

Tengizchevroil LLP

Community Investments Program Report  
Year End 2022

Prepared based on CIP NGO-partners reports.

# Education

## Project: Career Guidance – Choose and Manage the Future

**NGO:** public foundation "Personal growth "INTEGRITY"

**Project geography:** Atyrau city

**Number of subprojects/directions:** 3

**Number of direct/indirect beneficiaries:** 600/1,500 (2,100)

**Purpose:** accompanied by career guidance specialists to help students determine their abilities, which they will apply in their future profession.

### Project objectives:

- Social and management skills training - leadership, proper goal setting and selection process, emotional literacy and reflection, information handling skills, speed reading and time management;
- Mentors and trainers training;
- Parent education;
- Organization of a forum on career guidance.

### Project activities

- 600 people (3 sessions) received individual bilingual career counseling and were trained in three flexible skills programs for over 200 hours of training.
  - Among children of the latest session, 15 are from the family type children's village "Shanyrak" and 4 are children with high needs.
- Students attended 12 webinars of each session from experts on the topics of financial literacy, university entrance, speech technique and delivery, and other important skills.
- Parents of participants took part in 12 webinars on the topics of child age psychology, building effective communication with modern children, emotional literacy.
- Meetings were also held with mentors to work in small groups and individually.
- "Career Guidance: State. Business. Nonprofit organizations" republican forum was held July 12. Atyrau city Akimat representatives, "Atameken" NCE, representatives of educational organizations, parents and children participated in this forum. Experts, specialists in the education transformation system were invited as speakers. Memorandum of cooperation with "Atameken" NCE was signed at the Forum.
- Offline meetings were held at the YEMAA Center for Contemporary Culture: 1) "Self-presentation" master class; 2) a meeting with the invitation of the author of the project "Financial literacy for children in comics"; 3) "To choose a career – to find yourself" guest lecture by Haymish Pause, TCO PGPA Deputy General Manager; 4) "Emotional Intelligence" offline training for parents.
- Excursions to Atyrau University named after Kh. Dosmukhamedov and Atyrau University of Oil and Gas named after S. Utebayev were organized.
- Excursions to entities of "Karat" LLP, "Daulet-nan", "Daulet su", "Somerset" hotel, Atyrau branch of "Halyk Bank of Kazakhstan" JSC were organized within the memorandum with "Atameken" NCE.
- Malekova Altyn, Project Coordinator, and mentors Kazhi Saule and Aktanova Ulzhan attended "Upgrade 40 minutes" training in Astana on August 29-30. They have been learning methods of effective lesson's arrangement to involve all students during a 40 minute lesson, and about how to develop students' XXI century skills and competencies. On September 17, they held a re-training, shared lessons learned and tools with colleagues – project mentors.
- An offline meeting with parents and project participants was arranged on December 10 to discuss applying to Turkish universities and scholarship opportunities.

### Project results

- As a result of these activities, 600 participants and their parents received advice from a career counselor on the choice of future profession, learned about how to apply to universities, when to collect documents and where best to enroll, learned, formed, and applied in practice flexible skills, skills on the basics of financial literacy and independent living skills.
- A personal result of participation in the project for the children was the work on the Individual Development Plan. Participants were accompanied by a mentor who, using tools and techniques from coaching, taught self-reflection and analysis of the results achieved, as well as coaching feedback.
- Project participants learnt more about career choosing, got tools and links on the labor market monitoring, made friends with other participants, and started to better communicate at home and school.

#### **Difficulties encountered and lessons learned**

- 1) Low attendance of online trainings and webinars due to the workload of children during the school period and departures during the holidays.
- 2) Most participants from districts could not attend offline meetings in the city due to the remoteness. It is necessary to consider the possibility of offline meeting in district centers.
- 3) Revision was made in the 2023 project – training of career counselors among teachers of the city and Zhylyoi district schools as well as final-year students at university. Thus, in the region will increase number of career guided students.

## Project: Electronic Alphabet Simulator in Braille

**NGO:** “Sezual” public association of disabled people

**Project geography:** Atyrau city

**Number of subprojects/directions:** n/a

**Number of direct/indirect beneficiaries:** 150

**Purpose:** assistance in the educational process in the study of English, Kazakh and Russian languages with the help of electronic technical means.

**Task:** manufacture 36 “Braille Self-Study” devices in manual mode and transfer to:

- 1) Public Association “Kazakh Society of the Blind” branch of the Atyrau oblast, 21 pieces, 7 in each language.
- 2) Municipal state institution “Gabdol Slanov Regional Universal Scientific Library of the Department of Culture, Archives and Documentation of Atyrau oblast”. 15 pieces, 5 in each language.

### Quality outcomes of the device's implementation

- 150 people in the Regional Library and Kazakh Society of the Blind were educated in 3 languages using “Braille Self-Study” technology.
- Users with no associated diseases (90% of them are blind) achieved the following effectiveness results after implementation of devices:
  - skill to find and identify numbers, signs and letters increased for 77,5%;
  - letters memorizing in 3 languages improved for 70%;
  - recognition and memorizing of arithmetic and other signs increased for 70%;
  - letters, numbers and signs on Braille system memorizing speed increased for 80%.
- Effectiveness of people with associated diseases and the blind with slower learning speed increased approximately in half of users with no associated diseases effectiveness.
- Visual impairment specialists' workload decreased for approximately 60%.
- Employment opportunity for the blind increased for 50%.

Conclusion: device helps students to master reading skills faster, simplifies visual impairment specialist's job, and simplifies and accelerates writing and reading skills mastering for blind users. Implementation of the devices and results of use showed effectiveness in reading learning even for blind users with associated diseases.

### Presentation about the project

- “SEZUAL” team presented the “Braille Self-Study” device for blind children and adults at the Digital Bridge-2022 international forum on technologies and business. Galymzhan Gabdreshov, founder of the “SEZUAL” Public Association for Disabled, presented Braille Self-Study technology to the president of RoK, Kasym-Zhomart Tokayev, Vice-Minister of Health, Beibut Yesenbayev, and Minister of Digital Development, Innovations and Aerospace Industry, Bagdat Musin. The scientist talked about the operating principles of “Braille Self-Study” device, the benefits for blind children, adults, and about the production of devices at the request of specialized organizations with support of “Tengizchevroil” LLP.
- On January 26, 2022, Nurbek Yensebayev (PR Specialist of the “SEZUAL” Public Association for Disabled, Mentor of the American business incubator – The Founder Institute (Palo-Alto, California), Finalist of the “Bolashak” international program) was a guest speaker at the international Rotary Club: <https://www.rotary.org/en> (the world's largest non-profit organization with more than 1.2 million members in more than 130 countries), where he spoke about the cooperation between the special school of Atyrau, “Tengizchevroil” LLP and SEZUAL, as well as the impact of the Braille self-study device invention on improving literacy among the visually impaired around the world.
- The SEZUAL team presented the Braille Self-Study device and the Biocator, inventions for blind children, at the “100 Ideas for the CIS” event. This event is the unique comprehensive event in the field of youth policy, the

regulation of which was approved by the decision of the CIS Council of Heads of Government, which was attended by representatives of Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.

