

Foundation for Tolerance International



ANNUAL REPORT

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I. ABOUT THE ORGANISATION

Foundation for Tolerance International (FTI) is a non-governmental organisation (NGO) working in conflict prevention and resolution. The organisation was founded in 1998 on the back of a UNHCR project implemented in 1996-1998 entitled *Transforming Conflict and Teaching Tolerance*. Following the conclusion of this project, it became clear that more work was needed in this area and FTI was established by the team responsible for the initial project as the designated professional organisation for peacebuilding activities in the region.

FTI has implemented over 100 projects and initiatives since its foundation and is today one of the largest and most experienced NGOs working in the area of conflict prevention and resolution in Central Asia. FTI employs 50 members of staff from different age ranges and national backgrounds and with a broad range of expertise. They work in FTI's head office in Bishkek, subsidiary office in Batken, and in its three regional offices in Osh, Jalal-Abad and Leilek. The organisation is a founding member of the *Dolina Mira* ("Valley of Peace") network uniting NGOs from Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan and member organisations of other international networks. FTI is also Central Asia's regional coordinator for the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC).

FTI's experience as an organisation and the knowledge and skills of its staff make it a leader in the field of conflict prevention and resolution. The services and support it provides are utilised by both government and non-governmental institutions, members of local communities and the citizens of Kyrgyzstan, regardless of social status, ethnic background or religious belief.

FTI is evolving rapidly as an organisation, open to change, the development of new partnerships and the exploration of new ideas. This document is to be a tool for managing these changes and is based on the outcomes of those strategies previously implemented by the organisation.

The socio-political situation in Kyrgyzstan throughout 2009 into early 2010 established the basis for the pre-conflict situation in the



country. Increasing political suppression on the part of the previous leadership and the growing number of unresolved socio-economic problems laid the ground for the tragic events which took place on 7 April, resulting in the loss of 97 lives. Following these incidents a second wave of violence swept through southern Kyrgyzstan.

In these conditions of widespread conflict, FTI's central and regional offices took all possible efforts to ensure rapid stabilisation of the political and inter-ethnic situation in the country.

VISION

Central Asia is a region of peace, cooperation and development, with a multicultural, democratic society of politically engaged citizens living under fair and just laws.

MISSION

To prevent and resolve conflict in Central Asia without resorting to violence and to promote a culture of nonviolence and tolerance in society

II. OVERVIEW OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS IN THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC IN 2010

2010 saw particularly high levels of conflict with a phased increase in the number and scope of conflicts over the year.

7 April 2010: Kyrgyzstan undergoes a wave of political unrest with tragic consequences involving the loss of 78 lives. These events in April lead to the overthrow of the current government and an interim government is formed under the leadership of Roza Otunbaeva.

11 June 2010: Inter-ethnic violence in Osh between ethnic Kyrgyz and Uzbeks. Violence also breaks out in other multi-ethnic towns and districts in southern Kyrgyzstan. 438 people are killed as a result of events in June and over 2000 injured; residents of the affected areas are psychologically traumatised and many are victims of damage to personal property.

27 June 2010: A referendum to approve the country's new Constitution is held. 90.55% of voters vote in favour of its acceptance, resulting in Kyrgyzstan's transition to a parliamentary republic, the dissolution of the Constitutional Court, and head of the interim

government, Roza Otunbaeva, taking on the role of president until 31 December 2011.

2 July 2010: All powers held by deputies of the previous convocation of the Jogorku Kenesh (the Supreme Council of Kyrgyzstan, its unicameral parliament) are dissolved by resolution of the Central Electoral Commission (CEC).

14 July 2010: A caretaker government is formed to replace the interim government, with previous members of the interim government tendering their resignations in order to take part in the parliamentary elections.

10 October 2010: Elections take place to the parliament of Kyrgyzstan, with voting being carried out on a party-list system in accordance with the Referendum of 27 June 2010. As a result of the elections, five political parties receive seats in the Jogorku Kenesh, with the majority of seats going to the *Ata-Zhurt* party; the ruling party of the interim government - the *Social Democratic Party* taking second place. In total, 29 political parties competed for 120 seats in the parliament.

17 December 2010: members of the Jogorku Kenesh of the Kyrgyz Republic confirm the new government and elect a speaker of parliament.

III. FTI PROGRAMMES IN 2010

In 2010, FTI implemented a total of 21 projects. The initiatives and activities which constituted these projects can be divided into the following overall programme categories:



III.I. MONITORING AND
ANALYSIS OF THE
SITUATION



III.II. BUILDING
TRUST



III.III. BUILDING
CAPACITY



III.IV. FACILITATING
COMMUNICATION



III.V. PEACE
EDUCATION



III.VI NETWORK
BUILDING

III. I. MONITORING AND ANALYSIS OF THE SITUATION

Number of Participants: Over 1500 people

Geographic Focus: The town of Osh, oblasts of Osh, Batken and Jalal-Abad

Aims: To support those institutions responsible for preventing and resolving conflict; To prevent potential conflicts and intervene quickly in conflict situations.



