

Inspiring Trust, Confidence and Support



PUBLIC ASSOCIATION

Mission statement: Public Association “Bereke” serves as a catalyst to engage community stakeholders to build technical skills and competencies through participatory processes that will enable them to not only meet their basic social and economic needs, but also improve livelihoods.



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History of development



In 2002, U.S. private non-profit organization ACIDI/VOCA began implementation of the Community Action Investment Program (CAIP) in Kazakhstan. CAIP was funded by United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and was implemented under the localized name “Bereke”, “Prosperity” in Kazakh language. CAIP/Bereke worked with communities that were perceived to be either conflict-prone or have significant potential for conflict arising from issues related to the communities’ basic socio-economic needs. CAIP/Bereke promoted broad-based dialogue among community residents, local governments, private businesses and NGOs to strengthen the communities’

capacity to address community identified and prioritized issues through the mobilization of local resources (human, technical, financial and natural) and use of participatory practices that collectively work to address issues of social instability within the community.

CAIP/Bereke has collaborated with 21 partner communities in South-Kazakhstan, Zhambyl and Almaty regions since June 2002.

In the three year period, CAIP/Bereke implemented 71 social infrastructure projects directly benefiting 237,000 people in the three target regions.

Through the utilization of U.S. and local technical assistance consultants and collaboration with local and international NGOs, CAIP/Bereke co-implemented trainings involving the most active community members, including youth, covering technical issues of project implementation/maintenance/sustainability, mobilization of community savings, conflict prevention/resolution, advocacy, civic education, human rights, community strategic planning, among many other topics.

With the completion of the CAIP program in July 2005, ACIDI/VOCA CAIP staff, inspired by the experience, knowledge and technical skills gained, has decided to continue to work with stakeholders in the southern region of Kazakhstan in the co-implementation of community-driven activities through the local NGO successor organization Bereke.



Bereke’s activity is aimed at rural community development, particularly at civil society development through strengthening rural NGO capacities, promotion of gender equality policy, education about women’s, children’s and other socially-vulnerable groups’ rights, expansion and strengthening of international cooperation, development of partnership with local government, mass-media and businesses.

Since 2005 PA "Bereke" has successfully implemented approximately 20 large-scale social projects with the financial support from the European Union, Counterpart International, Democracy Commission of U.S. Embassy, Embassy of Japan in Kazakhstan, Eurasia Foundation of Central Asia, Internal Policy Department of South Kazakhstan Oblast, Academy for Educational Development (AED), Bota Foundation, and the Soros Foundation Kazakhstan.



One of the goals of Public Association "Bereke" is increasing the capacity of rural NGOs in South Kazakhstan oblast through their institutional and professional development, strengthening cooperation between NGOs, local government, mass media and businesses, as well as promotion of citizen participation in the decision making process in particular of women, youth and other vulnerable groups.

Since 2005, Bereke has closely collaborated with many rural non-governmental organizations in supporting local public initiatives, by involving them in various joint projects and trainings. More than 500 NGO representatives as well as members from various initiative groups from rural areas of South Kazakhstan have participated in PA Bereke's trainings.

