



**Общественный Фонд «За международную толерантность»  
Foundation For Tolerance International**

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# **ANNUAL REPORT**

**January – December 2005**

**Approved at the FTI Management Board meeting on 20.04.06.**

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## Introduction

Foundation for Tolerance International (FTI) was founded as part of the UNHCR Conflict Transformation and Teaching Tolerance Project in March 1996 in accordance with the UNHCR violent conflict prevention strategy. FTI's mission as officially registered non-governmental organization in 1998 is to "promote nonviolence and tolerance culture and prevent and nonviolently resolve interethnic conflicts in Central Asia".

Today FTI is one of the largest Ferghana Valley NGOs and actively implements the Central Asia as a Region of Peace, Development and Cooperation Program. This Program is supported by a range of international donors including HIVOS (The Netherlands), Swiss Office for Development and Cooperation, Swiss Ministry for Foreign Affairs, USAID, Counterpart Consortium, SOROS Foundation, Democracy Commission under the U.S. Embassy in Kyrgyz Republic, Danish Refugee Council (DRC), Danish Institute for Human Rights, UNDP, OSCE, and other prominent international organizations.

**As part of implementation of the Program, 12 projects in various fields were implemented in 2005 that collectively pursued the following goals:**

- **To monitor and analyze conflict potential in Ferghana Valley.**
- **To create room for dialog to peacefully resolve conflicts including developing and strengthening the capacity of the civic society in creating dialog, resolving problems and undertaking constructive actions at the local, national, and regional levels.**
- **To develop and strengthen the room for dialog between the state bodies and civic society institutions to open up communication channels and facilitate constructive cooperation with the view of preventing violence and crisis situations.**
- **To develop communities by involving the very communities in the process including operations in the multi-cultural communities with the view of preventing and transforming conflicts through creation of the room for social, economic and political development.**
- **To raise awareness in, and involve, the communities in problems solving including facilitating timely access to information, creating and enhancing local mechanisms of effective participation of all involved parties into the decision making process.**
- **To facilitate partnership and cooperation aimed at developing long-term ties with local, regional and international partners to enhance and complement joint efforts in conflict prevention and transformation.**
- **To enhance the institutional capacity: we are continuing to work on developing our organizational capacity and staff capacity. We are staying with the principle of organizational transparency and accountability including involvement in decision making.**

**The projects are grouped in 4 major components of the program activities:**

1. Projects aiming to prevent and peacefully resolve interethnic conflicts in the Ferghana Valley.
2. Projects aiming to expand the room for dialog and promotion of nonviolence culture between the civic society and state bodies of Kyrgyz Republic.
3. Global and regional network initiatives.
4. Researching.

The present report of the Foundation for Tolerance International (FTI) reflects **the organization's achievements and development in 2005** in the context of external socioeconomic and political factors and internal organizational and institutional development.

Section "**A. External organizational environment**" contains the analysis of socioeconomic and political changes that took place in Kyrgyzstan during the reporting period and their influence on FTI's operations. This section also analyzes favorable factors in the country and the region that facilitated FTI's successful implementation of the program and rendered positive influence on the beneficiaries, and the analysis of circumstances that prevented FTI from implementing some of its activities.

Section “**B. Internal organizational environment**” contains information about the structure of FTI, FTI’s management body, mechanisms of decision making, mission, program’s directions, and the problems and lessons learned from the FTI’s results in 2005.

Section “**C. Results**” renders a review of FTI’s operations by program direction:

- Prevention and peaceful resolution of interethnic conflicts in the Ferghana Valley.
- Expansion of the room for dialog and promotion of nonviolence culture between the civic society and state bodies of Kyrgyz Republic.
- Global and regional network initiatives.
- Researching.

The present report also provides detailed information about which FTI projects worked per which specific direction of the program, the number of communities covered by a given project, results and achievements, problems and lessons learned over the course of implementation of the FTI’s Program.

Section “**D. Monitoring and evaluation of FTI’s activities**” contains information about how FTI’s program implementation is monitored, how information is gathered and how it is used.

Section “E. Relations with HIVOS” reflects the information about FTI’s relations with this donor organization and the support rendered by HIVOS in enhancing the FTI’s sustainability.

## A. External organizational environment:

The social and political life in Kyrgyzstan in 2005 basically was characterized by an unprecedented activity and dynamic. The degree of social and political activity of the population tremendously heightened in February, starting the Parliamentary Election and reached its culmination point on March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2005 when it resulted in the popular revolution.

- **The Parliamentary Election in Kyrgyzstan** in 2005 entered the history of the country as yet-unseen-before corrupted one and characterized by application of the administrative resources, “promotion” of pro-governmental candidates and all kinds of oppression of the opposition candidates. During the election the use of “dirty” campaigning tricks was widespread including voter bribery, manipulation of ethnic and clan-based identity of the constituencies which resulted in a split in the society. Collectively all this turned into the precondition for the political change in the nation on March 24.
- **The popular (people’s) revolution of March 24, 2005** was ambiguously perceived by the population, yet the majority of the people supported the very idea of the revolution, the change of the former regime and placed high hopes upon the positive changes in the country, stability and economic well-being.
- July 10<sup>th</sup> marked the **early Presidential Election**. Kurmanbek Saliyevich Bakiyev became President of Kyrgyz Republic. Prior to the election there were a lot of questions: how will the Presidential candidates act, will there be a unification of the political elite from the South, who will be the nominee from the North, what alliances will be formed or such alliances are waiting to see who will be nominated, whom will the businesses and the business circles support, etc? Analysts were projecting a South-North conflict between the former political leaders of Kyrgyzstan: Kulov (North) and Bakiyev (South). In late May 2005 Bakiyev and Kulov signed a Memorandum of Mutual Support for the period of the Presidential Election. Starting that date the tacit tension in the society started fading. There were a lot of raised questions around the tandem that had been formed. The alliance created a howl new political situation in the country. Upon a sound and balanced look, it can be a blessing for the country and a balance for the political situation. On the other hand, everything depends on how other forces will align themselves around this tandem.
- **Assassination of 3 Kyrgyz Parliament members** that occurred in summer and fall 2005 caused tension in the political situation which resulted in a series of protests aimed at resignation of the Prime Minister and dissolution of the Parliament. The ever-increasing public resonance and concern were triggered by intensification of organized crime and poor public security as caused, partially, by the ever-continuing post-revolution actions, mainly related to the **redistribution of wealth** (Kara-Keche coal mines, Piramida TV Station, Karasuu market, etc.).
- On the background of the unstable political situation in the country, **interethnic conflicts** aggravated as characterized by the following:
  - problems in interethnic relations both have socioeconomic reasons and are exacerbated by political actions undertaken in the interests of certain groups.
  - intensification of the population’s political activity, domestic migration, and socioeconomic stratification results in growing tension between the majority nationality and ethnic minorities since the issue of redistribution of resources become rather acute.
  - the causes of aggravation of interethnic relations include insufficient understanding by the authorities of the specificity of governance in a poly-ethnic society, unqualified and untimely interference in resolution of interethnic tension that lead to ineffective decision making and escalation of a tacit conflict and a possible destabilization in the country.
- Important events in the country’s life included **the beginning of the Constitutional Reform** aimed at redistribution of power among the branches of the government in order to balance them out and introduce the system of checks and balances. A Constitutional Conference was formed to include prominent representatives of various sectors of the society including the civic society and political parties. The work of the Constitutional Conference showed that the main issue that needed to be resolved and decided upon was determination of the form of governance in the country. Due to this fact, the President issued a Decree on arrangement of a Popular Referendum on this issue. The society is highly politicized per this issue and all layers of the

public are involved including the high government officials, Parliament members, political parties and the civic society.

**Favorable factors that enabled FTI to successfully implement its program and render a positive impact:**

- The past year was marked by unprecedented **activity of the civic** sector and its unification with the view of introducing drastic changes in the political and social life of the country and immediately improving the socioeconomic situation.
  - **Unification of the leading NGOs** in Bishkek enabled FTI to conduct, in collaboration with other leading NGOs, a **Civic Forum for Freedom of Speech in Kyrgyzstan** on March 3 in Bishkek. During the Forum the participants expressed their indignation over the authorities-initiated informational blockade and the informational terror against the opposition, independent media and the non-governmental sector on the pages of the pro-governmental media. The Forum gathered about 250 participants.
  - The leading Kyrgyz NGOs – Coalition for Democracy, Center for Support of Civic Society, foundation for Tolerance International, Kylum Shamy, Interbilim, Internews, Sezim Crisis Center, and Kel-Kel initiated in April 2005 a civic society conference in Bishkek **to discuss the short-term and long-term civic society's strategy for operation in the new political realities.**
  - The goal of the conference included **developing and presenting to the authorities the evaluation of the current situation in the country by the eyes of the civic society, the civic society's suggestions and recommendations and demands (Action Agenda) with regards to relations of the civic society with the Government and the Parliament.** As a result of the conference a **Program of Actions of Civic Society of Kyrgyzstan in New Political Realities** was adopted. The conference attracted more than 1000 people of various parts of the society.
- **The early Presidential Election** was the main event in 2005. local authorities and self-governance bodies conducted active activities during the election aiming to ensure high turnout. Local NGOs including regional FTI offices also participated actively, particularly, were successful in having their officers included in the composition of the District Election Commissions throughout the country. In addition, NGOs conducted activities to attract voter turnout and arrange an independent monitoring during the election to ensure its transparency and fairness.
- In 2005 FTI continued to actively interact with the state bodies with the format of such interaction continuously growing. Thus, inclusion of two FTI officers – FTI President Raya Kadyrova and FTI Batken Branch Director Robert Abazbekov – into the composition of the Constitutional conference was an indicator of the authority and weight FTI garnered in the eyes of both government authorities and the civic society as a whole.