- On February 19, an expert meeting was held at the Kazakh State Law University (KazGUU) on “Innovator's DNA”. Galimzhan Gabdreshov– a scientist, founder of the SEZUAL NGO, told the faculty, students of KazGUU, representatives of the Founder Institute Accelerator and the public about the principle of operation of the Braille Self-Study device, the benefits for blind children and about the production of devices at the request of specialized organizations with the support of “Tengizchevroil” LLP.
- On November 27, Nurbek Yensebayev made a presentation on Development of the eco-system for disabled people by example of the “Braille Self-Study” technology theme for leaders of German and Kazakh rehabilitation centers: Schmieder and Dos Medicus.
- On December 4, was arranged the online presentation “Made in Kazakhstan: digital assistants for people with disabilities” supported by USAID, Internews, Ministry of Information and Social Development, The House of Media Literacy.

### **Secondary results of the project**

- Through public outreach and media coverage, more and more people are becoming aware of the problems of the blind and visually impaired.
- More people are interested in helping the blind and visually impaired because of the presentations and meetings.
- Investors and charitable organizations from different countries express interest in solving the problem of the uneducated blind

### **Difficulties encountered and lessons learned**

n/a

## Project: “Kazaksha Saira”

**NGO:** Academician Z.Kabdolov private foundation

**Project geography:** online project

**Number of subprojects/directions:** 11

**Number of direct/indirect beneficiaries:** 28,455 / 479,852 (508,307)

**Purpose:** education, popularization, and promotion of the state language for people who do not speak or have a poor command of the Kazakh language, especially representatives of non-indigenous ethnic groups of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

### Project objectives:

- to implement effective and proven technologies for learning the state language
- to produce unique 2-language e-books, video and audio products, filling Kabdolov's website with new materials in its headings “Customs and traditions of the Kazakh people”, “Educational materials”, “Poetry and music”, “Proverbs and sayings of the Kazakh people”.
- to implement new projects: “Audio-video textbooks” (podcasts); “Aphorisms (English - Kazakh)”; “Бүгінгі күннің сөзі / Word of the Day”; “TURK and I”.
- to place manufactured products in social networks

### Generalized project characteristics

- The original online nature of implementation activities
- Openness, transparency, universal accessibility
- Massiveness of users and beneficiaries

### Project activities

- 1) Produce four 2-language electronic books
- 2) Execute the new project “Audio products” of 5 audio podcasts within the program
- 3) Make 1 video
- 4) Provide serial production of educational materials (30 editions)
- 5) Execute the new project “English and Kazakh aphorisms” of 7 editions
- 6) Execute the new Grand project “TURK and I” (15 editions)
- 7) Execute the new project “Bugingi kunnin sozi/Word of the Day” (30 editions)
- 8) Execute the new mini project “Belgerdin zhazbalary/Belger's notes” (25 editions)
- 9) Develop and fulfill the project's columns: “Poems and songs” etc.
- 10) “Қ@3@ҚШ@ С@ЙР@!” group activity in Facebook
- 11) Publications - 580

### Project results

- 1) Audio podcasts have become popular among users with low or no vision disabilities. They had the opportunity to listen to Kazakh poetic proverbs and sayings in 2 languages and gain in-depth knowledge of the worldview, ethics and aesthetics accumulated in them.
- 2) The project has gained wide international status: the site counter recorded that 17,500 people from 20 foreign countries have become users of the project in 2022.
- 3) Production of the unique electronic books and creation of the ELTB (Electronic Library for Two-languages Books).
- 4) Increase of the project beneficiaries.

### Project Partners:

- Alshy Literary and Historical Cultural Foundation.
- ANIMA BOOK Animation Studio, which, in the person of its head Arthur Kraus, kindly granted the right to place a series of cartoons in Kazakh on the foundation's website for free.
- Raikhan Aldabergenova, a well-known writer and poet in the Republic of Kazakhstan, who contributed to the project by writing a collection of short stories in 2 languages.
- Azhdar Gadzhiyev, a well-known filmmaker and screenwriter in Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan.
- Mariya Kel is a talented artist, designer, and book graphic artist from Azerbaijan, who makes a significant contribution to the design of electronic books.

### **Difficulties encountered and lessons learned**

Execution of this Program is not difficult for executors, because it is a continuation of the long-term program “ҚАЗАҚШАН СӨЙПӨ”, except enormous time-consuming energy costs to perform separate tasks due to use of the richest bundle of knowledge, experience and skills gained over the previous years. This bundle not only have been automatically used but was well enlarged by new creative ideas, implementation of new greater impact and goal achievement methods.

## Project: Opening of the Montessori Center

**NGO:** "Oi-Sana" public association of psychologists

**Project geography:** Kulsary city

**Number of subprojects/directions:** 2

Number of direct/indirect beneficiaries: 200

**Purpose:** through the opening of the Montessori Center for Special Education, provide special training and education (free education, adaptation to social life, provision of new opportunities for self-development, correction) for 200 children with special needs.

### Project activities

- A total of 200 children attended the Montessori Center. Of these, 160 children were in the correctional program and 40 children were in the rehabilitation program.
- 160 children of correctional program was divided into the following groups:
  - o 110 children diagnosed with delayed mental development, developmental speech delay, Down Syndrome
  - o Mother and Child group - 50 children come for socialization purposes (these children are home-schooled, have complex mental disorders, complex autism, severe paralysis, heart attack, have a diagnosis of epilepsy, are not allowed to attend school in the classroom, have no secondary education, need socialization).
- 40 children of rehabilitation program have the following diagnoses: 15 children have articulatory motor disorders; 25 children have paralysis.

### Project results

- Development of the mental cognitive processes in the correctional groups increased for 20%, i.e., memory, thinking, vision, sense of smell, perception, health began to improve; motor skills improved for 15%.
- Socializing level of the "Mother and Child" group reached 60%, children's adaptation to the environment increased. They can attend to themselves, get dressed by their own, and started to communicate with children.
- 10 children from the correctional group passed the board and went to school.
- Children from the rehabilitation groups which could not talk or pronounce some letters started to do so.
- 25 children with paralysis have 11% improvement in the motor system. When these children came to the Center their movements were very bad, they could not hold objects, and this situation widely changed by the end of year.
- Montessori Center continues to work independently after end of the TCO funding. Free services are planned to be provided using the state budget funds.

### Difficulties encountered and lessons learned

- According to the parents of the beneficiaries, the project lacked a parent relations manager. Information on social networks have not reached everyone, a special informer is needed.
- It was the first big project of the NGO, so occurred several difficulties in the project organization and execution. Need in Coordinator and SMM Specialist positions was identified as well.



# Development of Civil Society

## Project: Public spaces in Zhylyoi district and Borankul village

**NGO:** “Eurasia Foundation of Central Asia” corporate fund

**Project geography:** Zhylyoi district (Kulsary and Akkiztogai village, Zhana Karaton village, Koschagyl village, Maykomgen village, Turgyzba village, Shokpartogai village), Borankul village.