MONITORING OF THE SITUATION AFTER 7 APRIL 2010:

From the beginning of the incidents in April, FTI monitored the situation and made recommendations to concerned parties and the Interim Government in particular on a number of different points:

- 13 April 2010: Foundation for Tolerance International makes recommendations to the Interim Government of the Kyrgyz Republic on how best to stabilise the situation in the country following the events occurring between 6 April and 8 April 2010.
- 19 April 2010: Recommendations are made to the Interim Government of the Kyrgyz Republic on how best to stabilise the situation arising from protests and discontent among employees of the Ministry of Internal Affairs / law enforcement institutions.
- 20 April 2010: Recommendations are made to the Interim Government of the Kyrgyz Republic on how to prevent and resolve inter-ethnic tensions.
- 26 April 2010: Recommendations are made to the Interim Government of the Kyrgyz Republic on how to prevent and reduce violence in multi-ethnic communities.

MONITORING OF THE INTER-ETHNIC SITUATION:

• In May 2010, FTI coordinated the resources of NGOs in Osh to monitor the inter-ethnic situation in Osh itself and Osh Oblast more widely. Monitoring was carried out through a series of focus groups involving over 300 participants. The evidence gathered in this process was used to produce a report analysing the inter-ethnic situation in the region and the success of those measures employed to stabilise the situation. The report contained the following information:

- Description of the situation;
- Identification of those categories of people most likely to be involved in conflict situations;
- Areas where inter-ethnic conflict was most likely to take place, в которых чаще всего происходят межэтнические конфликты;

The head of a local village council felt that the reports which emerged from FTI's monitoring of the situation enabled the situation to be explored in greater depth and appropriate measures to be taken to stabilise the situation based on the input and suggestions of local residents.



- Periods of particular intensification inter-ethnic relations;
- Causes of the rise in inter-ethnic tension
- Recommendations for a number of different institutions on how to work in situations with high levels of inter-ethnic tension.

The report was presented to government institutions, local government agencies, NGOs and international organisations.

Following events in June, FTI was one of the first organisations to monitor the situation in those areas which had been affected by the conflict. Between 28 June and 1 July 2010, a total of 312 people participated in focus groups organised by the organisation: 165 Kyrgyz and 147 Uzbeks. As a result of this work a conflict map was drawn up to illustrate the following aspects of the situation:

- Mapping of damaged areas and areas exposed to conflict.
- Mapping of the dissemination of provocative rumours in those areas affected by conflict.
- Mapping and identification of causes of the conflict.
- Mapping of appropriate recommendations for stabilising the situation.

The resulting information was presented to international organisations and NGOs.

In a post-crisis situation characterised by a lack of information, the results of this monitoring initiative enabled the creation of the first real picture of events.

In August 2010, monitoring was again conducted of the inter-ethnic situation in southern Kyrgyzstan, both through focus groups and individual interviews. A total of 535 respondents (272 Kyrgyz, 261 Uzbeks, 2 Russians; 281 men and 254 women) participated in focus groups and gave interviews. The results of this monitoring were used to produce a report on the stabilisation of the situation in post conflict southern Kyrgyzstan by supporting the establishment of inter-ethnic harmony. The report included the following information:

- What stability should look like;
- Obstacles and necessary conditions for stability;



- Recommendations for consolidating stability in the region.

The report was presented to NGOs in the oblasts of Jalal-Abad and Osh, government representatives at regional, oblast and national levels, and international organisations.

- In Batken Oblast, monitoring was carried out through focus group work and individual interviews to collect information on those current issues and problems which were leading to the increase in inter-ethnic tensions in the area. 117 people contributed to focus group discussions (local community leaders, *aksakals* (male elders in the community), young people, women, representatives of local government and local government institutions, NGOs, law enforcement institutions and others.

Using the information gathered from these focus groups and interviews, a number of documents were produced, analysing those issues identified in the monitoring process and making recommendations for how best to resolve them. These reports were then presented to local government institutions.

MONITORING OF NGO AND CSO ACTIVITIES

- Following events in June, a large number of NGOs and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) began work on establishing peace and promoting reconciliation in the area. In December 2010, monitoring was carried out in the oblasts of Osh, Jalal-Abad and Batken to evaluate the success of work done by NGOs and CSOs working to build trust and create conditions for peace and stability in the area. During this process, representatives of 64 NGOs and CSOs in the oblasts of Osh, Jalal-Abad and Batken answered questions about their activities.

On the basis of this monitoring of NGO and CSO activities, a report was produced which included the following information:

- Details of activities implemented or completed in 2010 to build peace and trust in the area.
- Difficulties encountered during the implementation of peace-building projects.
- Recommendations on how to resolve these difficulties.
- Identification of the support required to implement such peace-building initiatives more successfully.

III.II. BUILDING TRUST

Number of Participants: Over 2000 people

Geographic Focus: Town of Osh; Osh, Batken and Jalal-Abad Oblasts

Aim: To facilitate the improving of inter-ethnic relations and the promotion of inter-ethnic harmony; To strengthen trusting and benevolent relations between Kyrgyz and Uzbek communities.



RELIGION AS A RESOURCE FOR PEACE

In the post-crisis situation following events in June 2010, FTI implemented a number of projects directed towards utilising religion as a uniting factor in Kyrgyz-Uzbek relations in the community.