**Conditions in the country and the region that prevented FTI from successfully implementing some of its program parts and render a positive impact:**

- 2005 was characterized by the peak in rallies. Rallies and demonstrations became a tool for manipulation of the public opinion (and people) for certain parties to destabilize the situation in Kyrgyzstan. The unstable situation in the country caused some of the project activities to be rescheduled for later periods.
- After the capture of administrative governmental buildings and establishment of the people's authority in the regions, a diarchy emerged in certain rural areas: the authorities appointed by the legitimately elected President and the authorities elected at the popular kurultais (people's gatherings) which for a certain period of time paralyzed the work of the state bodies.

- The personnel policy of the new authorities, oftentimes accompanied by lack of professionalism and incompetence on part of the local authorities, hindered FTI's activities.
- Frequent changes in the personnel of the law enforcement bodies (Minister of Internal Affairs, deputy minister, head of the Bishkek Department of Internal Affairs, heads of provincial departments of internal affairs) show that these state bodies are viewed as a tool of political influence although they are supposed to stay away from direct participation in the domestic politics. There is a danger of engagement of the law enforcement agencies in the intra-political conflicts.
- Andijan (Uzbekistan) people's unrest severely and violently suppressed by the Uzbek authorities resulted in a series of negative consequences for development of the civic and democratic society in Central Asia overall. Thus, in very Uzbekistan they led to mass repressions with regards to the participants of the rally, authorities enhanced their strict control over non-governmental and international organizations in the country; there are numerous cases where human rights activists were arrested and offices of human rights organizations were closed down. In this context, FTI's cooperation with its Uzbek partners in the area of conflict prevention and resolution became more difficult.
- Serious social and political changes in Kyrgyzstan and the events in Andijan (Uzbekistan) also affected the attitude of authorities in Tajikistan to the activities of NGOs and international projects. Tajik authorities are concerned with the situation in Kyrgyzstan and have restricted the customs and border protection control over the Tajik-Kyrgyz border, conduct planned inspections of programs and finances of Tajik NGOs for their compliance with their respective charters and in order to perform joint Kyrgyz-Tajik activities, NGOs need official permissions from the provincial and district authorities. Such a situation in Tajikistan is an obstacle to joint activities in the regions especially whenever local authorities are to be invited which generally decreased the effectiveness of such activities.
- During the reporting period Kyrgyz authorities' liberal policy toward the NGOs has tended to become stricter. Thus, examples include the latest initiative of the Ministry of Justice of Kyrgyz Republic that calls for a comprehensive nationwide inspection of Kyrgyz NGOs that receive funding from overseas. Such an initiative gained a widespread public resonance especially among the representatives of the civic society who view that as a gross violation of the Law of Kyrgyz Republic "On Non-commercial Organizations".
- The factors that hindered development of the civic sector may also include a lack of an overall state long-terms strategy of the national development that would outline the authorities' priorities in the domestic and foreign policies. Due to the lack of such a strategy most donor organizations temporarily decreased the activity of their work in Kyrgyzstan which, in light of almost total dependence of NGOs from the donor funding, FTI including, negatively affects their sustainability.

## **B. Internal organizational environment**

- In 2005 FTI operated 4 regional offices, 1 branch in Batken and 1 administrative head office in Bishkek. FTI collectively employed 43 officers (21 women and 22 men). The FTI structure (Appendix 1) did not undergo any changes as compared to the year 2004.
- The FTI management body is the FTI Management Board (MB) created to decentralize the power in the FTI even more democratize the decision making. The MB consists of 7 people – 5 regional office directors and 2 other FTI officers. The MB meetings are conducted in various FTI regional offices. Per the FTI Regulation on the Management Board, the members of the Board meet 4 times a year.

In 2005 the MB conducted 4 meetings. The major issues discussed included:

- Monitoring implementation of the strategic plan and adapting it to the changes in the socioeconomic environment.
- Creating a training and analytical team and a conflict intervention team due to the fact that FTI expanded its target groups and found new partners.  
New types of activities as a result of the new quality (nature) of conflicts that FTI started dealing with.
- Enhancing capacity of the FTI personnel and rotating FTI officers to effectively serve the beneficiaries' interests in promotion of the political and democratic culture in Kyrgyzstan.

- FTI's system of reporting is as follows: each project reports to its respective donor per the schedule as provided for in the project contract. The general FTI reports are prepared twice a year: semiannual and final annual ones that are prepared by the office directors and later consolidated into the uniform FTI reports in Bishkek. The FTI annual reports are presented for the MB consideration and are sent to the donors upon the MB's approval.
- All FTI officers participate in the FTI's strategic planning.
- Annual and quarterly plans are prepared by the FTI MB based on each office's plan while the general FTI plan is sent out to every employee.
- During the strategic planning in December 2004 the FTI General Meeting developed Strategic Directions of FTI Activities in 2005-2007.

### VISION

Central Asia as a region of peace, cooperation and development. It is a multi-cultural society with fair laws and active citizens.

### MISSION

- **Promoting the culture of nonviolence and tolerance.**
- **Preventing and nonviolently resolving conflicts in Central Asia.**

FTI implements its mission by:

- Promoting the culture of nonviolence and tolerance;
- Analyzing, researching, and monitoring conflicts at various levels;
- Conducting negotiation and mediation between the conflicting parties;
- Strengthening and expanding regional networks, civic society organizations and intermediaries;
- Enhancing the capacity of the civic society and state bodies in conflict transformation and consensus building;
- Expanding the room for dialog to strengthen cooperation among the civic society authorities, law enforcement agencies, religious institutions, media, political parties and the Parliament;
- Conducting advocacy and lobbying the conflict and peace issues.

### PROGRAM DIRECTIONS

**Prevention and nonviolent resolution of interethnic conflicts in the Ferghana Valley.**

**Expansion of the room dialog and promotion of the culture of nonviolence between the civic society and institutions of the authorities.**

In 2005 FTI was implementing 12 projects as part of its program activities.

**Problems encountered and lessons learned from the results of organizational and institutional development of FTI in 2005:**

- FTI's major problems in 2005 included lack of funding of its organizational and institutional development on part of the donors that only funded project activities. Due to this fact, Bishkek Head Office took on searching for a donor that would be willing to support FTI's organizational



development. In November 2005 a contract with HIVOS was signed that decided to support FTI's organizational development for the 2005-2008 period.

- Lack of funding of FTI's organizational development was the reason why in 2005 FTI did not have Staff General Meetings and training seminars for the entire personnel. This negatively affected the FTI's program activities since FTI officers felt they were more project implementers than officers of the Foundation. Here the role of the FTI Management Board grew since it acted as a liaison among all offices and conducted meetings in different offices thus facilitating organizational unity.
- Due to the dynamically changing political situation in the country, FTI is taking on new types of conflicts while its target groups, partners and activities are changing. FTI is experiencing an acute need for enhancing the capacity of its officers who should be able to prevent and respond to conflicts/emerging challenges in the new political realities in Kyrgyzstan.

## C. Results

### I. Program direction: Prevention and Peaceful Resolution of Interethnic Conflicts in the Ferghana Valley

#### Kyrgyz-Tajik and Kyrgyz-Uzbek border territory

<i>Project and donor name</i>	<i>Communities and areas covered by the projects</i>	<i>Partners operating as part of the projects</i>
<b>Support of the Civil Harmony and Regional Dialog in Aksy</b> funded by HIVOS	<p>Kerben rural administration area:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Kerben;</li> <li>2. Mamai</li> <li>3. Jetigen;</li> </ol> <p>Koshdobo rural administration area:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. Atana;</li> <li>5. Toruk;</li> </ol> <p>Kashkasuu rural administration area:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6. Olobulak;</li> <li>7. Janyaiyl;</li> </ol> <p>Aktam rural administration area:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8. Aktam</li> </ol>	Local self-governance bodies of the cross-border rural administration area; - Local authorities;
<b>Regional Dialog and Development</b> funded by Swiss Office for Development and Cooperation	7 rural administrations of Kyrgyzstan and 6 jamoats (rural administrations) of Tajikistan	Tajik NGOs: Ittifok, ASTI, Women's World and Uzbek NGO Deyem Taalim
<b>Peace Community Initiatives</b> funded by USAID through Mercy Corps	7 rural administrations of Kyrgyzstan, 4 jamoat khojaligi of Uzbekistan, and 3 jamoats of Tajikistan	Uzbek NGOs: "Mekhr", Association of Women of Kokand, FIDO and Tajik NGOs: ICA: EHIO, Ittifok.

#### **These projects are aimed at:**

- Strengthening the capacity of the communities in resolution of local conflicts by peaceful and reliable methods at the local and regional levels;
- Reducing the potential of conflicts triggered by shortages of natural resources by mobilizing the communities and enhancing the ties between the population residing along the border and ethnic groups of Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan in the Ferghana Valley.
- Facilitating the cooperation and development of a constructive dialog between the cross-border communities.

- Strengthening the involvement of local communities in the decision making affecting the socioeconomic situation in the regions.
- Facilitating raising of awareness among the population of target areas per the issues triggering disputes and conflicts.