**Number of subprojects/directions:** 32

**Number of direct/indirect beneficiaries:** 502 / 8,910 (9,412)

**Purpose:** Local communities have become more actively involved in improving public spaces and solving local problems.

### Objectives:

- Improving public spaces by residents will improve rural life
- Residents will take responsibility for the development of settlements

### Project activities

- A total of 195 residents from 8 settlements, including local governments, participated in “Project Development and Management Training” (PDM).
- Mini projects:
  - o Number of applications – 74
  - o Number of mini projects received a grant - 34 (Zhylyoi district – 29, Borankul – 5)
  - o Number of mini projects completed – 32 (Zhylyoi district – 27, Borankul – 5)
- Mini projects completed in 2022
  - o playgrounds – 14, sports grounds – 8, summer stages for various social events or holidays – 3, football ground – 2, basketball court – 1, renovation of the park – 1, bus stop – 1, repair of entries in apartment buildings – 1, street lighting – 1.
  - o Akkiztogai – 1, Zhana Karaton – 3, Koschagyl – 3, Turgyzba – 6, Shokpartogay – 5, Kulsary – 9, Borankul – 5.
- The number of project participants is 502.
- Communications: 103

### Project results:

This year the project received the AmCham award in category of “Award for public work - 2022” (small companies/NGO), for the local communities support to develop more than 150 public spaces using its own resources.

#### Result 1. Improving public spaces by residents will improve rural life

- 32 mini projects are successfully completed by the project participants.
- 8,910 beneficiaries already use the new public spaces.
- 2 projects have not been completed and were rescheduled to the next year without additional funding.
- Compared to last year:
  - more motivated participants, most of them are beginners.
  - most of the mini project leaders are active young people.
  - the locations of the mini-project sites are in completely different areas of the villages, which means that members of the local community, having learned from the experience of previous participants, are slowly joining the project from remote areas,
  - the awareness of residents is increasing, they see that this is possible, and they can improve and update public spaces on their own, rather than waiting for help from the akimat, for many years.

- local equipment suppliers made good discounts, some of them delivered the purchased equipment for free.
- Result 2. Residents will take responsibility for the development of settlements
- young leaders of new mini projects are ready to take an active part in the development of the community with new ideas and approaches.
  - leaders show more responsibility and understand their role in the community's development participating in the social projects.
  - increased community contributions to projects in the form of resources as well as cash.
  - initiative groups are more organized and take care of the quality of their facilities.
  - good cooperation with the local authorities within mini projects' activities.

### **Difficulties encountered and lessons learned**

1. Increase in prices for project equipment, materials, and other necessary resources for procurement. As a solution to the problem, it was recommended to reduce the amount of equipment and other things that were not very important for the project. Some projects were provided with additional funding due to the small budget of their projects. Next year, as a lesson learned, it is proposed to increase the amount of grants for mini projects to avoid these problems, as well as to invest additional money in the budget for additional financing.
2. Another problem is unmotivated akims. Thus, the akim of Maykomgen village shows no interest in the project and does not understand the basic idea of the program, he just wants more grants, but there is no activity or dialogue with local activists. This year, no grants were issued in Maykomgen village, because the proposals for the competition were simply written on behalf of the akim. The Committee did not approve any of them.
3. Two projects are still in the execution phase. The official explanatory letters were received from the project owners. They plan to complete projects in the next year.
  - a. "Baby-city" – modernization of the old playground in Turgizba village. The supplier did not send the play equipment on time. At the moment, there is a guarantee letter from the supplier, according to which the supplier undertakes to return the amount to the beneficiary. The project owner is ready to continue working in 2023.
  - b. "Pump-track" bike track in Zhana Karaton village. The project owner has completed the work on delivery of soil. Now they are waiting for the main work on equating of the track to be completed by a specialist.

## Project: Public spaces in Atyrau

**NGO:** Corporate Fund " Eurasia Fund of Central Asia"

**Project geography:** Atyrau

**Number of subprojects / areas:** 30

**Number of direct / indirect beneficiaries:** 585 / 8,130 (8,715)

**Goal:** Local communities became involved in solving local problems in cooperation with local authorities.

### Objectives:

- Atyrau residents enjoy the created/improved public spaces.
- Trained local community initiative groups improved collaboration with local governments to address broader community issues

### Project activities:

- 113 residents of Atyrau took part in the "Project Development and Management Training" (PDM ).
- Mini projects:
  - Number of applications - 38
  - Number of mini-projects that received a grant - 32
  - Number of completed mini-projects - 30
- Mini projects completed in 2022
  - playgrounds - 19, sports grounds - 5, mini-football fields for children - 2, recreation parks - 2, street lighting - 1, stairs to the beach - 1.
- Number of participants in mini-projects - 585.
- Communications: 89

### Project results:

This year the project received the AmCham award in category of "Award for public work - 2022" (small companies/NGO), for the local communities support to develop more than 150 public spaces using its own resources.

Outcome 1. Residents of Atyrau enjoy the created/improved public spaces.

- Project participants successfully completed 30 mini-projects.
- 8,130 beneficiaries are already using the new public spaces.
- 30 leaders of mini projects showed their leadership qualities, organizational skills, great motivation, and as a result successfully achieved results.
- Local activists gained new skills and knowledge in the design and management of social community projects, as well as how to develop a project budget.
- Compared to project participants in Zhylyoi district, the motivation of Atyrau residents in the first year is higher and they show a high interest in self-improvement of the living environment. The NGO did not expect so many grant proposals in the first pilot year.
- Two projects are still in progress, as lack of budget and unforeseen situations prevented them from completing projects before the end of the year. Official explanatory letters have been received from the project managers and they plan to complete the projects next year.

Outcome 2. Trained local community initiative groups improved cooperation with local authorities to address broader community issues

- The City Akimat provided support and assistance in project activities (provided a list of residents, provided free space for project trainings, helped to obtain permission to use sites for the construction of children's playgrounds and sports grounds, helped with soil and gravel, etc.)
- Local activists (project participants) improved dialogue and established good cooperation with local authorities during the implementation of project activities. The NGO hopes that this is a long-term result, because the local authorities are open to other discussions and mutual projects to improve the lives of residents in cooperation with local initiative groups and motivated leaders.

### **Challenges encountered and lessons learned**

1. The main problem was the need for additional funding for mini-projects due to:
  - a. Increase in prices for project equipment, materials, and other necessary resources for the purchase.  
As a solution to the problem, it was recommended to reduce the amount of equipment and other things that were not very important for the project. Some projects were provided with additional funding due to the small budget of their projects. Next year, as a lesson learned, it is proposed to increase the amount of grants for mini projects to avoid these problems, as well as to invest additional money in the budget for additional funding.
  - b. At the beginning of the project, the local Akimat promised to help mini projects with crushed stone and sand for the foundation of playgrounds, but they did not expect that there would be so many playgrounds and could not provide the required number. As a result, many projects did not include money for crushed stone and sand in the budgets, and with permission from TCO, additional funding was allocated for these needs.
2. Two projects are still in progress, as budget constraints and unforeseen situations prevented them from completing projects before the end of the year. Official explanatory letters have been received from the project managers and they plan to complete the projects next year.
  - a. Scene for celebrations in Taskala: the amount of the grant is 3,000,000 tenge was handed over to the local registered public organization "New Generation of Kazakhstan" for the construction of the stage.
  - b. Irrigation system for watering garden plots. When the project leader submitted a proposal, the prices were different. The local community has already added their own contribution of 1,000,000 tenge to the project, but they still need more than 1,000,000 tenge to install the equipment and complete the project. Now they are raising additional funds.