- Koranic readings were organised during the holy month of Ramadan in mosques in those villages of in the oblasts of Osh and Jalal-Abad which were affected by events in June. During these readings, interpretations and explanations were given of those passages of the Koran relating to forgiveness, the duties of Muslims according to Shariah law, how Muslims should behave to one another, the education of the younger generation and religious stereotypes. Discussions also took place on how people in general should relate to one another, the inadmissibility of violence and revenge, and the values embodied by the Islamic faith: such as humanism, tolerance and equality. Representatives of both Kyrgyz and Uzbek communities, young and old, gathered in the mosques during this period.
- *Iftarlyk* meals (when Muslims meet together in the evening to break their fast) were organised in those mosques where the readings were taking place. Representatives of both ethnic groups had the opportunity to sit down together and discuss Islam and the values of humanism. Booklets in Kyrgyz, Russian and Uzbek were distributed among those residents attending, with sayings and quotations taken from the Koran on the values of Islam, humanism, tolerance, and the religious laws against revenge and acts of hatred or aggression.
- Video conferences between Bishkek and Jalal-Abad and Bishkek and Osh were organised with the participation of women-*atyncha* (female proponents of Islam), representatives of local Muslim authorities, state administrative institutions and NGOs involved in working with women. These video conferences involved discussions about the role and significance of women in the building of trust and peace between different ethnic groups.
- An interactive television programme was broadcast live with the participation of representatives of religious organisations, local government institutions, local councils and civil society organisations who were able to communicate directly with the



Representatives of both ethnic groups gathered in the mosque in the village of Asancheek, Osh Oblast, for the first time since the end of the conflict. During the violence ten Kyrgyz men had been killed and their relatives were still grieving from their loss, filled with hatred and determined to exact revenge. When they found out about the Ramadan readings and Iftarlyk, over 30 Uzbek men also came to the mosque to take part in activities alongside the Kyrgyz men.

population. The programme aimed to facilitate discussion of how peace could be best maintained, how provocative rumours could be stopped and how to ensure the safety of citizens. The underlying aim of the broadcast was to appeal to communities' sense of a single, common root, a commitment to religious values, a shared history and to acknowledge similarities in cultures and traditions.

- Friday readings at 13 mosques were carried out in communities affected by the violence in the oblasts of Osh and Jalal-Abad with readers calling for peace and harmony between Muslim brothers. During these events, booklets were handed out with information on Islam and peace, human rights, the safeguarding of personal property in Islamic law, family and upbringing in Islam, and the concepts of sin and punishment in Islam. Readings were held separately for men and women

YOUNG PEOPLE AS CATALYSTS FOR PEACE

The younger generation represents one of the most important groups to be targeted in the current situation. Young people have the unique potential to have significant impact on the restoration of harmonious inter-ethnic relations in their communities, school children and students in particular, with the latter taking a more active role. Among those projects implemented by FTI in 2010, special attention was paid to educating young people in tolerance and strengthening friendly relations between students and school children from different ethnic backgrounds.

- Two festivals entitled: *Our Strength is Our Friendship* and *Friendship is the Way to Peace* were held in secondary schools in both single- and multi-ethnic villages in the oblasts of Osh and Jalal-Abad; areas particularly affected by events in June. The festivals were organised in partnership with both Kyrgyz- and Uzbek- language schools, whose students participated in competitions, performed concerts and composed newspaper articles calling for peace, friendship and harmony.

- Art competitions under the title *Peace Through a Child's Eyes* were organised for schoolchildren from families which had been victims of the violence in June and from those families experiencing financial difficulties in the village of Furkat, Osh Oblast and the town of Jalal-Abad. Artwork entitles *Our Goal is*



Mustapakulova Malika, Vice-Mayor of the town of Jalal-Abad: "After the tragic events of 2010 here in the south, people lived in constant fear for their futures and the futures of their children. Both local and national authorities made every effort to restore trust between Kyrgyz and Uzbeks living in the country. What Foundation for Tolerance International is doing as part of their Peaceful Transitions initiative is making a significant contribution to society and is of invaluable help to the government in restoring relations between the two ethnic groups."

Peace and Solidarity and Friendship Between Peoples was also exhibited by students in the Kara-Su region of Osh Oblast and the Ala-Bukin, Susak and Bazar-Kurgan regions of Jalal-Abad Oblast.

- Sports days (including basketball, volleyball, football and chess) were organised among students of various ethnic backgrounds in schools in the village of Furkat, Osh Oblast; the border regions of Batken Oblast; the villages of Tash-Bulak and Bazar-Kurgan in Jalal-Abad Oblast; and in the town of Jalal-Abad itself. A basketball tournament was also set up for teams of women from the village of Bazar-Kurgan. These sports competitions gave schoolchildren from different ethnic backgrounds the opportunity to socialise and facilitated mutual communication under the overall title of *Sport is Peace*.

WORKING WITH LOCAL COMMUNITY LEADERS

As part of its trust-building initiatives, FTI devoted particular attention to working with both formal and informal leaders of local communities (*aksakals*, women-leaders, school teachers, religious leaders, local authority representatives, civil society organisations and others), who had influence in the community and could mobilise/consolidate the strength of local residents.