### Support of Civil Harmony and Regional Dialog in Aksy Project

- As part of this project we created a Network of Local Mediators (17 mediators of whom 6 are women) capable of rendering mediation, conducting negotiation and activities aimed at consensus building. In the course of project implementation mediators have gained the experience in resolving the problems in cooperation with authorities and local population. The Network was working on the following issues:
  - Preventing and resolving mass violent conflicts pertaining to the results of Parliamentary Election. 6 network mediators participated in the training on the electoral process and acted as independent observers at the polling stations.
  - Preventing and resolving disputes and problems among the community members through courts of aksakals (respected elders) that operate in all rural administrations. Upon the initiative of the network of mediators, a representative of the network of local mediators was included in the composition of the aksakal courts in each target rural administration area.
  - Informing the population about their rights and responsibilities during the rallies and demonstrations that started occurring frequently this year.
  - Conducting jointly with Uzbek partners cultural activities to strengthen the good neighbor relations.
  - Arranging sports activities timed to the Victory Day in Koshdobo rural administration area to have several national sports contests. This activity saw participation of residents of cross-border Uzbek villages. The total number of the participants of this activity that mediators organized reached 400 people (120 women) of whom 60 took immediate part in the sports contests.
  - Volunteers of FTI Aksy Regional Office together with the faculty of the Jalalabat State University organized a sports activity on the Independence Day of the Kyrgyz Republic. The number of participants totaled 28 people of whom 8 were women. The number of viewers was 400 people.
- The project conducted an ongoing monitoring of the level of conflict potential in 6 target communities. During the reporting period 6 reports were prepared. The reports were disseminated to 14 Aksy district organizations: state bodies (7), NGOs (5) and international organizations (2). The report recipients were able to receive reliable information about the potential threats, level of grievances, the rising tension in the target communities and gained an opportunity to respond and undertake appropriate preventive measures.

#### *Intervention of stakeholders that received the monitoring reports:*

- *Head of Aksy district of Kyrgyzstan **conducted 2 meetings with heads of cross-border Uzbek districts** to strengthen the relations between the cross-border communities of Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan. As a result, an oral agreement was reached between the district heads on mutually beneficial use of pastures, irrigation water and cross-border trade.*
- *District police department **conducted 4 meetings** with the population of the project target communities (400 people) to enhance people's trust to the police force. Police officers responsible for a certain area reported to the people on the work they had done and discussed the issues of cooperation between the people and police during conflict situations. The project **arranged** lectures for the officers of the district police force (18 police officers) to improve their professional skills with assistance of a lecturer from the Provincial Police Department.*
- *The Law and People NGO arranged **road legal consultations** for the residents of the project target communities. 64 people (of whom 26 were women) received consultations on the legal issues.*

- To enhance the capacity of project participants, we organized a training for 23 people (6 of whom were women) on "Cooperation of the Sectors of Civic Society



in Stabilization of a Conflict Situation". The training invited representatives of various sectors of the civic society. The major results of the training included realization of the need for cooperation, joining of efforts to ensure stability and development of the region.

- During the reporting period, an Information Center was arranged on the basis of the FTI Aksy Regional Office. 86 people contacted the Information Center (39 of whom were women) who received free consultations and information regarding various issues. Mostly it was district police officers who contacted the Center (47 officers or 55% of the total number of consultation recipients). Many of them needed the texts of the decrees, resolutions of the Government of Kyrgyz Republic and laws.
- To inform the population about the status of disputable areas along the Kyrgyz-Uzbek border, the project arranged a meeting between the population of target communities and the members of the Governmental Delegation on Delimitation and Demarcation of State Borders, the head of the State Register of Property, and the head of the district police department. A total of 96 people participated in the meeting (28 of whom were women).
- In order to improve the environment of communication between the residents of cross-border communities, during the Nooruz national holiday the project conducted a sports activity in Kerben in which members of 6 project target communities participated in the volleyball and wrestling contests (a total of 162 participants of whom 36 were women). The partner in this activity conducted during Nooruz holiday was the district department of Uzbek Cultural House. The activity also saw participation of representatives of district state administration, target area rural administrations and the district department of education.
- There was an acute problem of shortage of irrigation water in Janyaiyl community. The mudslide destroyed a sector of the major canal through which the irrigation water was supplied to Janyaiyl village of Kyrgyzstan and Nanai village of Uzbekistan. The members of these cross-border communities often had conflicts with each other over the lack of the already scarce irrigation water. In order to resolve this issue the project organized an initiative group "Janyaiyl" that collected money from the local residents to repair the canal. Metallic pipes needed to be purchased and installed. The initiative group was not able to collect enough money to purchase the needed number of pipes so during the monitoring of tension they contacted various bodies, organizations and agencies for assistance. The project dedicated 25100 soms (500 euro) for this effort. On March 28 a civil forum was held in Janyaiyl community of Kashkasuu rural administration area where the grant of 25100 was given to the Janyaiyl Civil Society Initiative. The major canal was repaired within the schedule established. As a result, residents of Janyaiyl and Nanai villages are now able to receive sufficient volume of water for irrigation purposes. When the manual labor work started, 12 residents of Nanai village (Uzbekistan) joined the effort and worked side-by-side with Kyrgyz citizens.



### Regional Dialog and Development Project

- The activities of the Regional Dialog and Development Project in 2005 were mainly aimed at ensuring sustainability of the newly created and existing institutions in the communities that are capable of engaging in peacebuilding. Such institutions primarily include the institution of local mediators. In order to further improve their activities in 2005 the project arranged a series of training seminars, organized exchange visits to familiarize the mediators with the positive experiences registered in other project implementation areas. In addition, a Mediator Manual was developed as part of the project. This manual's goal is twofold on one hand it has information about the Regional Dialog and Development Project's experience in creating network of mediators at the community levels and major project achievements and successes; and on the other hand, the manual is intended for local mediators and project participants in the regions who for the past several years have been consistently putting the RDD Project into life.

- The already sustainable network of informal mediators in the regions is still successful in mediating among the communities. Thus, during the reporting period the mediators worked on building consensus over several problems mostly related to access to water, land shortages, disputed territories and lack of developed infrastructure. The successful experiences of FTI mediators and officers include the negotiation and mediation process conducted for the cross-border communities of Khavzakibolo (Tajikistan) and Tajikmakhalla (Kyrgyzstan) with regards to the issue of a joint water use. The cooperation of FTI and Ittifok NGO (Tajikistan) with authorities duly authorized to resolve the issues of a joint water use played an important role in successful resolution of this problem:

**Conflict history:** *The conflict between the communities of Khavzaki bolo (Tajikistan) and Tajikmakhalla emerged due to a lack of irrigation water and joint use of water from the Khojabakyrghan-2 water canal pertaining to Tajikistan and passing through the territory of Jany-Jer rural administration area of Kyrgyzstan. The acute need for, and a lack of alternative access to water among the Kyrgyz community of Tajikmakhalla prompted people to commit unauthorized connections to the pipe that passed through this Kyrgyz village into the Tajik quarter of Khavzaki bolo. As a result, Khavzaki bolo failed to receive the sufficient volume of water which led to a decrease in harvest productivity of their agricultural plantings and was the cause of widespread anger. The tension between the communities grew from year to year and they were blaming each other for all the grievances they had to experience with the situation escalating to a potentially open violent conflict.*

**Intervention:** *This situation drew attention of the RDD mediators residing in this cross-border area. After a joint meeting, Tajik and Kyrgyz mediators studied the problem, positions, needs and interests of the parties and based on their findings develop a plan to intervene and several options to resolve the problem. As a result, they arranged several meetings with residents of these communities, local self-governance bodies, water user bodies of the two communities and conducted activities meetings aimed at bridging the gap between the communities and restoring their trust to each other, which significantly improved the relationships between and within the communities. The final activity included negotiation between the leaders of Khavzaki bolo community (Tajikistan) and Tajikmakhalla community (Kyrgyzstan) that resulted in the consensus on the joint use of irrigation water – the sides agreed to restore the water supply line that fed water to the Khavzaki Bolo community while the residents of Kyrgyz community of Tajikmakhalla were to receive a separate (dedicated) water supply line and agreed to eliminate all the unauthorized connections to the major water supply route.*

- The activities aimed at involving women into the decision making at the local level including per the issues of prevention and resolution of interethnic conflicts in 2005 were conducted as actively as during the previous years. The peculiarity of activities in 2005 in Batken included the partner activities conducted in collaboration of a Tajik NGO “World of Women” – a women’s non-governmental organization that was experienced in dealing with women in cross-border communities. Thus, as part of the Women for Peace in Ferghana Valley Project, the activities were aimed at strengthening the cross-border dialog with participation of women leaders and representatives of Batken (Kyrgyzstan) and Isfara (Tajikistan) districts through creation of sustainable mechanisms of women’s participation in the decision making process. The peculiarity of this project is involvement of businesswomen in it who most often encounter problems during border crossing and are more than anyone interested in positive resolution of border-related issues and an overall good partnership with businesspeople of the neighboring country. In addition, the project stressed further development of the institution of women mediators in order to enhance their capacity and sustainability.



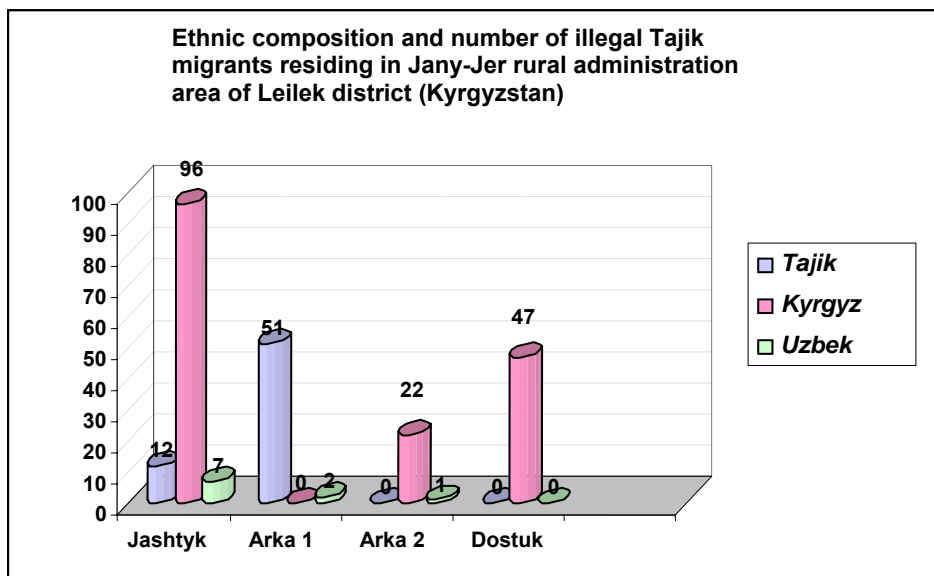
- FTI’s work with the young people in Batken has also been innovative. In August 2005 the Youth and dialog Development Project was launched as implemented in cooperation with Ittifok NGO (Tajikistan) and Demtaalim NGO (Uzbekistan). The major direction of this project included working on building capacity and supporting initiatives of the youth organizations in Ferghana a Valley in the area of conflict transformation and development of the cross-border



and interethnic dialog. As part of this project, a series of trainings for the target youth organizations has been conducted to enhance their capacity in the area of conflict transformation and establishment of cross-border and interethnic dialog, and a series of working meetings and round tables was conducted to facilitate partner relations between these organizations. The project also drew public attention to the youth initiatives of Ferghana Valley's young people in cross-border and interethnic cooperation by conducting talk shows, creating and airing TV clips on TV of the three countries that stressed the need for such cross-border and interethnic cooperation. One has to note that the project cooperated not only with youth organizations, but also with the state bodies responsible for dealing with the youth which overall facilitates project effectiveness and the support it receives from the local authorities.

