on the process of economic liberalization and the gender implications of trade liberalization in Central Asia. This began in 2004. In the area of advocacy, IGTN-CA is linked to major initiatives in the region. IGTN-Central Asia was involved in the coordination of the seminar-workshops on women and the economy at the *Asia Pacific NGO forum on Beijing+10* that was held in Thailand, 1-3 July 2004.

- **Information and campaigning with Human Rights Watch**

HRW has a history in the FSU region. The organisation started in 1978 as Helsinki Watch, to monitor the compliance of Soviet bloc countries with the human rights provisions of the landmark Helsinki Accords. The list of HRW offices around the world includes Tashkent (but this may have closed since no contact details are given.) Under 'Info by Country' on its website, there are documents and press releases on Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan as well as several FSU countries, and an overview of human rights developments.

- **Monitoring financial institutions - Bank Information Centre / Bank Watch**

BIC has a special interest in Central Asia and a department that includes it (Europe & Central Asia). The website explains that the multilateral development banks (MDBs) have made a major investment in the countries of the Caucasus, Central Asia and Russia, and that since 1995, BIC's Europe and Central Asia (ECA) Program has been working to improve the lending policies of the MDBs in the region and to ensure that the projects they finance serve the interests of local populations.

BIC's ECA Program emphasizes measures to improve the transparency of revenues and investment contracts in extractive industries financed by the MDBs and to minimize the adverse environmental and social consequences of such projects. A major focus of the ECA Program's work in the region is building capacity among local civil society organizations to participate more fully in decision making on MDB activities. BIC's work in the region focuses on the activities of the World Bank Group, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and the Asian Development Bank. There are country updates on the website for Kyrgyzstan, Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan; also special features on Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan and the EBRD (with Civil Society contacts available). Find updates for Europe/Central Asia here: <http://www.bicusa.org/en/Region.Updates.3.aspx>

(information from websites, November 2006)