## Project: "Algyr" School of NGO

**NGO:** Corporate Fund " Eurasia Fund of Central Asia"

**Project geography:** Atyrau and Zhylyoi district

**Number of subprojects / areas:** 3

**Number of direct / indirect beneficiaries:** 83 / 1,760 (1,843)

**Goal:** increasing of the capacity of NGOs in Atyrau oblast in solving social problems of local communities and building a civil society through training and exchange of experience. Focus on rural NGOs.

### Objectives:

1. Improving the indicators of institutional development of NGOs in the region through the exchange of experience and grants.
2. Local trainers can train rural NGOs.

### Project activities

- In March 2022, meetings were held with Akimats of 6 districts, NGOs and local activists to inform communities about the start of the program and attract participants. Mailings were also organized through the resources of the Civic Center and the Department of Internal Policy of the Atyrau oblast and districts. Separate meetings were held with NGOs and initiative groups in Atyrau and Kulsary. A total of 570 people were covered by meetings and mailings.
- 21 NGOs were trained on the following topics: financial management; project management; fundraising and beneficiary engagement, human resource management; mission, vision and purpose for the individual and the organization; tools for the training methodology; efficient service. The average increase in the level of knowledge on the topics of the training was 37%.
- All project participants got access to Google classroom, where training and assignment materials, templates and webinars are posted. Webinars on finance and legal issues were given in recordings from last year.
- Two ToTs were held, and 32 current and potential trainers were trained, 10 of them from the districts. Six trainers most successfully completed the year and conducted trial trainings with experienced trainers and their own trainings for NGOs, SEs and university students.
- Also, 3 leaders of regional NGOs, who worked as EFCA program coordinators in 2022, were trained on the topic "Project Management", thereby increasing the capacity of local NGO partners of Tengizchevroil LLP.
- 50% of the trained trainers applied their knowledge and began to successfully conduct trainings.
- Three facilitations were held in the districts on the topic "Generation of ideas for social projects", 59 villagers took part in them. The facilitation was useful both for the villagers and for the new trainers, they were able to get acquainted with the problems of the villages and the activists.
- The best graduates of the project for 2021 - 11 NGOs completed internships and training in their areas in Almaty, Astana, Aktau, Moscow and St. Petersburg.
- On December 9, 2023, the reporting event "Kurultai" of two EFCA programs - "Zharkyra" and "Algyr" was held in a joint format, which brought together 100 people. This format gives positive results - networking between organizations is improving and new joint initiatives are being born between social entrepreneurs and NGOs. The agenda of the "Kurultay" included a report on the work done, creative performances, speeches by the beneficiaries and a master class from Yerlan Mustafin on the topic: "Change Management in Crisis".
- Communications: 265 publications and stories were made in social networks, TV and mass media.

### Project results

- Of the 21 NGOs that successfully completed the project, 10 rural NGOs were actively applying for funding, with a total of 53 projects submitted. As a result of the competitions, 6 NGOs attracted funding

for 17 new projects. And this is a threefold increase in both the number of applications submitted and the number of projects won compared to their previous results.

- Another important achievement of NGOs within the framework of the program is the development of coaching potential.
- As part of the project, a team of 6 authors published a manual “Fundraising. How to find funding and assistance for social projects” in 2 languages. Among the authors: EFCA employees from the Department of Projects and Development, Aziza Suleimenova - a specialist in crowdfunding, as well as the Center for Support of Civic Initiatives (CSCI - the main operator of state grants of the Republic of Kazakhstan). NGOs of the RK have free access to this manual.

### **Challenges encountered and lessons learned**

- ToT has produced positive results in the form of strengthening horizontal links between NGOs. Thus, the 2021 NGOs that passed the ToT began to advise the 2022 NGOs and conduct trainings on their topics.
- Rural NGOs do not have a special line of funding in the state grant system for them, and this significantly reduces their sustainability and availability.

## Project: Yntymak Community Development Program

NGO: "Yntymak Atyrau" NGO

**Project geography:** Atyrau and Zhylyoi district

**Number of subprojects / areas:** 9

**Number of direct / indirect beneficiaries:** 1,600

**Goal:** Development and implementation of TCO corporate volunteering and social responsibility

### Objectives:

1. Strengthening corporate culture through the involvement of employees and their families in volunteer and charitable activities.
2. Increasing the loyalty of TCO staff through gaining international experience, getting to know the local community, strengthening and developing skills for personal effectiveness, project management, strengthening teamwork and developing the competence of participants through joint volunteer work and living emotional and cross-cultural experience.
3. Strengthening the psychological comfort and emotional satisfaction of the staff due to the connection of volunteering with key life values: empathy, helping people and nature, strengthening family ties, friendship, social responsibility.
4. Strengthening the reputation of TCO as a socially responsible organization
5. Improving the social situation in Atyrau and Kulsary through the implementation of projects and activities in four areas:
  - ✓ Educational projects
  - ✓ Social projects
  - ✓ Environmental projects
  - ✓ Charity projects

### Activities and results of the project

#### English Club

- As part of the English project Club meetings of project participants with volunteers (TCO employees) - native English speakers were held twice a week. The meetings were held on the basis of APEC college for students of this college who passed the preliminary selection.
- A study group of 35 APEC students has been formed. 41 training sessions were held.

#### Guest lectures

- Guest lectures were held on the basis of APEC and the House of Youth for youth: "How to find an internship", "Financial literacy", "Communication skills", "The path of a leader", "Stress resistance", "Job interview: how to increase the chances of success" and etc.
- 3 lectures were held in Kulsary on basis of the colleges named after S. Utebaev and T. Baisyrymov: "Career growth, achievements", "The importance of English and IT tools in building a career", "Professional and life experience".

#### Visits to Adaptation Center, Atyrau

- As part of the project, once a month, meetings were held between the pupils of the center and volunteers. In warm weather, they organized meetings with children and played sports games with volunteers and children in the yard of the adaptation center. Also in the center, together with the children, they drew and played board games (chess), sculpted plasticine, and so on. At the final meeting, the children of the adaptation center were presented with gifts, winter shoes, winter jackets, blankets and sweets from volunteers.

#### Career guidance in the children's village of the family type "Shanyrak"

- A training group was formed in the amount of 13 people, aged 15-16 years.
- 5 classes and a final meeting were held to sum up the results.

#### Events for children from the children's village of the family type "Shanyrak"

- Meetings were held with the pupils, during which outdoor games were organized, the children were invited to the school in TCO Dostyk village, where they got acquainted with American types of games.

#### Needlework club in Kulsary

- As part of the project, a handicraft's club was held twice a week for children who stay at home and do not go to school due to their congenital diagnoses.
- Children developed fine motor skills, played different games.
- Parents were happy that their children could receive free classes with volunteers with good and necessary toys that they cannot afford.

#### Children's Day in Kulsary

- Gifts were presented for 100 children of Zhylyoi district, and additional gifts were bought by the volunteers of the TCO WEN.

#### "Road to School" in Kulsary

- For 400 children with disabilities, from large and low-income families in Zhylyoi district, backpacks with school supplies were prepared at the expense of volunteers.