- Starting June 2005 the FTI RDD Project in partnership with Peacebuilding Group Public Foundation and Ittifok NGO started implementing the new project on "Promotion of Resolution of the Issue of Citizenship and Migration in Cross-border Areas of Ferghana Valley". The need for such a project was identified during the analysis of the previously conducted activities and in light of the fact that the issue of migration and citizenship has not been resolved in the socioeconomic, political context. The project's goal was to contribute to prevention of tension and conflicts among the communities and state bodies with regards to the migration and citizenship issue. The project strategy was to render legal support to the population of cross-border areas of Ferghana Valley and lobby changes in the state policies of the three countries regarding migration and citizenship. The project target group includes Individuals without Citizenship, Tajik and Uzbek citizens residing in the territory of 5 villages of Leilek district (Kyrgyzstan) and residents of cross-border territories of Gafur district (Tajikistan). Despite the fact that the issue raised has deep roots and requires a comprehensive approach, especially regarding the changes in the policies of Ferghana Valley states, the project's legal results are evident. Thus, as a result of the road legal consultations arranged by the project, more than 110 migrants received on-site legal consultations while 95 of these were successful in legalizing their stay in Kyrgyzstan. In addition, 3 people prepared and submitted their petitions to the Citizenship Commission under the President of Kyrgyz Republic to obtain Kyrgyz citizenship. All this significantly reduced the tension in cross-border communities and the moods of the migrants whose lame-duck status affected their relations with the authorities.

The project activities aimed at lobbying Kyrgyz and Tajik policies regarding migration and citizenship also yielded their first results: in 2005 Kyrgyz and Tajik Parliaments ratified the Agreement on Simplified Procedure for Receipt of Citizenship. This agreement provides for significantly simpler and expedited receipt of citizenship. Ratification of this agreement was preceded by meticulous work done by the project officers who held a series of meetings and round tables with the Parliament members and competent specialists regarding this issue to expedite the decision making per this issue by the Parliaments of the two countries.



**Peace Community Initiatives Project**

- In April – October 2005 the FTI Batken Branch in collaboration with Ittifok NGO (Tajikistan) as part of the Peace Community Initiatives implemented the project “Peace to Your Home” that was aimed at decreasing the potential of emergence of conflicts during border crossing in the cross-border communities of Batken province of Kyrgyzstan and Sogdiy province of Tajikistan. The project’s goal was achieved by developing a dialog both among the residents of cross-border communities and among the state bodies of the two provinces, particularly between the customs and border protection services of the two provinces. Thus, representatives of the state bodies passed a training on conflict analysis, negotiation and mediation; interethnic relations management while the residents of cross-border communities including high school students passed a training on border crossing conducted by lawyers of officers of the border protection services. In addition, the project arranged trainings on advocacy for the residents of the cross-border communities which enabled them to gain skills in protection and promotion of their interests and rights including representation of their interests before the state bodies.
- In May – November 2005 FTI Osh Regional Office in collaboration with Uzbek NGO FIDO implemented a short-term project “Ferghana Valley as a Valley of Peace and Cooperation” aimed at strengthening and developing cross-border cooperation and reduction of the potential of conflicts among the ethnic groups in cross-border communities of Kadamjai district (Kyrgyzstan) and Rishtan district (Uzbekistan). The project goal was achieved by enhancing the capacity and intensifying involvement in decision making at local level and mobilizing the target groups to engage in joint resolution of local problems with these target groups including primarily local institutions of earlier created initiative groups, women and youth. The project assessed needs of the target groups by applying the PRA method and the results of the assessment were used to prepare plans for each target group. The project results were immediate. Thus, trainings, round tables and working meeting arranged as part of the project resulted in 8 social and technical projects initiated by women, youth and Initiative Groups. Here one has to note the fact that there are more examples of people applying facilitation, mediation and negotiation skills that allowed them to significantly reduce interethnic tension in these communities. In 2005 the trained members of the communities facilitated 10 negotiations at the local level between and within the communities on problematic issues with regards to 8 of which they were able to reach consensus and prevent escalation of tension.

**Problems encountered and lessons learned in the course of implementation of the component “Prevention and Peaceful Resolution of Interethnic Conflicts in Ferghana Valley”:**

- The March Revolution, in addition to changing the political powers, exposed weaknesses of political parties, movements and civic society in Batken province. This includes the relatively low capacity of both the civic society and political parties of the province, and the state bodies in establishing dialog, negotiating, promoting and protecting interests and rights of people within the effective legislation. The examples include events in the city of Batken from March 18 through 24 when both sides applied force which resulted in skirmishes and grievances.
- The population of the cross-border communities is not involved in making vital decisions pertaining to establishment of the cross-border cooperation. This results in the decisions made not corresponding to their interests and demands and, consequently, not being implemented effectively.
- In order to strengthen the impact of the actions undertaken, one needs to intensify the coordination with international programs engaged in similar activities in the Ferghana Valley.
- Despite the fact that the Agreement on Simplified Receipt of Citizenship between Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan has been ratified, appropriate ministerial by-laws that would allow enforcement of this agreement have not been developed. Therefore, in 2006 project officers have to work with Ministries of Internal Affairs and the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the two countries to expedite adoption of the appropriate by-laws.
- Due to the complicated political situation in Kyrgyzstan, members of Uzbek cross-border communities refused to participate in some of the project activities. For a certain period of time cooperation with leaders of Uzbek cross-border communities was suspended. Certain representatives of the department of Uzbek Cultural Center expressed their concern that the conflict between the population and authorities may spill into an interethnic conflict. Ethnic minorities in Kyrgyzstan feel vulnerable. During the mass protests local Kyrgyz authorities were not able to guarantee security of not only ethnic minorities but also the entire population. FTI Aksy Office intensified operations of the networks

of local mediators to preserve interethnic stability through informational campaigns and explaining the relevant ideas to the leaders of cross-border communities of Kyrgyzstan.

- During March 2005 events, Uzbek customs and border protection services restricted control at the checkpoints which angered Kyrgyz population engaged in petty cross-border trade. Mediators worked on informational campaigns to reduce the tension among the local residents over the stricter control pursued by Uzbek authorities.
- Uzbek authorities fear that Uzbek population may take Kyrgyz experience in protesting against the authorities. In Yangi-Kurgan district of Namangan province of Uzbekistan a group of people organized protests while Uzbek authorities were able to negotiate with the protest participants and, as a result, the conflict was resolved quickly and peacefully.

**Follow-up activities:**

- The project needs to concentrate in ensuring sustainability of the newly created and existing local institutions in the communities.
- The project needs to develop a training program for the mediators to provide them with knowledge and skills in dealing with vertical conflicts and establishing and developing network cooperation and relations.

**II. Program direction: “Expansion of the room for dialog and promotion of nonviolence culture between the civic society and state bodies of Kyrgyz Republic”**

<i>Project and donor name</i>	<i>Communities and areas covered by the projects</i>	<i>Partners operating as part of the projects</i>
<b>Cooperation among Civic Society, Law Enforcement Agencies and Other State Authorities in Realization of Citizens’ Rights to Peaceful and Free Assembly</b> funded by SDC and DRC	All provinces of Kyrgyzstan	Ministry of Internal Affairs and National Security Service of Kyrgyz Republic, local authorities, human rights NGOs
<b>Early Warning for Violence Prevention</b> funded by OSCE and UNDP	All provinces of Kyrgyzstan	IFES
<b>Enhancing Capacity of Authorities and Political Parties</b> funded by SDC as part of the Regional Dialog and Development Project	Batken, Leilek, and Kadamjai districts and Kyzyl-Kiya city of Kyrgyzstan	None
<b>Transparent Election as Kyrgyzstan’s Future</b> funded by USAID through Mercy Corps	Batken, Leilek, and Kadamjai districts and Kyzyl-Kiya and Sulyukta cities of Kyrgyzstan	Mercy Corps
<b>For Fair Election</b> funded by USAID through Center for Support of Civic Society	Batken, Leilek, and Kadamjai districts and Sulyukta city of Kyrgyzstan	Association “Center for Support of Civic Society”

**These projects are aimed at:**

- Promoting the culture of dialog and establishing channels for effective cooperation among the civic society, law enforcement agencies and state authorities in cases of escalated tension and crisis situations.
- Improving the project participants’ skills and knowledge in analysis of conflict situations, negotiation and mediation to prevent violence during civil protests.
- Raising awareness among the population, law enforcement agencies and state administrations regarding the international standards and national legal aspects of realization of citizens’ rights to peaceful and free assembly.