- Celebrations were held in the towns of Osh and Jalal-Abad and in the oblasts of Osh and Jalal-Abad to mark the Muslim festival of *Kurban Ait* (celebrated by Kyrgyz, Uzbeks and other ethnic groups). During the celebrations, community residents could discuss problems and difficulties associated with inter-ethnic relations and how best to resolve them.
- Harvest festivals were also organised in multi-ethnic communities in the oblasts of Osh and Jalal-Abad to promote a sense of community, responsibility and unity through joint activity. In Batken Oblast, *ashar* or "joint building" of a school in the village of Tash-Tumshuk took place. Residents of neighbouring villages came to volunteer in order to build the school as quickly as possible.
- Families which were the victims of violence in June received visits and support. Women-leaders in those villages in regions of Osh and Jalal-Abad Oblasts carried out work to educate village populations in good-neighbourliness and mutual understanding. Competitions were held to demonstrate the reality of common feeling within cultural diversity under the title *Our Strength is in*



Sultanov Erkin, village bashchy of Tash-Bulak: "Following events in June 2010 many international organisations and NGOs began work in the area to help victims of the violence by providing food etc. Foundation for Tolerance International approached the problem differently, implementing projects which involved both Kyrgyz and Uzbeks. This had a significant positive effect on relations between the two ethnic groups. We need an atmosphere of peace and harmony in which we can live side by side with other nationalities for many years to come. I would like to personally thank Foundation for Tolerance International for the work they are doing in the name of peace, which was in a particularly fragile state here after June 2010."

Our Unity and with the participation of mixed ethnic families.

III.III. BUILDING CAPACITY AND INCREASING POTENTIAL

Number of Participants: Over 500 people

Geographic Focus: Town of Osh; Osh, Batken and Jalal-Abad Oblasts

Aim: To strengthen the ability of relevant stakeholders to build peace and prevent conflict



BUILDING CAPACITY OF MEDIATORS:

- Training was carried out to equip those persons recognised and respected within the Kyrgyz and Uzbek communities with the skills they needed to mediate and facilitate dialogue in crisis situations to resolve tensions in the areas targeted by the project. Participants in the training programme were representatives of those Kyrgyz and Uzbek communities in which the tragic events of June had taken place. A total of 52 people took part. Following the conclusion of the workshop a plan was prepared for how to build trust between representatives of both Kyrgyz and Uzbek nationalities in those communities. Those actions included in the plan were supported by the project.

BUILDING CAPACITY OF ECONOMIC ACTORS:

- 41 business owners in the towns of Jalal-Abad and Osh received training in conflict studies. During the training, business owners gained a general understanding of the processes involved in conflict situations and received information on tools and methods of conflict analysis. With the support of the project, business owners were also given the opportunity to discuss the situation in the south of the country following events in June, their personal role in establishing peace and stability, and ways they could resolve those problems with which they were confronted.

BUILDING CAPACITY OF THE YOUNGER GENERATION:

- Youth camps were organised for 34 students from the town of Jalal-Abad and 78 students from Osh. During these camps participants gained knowledge of how to define and analyse problems, tools for cause-effect analysis, methods for evaluating need, measures deployed in response to conflict, mapping conflict and tools for analysing conflict situations.
- A meeting was organised for young people from the Tajik villages of Somonion and Khodzhai-Alo, and the villages of Kok-Tash, Tashtumshuk and Orto-Boz in the Kyrgyz Republic. Around 40 people took part in the project. The initiative was carried out with the aim of educating young people in how to conduct research in their villages (in those communities targeted by the project). As a result, participants gained an awareness of methods of research and created a plan of work, they determined a range



Deputy Head of the Village Council of Kulundun Mr Kalandarov used methods of nonviolent conflict resolution (dialogue facilitation, negotiation and explanatory work) during an incident in the Sady area on a question of territorial dispute with the Republic of Tajikistan. He was able to convince the local population not to resort to violence. This method of resolving conflict through dialogue with relevant institutions could also be used to prevent further escalation of conflict situations.

of duties to be carried out and assigned community members with the responsibility for conducting research in order to review the situation and determine how to ensure the security of communities in border areas.

- Informative meetings between young people from local communities in those areas targeted by the project were held in Batken Oblast. Over the course of these meetings a number of consultations were carried out: on how suggestions for future projects could be kept in a youth bank, on criteria for project selection, financing, monitoring and analysis of projects, on the creation of self-help groups, and the establishment of departments to oversee these activities.

- In the village of Ala Buk in Jalal-Abad Oblast, following an initiative of mediators involved in the project in the Ala Buk Region, training was carried out for youth representatives and youth committees on village councils in the Ala Buk Region on the main principles of conflict studies and methods of conflict intervention. 22 youth representatives of the Ala Buk Region, Jalal-Abad Oblast took part in the initiative. Participants gained knowledge on the principles of conflict studies and acquired skills in conflict intervention. The capacity of youth committees on the village councils in the Ala Buk Region to reduce tension and resolve conflict was increased.

- The *Dolina Mira* NGO network implemented the fourth phase of the joint project *The Ferghana Valley – Our Common Home*, which involved schoolchildren from 50 schools on the border between Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan and sought to educate these young people on the principles of tolerance and nonviolence, methods of conflict resolution and the facilitating of communication between young people of both countries.

BUILDING CAPACITY OF RELIGIOUS LEADERS AND ORGANISATIONS:

- In the Oblasts of Osh, Batken and Jalal-Abad, a workshop was for imams was held under the title *The Role of Islam in Achieving Ethnic Harmony*. 32 imams from Osh Oblast and 23 imams from Jalal-Abad Oblast took part in the workshop. During the workshop the situation following events in June and the role of imams in peace building was discussed. In particular, these discussions



Usmanova Altynai, member of the CSG "Cheremushki: "I apply the knowledge I gained through training on the principles of tolerance and conflict studies every day both in my work and in my life in general. As a social worker, I have to work and meet with many people from different backgrounds."

looked at the work of imams in tolerance education among the younger generation, the capacity of imams in mediating in conflict situations and the role of imams in re-establishing mutual trust following the tragic incidents in June.

