



# KAZAKHSTAN PORTFOLIO OVERVIEW

United States Agency for International Development/Central Asia Region

[http://www.usaid.gov/locations/europe\\_eurasia/car/index.html](http://www.usaid.gov/locations/europe_eurasia/car/index.html)

ENTERPRISE & FINANCE	Implementing Partners
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**TRADE & INVESTMENT:** Through technical assistance and training on trade and customs issues, USAID continues to help streamline the legal and regulatory environment in order to reduce the burden on businesses and to attract greater investment. USAID legal experts identify and challenge legal and regulatory barriers to SME development at both the national level and within five oblasts (states). This effort includes work with SMEs and business associations, as well as assistance to government officials in implementing administrative and procedural reforms. USAID provided technical advice and cooperated with the GOK to establish a participatory process in drafting and adopting a new, more WTO-compliant customs code. The code also provides the foundation for risk management, due diligence and other modern principles into the customs system. USAID is promoting these principles through the establishment and training of consultative councils, bodies made up of representatives from business and customs administrations to resolve issues related to cross border trade.

To improve SMEs' competitiveness, USAID created The Quality Management Center (QMC), which provided quality management services to 57 clients with the first six expected to be ISO certified by the end of 2003. Testimony to the importance of this service was evidenced by a major oil consortium's agreement to fund QMC's services for eight clients at a cost of \$5,000 per client. USAID, in cooperation with the Israeli development agency MASHAV, established and provided consulting services to 28 pilot greenhouse sites that were built to answer the market demand for high quality fresh vegetables currently being imported from Europe to supply the large number of oil and gas workers in western Kazakhstan. As a result, local farmers have attracted \$450,000-\$500,000 in investments and offer produce that was not previously produced locally, such as tomatoes and cucumbers.

Pragma Corporation,  
CDC/MBA Enterprise  
Corps,  
MASHAV

**BUSINESS INFORMATION & SKILLS:** Kazakhstan's macroeconomic progress has been notable, garnering praise in a June 2003 *Economist* article. There remains, however, the challenge of diversifying the economy so as more citizens may participate in the country's economic growth. USAID programs focus on small and medium enterprise (SME) development and expansion of access to market-relevant business knowledge and skills for entrepreneurs' and students'. USAID's Network for Economics and Business Education (EdNet) is supporting modern business and economics education in Kazakhstan by sponsoring classes for professors from business and economics faculties and assisting efforts to upgrade higher education institutional policies and infrastructure. Nearly 300 professors took courses at the Academy this year and are transferring their newly acquired knowledge to students at their home universities. USAID provided long and short term business and trade advisory services to over 168 businesses in Kazakhstan over the past year and facilitated trade deals for 65 businesses with a total value of nearly \$14.9 million. These businesses experienced a combined 40% growth in sales and a 24% increase in productivity. In order to sustain this rate of development activity, USAID has been active in promoting the growth of business associations. Our assistance sponsored training in advocacy techniques, strategic planning, and project management.

Accounting education is another primary focus. Accounting reform remains an essential part of USAID assistance as the use of International Accounting Standards (IAS) is widely viewed as a path to increased transparency and better business decision making. USAID assisted in the formation of Kazakhstan's first accounting association and funded the association's first conference, both prerequisites to certify local accountants in International Accounting Standards. The program in Kazakhstan more than doubled its targets for the number of Certified Accounting Practitioners (CAP), bringing the total of CAPs to 759, up from zero at the end of FY02.