- Creating mechanisms of resolution and mitigation of crisis situations through creation of a mobile crisis group capable of traveling to the sites where tension is escalating.
- Strengthening accountability and transparency of activities of state bodies and local self-governance bodies.
- Strengthening involvement of local communities in decision making that affects their socioeconomic and political situation.
- Intensifying the voters' activity, facilitating transparency and fairness during Presidential Election.
- Enhancing capacity of local NGOs, Initiative Groups and CBOs in lobbying and advocacy.

**Cooperation among Civic Society, Law Enforcement Agencies and Other State Authorities in Realization of Citizens' Rights to Peaceful and Free Assembly**

- During the reporting period the project created a National Coordination Council (NCC) and Regional Coordination Councils (RCCs) in all provinces of the country  
**The NCC and RCCs worked on the following:**
  - *Developing possible preventive measures.*
  - *Engaging other actors in project activities: meetings with NGOs, political parties, law enforcement agencies, influential people to inform them about the project initiative, promote nonviolence and expand the project proponents' circle.*
  - *Conducting ongoing monitoring of public actions, developing reports and informing people to plan intervention to prevent violence.*
  - *Informing the general public (coverage in the media of the initiative of cooperation of the civic society, law enforcement agencies and state authorities in realization of citizens' rights to peaceful and free assembly. Disseminating legislative and legal information among the population. Informing the international community about the situation in the country. Adopting a petition on behalf of the project to international organizations and the Government of KR to draw their attention to crisis situations in the country).*
  - *Intervening in the conflicts in the regions during the conflict situations.*
  - *Arranging and conducting meetings and round tables per the project goals.*
- During the reporting period, RCCs and NCC conducted 10 round tables in 7 provinces of Kyrgyzstan to build trust to law enforcement agencies in their upholding the law and order in the country and preventing violence during the electoral process. The round tables were attended by 315 people representing the civic society, media, law enforcement agencies, state bodies, international organizations and experts.

Location	Number of participants					
	CS/ Media	LEA	LA	IO	Experts	Total
Talas	18	7	4		3	32
Osh	30	17	14	2	2	65
Batken	36	15	14	2		67
Naryn	17	8	4		3	32
Karakol	15	5	4		3	27
Jalalabat	24	16	15	2	4	61
Bishkek	18	7	4	2		31
<b>Total</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>315</b>

- During the crisis situation, the project created mobile groups represented by NCC and RCCs' members who intervened into the conflicts to stabilize the situation.

**Conflict interventions**

- Due to complex and conflict events taking place in South Kyrgyzstan, members of the NCC and representatives of the media flew to Jalal-Abad on March 7.

At that time in Jalal-Abad the building of the Jalal-Abad oblast state administration had been captured by demonstrators for three days, the police blockaded the building while at the square in front of the building more than 5,000 protesters gathered (their number fluctuated day by day).



The protesters demanded that the President resign. The situation was quite complicated. Law enforcement and special forces were being sent to Jalal-Abad. Rumors had it that the authorities were willing to actually undertake violent measures against the protesters.

1. As a result of numerous meetings with representatives of opposition and state bodies and having accumulated all opinions, demands, and grievances, members of the NCC and of the project Jalal-Abad RCC – Raya Kadyrova, Aziza Abdurasulova, Asylbek Kochkorbayev, Anara Yeginaliyeva, Zamir Osmonov, Baktykan Japarova – **suggested that the sides commence negotiations**. Negotiations were possible since both sides had at least one common goal as in not allowing violence to happen in the city.
2. On March 9, Mr. Suranchiyev, the Deputy Minister for Internal Affairs was in Jalal-Abad. **Deputy Minister for Internal Affairs, Suranchiyev, approved the idea of negotiations** and gathered a group of 5 representatives of authorities. The coordinator of the opposition headquarters, Mr. Bektur Asanov (member of old Parliament who lost Parliamentary elections of February 27, 2005) gathered 5 representatives of his own. **The sides agreed that 2 persons – Raya Kadyrova of FTI, NCC Chairwoman, and Aziza Abdurasulova, a human rights activist, an NCC member – would act as mediators**. Both sides stipulated a condition that the media, international organizations or other people would not be allowed during the negotiations. The negotiations started at 15:00.
3. **From the beginning both sides also agreed that the opposition’s political demands for the President to resign and the election to be deemed void** would not be discussed since these issues are not in prerogative of the authorities in presence. Only one issue was to be discussed – ensuring of security in Jalal-Abad.
4. Decisions that were reached during the negotiations included the agreement that **both sides obliged to abstain from violence, hostage taking, and commit to ensuring of stability in the city**.

- As part of the project, the working group developed a draft Law of KR “On Citizens’ Rights to Free and Peaceful Assembly”. The basis for development of the new draft law on peaceful assemblies included the following reasons:
  - The existing contradictions in the Law of KR “On Citizens’ Rights to Gather Peacefully without Weapons and Freely Conduct Rallies and Demonstrations” due to which it was difficult to use of the law’s provisions in practice.
  - Non-compliance of this Law with Constitution of KR due to which fact several Articles of this Law were repealed by the Constitutional Court of KR on 14 October 2004.
  - Non-compliance of this Law with international and regional standards as suggested by OSCE.
  - This Law was lacking such important sections as regulation of peaceful assemblies and public activities, organizers and participants of public activities, rights and responsibilities of such organizers, and arrangement and conduct of public activities, etc.
- The first version of the draft passed public examination in 3 provinces of South Kyrgyzstan – Osh, Jalalabat, and Batken provinces – where round tables were held in which 86 participants (39 representatives of civic society, 24 representatives of law enforcement agencies, 14 representatives of local authorities, 9 representatives of the media) participated.
- The draft Law upon passing public examination was examined by an independent team of lawyers.
- Currently, the draft Law accompanied by all related materials and papers was submitted to Jogorku Kenesh of Kyrgyz Republic. It is now considered by the appropriate Parliamentary Committee whose layers are examining it for compliance with Kyrgyz Constitution.
- In 7 provinces of Kyrgyz Republic round tables were held to inform the public about legal aspects of realization of the citizens’ rights to peaceful and free assembly. These round tables were conducted

in residential areas that are most conflict-prone in Kyrgyzstan. The areas for these activities were selected by analysts of the FTI/OSCE Early Warning for Violence Prevention Program.

### Early Warning for Violence Prevention Project

The “Early Warning for Violence Prevention” project was initiated after the March 2005 events to prevent violence related to political conflict and instability.

#### *Project objectives:*

- Provision of operational information from the whole territory of Kyrgyzstan to all interested individuals and organizations;
- Encouragement of interventions through providing operational information and formulating recommendations to civil society actors, state structures and international organizations;
- Raising awareness of possible causes and triggers for violence in each oblast;
- Capacity-building of civil society organizations to work with conflict, with a focus on northern NGOs;
- Making timely interventions possible by offering readily available financial support.

#### **Qualitative and quantitative changes:**

##### Achievements

- Fifty-eight projects were submitted to the Emergency Fund for funding; and eventually six projects were funded and implemented (on: Uzbek refugees (two), illegal seizure of a coal mine, post-electoral conflict, seizure of land, border conflict)
- Creation of a database with persons committed to violence prevention and potential interveners from all sectors that can be activated
- The weekly bulletin has a reputation for objectiveness and is recognized as a tool for sharing practice; intervention strategies are increasingly becoming more targeted, realistic and effective, and can be used by domestic target groups
- Invited by the department for defense and law and order in the Prime Minister’s administration to conduct joint analysis with staff members
- Monitors became violence prevention experts in their own settings and raise awareness among key stakeholders about conflicts and non-violent intervention strategies
- All activities strengthened communication and partnership between civil society and governmental bodies, including local government, law enforcement and other institutions

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Quantitative</b>
Training ‘Basics of conflict management’	Twenty-nine participants from civil society, government and law enforcement organs
Training ‘mediation and negotiation’	Twenty-five participants from civil society, government and law enforcement organs
Professional Development Program	National and regional coordination councils consisting of representatives of civil society and law enforcement bodies
Fourteen round tables in all oblasts	379 participants from civil society, government, law enforcement agencies
Three briefings	77 participants from civil society, government, LEA, media, international organizations
Database on potential interveners	653 individuals from all sectors and in all oblasts
Monitors working and capacity-built	35 individuals
Weekly bulletin	26 issues in the period June – December 2005
Receivers	1350 receivers from civil society, government, and international organisations
Rapid Reaction Emergency Fund	58 applications, six supported

##### Impact

*The project has prompted and encouraged key people to directly intervene in conflicts, to gather stakeholders on their own initiative and to cooperate across sectors:*

- State officials and activists have effectively used the analysis and recommendations to intervene positively in conflicts. The bulletin and round table process suggest relevant intervention strategies and at the same time prompt potential interveners to elaborate their own strategies.
- Prompted by the information in the bulletin, civil society organizations, state bodies and activists gather stakeholders on their own initiative – internally and/or involving other stakeholders – to debate and further analyze the situation and elaborate practical activities for conflict intervention and violence prevention. Some of these groups have developed project proposals and have impacted positively on the conflict situation.
- All activities, including the Emergency Fund, encourage cooperation between civil society, law enforcement agencies and government bodies. The bulletin promotes the idea of cross-sector cooperation by making recommendations to all sectors and assigning a joint responsibility to all potential interveners.

*The project built capacity of potential interveners and policy-makers and promoted non-violent conflict resolution approaches as well as rule of law:*

- Interveners have been capacity-built through coaching in the elaboration of project proposals for the Emergency Fund. Some people use the bulletin to get inspiration and experience in conflict transformation. Round tables and trainings encourage people to take responsibility for violence prevention.
- The bulletin and other activities provide input to policy-makers in various sectors and levels. Advisers of president and prime minister, parliament members, governors, akims, National Security Council, law enforcement agencies on all levels, heads of ayil okmotu, civil society representatives, international organizations and others study the analyses and recommendations and base some of their decisions and practices on it.
- The project promotes legal and other non-violent approaches in resolution and transformation of conflict through all its activities. The bulletin, trainings and round tables provide practical information on how to use existing tools of governance, the legal system, and consensus-oriented mechanisms. Besides that, nation-wide publication of the bulletin and its non-biased reputation also forms an incentive for using such non-violent ways of conflict resolution. In the same way it also holds responsible decision-makers, organizations and departments accountable for their actions or “non-action”.