- A training workshop entitled *The Principles of Conflict Studies, Mediation and Negotiation* was held for 28 representatives of religious groups, NGOs with religious bases and women-*atyncha*. Participants gained background knowledge and skills based on the principles of conflict studies, an awareness of the "triangle of violence", positive and negative peace, peacebuilding and the maintenance of peace. They were also introduced to the tools of conflict analysis and the main methods of conflict resolution. The role of religion and religious organisations in the reconciliation process was discussed.
- A two-day workshop was carried out in order to share experiences on community security. 20 representatives of NGOs in Tajikistan and the Kyrgyz Republic took part in the workshop. During the workshop participants exchanged experiences and skills they had developed in their work to ensure the security of local communities and approaches to community security which would be applicable in the Ferghana Valley were developed.

BUILDING CAPACITY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND CIVIL SOCIETY REPRESENTATIVES:

- Training was carried under the heading *Managing Ethnic Diversity and Resolving Inter-Ethnic Conflict on a Local Level*. 24 people from Osh Oblast and 21 from Jalal-Abad Oblast took place in this workshop. Participants in this workshop gained knowledge and skills on how to manage ethnic diversity and how to resolve inter-ethnic conflict on a local level.
- On the initiative of a group of mediators involved in one of the projects in the town of Osh, training on the founding principles of conflict studies was provided for representatives of local government in those areas targeted by the project. 26 representatives of local government and the Local Council took part in the project; 12 from Jalal-Abad Oblast and 14 from Osh Oblast. During the training, participants acquired knowledge and skills on the principles of conflict studies and the tools of conflict resolution. The capacity of local governments to reduce tensions



Mr Imetov, head of the Ak- Tatyrsk Village Council, lead a conference-workshop for village institutions based on the material studied and knowledge gained during his own training. "I actively use the knowledge I have gained on sensitivity to conflict and methods of conflict analysis (including analysis of event triggers) in order to plan my work on conflict prevention."

and resolve conflict was increased.

- A workshop was organised under the title *Social Development* for political parties, not-for-profit organisations, and state institutions in Batken Oblast. The workshop was conducted with the aim of increasing the capacity of representatives of NGOs, political parties and state institutions of Batken Oblast in social development and its application to the resolution of problems experienced by those benefitting from social services. More than 20 people took part in the workshop, acquiring knowledge and practical skills in social development and defining the role of civil society, participants also developed the ability to articulate and resolve their problems through analysis of the situation and the formulation of strategic plans for further work.

- Working meetings and training were carried out under the title *Tolerance – the Path to Peace* for members of Civil Society Groups (CSGs) in targeted communities in the towns of Osh and Jalal-Abad. The aim of the initiative was to increase the capacity of CSGs through educating them in those skills necessary for developing tolerance, the principles of conflict studies, mediation and mobilisation of society. 28 representatives of four mixed communities in Osh Oblast and 24 people from Jalal-Abad Oblast took part in the training. During the training, participants acquired knowledge and skills in the culture of tolerance, the importance of transparency, conflict management, the foundations of the negotiation process (mediation) and skills in mobilising society. During the period over which the project was active, four CSGs developed plans of work based on the plans introduced by the initiative, determined dates for implementation and assigned responsibility for implementation to community members.

- A practical workshop was carried out for representatives of the Pastureland Committees of Batken Oblast. The aim of this workshop was to improve the Pastureland Committees' awareness of legal issues arising from the use and management of pastureland. During the workshop questions were discussed concerning local government institutions, Pastureland Committees, payment for use of pastureland, the legalities of use of land by foreign grazers, taxation, problems with defining external borders of pastureland, and the use of acts of state and area maps.

III.IV. FACILITATING COMMUNICATION BETWEEN STAKEHOLDERS

Number of Participants: Over 200 people

Geographic Focus: Town of Osh; Osh, Batken and Jalal-Abad Oblasts

Цель: To facilitate communication between state institutions and their beneficiaries; To consolidate the powers of various stakeholders in building peace.



FACILITATING COMMUNICATION

- A “round table” meeting was organised in which 30 people participated, including the vice premier minister of the Kyrgyz Republic, representatives of state institutions at a provincial level in the oblasts of Osh and Jalal-Abad, members of the commission to determine the damage resulting from the events in June, representatives of the towns of Osh and Jalal-Abad, international organisations, local NGOs and media representatives.

The aim of the round table was to offer assistance to business owners who had suffered as a result of the events in June 2010. Persons at the highest level of government needed to be involved for the problems of business owners to be resolved.

At the round table, issues arising from meetings already conducted with representatives of the towns of Osh and Jalal-Abad were brought to the attention of the vice premier minister and other government officials by Foundation for Tolerance International (FTI).