Pragma Corporation,  
Carana Corporation,  
Junior Achievement  
International,  
CDC/MBA Enterprise  
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<p><b>FINANCIAL SECTOR:</b> USAID continues to increase the responsiveness of financial institutions, instruments, and markets in Kazakhstan. Kazakhstan serves as a model for the development of a modern, credible banking system in which people have the confidence to keep their savings. Individual deposits reached \$2 billion this year, which means they have now increased 50% each of the past two years. USAID provided assistance in establishing a private pension fund system that presently has over 70% of the workforce contributing to it and has accumulated \$2 billion. USAID, in partnership with the National Bank, has raised bank supervision and regulation to near international standards as measured by adherence to the Basle Core Principles. Critical reforms included the passage of a consolidated banking supervision law, the enactment of a new insurance law, and the consolidation of four regulatory bodies. Due to these and other reforms, S&amp;P has given Kazakhstan a BB+ investment grade, which was the first investment-grade rating of any former Soviet Republic.</p> <p>Residential and commercial mortgage lending has surpassed \$200 million, a \$160 million increase from a cumulative total of \$40 million at the end of FY02, and lending rates have reached an all time low of 15% from a high of 27% in 1999. USAID gave technical assistance to the National Bank and commercial banks in issuing \$4.5 million in mortgage backed securities. This financial instrument helped meet the demand of privatized pension funds that were in dire need of instruments to diversify their portfolios. USAID supported microfinance institutions such as the Kazakhstan Community Loan Fund (KCLF), which received an alpha-rating (high safety, good systems, highly recommended) from M-CRIL, a leading international rater of micro lending institutions. KCLF, created in 1997 with a grant from USAID, opened two new branches this year for a total of five branches. USAID provided lending capital and technical assistance for the new branches in Taraz and Turkestan. The other three branches are now operating without subsidies and a minimum of technical assistance; the Taraz branch is expected to be self-sufficient by the end of October 2003. With additional funding, USAID provided financial support to the Small Enterprise Assistance Fund (SEAF), which will increase opportunities for local firms to obtain financing through equity, debt, and leasing. Additional resources support training to 540 loan officers at European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) partner banks to facilitate a \$70 million credit line for micro and small businesses. USAID continues to cooperate with the Kazakh government, the National Bank, and the private sector to strengthen the financial sector, including the development of a mortgage industry, an insurance industry, a credit bureau, and a credit rating agency.</p>	<p>Pragma Corporation,          BearingPoint,          SEAF,          EBRD          ACDI/VOCA</p>
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ENERGY & WATER MANAGEMENT	Implementing Partners
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<p><b>WATER SECTOR:</b> Economic growth and the maintenance of amicable relationships among the nations of Central Asia depend on the equitable sharing of water resources. Ongoing water sector initiatives in Kazakhstan pursue a dual course: a) upgrading data monitoring systems for water allocation decisions and b) training in how to use this data and apply it in decision-making. Installation of a satellite receiving station and special information technology required for a local area network to support the Ministry of Agriculture's Water Resources Committee, is improving the Ministry's capacity to accurately and quickly address critical water allocation decisions. To enable Kazakhstan to play a key role in the water management of the greater region, in the last year USAID installed the main relay station for a regional data communication system, just outside Almaty. The system utilizes meteorburst communications to transmit real time data through this central station throughout the entire region. Training programs in natural resources management emphasize practical instruction on targeted technologies and policies. Many of the training events are held in cooperation with other regional organizations and served to strengthen relationships with counterparts, NGOs, the media and other stakeholders. In the water sector, training focused on two areas: (1) training government workers in the use and application of the automated systems for collecting water data and managing river flows and (2) training selected farm level workers in improved water management at the farm level. Public outreach activities accelerated significantly during the past year involving both a coordinated outreach campaign to educate the public about natural resource management practices, and the building of sustainable social marketing capacity among NGOs, public institutions and other community stakeholders. NGOs have been a particular focus, as they constitute a potential base for grass roots public advocacy in support of natural resources and environmental issues. USAID is also partially funding a collaborative effort with the Israeli development assistance agency, MASHAV. The project focuses on improving livelihoods in the Aral Sea wetlands region through the establishment of a fish hatchery near Aralsk, which was inaugurated in 2003. The hatchery will help upgrade the local fishery through the restocking natural lakes, as well as provide fish for aquaculture in this economically depressed region. The World Bank and Danish</p>	<p>PA Consulting,          Winrock International,          Development Alternatives Inc.,          Riverside Technologies Inc.,          MASHAV,          Meteor Communications Corporation</p>