#### **Recommendations for further activities:**

Increased attention will be devoted to involving government officials, law enforcement representatives, civil society and international organizations in planning and joint implementation. As early intervention is the ultimate goal of an early warning system, we feel the need to strengthen the intervention component of the project.

#### **Problems encountered and lessons learned during implementation:**

##### Challenges

- Low capacity of both civil society organizations and state structures at all levels for analysis and conflict intervention
- FTI has experience with joint civil society-government-LEA cooperation, but effectiveness would be enhanced with institutionalized structures and/or platforms for ongoing dialogue
- Gap between recommendations and actual intervention and finding ways to bridge that gap
- Increasing sustainability and effectiveness by partially transferring ownership of the project to a network of partners
- Developing creative ways of increasing project visibility and advocacy
- Difficult to measure impact in terms of initiatives undertaken and violence prevented
- Unbiasedness: objective and thorough reporting of interethnic and border tensions has proven a challenge; hard and soft pressure on monitors; conflict entrepreneurs may stage actions to receive attention through the project
- Finding the project's own perspective in highly-mediatised conflicts, in particular when there are political intrigues and little objective information

##### Lessons learnt

- Ongoing monitoring of the coordination and interaction (tuning) between early warning and early response is crucial
- Violence prevention is a sensitive and complex field and success of any project is dependent on the right match between project design and existing capacities. For example the Emergency Fund (although a good idea in theory) didn't work well, mostly due to low capacity of applicants. Also the

application of training knowledge and skills to a concrete situation is not evident. Instead coaching may be an appropriate tool to increase capacity for intervening in conflict situations

- Avoiding a double role as intervener and grants administrator as it raises mandate questions
- Ongoing capacity-building for monitors and analysts is essential as the nature of conflicts changes and deep understanding of political, economic, social and legal aspects of each conflict is necessary to develop realistic and effective intervention strategies
- Effective violence prevention work in a short-term perspective requires ability to shift to a tactical and calculating perspective/approach which is not evident for many civil society organizations
- By publishing both inaction and constructive action of government officials, the bulletin can be used as an instrument for increased accountability of government officials at all levels as well as providing incentives to civil activists to intervene

### Enhancing Capacity of Authorities and Political Parties Project

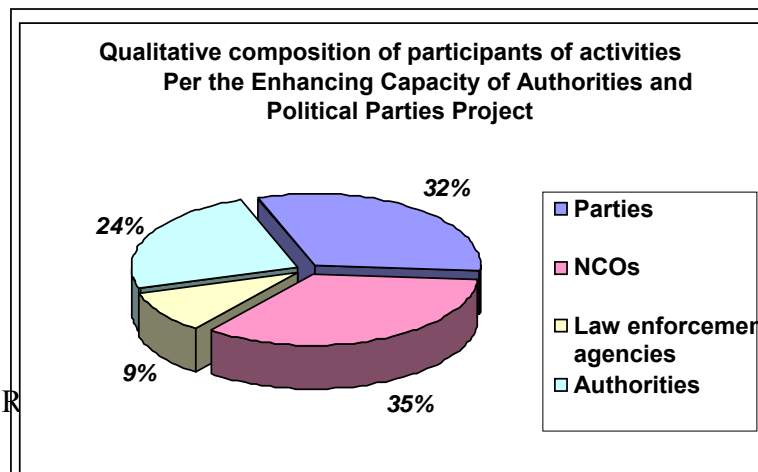
- In 2005 FTI implemented another innovative project “Enhancing Capacity of Authorities and Political Parties” that represents a new direction in RDD project activities. The need for such a project became apparent during March 2005 when both authorities and political parties and movements showed their inability to conduct negotiations and resolve conflicts without using violent methods. The public and political events of 2005 underscored the acute problem of informational vacuum (shortage of information) in the regions. Lack of access to prompt and objective information led to inadequate assessment of the situation by the people which, in the context of political instability, increases the risk of manipulation of the public opinion by destructive forces of the society. Thus, the project suggests working on enhancing the capacity of political parties, state bodies, civic society to improve their interaction and cooperation in negotiation and responding to crisis situations and improving the access to timely and objective information for residents of cross-border communities of Batken and Leilek districts.



Thus, as part of the project we conducted a series of trainings on conflict resolution, mediation and negotiations that allowed the participants representing political parties, state bodies and civic society to gain knowledge and skills in conflict analysis, negotiation and mediation and establishment of effective communication and dialog.

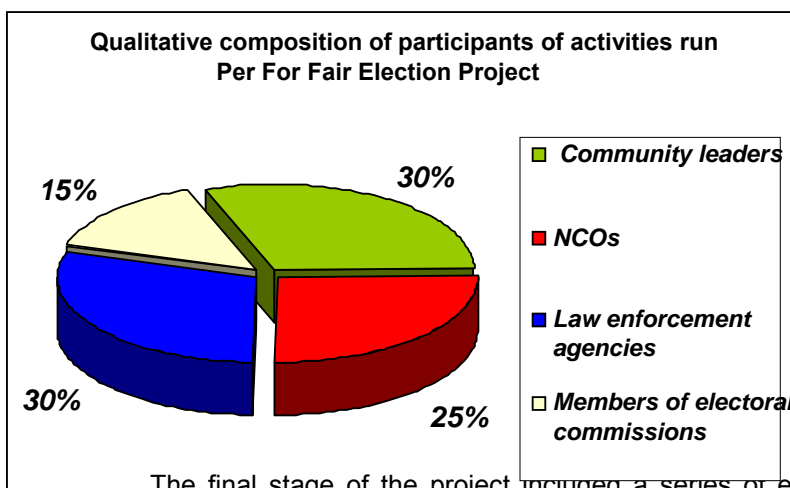
In addition, the project conducted an ongoing monitoring of the political and social situation in the region and created conditions for the political parties, authorities and civic society to exchange opinions on how to develop plans to resolve the conflicts whenever such emerged. This was exemplified by a series of round tables that were arranged as part of the project to discuss the draft Constitution in November 2005. This enabled the round table participants to share their opinions on the document and review the opinions of the other parties.

The access of the population of cross-border territories of Batken and Leilek districts to prompt and objective information significantly improved as a result of the informational billboards installed in those areas that were regularly updated with the information presented without distortion or interpretation.



## For Fair Election Project

- In summer 2005 FTI along with other 7 leading Kyrgyz NGOs was engaged in monitoring of the Presidential Election as part of the National Campaign for Fair Election. In Batken province, project officers implemented a project of the same name aimed at preventing possible tension during Presidential Election in Batken province. The project officers conducted trainings for leaders of local communities including ethnic minorities on “Rights of Citizens to Free Assemblies” and for members of the district and provincial electoral commissions on “fundamentals of Electoral Process”. All these activities resulted in the following:
  - Increased awareness of local leaders about the legislative framework that regulates arrangement and conduct of peaceful assemblies, rallies, marches and demonstrations by citizens including the rights and responsibilities of the individuals who organize such activities and rights and responsibilities state bodies and law enforcement agencies.
  - Members of district and local electoral commissions gained basic knowledge in conflict resolution, establishing effective communication, conflict behavior and conflict stages. This, eventually, was to help them in adequately responding to various crisis situations during and after the Presidential Election that could emerge due to disagreement of backers of losing candidates over the results and the process of election;
  - seminars on “Fundamentals of Electoral Process” allowed the representatives of state bodies including law enforcement agencies to enhance their knowledge in organizing and conducting the Presidential Election, the rights and responsibilities of members of electoral commission, observers and the roles of the state bodies including the law enforcement agencies in organization and conduct of the election.



The final stage of the project included a series of expanded round tables organized to discuss the results of the election and develop recommendations for future to improve the electoral process.

### Difficulties encountered in project implementation

- Prior to March events rallies and demonstrations were prohibited by the local authorities and the civic society was not able to realize citizens' constitutional rights to freedom of assembly. FTI mostly worked with local authorities and law enforcement agencies to inform them and explain to them the rights of citizens to free assembly.
- After the March events when unorganized citizens started to express their discontent with authorities nationwide, rallies and demonstrations turned into a common event that started to actually destabilize the situation in the country and FTI took on working with the population focusing on responsibilities of those who organize and participate in the public activities.
- Prior to March events it was human rights activities and civic society leaders who organized rallies and demonstrations and who were knowledgeable of the laws and experienced in dealing with masses,

promoted the ideas and principles. After the March events, rallies and demonstrations saw participation of people who did not have even a vague idea of laws and responsibilities. Oftentimes people would join the demonstrations not for an idea but for money. Such people were manipulated by political forces who, in turn, were fulfilling somebody's political order.

- The relevance of projects dealing with political parties became evident after a significant intensification of political parties' activity throughout the country which was primarily due to highly probable follow-up Parliamentary Election being held per the party lists (party nominations rather than individual nomination). Therefore, the project participants speak more and more frequently about the need for projects aimed at enhancing the capacity of political parties so that they become equal and sustainable subjects of the political processes underway in the country. At the same time, the analysis of operations of the political parties suggests that they are more and more in need of an organizational capacity and strengthening of the intra-party management.