As a result of the round table, the following decisions were taken by the vice premier minister of the Kyrgyz Republic:

- The deadline for submission of damage claims by businesses affected by the events in June was extended to December 2010;
- Changes were made to Decree No.77 of the Interim Government of the Kyrgyz Republic “On financial aid, benefits and deferments for those physical persons and judicial entities suffering due to the unrest in the town of Osh and the oblasts of Osh and Jalal-Abad, and on measures to stabilise and rebuild the region” so that it included a list of those specific areas affected by the violence in which business owners would be exempt from taxation.
- The government would write-off any debt or deferred payment due to creditors on business owners’ behalf, without charging interest or a penalty fee.
- Each business owner would be treated on an individual basis by those banking institutions from which they had received credit.
- A round table meeting was held to discuss inter-ethnic problems in the Kara-Suu region of Osh Oblast. The aim of the initiative was to identify those factors negatively affecting the restoration of



A business owner in Osh Oblast: "We are grateful for the fact that someone listened and took the time to understand our problems. We have many issues that the government simply does not know about, but we were able to talk about them with these people, who in the future might well be able to help us resolve them."

inter-ethnic harmony and methods to resolve these issues. 35 representatives of both Kyrgyz and Uzbek ethnic groups participated in the meeting.

During discussions of those problems currently affecting their communities and negatively impacting on the establishment of peaceful relations between community members, participants in the initiative exchanged views and experiences and, following identification of the most significant problems, discussed possible methods for their resolution, ultimately leading to a joint address to civil society organisations, cultural and educational institutions, the media, local government and community residents.

- A round table was also organised in the town of Batken to discuss the socio-political situation in the oblast following the events of April 2010, in which representatives of local government participated alongside not-for-profit organisations, political parties and leaders of different ethnic groups. The round table also led to the writing up of recommendations for local government on how best to stabilise the socio-political situation in the oblast, including the inter-ethnic situation. Over 30 people took part in the initiative including the acting governor of the oblast. During the round table a constructive dialogue took place between representatives of state institutions, political parties and not-for-profit organisations. As a result, following a general analysis of the situation in the oblast, participants were presented with recommendations for further action by local government.

- In the town of Isfana, a round table meeting was organised to discuss the inter-ethnic situation in the region of Leilek, and to come up with possible stabilisation methods and general recommendations for resolving the inter-ethnic problem. Representatives of local government, law enforcement institutions, political parties, NGOs, religious leaders and leaders of ethnic groups all took part. 20 people took part in the round table, including the deputy *akim* (head of local government) of the region of Leilek. During the round table, participants were presented with recommendations for how local government could improve the inter-ethnic situation by religious leaders, NGOs and local communities.



- A round table meeting was held to coordinate the activities of the Batken regional commission responsible for defining the borders of pastureland. 28 people took part in the discussion, including the acting *akim* of the Batken Region. A schedule of fieldwork meetings to discuss seven disputed areas in the Batken Region was drawn up and agreed upon.
- Six fieldwork meetings were organised in disputed areas to define pastureland borders. As a result, effective cooperation was established between forestry officials, local government and the state registry on an operational solution to those problems arising from disputed pasturelands and their borders in the Batken Region. As a result, key local government officials and heads of pastureland committees are now aware of the borders of their pasturelands.
- During the months of August and September, two meetings of representatives from veterinary services of Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan were organised to coordinate the vaccination of cattle. As a result of these meetings, veterinary services in the regions of Batken and Isfarin arrived at a joint decision on how best to vaccinate those animals grazing on lands in the Batken Region.

III.V. PEACE EDUCATION

Number of participants:

Over 5000 audience members attended youth theatre performances

- 198 schoolchildren;
- 136 teachers

Geographic Focus: Batken Oblast, Chui Oblast

Aim:

To further the education of a peace-loving younger generation, with leadership abilities in the promotion of humanitarian principles and tolerance, and skills in nonviolent communication.



YOUTH THEATRE FOR PEACE

- Workshops and three youth camps on the methods of Forum Theatre were conducted for 136 teachers and 198 participating schools in the oblasts of Batken and Chui. As a result of seminars and camps, participants were able to learn the Forum Theatre approach, with its roots in the performing arts, in which peace and stability are facilitated at a community level by enabling changes in the behaviour and world-view of its young people. Forum Theatre involves drama performances in which members of the community participate to find common solutions to local problems.
- To ensure the viability of the project, school theatre clubs were given three rounds of small grants:
 - First round: To finance the construction of school theatres and to recruit schoolchildren to the project.
 - Second round: To support drama tours carried out by school theatre clubs to surrounding communities, where students performed their plays and sought the assistance of audience members in resolving those conflict situations presented in their performances. These tours enabled the dissemination of Forum Theatre methods to educate young people within the community.
 - Third round: To instruct local organisations, schools, children's homes, youth departments, NGOs working with young people on how the ideas encompassed by *Drama for Conflict Transformation* can be used to mitigate conflict. This work attracted new beneficiaries to the project and supported the building of local organisational capacity to work effectively with young people.
- School theatre clubs created and performed over 100 plays based on Forum Theatre methods over the course of the project, in which problems of school extortion rackets, conflict situations in the family and inter-ethnic issues were discussed. Over 5000 audience members took place in the discussions and suggested various solutions to those problems presented in the plays. The initiative enabled both youth and cultural development, strengthened inter-ethnic harmony and helped to prevent further conflict.
- Over the course of the project, 22 school theatre clubs were opened in Chui Oblast (10 clubs) and in Batken Oblast (12 clubs).