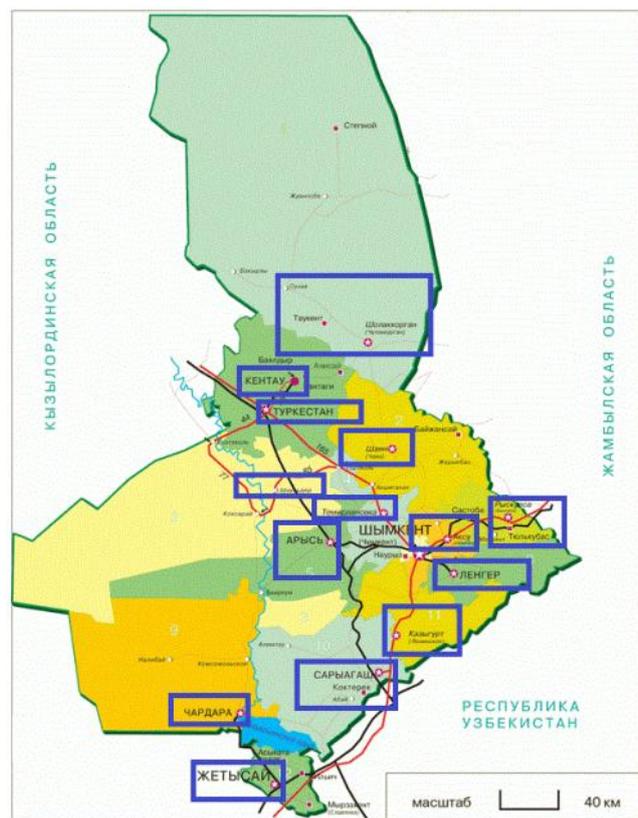


Based on its experience in NGO development, in 2009 Bereke developed a new strategy aimed at long-term results which consisted of trainings on institutional development for rural NGOs as well as grant opportunities for the participating organizations. The grant competition gave participating organizations the opportunity to create small scale projects in their communities by putting into use the knowledge and skills acquired at the trainings.



Realization of this strategy became possible due to the financial support of the European Union (288 647 Euro) and Soros Foundation Kazakhstan (8 800 000 tenge). Project activities were conducted with the close partnerships of Association of Legal Entities "Civil Alliance of SKO", Youth Public Association "Kasiet", Association FRANCE-OURAL and Internal Policy Department of SKO whom in April, 2012 Public Association "Bereke" concluded the Memorandum on cooperation in strengthening capacity of rural NGOs in South Kazakhstan Oblast for the purpose of civil society sustainable development.

The rural NGO development activities were conducted in the entire South Kazakhstan Oblast territory which included: Turkestan town, Kentau town, Otyrar, Baidybek, Sairam, Kazygurt, Saryagash, Maktaaral, Shardara, Tolebi, Ordabasy, Suzak, Tulkubas, Arys rayons.



Since 2010 over 80 representatives of rural NGOs have participated in a series of trainings on strategic planning, community mobilization, project development and management, media skills development, gender equality and human rights, accounting and taxation in non-profit organizations, and trainings of trainers. Fourteen rural NGOs also had the opportunity to implement 2-3 small scale projects during



which they received consultations on project development and management, record keeping and accounting for



«All trainings provided by Public Association Bereke"are very useful, as there is an urgent need in well trained, qualified staff of non-governmental organizations in rural areas. Owing to participation in trainings we have been able to develop skills of project development, proposal writing and due to acquired skills receive grants from international and Kazakhstan organizations».

Valeriy Turlybekov, chairman of YPA «NGO Alpamys»



«Before participation in Bereke projects we had not fully understood the idea of NGO work, the activity of our organization had been often reduced to only providing financial and advisory support to certain low income families, single mothers and disabled people. In the past we hadn't realized that one of

the main objectives of an NGO is to mobilize community for joint actions to solve community problems. Basic knowledge and skills in writing proposals, project development and management acquired during the training course, allowed me to train our organizations staff in developing projects. With the assistance of Bereke consultants we were able to develop community initiated small scale projects, write proposals and receive mini grants for their implementation in our rayon. Today our team has a strategic vision of current situation and essential changes that would help our NGO to be more efficient and sustainable».

Elmira Temirbayeva, chairperson of Women's Public Association «Ana Zhuregi».