### III. Program direction: "Global and regional network initiatives"

<i>Project and donor name</i>	<i>Communities and areas covered by the projects</i>	<i>Partners operating as part of the projects</i>
<b>Global Initiative on Cooperation of Civic Society, State Bodies and International Organizations in Prevention of Violent Conflicts</b> funded by European Center for Conflict Prevention (ECCP) – The Netherlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To conduct a Central Asian regional conference to develop a regional Action Agenda on cooperation of the civic society, law enforcement agencies and UN /agencies at the regional level.</li> <li>- To promote the culture of nonviolent methods of conflict resolution and cooperation of civic society, state bodies and UN agencies in conflict resolution.</li> </ul>	Coordinators in Central Asia: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Foundation for Tolerance International (Kyrgyzstan)</li> <li>• Tashkent Center for Public Enlightenment (Uzbekistan)</li> <li>• Institute for Cooperation for Development (Kazakhstan)</li> <li>• Public Committee for Development of Democratic Processes (Tajikistan)</li> </ul>
<b>Ferghana Valley NGO Network "Valley of Peace"</b> funded by Danish Refugee Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To create mechanisms to unite efforts of various organization in joint resolution of problems Ferghana Valley faces today and restore the platform for regional cooperation.</li> <li>- To implement partner regional projects.</li> </ul>	The Network consists of 30 NGOs operating in cross-border areas of Ferghana Valley with 10 NGOs from each country: Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.  Country coordinators: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Foundation for Tolerance International (Kyrgyzstan)</li> <li>• Association of Science and Technical Intellectuals (Tajikistan)</li> <li>• Ishonch (Uzbekistan)</li> </ul>
<b>Center for Support of Civic Society</b> funded by USAID and SOROS Foundation – Kyrgyzstan.	Batken, Leilek and Kadamjai districts and Sulyukta and Kyzylkiya cities of Kyrgyzstan.	11 Centers for Support of Civic Society throughout the nation.

### **Global Initiative on Cooperation of Civic Society, State Bodies and International Organizations in Prevention of Violent Conflicts**

- On May 26-27, 2005 a Central Asian conference on “Civic society as a partnership for peacebuilding and conflict prevention” was held in Bishkek.

**Conference goal:** to develop a Central Asian platform for effective actions to unite and mobilize the forces of civic society, international community and state bodies in prevention of violent conflicts and strengthening of security.

**Conference results:**

- Developed mechanisms of partner cooperation among the civic society, state bodies, UN agencies in ensuring of regional security.
- Developed a Central Asian Action Agenda on Conflict Prevention that will underlie the comprehensive cooperation of non-commercial organizations, state bodies, media, and international organizations for 2005-2008.

The conference saw participation of prominent representatives of state bodies, civic society, international organizations, science and technical institutions, and media of the four countries. A total of 51 people participated. The conference had 12 reports and 37 speakers, 5 short clips about the life in the cross-border areas and a photo gallery about the people’s revolution in Kyrgyzstan. The conference materials were published in Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan.

The Central Asian Action Agenda was included into the Global Action Agenda on Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding that was adopted at the World Conference in New York on 19-21 July 2005.

**Ferghana Valley NGO Network “Valley of Peace”**

- In 2005 Ferghana Valley NGO Network implemented a grant program that facilitated crossing of border protection checkpoints and customs checkpoints since it is this problem that affects the most ordinary people residing in Ferghana Valley.

The Network has developed and implemented 6 partner projects per Small Grants in which 16 NGOs from Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan participate. The goals of all projects are compliant with the mission of the Ferghana Valley NGO Network: to facilitate development of Ferghana Valley as the valley of tolerance, cooperation and peace. The Small Grants component of this project is (co)funded by International Organization for Migration.

**Project activities were implemented in the following directions:**

1. *Enhancing the legal literacy of the population of cross-border areas in the rules of border crossing.*
2. *Facilitating improvement of relations between the border crossing people and officers of control services.*
3. *Drawing the public attention to border crossing issues through the media of Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan.*

**Project target areas:**

Kyrgyzstan	Uzbekistan	Tajikistan
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Batken district</li> <li>• Kyzylkiya city</li> <li>• Aravan district</li> <li>• Kadamjai city</li> <li>• Osh city</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sokh district</li> <li>• Kuvasai city</li> <li>• Besharyk district</li> <li>• Markhamat district</li> <li>• Vodil city</li> <li>• Andijan city</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Isara district</li> <li>• Kanibadam district</li> <li>• Isfara city</li> <li>• Zorkhok city</li> </ul>

- Enhancing the Network members’ capacity is a priority in the Network’s operations. In 2005 the Network conducted trainings to enhance the members’ capacity in project management, gaining knowledge of border crossing rules and migration. The Network invited representatives of the Caucasian Network CRINGO. The Network also invited as experts high officials of customs service, border protection service of Osh province (Kyrgyzstan), Sogdiy province (Tajikistan) and Ferghana province (Uzbekistan) which helped in establishing contacts that were used in the course of project implementation.

- The Network's highest body is the General Assembly that gathers once a year. In April 2005 the General Assembly was held in Osh (Kyrgyzstan) where the report on the previous year was delivered, the action plan and budget for 2005 were adopted, and the situation in Ferghana Valley countries and its effect on the Network were discussed with the appropriate changes in the Network's strategies made.

#### **Center for Support of Civic Society**

- In 2005, FTI as a member of the Association of Centers for Support of Civic Society continued actively working to support the initiatives of the non-commercial sector in Batken province. The activities of the Center were implemented mainly as part of the USAID Civic Society Initiative Support Program that focused on improving the capacities of local NCOs in promotion of interests and protection of rights. FTI conducted trainings and seminars on advocacy, community network development, social partnership and other topics as determined during assessment of needs of local NCOs.

The grant support of local initiatives provides a positive effect here since it is aimed at protection of public interests. The procedure for issuance of grants as part of the Center for Support of Civic Society is implemented through the Local Grant Committee to ensure process transparency.

The Center's network activities were particularly effective in protecting public interests. Thus, in 2005 it successfully implemented the National Campaign for Fair Election that was initiated by 7 leading NGOs including the Association of Centers for Support of Civic Society and FTI. As part of this campaign more than 60 initiatives of NCOs were supported as aimed at ensuring transparency and fairness of the Presidential Election and energizing the constituents. As a result, international observers recognized the Presidential Election as more transparent and compliant with the international electoral standards with the voter turnout being particularly high.

The Network of Centers for Support of Civic Society also initiated broad discussions of the version of Kyrgyz Constitution developed as a result of the work of the Constitutional Conference in fall 2005. The round tables conducted throughout the country enabled the civic society, political parties, state bodies and business community to share their opinions regarding the draft Constitution and develop their recommendations per it.

Overall, speaking the activities of the Association of Centers for Support of Civic Society one has to note that the Association mostly has completed its formalization and organizational development – the network members have already developed and approved most internal documents regulating the relations among the network members, network activities, personnel policy, operations and powers of the Association executive body, external management body, ethics norms, etc.



### **Fair Election as Future of Kyrgyzstan Project**

*The Parliamentary Election held in February 2005 with multiple violations exasperated citizens and triggered a wave of grievances and disagreement with people no longer being able to cope with such unfairness. The conflict situation emerged due to the population distrust of election results and resulted in March events that entailed a change of regime. However, even after the revolution the people still had concerns over how the early Presidential Election will be conducted. People still feared that the new election will not change anything, hence the voters' passivity.*

*Batken province was no exception. Due to its remoteness from the political and cultural centers and the informational vacuum, local residents were not involved in the decision making at the local level. The majority of the population including women and youth were passive in the region's political life and needed to gain more political literacy. In most cases the turnout at the election was low.*

*The project was implemented in Batken province and was aimed at facilitating transparent, democratic and impartial early Presidential Election in July 2005. This project was funded by USAID through the International Mercy Corps.*

*The project's goal was achieved by enhancing the capacity of observers representing candidates, political parties and observers who watched over compliance with rules and procedures at the polling stations and by motivating young constituents to show up at the polling stations and enhancing their capacity by conducting public activities including youth forums, disco gatherings, radio and TV informational shows. Overall the project covered more than 6000 constituents and its results were highly praised by OSCE and ENEMO long-term observers.*

*The results were immediate. After the election the figures proved that while during the Parliamentary Election the turnout of Batken province voters was at 66,58%, during the early Presidential Election it was as high as 86,88 %.*

#### **Difficulties encountered and lessons learned during project implementation**

- The political situation in Ferghana Valley is unstable with contacts being lost at the government level and therefore the Network should operate in such a manner so as to retain the contacts at the level of civic society.
- When planning network-based activities, we have to provide for experience sharing with other regional networks (what are the successes of other networks, what are their strategies for cooperation with donors, how are the relations within their networks built, what are their relations with authorities, whether or not the authorities view them as a threat, what are their fundraising strategies, how they understand network institutional development, what is their logistics, etc.).
- The networks should support their Uzbek partners and ensure safety of their work. The Network has to support active Uzbek citizens and maintain contacts and communication. If it becomes impossible to work with organizations, we should continue working with individuals. The situation in Uzbekistan is still tense and analysts project that Uzbekistan is "a time bomb of Central Asia" which, if it explodes, will hit both Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. The network has to be ready to work under critical circumstances with potential Uzbek refugees in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. Under such circumstances cooperation of Uzbek partners is very much needed since they would be able to work in Uzbekistan.

#### **IV. Program direction: "Researching"**

<b>Project and donor name</b>	<b>Communities and areas covered by the projects</b>	<b>Number of interviewees</b>
<b>Role and Capacity of Civic Society in Prevention of Violent Conflicts in South Kyrgyzstan</b> funded by UNDP	South Kyrgyzstan: Osh, Jalalabat, and Batken provinces.	81 people including civic society - 48, state bodies - 22, and international organizations -11.

#### **Role and Capacity of Civic Society in Prevention of Violent Conflicts in South Kyrgyzstan**

- The research looks at the development of the civic society, its tools and the current capacity in conflict prevention and intervention. This research also studies the relations between the civic society and authorities including their interaction with international organizations.

The research is based on the information received from interviews held with representatives of the civic society, state bodies and international organizations.

The publication provides recommendations for the civic society, state bodies and international organizations.

1000 copies of the research were published (500 English copies and 500 Russian copies) that were disseminated among the civic society organizations, state bodies, international organizations and the interviewers.