#### Grocery baskets for Zhylyoi district.

- 200 families from socially vulnerable segments of the population of the Zhylyoi district received certificates of the trading house "Leader" in the amount of 25,000 tenge for the purchase of food. These certificates were purchased with funds from volunteers.

#### Cutting and sewing courses in Kulsary

- Cutting and sewing courses were organized for 20 unemployed women from socially vulnerable segments of the population of the Zhylyoi district. During the month, they learned the intricacies of working on sewing machines and various solutions for sewing clothes. Now they will be able to sew clothes at home, not only for themselves and their families, but also to take orders and thus earn money on it.

#### Theater tickets

- 500 children from boarding schools in Atyrau, the Center for Adaptation of Minors, the children's village of Shanyrak family type and also the American school Dostyk attended a children's musical at the Atyrau Drama Theater at the expense of volunteers.

#### DEFACTO - purchase of clothes for pupils of the Youth House

- 26 residents of the Youth House got an opportunity to buy winter clothes worth 35,000 tenge each. Volunteers helped the children to choose clothes.

#### Events for the Home for the elderly and disabled in Atyrau.

- On October 31, an event dedicated to the day of the elderly was held, a concert was organized by representatives of the club for people with hearing problems, students of Dostyk school (TCO village). The beneficiaries also received gifts.

#### Environmental project

- In the first half of the year, 825 seedlings were planted on the territory of 1 hectare in Samal microdistrict:
  - ash, ash-leaved maple, pinnate elm.
- Irrigation was carried out on 2 plots with a total area of 2 ha (seedlings planted in autumn 2021 and spring 2022) in Samal microdistrict.
- Due to the salinity of the soil in these areas, some seedlings did not take root, they were replaced as needed.
- 700 seedlings were planted in the second half of the year on the street Makhambet and Baymukhanov.

### Challenges encountered and lessons learned

- Thanks to the surveys conducted on the Speaking Club project, it was possible to identify points that can be improved. A volunteer curator was appointed who, together with Yntymak Atyrau coordinator, edited the schedule of the clubs and accompanied the volunteers, so the topics were not repeated.
- Pupils of the children's village "Shanyrak" and the Youth House have a very busy schedule, and not all children were able to participate in the events.



- During the events for children from the children's village of the Shanyrak family type, difficulties arose due to the weather.
- Environmental project: 1) Due to the experience of working on the project, a special employee was hired in 2021 to control and verify these objects; 2) Poor communication between Akimat and housing and communal services. Difficulty in handing over plots back to the akimat/housing and communal services.

# Health Development

## Project: Strengthening Primary Health Care Services and Access in Zhylyoi District

**NGO:** Kazakhstan Association of Family Physicians (KAFP)

**Project geography:** Zhylyoi district

**Number of subprojects / areas:** 5

**Number of direct / indirect beneficiaries:** 8 801 / 74 680 (83 661)

**Goal:** strengthening primary health care services and access to it in Zhylyoi district.

**Objectives:**

- Help primary health care providers increase their capacity, capability and responsibility to improve clinical quality.
- Promotion of a healthy lifestyle and prevention of diseases of the population.

### Activities and results of the project

- Doctors and specialists of KAFP in Zhylyoi district work in the following areas:
  - Training of PHC doctors and nurses.
  - Direct patient counseling in the polyclinic, rural institutions, and public places - 724 people during campaigns in shopping centers and 78 in the polyclinic.
  - Engaging with the public through various sub-projects on weight loss, physical activity, children's education, disease awareness, diet and non-medical interventions.
  - Generate information for social media, publicize project activities and engage with the general public to ensure access to verified information for evidence-based health decision making.
- The reconstruction of Akkiiztogay Rural Polyclinic was completed, resulting in a fully functioning and equipped rural polyclinic with a patient-friendly waiting area, children's play area, reception area, visual aids, toilets (including for patients with special needs), examination rooms, workspaces for staff, a kitchenette, a cleaning room and a vaccine storage room. It is worth noting that a local contractor was engaged to perform the work and most of the materials were purchased in the Atyrau region.
- The medical staff was equipped with the basic materials and items necessary for effective work (masks, gloves, antiseptics, blood pressure monitors, PPE, uniforms, laptops, furniture, and much more).
- Conducted training courses:
  - 12 clinical workshops for more than 100 doctors and nurses on hypertension, diabetes and infectious diseases, rational use of antibiotics.
  - Certified basic life support (BLS) training for 12 rural doctors from remote villages;
  - 5-day training for 50 nurses on management of hypertension and diabetes, designed for nurses;
  - Typing courses for 34 nurses in Kulsary to improve work efficiency.
- Completed monitoring and evaluation of key health indicators with the participation of 9 doctors (and 20 nurses) and their 114 patients (42 men, 72 women) from Zhylyoi district:
  - during the study period (April to November 2022), patients with hypertension and diabetes who received care from general practitioners demonstrated a statistically significant reduction in blood pressure (both systolic and diastolic), reduction in HbA1c, fasting glucose, weight and BMI.
  - The average increase in knowledge among medical personnel across all disciplines was about 37%, which is good progress and demonstrates that the training was successful in improving their understanding and skills. This in turn leads to improved patient care, more accurate diagnoses and improved treatment outcomes.
- Smart health program:
  - Of the 20 patients in 2022, half have significantly lost weight, reduced anxiety, improved sleep, controlled hypertension, increased physical activity, and developed the habit of monitoring vital signs.

- The most inspiring story comes from a 42-year-old participant from a village in Zhylyoi region, a mother of 8 children (one of whom has a serious illness), with limited resources and access to proper nutrition. She joined the project feeling chronically tired, having trouble sleeping and having uncontrollable hunger. Thanks to her participation in the project, she was able to lose 10 kg in nine months.
- Two residents (one from Semey and the other from Kostanay) underwent a six-week internship at the Kulsary polyclinic during the reporting period, where they had the opportunity to work with instructors from the KAFP: helped organize clinical training for doctors and nurses; actively participated in KAFP events for the general public; got the opportunity to consult difficult patients together with KAFP doctors. The internship provided residents with a hands-on and comprehensive learning experience that combines theory and practice.
- Completed mapping of 6 villages to improve health planning;
- 7 schools in Zhylyoi district with 5,576 students were provided with water filters;
- 698 first-graders from three schools in Kulsary were taught basic hygiene and healthy habits;
- Conducted 49 monitoring trips to Kulsary and villages of Zhylyoi district;
- Content Creation:
  - 336 posts, 1,365 Instagram stories and 465 Instagram Q&As with a total online audience of 70,845 followers and a total reach of ~916,000 people across 3 social media platforms.
  - 8 articles and 10 social media posts mentioning TCO.

### **Challenges encountered and lessons learned**

n/a

## Project: Effective rehabilitation of people with disabilities

**NGO:** Public Foundation "Biz de adambyz"

**Project geography:** Atyrau

**Number of subprojects / areas** n/ a

**Number of direct / indirect beneficiaries:** 81 / 137 (218)

**Goal:** improving the quality of life of people with disabilities moving in wheelchairs in the Atyrau region, their adaptation to society, maintaining psychological state under control, quick and effective implementation of the process of their rehabilitation.