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assistance programs are also collaborating in this effort.	
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<p><b>ENERGY SECTOR:</b> Kazakhstan has abundant natural resources, including huge oil and natural gas reserves. The economic development of the country is directly tied to its ability to manage the efficient use of these resources, and USAID programs are directed at assisting Kazakhstan in this vital sector. Activities focus on the development and extension of demonstration models and an associated training and public outreach program that informs interested parties about energy issues and strengthens the energy sector's capacity to improve management efficiencies. An example of this training is being conducted with the help of the Department of Interior Mineral Management Service, and deals with how to properly evaluate the worth of oil and gas resources, and how to hold a transparent tender.</p> <p>USAID's demonstration models constitute concrete examples of responsible natural resource management. They offer cost effective technologies and practices that will save money for users in the long term. Two demonstration models were completed in Atyrau in 2002: a) installation of heat meters in four representative buildings to gather actual heat consumption data and b) automation of district heating temperature controls for a school building. Both models clearly demonstrate the heating efficiency benefits from installing such controls and were designed as models to encourage investment in cost-effective measures to achieve energy savings. A minimum of 20% savings in energy costs was achieved in these demonstrations. During 2003, USAID directly assisted the Department of Labor, Employment, and Social Protection of the City of Almaty in improving its energy safety net program through key technical assistance, training, specialized computer hardware and software programs. Though USAID's inputs provided the working model, due to these efforts, the Department acquired an additional 86 computers on its own, in order to expand customer service to all sections of the city. They also replicated the training in computers and customer relations that USAID had provided, which is a real indicator of success. USAID also continues to interact with three key NGOs in the energy arena. These are the Kazakhstan Electricity Association (KEA), the Kazakhstan Petroleum Association, and the Kazakhstan Business Association for Sustainable Development. USAID's work with these organizations has enabled them to become independent, sustainable entities that advocate for improved rules, regulations, and practices affecting the energy and natural resources sectors. USAID's development partner provides important technical expertise and similar assistance, on an as needed basis, to these organizations. Two of these entities now feature their own websites that offer the public vast information on energy issues in Kazakhstan.</p>	<p>PA Consulting, Winrock International, Development Alternatives Inc., Riverside Technologies Inc., Minerals Management Service, U.S. Department of Interior</p>
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<b>DEMOCRACY &amp; CONFLICT MITIGATION</b>	<b>Implementing Partners</b>
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<p><b>CIVIL SOCIETY:</b> USAID/CAR's civil society program supports a network of eight civil society support centers that provide training seminars, technical support, information resources, networking opportunities and professional services to non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and associations. USAID provides training and resources to strengthen the financial and institutional sustainability of these centers. The program includes funding institutional grants for leading NGOs in specific sectors, community development grants to help NGOs to engage with their communities and advocate for their needs at the local level, and to focus on social partnerships and advocacy at the national level. USAID also provides assistance in the development of a comprehensive legal and fiscal framework that will support and strengthen the NGO sector, as well as direct legal support and services for NGOs through the CSSC Network.</p>	<p>Counterpart, ICNL</p>
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<p><b>MEDIA &amp; INFORMATION:</b> Because strong, sustainable non-state media outlets will only be viable in the long term under fair and transparent media laws and regulations, USAID provides legal advice and consultation to individual journalists and media outlets and supports the development of media associations, media rights organizations, and media law advocacy campaigns. In this increasingly difficult political environment, USAID's training and technical assistance help to raise the professionalism and financial independence of media outlets. USAID works closely with the National Association of Television and Radio Broadcasters, which was created by independent stations in the fall of 2001, collects membership dues, and hired an executive director using its own resources. A production fund enables independent stations and production houses to produce local programming in the Kazakh language to fully comply with Kazakh law. A legal advisor consults with media outlets to ensure that they are in compliance with the law. A print media advisor continues to upgrade the quality of reporting. In related efforts to increase the availability of</p>	<p>Internews, ICFJ, Adil Soz, Soros, IFES, IOM</p>