Forum Theatre is an approach with its roots in the performing arts, which is used to promote peace and stability in communities by supporting changes in the behaviour and world-view of the younger generation. The Forum Theatre methodology uses drama performances which involve members of the community to seek and identify common methods for resolving local problems.

A school director: "The value of Forum Theatre is in the fact that children can see themselves from another perspective, think about their behaviour and make improvements."

Target areas for the project were those communities which were made up of a number of ethnic groups and in which there had been open inter-ethnic conflict, and border communities considered to be at high-risk of future conflict.

- During the year, school theatre clubs performed 86 plays based on the Forum Theatre method in which problems such as extortion rackets in schools, conflict situations in the family and inter-ethnic problems were discussed.

NETWORK BUILDING

Number of participants: Over 1500 people

Geographic Focus: Central Asia, Ferghana Valley

Aim:

To facilitate the development of regional cooperation to prevent conflict and build peace



NGO NETWORK *DOLINA MIRA*

FTI is a founding member and regional coordinator of the *Dolina Mira* ("Valley of Peace") Network of NGOs in the Ferghana Valley. The network is made up of 25 NGOs from Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. In 2010 the network implemented the following initiatives:

• **Monitoring border problems and border conflicts**

Two research projects were conducted: *Analysis of factors leading to religious conflict in the Ferghana Valley* and *Factors leading to conflict that are linked to illegal claims by citizens of the Republic of Tajikistan on assets in settled border regions in the Batken Oblast of the Kyrgyz Republic*. The research presented the following information:

- Relevance of research topics;
- Description of problems;
- Context (analysis of regulatory-legal acts and statistical data);
- Concerned parties relevant to the subject of research;
- Relationship of these parties to religious conflict;
- Impact of these parties on religious conflict;
- Involvement of concerned parties with the research;
- Problem zones;
- Key problems and options for their resolution;
- Recommendations.

The results of research done by the Network were used in their practical activities and were communicated to partners and government institutions. Following the conclusion of the research projects, round table meetings were held in the towns of Osh (Kyrgyzstan) and Khudzhand (Tajikistan), in which representatives of government institutions and civil society organisations participated, with the aim of presenting the results of the research and receiving advice and recommendations from experts on how to improve their research further. The results of the research were published and distributed among interested parties.

• **Implementation of small grants initiative**

Two rounds of small grants were provided within the programme *Trans-Border Cooperation*, in which members of the Network presented suggestions for future projects for review by the grants committee of the Network Secretariat. As a result, the following projects received funding in the first round:



No.	Project Title	Project Aims	Organisations Responsible for Project Implementation
1.	<i>Sport as a Force for Unity</i>	To prevent and resolve conflict in a nonviolent way in border territories of Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan through implementing youth initiatives. To engage young people in resolving those problems which lead to conflict situations between neighbours in the communities governed by the Kulundin Village Council in Leilek Oblast, Kyrgyzstan and Dzhamoata Ovchi – Kalacha B. in the Gafurov Region of the Republic of Tajikistan.	-‘Leilek Daanyshmany’ (Kyrgyzstan) -‘New Generation’ (Tajikistan)
2.	<i>My Fellow-Villagers</i>	To re-establish and strengthen peaceful coexistence between people of different ethnic groups in villages in the Aravan Region and under the remit of the Too-Moyun Village Council.	-‘Women of Too Moyun’ (Kyrgyzstan)
3.	<i>Cooperation</i>	To facilitate the reduction of tension in border villages in the regions of Batken and Isfarin arising from issues relating to the use of pasturelands in the Batken Region (Kyrgyz Republic) by residents of the Isfarin Region (Republic of Tajikistan), and pasturelands disputed by local government authorities and forestry officials in the Batken Region.	-Batken Office FTI (Kyrgyzstan) -Radio ‘Salam’ (Kyrgyzstan) -‘Adolat’ (Tajikistan)
4.	<i>No to Religious Extremism</i>	To facilitate the involvement of citizens living in border regions of the Republic of Tajikistan to resolve the problem of the propagation of ideas of religious extremism and radicalism by consolidating the strength and capacity of both state institutions and civil society to promote dialogue and mutual cooperation.	-‘Young People and Civilisation’ (Tajikistan) -‘Civil Society Bridges’ (Tajikistan)



In the second round, small grants were allocated to the following projects:

No.	Project	Aims	Partners
1.	<i>No to Religious Extremism</i>	To facilitate populations in border regions of the Republic of Tajikistan to resolve problems associated with the promulgation of ideas of religious extremism and radicalism by uniting forces with government institutions and civil society organisations to develop dialogue and mutual cooperation.	-'Young People and Civilisation' (Tajikistan) -'Civil Society Bridges' (Tajikistan)
2.	<i>Peace is Friendship Between Peoples</i>	To enable the stabilisation of the situation following the conflict in June 2010 and to reduce the level of tension in multi-ethnic relations between ethnic Uzbeks and Kyrgyz in the town of Kyzyl-Kiya in the Batken Oblast of the Kyrgyz Republic.	-Public Fund 'El Sait' (Kyrgyzstan) -'Lawyers Without Borders in the Ferghana Valley'(Kyrgyzstan)
3.	<i>Cooperation</i>	To facilitate the creation of platforms for constructive dialogue in the border villages of the Batken and Isfarin Regions with the aim of resolving problems linked to the use of border pasturelands in the Batken Region (Kyrgyz Republic) by residents of the Isfarin Region (Republic of Tajikistan), and pasturelands disputed by local govern and forestry officials in the Batken Region.	-Batken Office of Foundation for Tolerance International (Kyrgyzstan) -'Radio 'Salam' (Kyrgyzstan) -'Adolat' (Tajikistan)