- Objective 1: and integration of wheelchair users into society through teaching independent living skills;
- Objective 2: Creation of a pool of instructors in independent living skills from among the project graduates;
- Objective 3: informing the society about the problems of people with disabilities, psychological support and motivation of people with disabilities

### Project activities

- At the beginning of the project, 10 new participants were selected for the first workshop "Practical Workshop": 5 participants in a wheelchair and 5 volunteers.
- On April 22, 2022, local instructors, together with 6 trainers from the NGO "RAIK", the Republic of Belarus, held a master class for employees of the Rehabilitation Department of the Atyrau oblast.
- On April 23-27, 2022, together with the NGO "RAIK" (Republic of Belarus), a five-day "Practical Seminar" was organized.
  - The purpose of the seminar is to train local instructors to further educate the people of Atyrau Oblast and to teach wheelchair-bound people with spinal injuries the skills of independent living.
  - During the seminar, graduates of the first year of training received the skills necessary for instructors, and new participants learned how to drive a wheelchair and how to ride it, transfer from a wheelchair to another surface, swim, move over curbs and other skills for independent living.
- On September 6-8, 2022, a three-day event "Active Rehabilitation Camp" was held. As part of the camp, the participants underwent an intensive course of practical and theoretical classes for people who have received a spine and spinal cord injury and who, as a result, use a wheelchair. Classes included seminars on the prevention of concomitant diseases, training in active wheelchair driving, Paralympic sports games, physical exercises and personal consultations of participants with coaches.
- On November 28-30, 2022, the First Contact seminar was held. Participants learned how to take a bath/shower safely, dressing and undressing in a wheelchair, preventing pressure ulcers, household and social adaptation.
- On November 30, 2022, trainers from Belarus and co-trainers from among the graduates of the first year of the project visited the rehabilitation department of the regional hospital. At the meeting, they shared with patients their personal experience of returning to their usual way of life, motivated them to exercise and lead an active life.
- During the year, local instructors held 21 "First Contact" consultation meetings with patients of the Atyrau Rehabilitation Center, the Rehabilitation Department of the Atyrau Regional Hospital. Visits were organized to the homes of people discharged from the hospital after suffering injuries to the cervical and spinal spine.
- 2 trainings were organized to develop the personal competence of the participants. At the request of the Department of the Employment Coordination and Social Programs, social workers were also involved in

these trainings to strengthen emotional stability. This circumstance also contributed to the creation of an inclusive environment for the period of study.

- 8 thematic trainings were organized with participants and their relatives to develop personal competencies (acceptance of oneself, work with fears, work with the audience).
- 12 consultation hours were organized with a psychologist for participants and relatives of participants in a wheelchair to improve their relationship and socialization.
- The Spartakiad was organized. The event was attended by people with disabilities of varying degrees, which had a positive effect on their socialization.
- Together with the NGO "RAIK", a manual on the effective rehabilitation of people with spinal injuries was prepared and published in two languages.
- In December, the site <https://www.bizdeadambyz.kz/> was launched. The site publishes the latest news related to people with disabilities, highlights the activities of the foundation and the work on the project "Effective rehabilitation of people with disabilities."
- YouTube channel is underway, the results of the project, video interviews about successful people with disabilities are published in order to motivate and provide psychological support to people.

### **Project results**

- Based on the results of 2 years of training, 8 graduates of the project received a diploma of an Instructor-Rehabilitologist, who will be able to find a job in a new profession.
- 6 project participants found a job and gained financial independence.
- Participants in wheelchairs improved socialization skills: the process of restoring their abilities for independent social and family activities accelerated.
- Participants acquired independent living skills.
- The participants were fully involved in the educational process and mastered the methods of facilitation, the principle of "peer-to-peer" training, the method of building trusting relationships with people who have received spinal injuries.
- Volunteers have acquired the skills to work with people in a wheelchair, and this fact will further contribute to the creation of a system for the rehabilitation of people who have received a spinal injury and moved to a wheelchair.
- Thanks to the coverage of the project in social networks, many people with disabilities living in remote areas got the opportunity to learn about the rehabilitation process online. Training materials are available in Kazakh, which increases the reach of potential beneficiaries.

### **Challenges encountered and lessons learned**

1. Support from family / loved ones. The project team is convinced that until relatives understand how important the skills, they receive from instructors are, there can be no talk of any socialization. Complicate the work of relatives, who for the most part have turned into "servants" of their loved ones in a wheelchair, and the team constantly conducts conversations, involves them in seminars so that they understand how important it is at the first stages to help him gain independence, to do some things himself, not do it for him/her. It takes a lot of effort and time. It was decided that wheelchair instructors would also be involved in the conversation with the parents of new participants, who show by their own example that moral support is very important.
2. No barrier-free environment. To demonstrate driving skills not only inside the buildings, but also on the streets of the city, the team wanted to spend a lot of time outside. However, live faced with a large number of obstacles and traumatic situations. All objects that do not comply with the norms of an inclusive environment were recorded and information about them was transferred to the relevant authorities.
3. Geographic limitation. During the project activities, many letters were received from residents of districts and rural areas both in the Atyrau oblast and beyond. They expressed their disappointment that due to the impossibility to come to Atyrau they could not participate in the project.

## Project: Horse is the Best Friend

**NGO:** Public Association "Atyrau. Little Country"

**Project geography:** Atyrau

**Number of subprojects/directions:** 4

**Number of direct/indirect beneficiaries:** 122 / 27 (149)

**Goal:** to help achieve motor, psychological independence and make a person able to adapt to new, changing circumstances.

### Objectives:

- Use riding instruction for children to impact physical, psycho-emotional and personal rehabilitation and adaptation;
- Promote restoration of motor functions and lost skills through regular therapeutic horseback riding sessions;
- Provide educational and pedagogical impact on children, to introduce them to wildlife through horses (forming a caring attitude to wildlife, mutual assistance);
- learning about the world around us, expanding knowledge about the nature of our region, mastering the methods of environmental research for the most enthusiastic children;
- promote the integration of children with disabilities in society;
- contribute to the motivation of an active lifestyle of children;
- Help families with children with disabilities, posture disorders, and psycho-emotional disorders through recreational and remedial work.

### Project Activities:

- Scheduled
  - o hippotherapy sessions (HT - therapeutic riding) lasting 30 minutes
  - o the regional special boarding school No. 3 students with severe mental retardation – 10 people;
  - o patients of Atyrau regional rehabilitation center with group 1, 2 disability – 112 people.
- Unscheduled
  - o Feline therapy (FT), canister therapy (CT) sessions lasting 30 minutes
  - o Music and dance therapy sessions lasting 20 minutes
  - o Visual art therapy (therapy with inventive art - drawing; children in cat therapy began to draw spontaneously at first, and then definitely drew thematically).
  - o Work therapy (labor therapy, partial involvement in the labor process: tending barley germs in hydroponics and feeding and caring for horses involved in hippotherapy)

### Project results

- Results on the following effects:
  - o Somatic – 100%
  - o Reflexive - 100%
  - o Energetic - 100%
  - o Behavioral - 110%
  - o Coordination – 100%
  - o Regulatory – 100%
  - o Motivational – 100%
- The students at the special boarding school No.3 as a result of complex rehabilitation: hippotherapy - cat therapy - music (dance therapy) in addition to understanding, began to show a complex cognitive activity of the brain: interest in music making and drawing. All these positive changes prove the *therapeutic effect of hippotherapy*, preparing the basis, improving blood supply to the brain of children, thereby adjusting

the neural connections. Preparation for reading is even more complex cognitive work, which is literally an investment in the socialization of children.