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<p>information on civic rights and domestic public issues, this year 34,481 students participated in USAID’s civic education courses (exceeding our target by 5,248); 1,149 students participated in extra-curricular activities such as student local government days, democracy summer camps and student action committees; and 577 schools used the USAID-funded textbook for 10th and 11th graders that includes topics such as women in political life in Kazakhstan, international human rights and civic responsibility. As a result of these activities, students are more aware of political and social issues and more active in solving social issues. Around 129,000 students participated in Critical Thinking, Step by Step, Debate Center and Volunteer House programs that are designed to develop more democratic teaching methods in schools, increase the involvement of parents to the education process, and increase student activism. All civics education programs enjoy support from the Ministry of Education and other government institutions. To combat human trafficking, USAID provides comprehensive support to the government for trafficking prevention, prosecution and protection activities. Specifically, USAID provides grants to local NGOs to conduct awareness campaigns, assists the government in developing and implementing a national plan of action, and establishing appropriate measures to protect trafficking victims.</p>	
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<p><b>CITIZEN PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNANCE:</b> USAID continues to support political parties and movements committed to democracy by strengthening the canvassing and organizing skills of party members and individual candidates leading up to the Majilis elections in the fall of 2004. A USAID-sponsored civic advocacy program assists NGOs to lobby parliament on particular issues of importance to citizens. As part of that program, USAID is working with the Republican Network of Independent Monitors (RNIM) to monitor elections in Kazakhstan, and with the Youth Information Service of Kazakhstan (YISK) to advocate on behalf of students for better living conditions at universities.</p>	<p>The National Democratic Institute, The International Republican Institute</p>
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<p><b>CONFLICT PREVENTION &amp; COMMUNITY ACTION:</b> USAID’s conflict prevention activities in Kazakhstan focus in southern Kazakhstan, in three oblasts near the Uzbekistan border. USAID is presently active in 12 communities that are working on small-scale, community-driven social and physical infrastructure projects generated through community action. Some examples include renovations of youth centers in urban areas where youth are vulnerable to the draw of extremism and drugs, and extension of an irrigation canal for farmers whose lands are being taken over by urban sprawl. Although none of USAID’s conflict prevention program activities will, in and of themselves, end conflict or extremism in Central Asia, they will continue to serve as a focal point for the USG’s only non-military approach to mitigate potentially violent discord here. By the end of the conflict mitigation program in 2005, at least 45,000 people in 20 communities will directly benefit from small-scale, community-driven projects. More importantly, the community strengthening component of this activity will build the capacity for communities to address local conflicts before they become dangerous.</p>	<p>ACDI/VOCA</p>
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<p><b>ACCOUNTABLE PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS:</b> USAID’s Local Government Initiative is working with municipalities in two pilot oblasts (Almaty and Kostanai) to develop strategic plans for their communities, promoting public participation and input. Law students and advocates are the main beneficiaries of USAID’s legal reform efforts. USAID supports practical and substantive legal training for law students by conducting critical thinking seminars, sponsoring moot court competitions and teaching Street Law. USAID’s new judicial reform program trains judges on civil and criminal issues as well as disseminates judicial decisions.</p>	<p>The Urban Institute, ABA/CEELI, IRIS</p>
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<p><b>HEALTH &amp; EDUCATION</b></p>	<p><b>Implementing Partners</b></p>
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<p><b>QUALITY PRIMARY HEALTH CARE:</b> USAID’s health programs continue to enjoy enthusiastic support in Kazakhstan’s oblasts (states) and rayons (counties) and among the clients who are our ultimate beneficiaries. At the national level, there is continued resistance to reform. Technical assistance continues at the national level on equalizing health resource allocation across oblasts and creating more favorable conditions for implementing incentive-based provider payment systems. USAID advised the government in drafting national primary health care (PHC) enrollment rules. A single per capita rate for PHC facilities including mixed polyclinics is another political and technical issue addressed by the government with USAID’s assistance. Free choice of a PHC provider leveraged by financial incentives – capitated payment for PHC, is an important factor of quality improvement and restructuring of the health delivery system. Reformed PHC practices cover approximately 39% of Kazakhstan’s population. Recently, intensive work has been carried out on drafting an outpatient drug benefits package for children under 1 to be introduced nationwide in 2004.</p>	<p>Abt Associates, Counterpart Consortium</p>
