Civil Society

Strengthening NGO capacities for sustainable civil society development in the rural areas of South Kazakhstan

"Rural NGO members are aware of their community needs, problems and skills on how to solve the problems effectively. Therefore, the project implemented by “Bereke" PA with the financial support of the EU is very important. It gives rural NGOs a unique opportunity to increase their capacity in program design and organizational development."

Perizat Sadvakassova, “Dariya" PA Chairperson, Sairam district, South Kazakhstan Oblast.

Context

The majority of leading Kazakhstani NGOs are dependent on international donor-financing. Such international funding is declining and the business sector funding is limited to larger, more developed NGOs in the cities, and is typically not extended to rural NGOs. Rural NGOs of South Kazakhstan Oblast, although serving the most vulnerable populations within areas are the least equipped in terms of both technical assets and individual skills capacity.

Objectives

- Institutional and professional development of rural NGOs in the South Kazakhstan Oblast.
- Development of democratic society in rural areas through promoting broad-based citizen dialogue and participation in the communities.

Impact

- Increased capacity for rural NGO workers making their work more sustainable and effective.
- 180 rural youth trained on volunteerism, community mobilisation, human rights and gender equality.
- 27 community leaders and decision makers will be trained on gender equality.
- Increased capacity of 7 local trainers through their experience with the project and collaboration with an international NGO.
- 18 Sub-project management committees will be created and help NGOs to design and implement subprojects.

For more information: [http://www.bereke-ngo.kz](http://www.bereke-ngo.kz)
The story of Elmira Temirbayeva, the Chairman of Female Public Association «Ana zhuregi»

The project trainings included population mobilization, project development and management, skills development on working with mass-media, gender equality and human rights. It is also planned to conduct trainings on accounting and taxation. All the knowledge received by the representatives of rural NGOs during the trainings was used in practice during implementation of sub-projects. The Female Public Association «Ana zhuregi» (Mother’s heart) was established in 2009 in Zhetisai city of Mahtaaral district. Its main mission is to protect rural women’s rights, support their social activity, develop gender education and protect rural women’s reproductive health.

According to Elmira Temirbayeva, Chairman of «Ana zhuregi» and Deputy of the Maslikhat of Mahtaaral district: «Before participation in the Bereke project we had not a clear idea of NGO work, all my work as head of NGO and the Deputy was reduced to rendering of the material and advisory help to disadvantaged women, families and invalids. We did not know that one of the tasks of NGOs is mobilization of the population for the solution of socially-important problems of the society. There is a possibility to receive grants for these social projects, but it is necessary to be able to independently develop projects, write applications and manage them. The knowledge acquired through trainings allowed me to train members of the organization and then, together with advisers of Bereke, successfully develop the project and write the application and get the sub-grant for project implementation «Security and reproductive health protection of girls of 15-18 years in the city of Zhetysai». Now our team has a clear vision of a situation and necessary changes, which will help us to become more effective. I also would like to note that direct work in NGO helps me in my deputy activity, because now I see the situation “from inside” and can speak on behalf of the people.»