- Further changes in the intellect are noted in the beneficiaries, as improvement of cognitive function - understanding, ability to learn (drawing, doing simple work). For example, 12 years old patient, in the course of receiving sessions, turned from a hyperactive, capricious and prone to aggression child into an assertive, communicative, clearly performing and understanding the tasks of the adult, and discovered a talent for dancing. The next thing expected of him is speech.
- At this stage of the Project, we can safely note the positive impact but also the first results.

#### **Difficulties encountered and lessons learned**

n/a

## Project: Hippotherapy in Kulsary

**NGO:** Public association "Atyrau. Little Country"

**Project geography:** Kulsary city

**Number of subprojects/directions:** n/a

**Number of direct/indirect beneficiaries:** 15

**Goal:** to help achieve motor, psychological independence and make a person able to adapt to new, changing circumstances.

### Objectives:

- Use riding instruction for children to impact physical, psycho-emotional and personal rehabilitation and adaptation;
- Promote restoration of motor functions and lost skills through regular therapeutic horseback riding sessions;
- Provide educational and pedagogical impact on children, to introduce them to wildlife through horses (forming a caring attitude to wildlife, mutual assistance;
- learning about the world around us, expanding knowledge about the nature of our region, mastering the methods of environmental research for the most enthusiastic children);
- promote the integration of children with disabilities in society;
- contribute to the motivation of an active lifestyle of children;
- Help families with children with disabilities, posture disorders, and psycho-emotional disorders through recreational and remedial work.

### Project Activities:

- Scheduled
  - o hippotherapy sessions (HT - therapeutic riding) lasting 30 minutes
  - o children diagnosed with cerebral palsy, Down syndrome, autism – 15 people

### Project results

- Results on the following effects:
  - o Somatic – 110%
  - o Reflexive - 100%
  - o Energy – 110%
  - o Behavioral - 110%
  - o Coordination – 110%
  - o Regulatory – 100%
  - o Motivational – 100%
- The positive effect of regular hippotherapy, besides increasing the blood flow, is the response to numerous muscle contractions, i.e. there is a global flow of afferent impulses to the child's brain from his own muscles. This promotes a deep interaction of movement with the child's brain and intellect, and is the main prerequisite for the formation of the child's personality and socialization.
- The beneficiary children have significant changes in the nervous system, specifically in the cognitive function: thinking ability. Teachers note successes in learning, and parents note improvement of memory and attention. All of the children are balanced, they got rid of feelings of aggression and anxiety, and they always enjoy attending hippotherapy sessions and get bored if they miss a session;
- An important aspect of hippotherapy noted by the results of the project is the restoration of the work of internal organs: the intestines and the bladder;
  - o For example, an 11-year-old patient diagnosed with epilepsy and mental retardation. After one year of hippotherapy sessions, parents noticed the disappearance of aggression, which used to be a usual reaction to misunderstanding (could throw the first object at any part of the body or



- interior of the room); his memory improved noticeably; he willingly communicates with his peers; asks for school and teachers say his grades improve. Functioning of internal organs (intestines and bladder) is normalized;
- Positive dynamic stereotype that beneficiaries transfer from hippotherapy to life i.e. healthy but inactive muscles like intercostal muscles, shoulder muscles, responsible for the act of breathing, are also included.
  - Increase of self-assessment: communication and taming an animal that is many times larger is psychologically important for a child with the most severe disabilities;
  - At this stage of the Project, we can safely note not only the positive impact, but also the first results;

#### **Difficulties encountered and lessons learned**

n/a

## Economic Development

Project: Training for Entrepreneurs on How to Do Business Better During a Pandemic, as well as Training for Unemployed on Start-ups.

**NGO:** Association of legal entities “Association “Council for the Development of Strategic Partnerships in the Oil and Gas Industry “Petrocouncil”, abbreviated ALE “Petrocouncil”.

**Project geography:** Atyrau city and Zhylyoi district

**Number of subprojects/directions:** 2

**Number of direct/ indirect beneficiaries:** 320

**Goal:** is to assist 120 entrepreneurs (training, support/consulting of sole proprietors, LLP) who suffered from the COVID crisis, as well as to train 200 unemployed people to run their own start-up business.

### Project activities

- Training seminars “Fundamentals of Entrepreneurship”, “Improving business during a pandemic” were conducted:
  - number of two-day courses - 9
  - number of direct beneficiaries – 200 unemployed and 120 entrepreneurs, including 114 individuals and 39 entrepreneurs from Zhylyoi district;
  - From June through August 2022, counseling on writing a business plan, starting a business, and expanding the business took place;
  - At the end of the program, “Petrocouncil” staff monitored participants for 3 months and “mentored” them;
- Communications:
  - 115: 48 Facebook posts; 36 Instagram posts; 15 LinkedIn posts; 16 Telegram posts
  - 2: 1 publication in the media, 1 news video on TV.

### Project results

- Many unemployed people in the district have been trained in the basics of entrepreneurship and can start their own business.
- There was interest among residents of Zhylyoi district. This shows that residents are interested in doing business.
- The training was adapted to the needs of the residents of Atyrau and Zhylyoi district (promising directions and sustainable business) and in the future this approach can be used by other regional institutions to support entrepreneurship.
- This project has demonstrated that other regional development institutions (Akimat, Damu, NCE, SEC) are interested in such high-quality training programs for entrepreneurs;
- Based on the results of the training, 39 people received tangible support (grant funding, opening IE) from the state;
  - 20 individuals won state grants of 1.2 million tenge each;
  - 1 person won a state grant worth 2.5 million tenge to open a training center for accounting and taxation;
  - 8 people received loans under government programs to the total amount of 81 million tenge;
  - More than 10 people opened their own business, for example, a sausage shop, curtain salon, welding shop, etc. were opened.

- This project makes a significant contribution to the development of entrepreneurship in the region, as well as in Zhylyoi district. The program creates conditions for the development of entrepreneurship and improvement of the socio-economic situation and reduction of unemployment.

#### **Difficulties encountered and lessons learned**

- Limited funding for the program.
- There is a great demand for the program, it is necessary at the beginning of the project to talk with the customer about a possible increase in training participants, and with development institutes and akimats - on additional allocation of grant funding.
- From the State side:
  - o grants are issued late and a limited amount (5 million KZT). Not everyone can get a grant, and collateral is also a problem.
  - o It is difficult to obtain data from government agencies, for example, through the akimat to obtain data on the structure and composition of the impacted entrepreneurs, as such a list is missing, indicating the weak analytics on entrepreneurs.
- It is especially noteworthy that the availability of qualified trainers in the district (native Kazakh speakers) is limited.

## Project: ZHARKYRA Social Entrepreneurship (SE) Development Program

**NGO:** "Eurasia Foundation of Central Asia" corporate fund jointly with "Fund for Social Programs and Innovations" public fund

**Project geography:** Atyrau city

**Number of subprojects/directions:** 10

**Number of direct/indirect beneficiaries:** 60 / 689 (689)

**Goal:** promotion of innovative social initiatives aimed at providing sustainable entrepreneurial solutions to social, economic, and environmental concerns of the communities of Atyrau and Atyrau oblast.