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<p>PHC doctors are being trained in family medicine, and small groups from academic institutions are being prepared as family medicine teachers for medical and nursing schools. Short courses are being conducted on priority health topics, particularly family planning and integrated management of childhood illnesses (IMCI) and USAID is working to better prepare health care staff in up-to-date approaches to treat common but potentially life-threatening illnesses and to change national regulations on care of diarrhea and acute respiratory infections. USAID is supporting the Kazakhstan Association of Family Physicians, a young professional organization with branches in 12 of the 14 oblasts that advocates for family medicine and evidence-based care. Quality improvement pilots have been initiated on child health and family planning. USAID is promoting correct drug use through evidence-based treatment guidelines, public education and training through the highly-regarded Drug Information Center in Karaganda, which also disseminates newsletters nationally and internationally. The center has been influential in setting up the new Eurasia Drug Information Network. USAID is also assisting the National Center for Drug Expertise.</p> <p>USAID promotes healthy behaviors through multi-media health promotion campaigns on reproductive health and child health in four oblasts as well as health education for PHC clients on these topics as well as TB, STIs and others. It also supports a Healthy Communities Grant Program for NGOs to conduct health promotion and outreach. Through the program, women in mountain villages in East Kazakhstan Oblast have received information about family planning, students in State boarding schools have learned about HIV/AIDS prevention, and teenage girls in Almaty and Zhezkazgan have received frank reliable information about STIs and family planning. . Under the health community program, USAID has awarded 12 grants to NGOs to implement health and community action projects aimed at addressing priority health needs. CDC is implementing a pilot program to introduce the internationally-accepted WHO-definition of infant mortality. This involves policy change at the national level, training of perinatologists, obstetricians, and pediatricians, and provision of equipment to assist in resuscitation and measurement of newborns.</p>	
<p><b>MOTHER &amp; CHILD &amp; REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH:</b> USAID trains health staff to update their knowledge and skills in reproductive health and is extending training on management of childhood illnesses to new regions. A pioneering Safe Motherhood pilot project has updated prenatal, delivery and newborn care for pregnant women and their infants both at the PHC level and at maternity hospitals and is showing impressive results. USAID and local health authorities successfully convinced the local copper company to support this effort by renovating the maternity houses. An increasing number of Kazakhs, primarily women and adolescents, have access to free, confidential, accurate reproductive health information through the Red Apple Reproductive Health Hotline, making about 60,000 calls last year. The hotline is managed by the Business Women’s Association of Kazakhstan which has leveraged funding to almost double the number of hotline sites in several cities around the country.</p>	<p>Abt Associates</p>
<p><b>INFECTIOUS DISEASE CONTROL:</b> Since 1998, USAID has assisted the Kazakh government in countrywide implementation of the WHO-recommended DOTS strategy. Sufficient quantity of anti-TB drugs purchased by the GOK for free treatment of TB patients, as well as the DOTS training and monitoring program supported by USAID nationwide, resulted in a 37% decrease in deaths from TB (from 38.4 deaths per 100,000 population in 1998 to 24.2 deaths in 2002.) According to CDC estimations, about 20,000 Kazakhstani’s lives were saved during this period of time. USAID established TB training centers in seven oblasts, and provide training to primary health care workers on a continuous basis. During the period of 1998 to 2003, USAID trained more than 4,270 TB specialists, primary health care doctors, laboratory specialists, and nurses (very small percentage). An internet library was established at the National TB Center and became an important source of information for the local TB specialists. A TB drug quality study is being conducted in collaboration with the U.S. Pharmacopoeia. A regional two-year Applied Epidemiology program is established at the School of Public Health. Seven students from Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan have started their epidemiology education. USAID’s pilot project in the Karaganda Oblast prison system trains medical staff and provides needed equipment to the prison lab. In addition, multi-drug resistant (MDR) TB is a serious issue. USAID is starting two small DOTS Plus pilots in Almaty City to establish a model for MDR TB treatment and build the skills of local counterparts.</p>	<p>CDC, Project HOPE, Rational Pharmaceutical Management Plus (RPM Plus); and U.S. Pharmacopoeia (USP); Gorgas TB Initiative, University of Alabama</p>
<p><b>HIV/AIDS CONTROL &amp; PREVENTION:</b> While HIV prevalence in Kazakhstan remains relatively low and the epidemic is concentrated among injecting drug users, there is potential for an uncontrolled and widespread HIV/AIDS epidemic. By August 2003, Kazakhstan had reported 3,730 cases+ of HIV infection. However, the true figure is estimated as 10 times higher. Containing HIV in Kazakhstan requires various approaches, including peer and outreach education activities to support behavior</p>	