Rural NGOs — winners of project grant competitions:

- ◇ Public Association “Domalak Ana”, Baidybek rayon
- ◇ Youth Public Association “NGO Alpamys”, Sairam rayon
- ◇ Public Association “Analar – Asyl Zhandar”, Kazygurt rayon
- ◇ Public Association “Eco Atameken”, Kentau town
- ◇ Women’s Public Association “Ana Zhuregi”, Maktaaral rayon
- ◇ Public Association “Yevgenika”, Otyrar rayon.
- ◇ “Association of Medical Workers – Shipa”, Shardara rayon
- ◇ Public Association “Ugam”, Tolebi rayon
- ◇ Public Association “Zhaiylma”, Turkistan town
- ◇ Youth Public Association “Baiterek”, Saryagash rayon
- ◇ Public Association “Women’s Council of Arys town”, Arys rayon
- ◇ Public Foundation “Zhana Urpak”, Tulkubas rayon
- ◇ Public Association “Women’s Council of Ordabasy rayon”, Ordabasy rayon
- ◇ Community Youth Group “Bolashak”, Suzak rayon

non-profit organization. As a result of fruitful collaboration of the partner organizations, information resource centers have been established in almost all rayons of the oblast. These centers have been technologically equipped and provided with the latest methodological material. They also partake in oblast level networking of non-profit organizations for the purpose of regular experience and information exchange. It is anticipated that the 14 NGOs will act as catalysts for rural non-governmental sector development.

Another important goal of PA “Bereke” is increasing youth participation in solving community issues through institutional development of rural youth NGOs, as well as promoting volunteerism and civic leadership within their communities.



Bereke staff has provided trainings for over 700 rural youth on leadership skills development, gender equality, human rights, and volunteerism, as a way to develop their confidence and accountability.

Bereke has supported 23 mini-projects for rural non-governmental organizations within the project grant competitions, as they all have been aimed at strengthening youth potential, developing civil activity and volunteerism among youth.

Here is what project participants say:



«For the first time in my life I tried to work as a volunteer and now upon the completion of a sports contest it is cool to see the results of our joint efforts: the interest which has appeared in youth to what is happening around and the desire to change life of Shaulder youth, is worth indeed. I don't want to stop at the reached point, I want to continue this very responsible but at the same time interesting work, as it gives us, teenagers, the chance to feel our significance for the community».

Ashirbayeva Uldan, PA “Yevgenika” volunteer

Over 4000 people have taken part in various trainings, seminars, social actions, competitions, contests and relay races initiated by youth, not because they have had to do it, but because each of them has felt his or her significance in community life and opened new opportunities for himself or herself.



«It was very important for us to make our children understand that when there is a goal and a desire to do something not only for yourself, but also for your homeland, school, street, it is necessary to do it; a decent undertaking is never remained unnoticed and would be surely supported. It is pleasant to note that our children initiated a sports contest titled «Life is a movement, and movement is health» to prove in practice that each of us is able to make our everyday life much more interesting and spend our free time with greater efficiency».

Liliya Linova, PA “Yevgenika” staff member

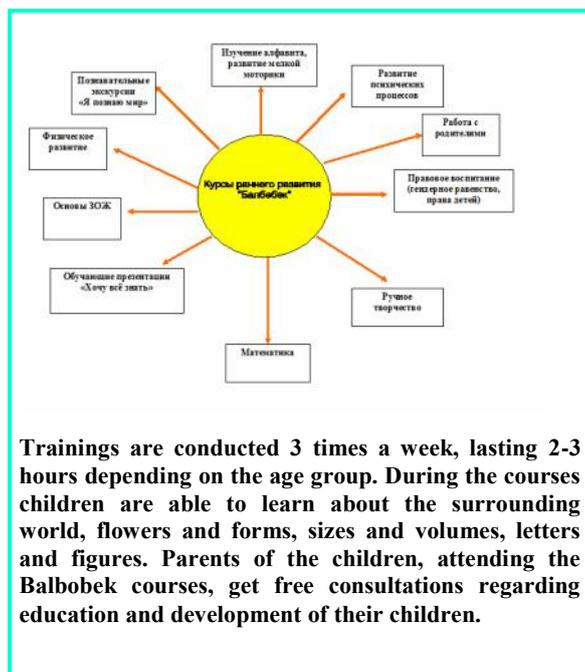


«During the training we were asked a question, which issue is more interesting for us to work on, we pondered, it was not easy to identify as we understood that it is impossible to capture everything that touches us, but as a result, we've chosen the most important topic in our opinion «healthy lifestyle», since it concerns each of us. It was a great pleasure for us to develop

training sessions for children, and the most satisfactory moment was to observe interest and respect in the eyes of kids participating in our trainings. I experienced a great feeling of responsibility! To teach others means to be always a good example for them!»