- A subgoal of the research project was to capacity-build FTI's analytical and research capacities, as FTI has a strong desire to develop a strong research component. This research was the first large project of FTI's analytical team, established in January 2005. It provided the team with the unique opportunity to receive training along the implementation of a concrete research project. Team members got knowledge and skills in research design, interviewing, analysis and critical thinking. Team members obtained experience and are ready to carry out new researches.

This project did however not give assistants the opportunity to develop their writing skills. It is recommended that these skills – a very important part of the research process – need to be further developed in the near future. It would also be good to develop the team's analytical skills.

- The five objectives of the project were achieved.
  - The research assesses the opinions of a wide group of people on the causes and potential of violent conflict;
  - It indicates how different groups of actors are working to prevent conflict;
  - Practical experience of people working with conflict prevention is gathered in a research paper and can be used to add to the existing theoretical knowledge about conflict prevention;
  - The research paper contains recommendations on which kind of activities can be undertaken by civil society, state structures and international organizations to prevent conflicts and build a peaceful society;
  - It contains examples on cooperation between civil society, state structures and international organizations in the prevention of violent conflicts;
  - Civil society, state structures and international organizations receive the results of the research in hard copy and/or soft copy.

The research team further hopes that the research paper will:

- Contribute to the increase of the status of civil society, to the acknowledgement of civil society's work and to the promotion of non-violent methods of conflict resolutions
- Contribute to the cooperation between civil society, state structures and international organizations in the field of conflict prevention

#### **General conclusions per the results of FTI's work:**

- Using the institutions it created as part of its activities (Ferghana Valley NGO Network, Network of Mediators, National Coordination Council and Regional Coordination Councils, community leaders), FTI was able to successfully work on preventing conflicts and contributed to stabilization of the situation in the country.
- FTI's activities facilitated the society's understanding of the fact that the civic society needs to play an active role in practical mitigation of conflicts while cooperating with all the sectors of the society to achieve a common goal – stabilization of the political situation and development of the country.
- Informational campaigns conducted by FTI facilitated coordination of actions of various bodies that dealt with conflicts. Exchange of information about what is done where by which conflict prevention organizations and what for is a serious step toward prevention of overlapping and more adequate distribution of efforts and resources.

- FTI through its crisis grants motivated and supported intervention initiatives fostering the culture of nonviolence while remembering that early warning needs to be followed by early prevention.
- FTI expanded its area of operation (before FTI mostly operated in South Kyrgyzstan but in 2005 it started covering North Kyrgyzstan more actively) which was triggered by the political situation in the country when the rallies and demonstrations overwhelmed the nation.
- FTI, taking into consideration the unstable political situation in the country, worked with vertical conflicts while preventing application of violence during conflicts on part of participants of such conflicts.
- The changes in the political situation in the country prompted FTI to implement new and innovative projects that were aimed at preventing conflicts during the electoral process and strengthening the capacity of authorities and political parties.
- The political events in the country occurred in such a way that all regional conflicts were being resolved in the capital due to which FTI's Bishkek Head Office was actively involved in the public activities and implementation of projects while at the same time officers of the Bishkek Head Office met at the national level with the Ministry of Internal Affairs, Office of the Prime Minister and the President of Kyrgyz Republic.
- Having analyzed the political situation in the country, threats and conflicts and in order to establish true democracy and involvement in formation of the state policy, FTI has initiated new projects aimed at working with the Parliament, political parties and the opposition.

#### **D. Monitoring and evaluation of FTI's activities**

- Monitoring of project implementation in 2005 was performed at various organizational levels. The subject of the monitoring depended on what we wanted to identify (what is important at what level and what not). At the project level we mainly stressed results and processes, however, at the higher organizational levels we were more concerned with project activities' impact and the situational context.
- The monitoring was held in the following order:
  - by project managers who controlled the achievement of project results: action implementation and budget expending.
  - by office directors who controlled project implementation results and project coordination among the offices: fulfillment of the FTI's strategies in the particular region.
  - by Bishkek Head Office that coordinated the entire program and implementation of the FTI's strategies overall.

<b>Level of monitoring</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>What we wanted to identify</b>
Project activities	Monthly	Whether or not the activities held achieved the expected results (short-term results)
Project	Annually	Whether or not the people's behavior/attitude changed as a result of the project (results and processes)
Program	Every 2-3 years	Whether or not the program achieved its goals (effect and context)

The information gained from the monitoring was discussed at the FTI Management Board meetings during which important decisions are made. During the reporting period the FTI Management Board initiated 3 projects the need for which was identified as a result of the organizational context and that synergized with, and supported, projects under implementation and facilitated achievement of the organizational program goals.

The problems in 2005 included the fact that donors did not support FTI's organizational and institutional development due to which fact internal project assessment was not performed since such assessments require additional funds. However, starting November 2005 HIVOS (The Netherlands) decided to support FTI's organizational development and today FTI plans to perform an internal monitoring and evaluation of projects in 2006 (1 project), in 2007 (2 projects) and in 2008 (1 project).

## **E. Relations with HIVOS**

- FTI's partnership with HIVOS started in May 2003 when HIVOS was supporting For Civic Harmony and Regional Dialog in Aksy Project whose goal was to contribute to stabilization of the political situation and socioeconomic development of Aksy to prevent mass civil disturbances in connection with the upcoming delimitation and demarcation of Kyrgyz-Uzbek border and determination of the status of disputed territories.

Starting November 2005 HIVOS supports FTI's organizational development to enhance its institutional and organizational capacity to facilitate promotion of democracy in the society and ensure stability and security in the region.

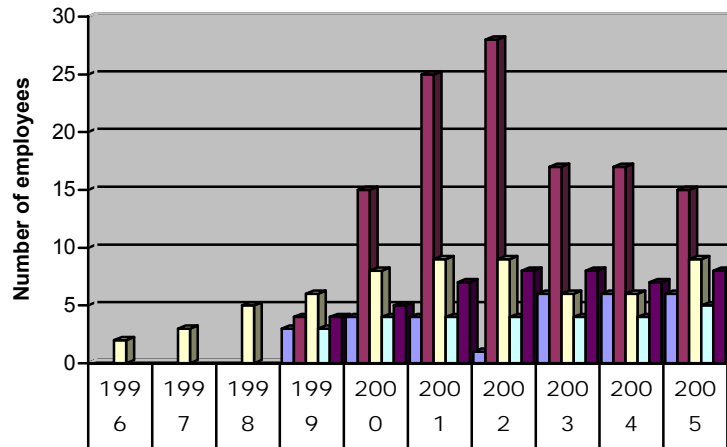
This support originates from HIVOS's internal policy that aims at supporting its partner organizations and values the growth and professional development of its partner NGOs' personnel while not making a distinction between the officers of its projects and officers implementing projects not funded by HIVOS but who still are FTI officers. Such a support has been extremely effective in ensuring sustainability and growth of FTI.

- HIVOS' policy of creating effective partner relations as in providing the partner organization with higher degree of autonomy and creativity due to the fact that an organization dealing with social processes is subject to a whole range of factors in the local and national contexts. HIVOS does not view its partners as mere implementers of its policies, instead it searches for ways establish cooperation with such a partner organization based on mutual dialog.
- HIVOS is an organization that is a proponent of the "mutual teaching" process with regards to both the partner organization and the very HIVOS. Thus, from September 29 through October 2 HIVOS conducted a working meeting with its partners in Kyrgyzstan in which NGOs funded by HIVOS participated. At that meeting, the partners discussed the topic of "How to improve the quality of effectiveness evaluation". The meeting was useful for all partners, since it provided an opportunity for them to share their opinions among each other and with HIVOS, obtain a common understanding of all parties with regards to the evaluation process, and discuss with HIVOS directly the difficulties that partners face in preparing their reports.

At that meeting FTI was represented by 2 officers. Participation in the meeting helped FTI take a new look at the foundation's plans, analyze the expected results and evaluate the degree to which they are realistic.

As a result of this joint activity with HIVOS, indicators of project effectiveness were harmonized and agreed upon that today underlie the basis of the contract.

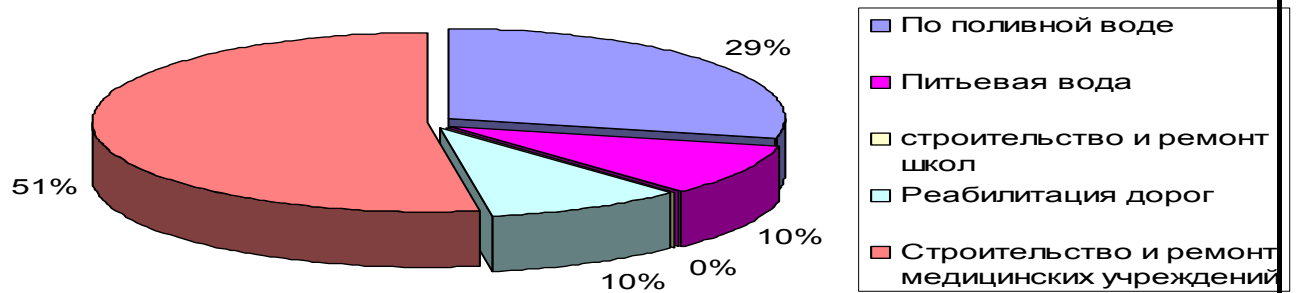
## Personnel of Foundation for Tolerance International



■ Aksy				3	4	4	1	6	6	6
■ Batken				4	15	25	28	17	17	15
■ Bishkek	2	3	5	6	8	9	9	6	6	9
■ Osh				3	4	4	4	4	4	5
■ Leilek				4	5	7	8	8	7	8

<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>43</b>
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## Инфраструктурные проекты в 2005 г.



## Infrastructure projects in 2005

- Construction and repairs of medical institutions
- Irrigation water projects
- Road maintenance
- Drinking water projects