<p>change among injecting drug users and sex workers. Reliable information on the HIV level within high-risk populations is key. USAID and CDC are helping establish four surveillance sites in Karaganda, Pavlodar, Shymkent and Uralsk and have trained experts to gather and analyze the data. USAID is also collecting behavioral information in high HIV-transmission locations to better focus AIDS prevention programs in sites where the need is greatest. 12 grants have been awarded to local HIV/AIDS NGOs for prevention activities with high risk groups and prisoners. Each project offers basic medical care, free condoms, referrals to social workers, legal services, and access to STI clinics and HIV testing sites. In prisons, access is provided to basic medical and psychological services, condoms, and health education. Condom social marketing is part of a larger campaign that promotes delay of sexual debut, use of condoms for sexually active young people and fidelity to one sexual partner. The educational component includes school-based peer education on HIV/AIDS and STIs, using materials based on formative research into the beliefs and behaviors of young people. Voluntary counseling and testing programs are planned, as well as treatment program for HIV/AIDS patients, including training, monitoring and management of opportunistic infections.</p>	<p>CDC, PSI, Soros, University of North Carolina</p>
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<p><b>HEALTH PARTNERSHIPS:</b> The Kazakhstan School of Public Health (KSPH), unique in the region, has profited from partnership with Virginia Commonwealth University and is now serving as a Central Asian resource. KSPH is designing a nursing administration program and will implement a public health doctoral program with support from Virginia Commonwealth University. CDC's regional epidemiology training is located here, and staff travel widely to provide workshops and teach health management. With USAID support, a model Family Medicine Center in Astana is adding much needed social services to patient care. This partnership between the City Health Administration and Mercy Health System of Pittsburgh adds patient clubs, an NGO for seniors, and services for sex workers and injecting drug users to the usual offerings. This unique partnership will of social services will expand to other regions of Kazakhstan during the next year.</p>	<p>AIHA</p>
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SUPPORTING ACTIVITIES	Implementing Partners
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<p><b>EURASIA FOUNDATION:</b> Eurasia grants help implement USAID's objectives and complement other USAID programs in the economic and democracy sectors. The Eurasia Foundation awarded 53 grants to Kazakhstani NGOs in FY 2003, with an average grant size of nearly \$19,204. Approximately 40% of these grant funds supported private enterprise development, the remainder targeted improvements in the areas of civil society and public policy and administration. The Regional Independent Media Support Initiative helps create professionally qualified, responsible journalists and financially independent newspapers that are able to withstand political pressure.</p> <p>In FY 2003, Eurasia inaugurated four new initiatives: (1) Cross Border Trade, (2) Ecotourism, and (3) Open Budget. It continued its microfinance program in Western Kazakhstan. The Open Budget Initiative, aimed at achieving governmental budgetary transparency, offered training and small grants to Kazakhstani organizations desirous of clarifying and analyzing budget items. Eurasia continued its regional Independent Media Support Initiative, providing the personnel of thirteen Kazakhstani newspapers with business skills to become financially and thus politically independent.</p>	<p>Eurasia Foundation</p>
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<p><b>PARTICIPANT TRAINING &amp; EXCHANGES:</b> USAID's participant training program is unique in CAR in that the primary focus is on leveraging the technical expertise of implementing partners with existing local institutional capacity to serve as training providers for in-country programs. By conducting the majority of the training programs in-country or in Central Asia, more efficient use is made of training dollars and more participants (in terms of numbers) are able to benefit from training programs. In FY 2003, over 3,000 Kazakhstani citizens were trained (approximately 50% women) with an emphasis on NGO advocacy, rule of law, SME support, business and economics education, accounting, and primary health-care reform. Training supports and complements USAID's crosscutting objectives of youth and education, rule of law and anticorruption, reduced gender bias, and conflict prevention. An important aspect of training is its regional nature, which allows colleagues across borders to share lessons learned and, where relevant, to develop cooperative solutions to common problems. The beneficiaries represent a broad cross section of society: government ministers, heads of businesses and NGO leaders, and citizens committed to reform in their areas of expertise.</p>	<p>AED</p>
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**Glossary of Acronyms:**

**ABA/CEELI:** American Bar Association/Central and East European Law Initiative  
**ACDI/VOCA:** Agricultural Cooperative Development International/  
Volunteers in Overseas Cooperative Assistance  
**AED:** Academy for Educational Development  
**AIHA:** American International Health Alliance  
**CDC:** The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
**EBRD:** European Bank for Reconstruction and Development  
**HOPE:** Health Opportunity for People Everywhere  
**ICFJ:** International Center for Journalists

**ICNL:** International Center for Not-for-Profit Law  
**IFES:** International Foundation for Election Systems  
**IOM:** International Organization for Migration  
**KEA:** Kazakhstan Energy Association  
**MASHAV:** Israeli Development Agency  
**NDI:** National Democratic Institute  
**OSCE:** Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe  
**PSI:** Population Services International  
**SEAF:** Small Enterprise Assistance Fund

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USAID assistance to Central Asia helps increase opportunities to improve citizens' knowledge, livelihoods, participation and dialogue in social, economic and political life.

To learn more, please visit our website at: [http://www.usaid.gov/locations/europe\\_eurasia/car/index.html](http://www.usaid.gov/locations/europe_eurasia/car/index.html)

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