Nurdaulet Makhanov, PA “ECO Atameken” volunteer

The problem of shortage of kindergartens is acute in South Kazakhstan oblast, which is the most densely populated region of the country. For this reason since 2009 Public Association “Bereke” has been working in expanding access of high-quality services in the sphere of preschool education for the children from low income families and socially vulnerable groups through providing trainings at “Balbobek” early childhood development courses all of which have been financed by the Bota Foundation. Trainings are conducted in the Early Childhood Development Center constructed by Bereke with the financial support of the Embassy of Japan in RK within the «Grassroots» program.



Trainings are conducted 3 times a week, lasting 2-3 hours depending on the age group. During the courses children are able to learn about the surrounding world, flowers and forms, sizes and volumes, letters and figures. Parents of the children, attending the Balbobek courses, get free consultations regarding education and development of their children.

Bereke specialists have developed the educational program for the children from ages 3 to 7 based on advanced techniques and characteristics of the local population. Three hundred children living in the city of Shymkent, micro districts of "Dostyk", "Saule", "Kaitpas", «Kainar bulak» have been trained at “Balbobek” courses for 3 years. This program has been highly evaluated and approved by the experts of international organization “Save the Children”.

At “Balbobek” courses a particular attention is given to increasing the professional level of teachers and volunteers for whom trainings on applying the methods of practical psychology in the work with children of preschool age and teaching methodology are provided. Since 2009 a large quantity of methodical and didactic material, video materials, power point presentations and books which are successfully utilized in the field of early childhood development have been collected at the center. In addition to the teaching program, comics, brochures and a book of child development games have been expanded by Balbobek workers in Russian and Kazakh languages. All interested parties: teachers of Balbobek courses, parents of children, other NGOs working in the sphere of preschool education have an access to these materials.



“Trainings at Balbobek center have helped my granddaughter to become more open, sociable, inquisitive, and also acquire the knowledge required for entering an elementary school, and the most important thing to be mentioned she has got a lot of friends here”.

Zhumabekova Raisa, grandmother of 6-year-old Julia who participated in Balbobek trainings

In 2011 two early childhood development centers were opened in the most socially vulnerable micro districts of “Dostyk” and “Kainar bulak”. They have been equipped with necessary furniture, equipment, intellectual development books and toys. To organize and coordinate the center’s activities, parent-community committees have been elected.

Trainings on strategic planning, community mobilization, project development and management, fundraising and teambuilding have been provided for members of parent-community committees to strengthen the capacity of the two centers. Currently the project employees give assistance to representatives of parent-community committees to establish a non-governmental organization in the communities for the purpose of ensuring further functioning of the centers and solving many other existing social problems.

The early childhood development project is implemented in close cooperation with Shymkent city akimat, Abai rayon akimat, SKO children’s rights protection department, Shymkent city department of employment and social programs, department of education, children's library named after Y. Altynsarin, local businesses and NGOs, working in the field of children’s rights protection.



«Successful work of the Center has displayed to community members that the future of our children is in our hands and now, it is necessary to continue the work of the center through joint efforts of parents, community leaders, local government and relevant state institutions. It is surely an excellent low-expensive alternative form of preschool education for the children who do not have an opportunity to attend kindergarten or other paid preschool institutions».

Dzhunisbekova Anar, member of parent-community committee, mkr. “Kaynar bulak”