### Project activities

- Three introductory meetings with the residents of Atyrau, 6 meetings with the population in the district centers of Atyrau oblast (Makat, Makhambet, Inder, Kyzylkuga, Isatai, Kurmangazy), 4 public introductory seminars in Atyrau, 2 public introductory seminars in Kulsary, 489 participants were trained (including MC for university and college students), 8 trainers were involved and prepared on SE.
  - a. To increase the interest of residents in the open introductory seminars "What is a SE?", a pool of trainers of 8 people from among the SE (finalists of the program) was prepared.
  - b. To increase the brand awareness of social entrepreneurship in 2022, the organizers of the program and the social entrepreneurs of past years have initiated guest lectures for students at universities and colleges.
- 77 submitted social business ideas during the first stage of the competition;
- 25 projects were selected – 22 participants, of which 15 participants successfully completed training on the topics: finance, strategic plan, marketing, and public speaking.
- 19 participants submitted 22 business plans for evaluation.
- Finalists: 10 SE projects received financial and non-financial support totaling 26,459,100 million KZT:
  - o 3 grants, 4 loans, 3 internships for the exchange of experience;
  - o 2 finalists are SEs that have already received the support from "Zharkyra", who returned loans ahead of schedule and won with new projects;
  - o Territorially: 6 SE from Atyrau, 3 from Kulsary and 1 from Dossor;
- On June 28, 2022 - on the day of social entrepreneurship, a "SE Forum" and an award ceremony for the winners of 2022 Zharkyra competition were organized. More than 80 people attended the forum.
- 8 SEs passed internships in online and offline formats in Astana, Almaty, Aktobe, Moscow, Turkey;
- 5 SEs organized grand opening of their enterprises;
- December 9, 2022, held a Kurultai of Social Entrepreneurs, which was attended by 125 people;
- Communications:
  - o 149 posts in social networks;
  - o 13 articles in regional and republican media and 12 TV videos.

### Project results

Result 1: The awareness of the local population about social entrepreneurship has increased.

- The partners of EFCA and FSPI in the region - the Businesswomen's Council, Atameken NCE, and Damu Foundation - were involved in this task;
- NCE included project coordinators in the chats with the heads of regional NCE and this increased the quality of meetings with participants, potential social businesses came;
- A positive effect was also observed from the involvement of trainers from active SEs in conducting introductory seminars;
- 2 new SE ambassadors were chosen - Samal Dzhumasheva and Liliana Kim;

Result 2: Social entrepreneurs have launched solutions to address specific social and environmental issues in local communities

- a) The quality and quantity of applications has been improved by trips to the districts and preliminary meetings.
- b) In addition, the project team conducted individual consultations on the applications in the first phase of the competition and this improved the quality of the submitted applications.
- c) List of winners of 2022:

No	Name of the winner	Project title	Locality	Loan / grant / internship	Amount
1.	Dzhumasheva Samal	“Habilitation Center for Adaptive Sports and Football in Kulsary”	Kulsary	Grant	4,000,000 KZT
2.	Zhakslykova Meiramgul	“Developmental Activities for Children in the Studio of Ceramics and Pottery”	Atyrau	Loan	4,200,000 KZT
3.	Bereketova Farizat	“Logoland” Speech Therapy Center for Children with Severe Hearing, Vision, and Speech Impairments”	Atyrau	Grant	3,000,000 KZT
4.	Sanzhanova Fariza	“A look into the Future through Robotics”	Dossor	Loan	3,382,000 KZT
5.	Kim Liliana	“Chest of Happiness” Family Yard Club	Atyrau	Loan	4,300,000 KZT
6.	Amangalieva Altynai	“Rehabilitation Center for Children with Special Educational Needs, through Physical Therapy and Introduction to Wwork (Occupational Therapy)”	Kulsary	Internship	
7.	Magazova Aigerim	“Kerim ai Dance Club for Girls”	Zhana Karaton	Internship	
8.	Hassan Bauyrzhan	“Lessons in Growing Grapes”	Kulsary	Internship	
9.	Khibasheva Nazgul	“Learning Programming in English”	Atyrau	Loan	4,300,000 KZT
10.	Nina Petrova	“I myself”	Atyrau	Grant	2,000,000 KZT

- d) Many SEs have adjusted their vision and goals based on the results of training, even during the acceleration period, and with the help of the skills gained have adjusted their work and received improvements, both financially and socially;
- e) The number of beneficiaries of all SE for 2016-2022 is 24,356.

Result 3: Achievements of previously supported SEs

- The 2021 semifinalists created a SE in the neighborhood; there are examples of joint leasing and holding various MC for each other’s beneficiaries.
- Sagnalieva Nazymgul: expanded her business and launched a private comprehensive primary school for grades 1-4, obtaining a license for this type of activity and buying her own premises.
- Baybatyrov Azilkhan: attracted investment in the oblast for the construction of a waste-sorting plant and is himself its manager.
- Nugmanova Araylym: opened a branch of Special Children Development Center in Uralsk, attracted additional funding to repair the premises, became a representative for the protection of children's rights in the Atyrau oblast, together with FSPI and EFCA organized a regional forum to develop inclusion for children "Special Children: The Long Road to Life;
- Dzhumasheva Samal: became an Ambassador of Zharkyra program and the winner of the prize for NGO 2022, won the Zharkyra contest for the second time and opened a branch of the Adaptive Sports and Football Center in Kulsary;
- Kim Liliana: became an Ambassador of the Zharkyra program, for the second time she won the Zharkyra contest and received a loan to open a children's backyard club. This project is implemented jointly with Aigul Ualieva, who received premises from the akimat on favorable terms for this purpose;

- Musina Elmira: attracted additional funding to open a sports club in Dossor for 100 children, received premises from the akimat on favorable terms to expand the project in Dossor, received a letter of thanks from the President of Kazakhstan;
- Kubaeva Aliya: became the winner in the national contest “Zhomart zhurek” in the nomination “The best organization of the year” and the national contest “Qolday”;
- Isayeva Laura: purchased transcranial magnetic stimulation and micropolarization devices worth more than 40 million tenge, due to which she expanded her business;
- Refunds on loans of Zharkyra winners of previous years in 2021 amounted to 11,759,420 tenge;
- 17 SEs improved their operations and/or introduced new services;
- 8 SEs attracted additional funding in the amount of 77 million tenge;
- 9 SEs received recognition for their activities in the form of letters of appreciation from the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, oblast and city Akims;

### **Difficulties encountered and lessons learned**

- The university provided training facilities for free, and this saved the budget. However, the premise is in the basement, and it is cold in the winter and spring. It was also recommended that the university improve the hygienic conditions of the restrooms. Next year, it is necessary to provide space heaters and see to the improvement of the restrooms in the business center.
- SMM partners have worked with the foundation for many years, but in the last year, due to increased employment, the work of partners has become worse in terms of the quality of design, materials, and content. Repeated requests to increase engagement and creativity remained without result. As a result, a team member became an SMM specialist for the project in pilot mode;
- Several participants declined loans due to uncertainty about the business outcome or lack of collateral. For the future, it is required to additionally stipulate the need for collateral to obtain a loan during the business accelerator.