▪ **Consolidation of the *Ferghana Valley – Our Common Home* project**

The fourth phase of the *Ferghana Valley – Our Common Home* project was implemented, as a logical continuation of the activities of the Network in 50 schools in border areas in the Ferghana Valley. As part of the project, members of the Network involved in facilitation received further training and a module of lessons on *Tolerance* was developed. Following this, trainers from the network conducted Training on Tolerance for participants in 50 schools, who will go on to train their peers.

IV. TABLE OF FTI SPONSORSHIP FOR THE YEAR 2010

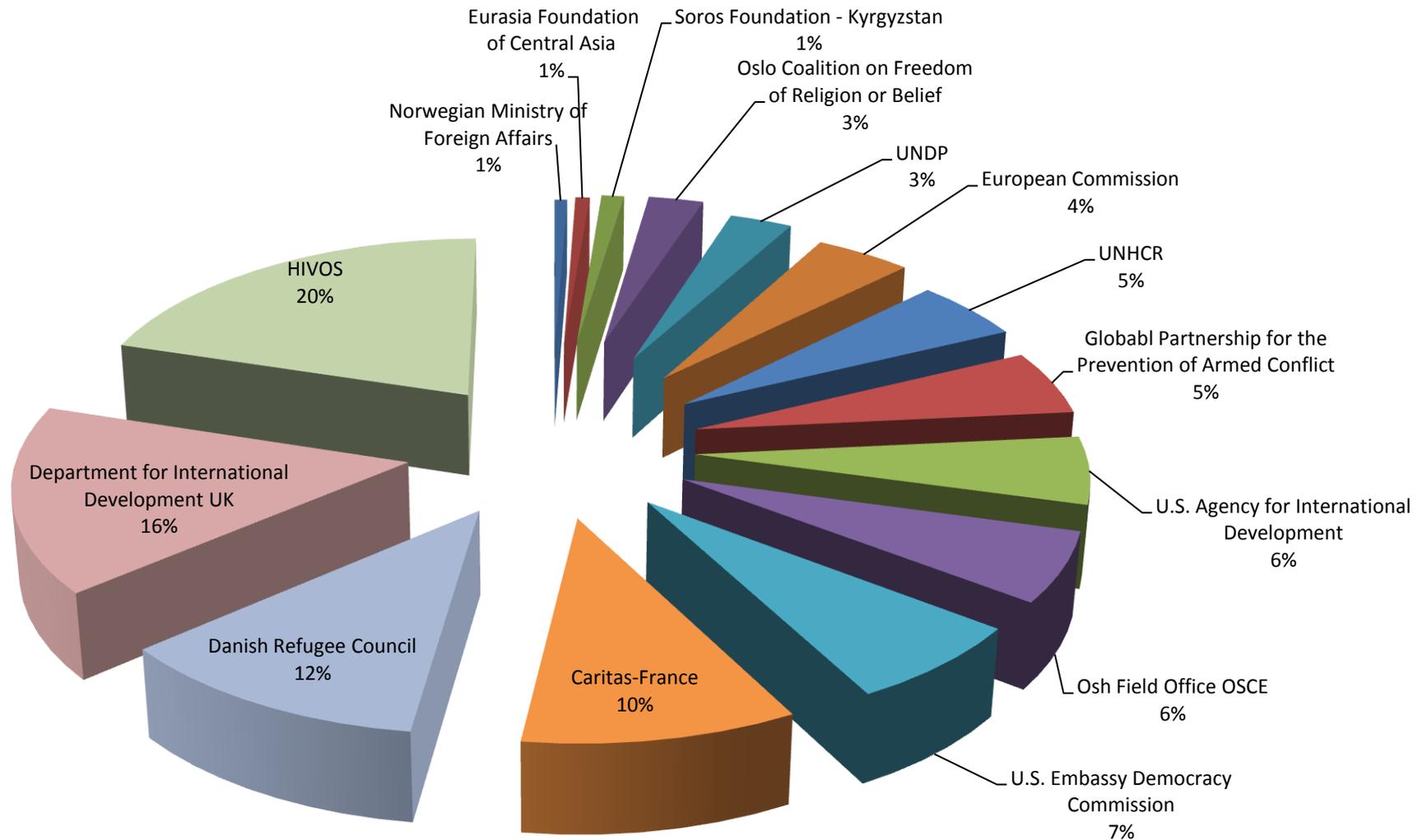
No.	Project Title	Donor/Partners	Budget
1.	<i>Stable Democracy Through Strong Civil Society Involvement</i>	HIVOS (Humanist Institute for Development Cooperation)	EUR 70 000
2.	<i>Dolina Mira DM ('Valley of Peace') network of NGOs</i>	Danish Refugee Council	EUR 47 221
3.	<i>GPPAC's Central Asian activities through the coordination of FTI and DM</i>	Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict	EUR 36 000
4.	<i>Together for Peace</i>	UNDP	USD 27 000
5.	<i>Coordinated Meeting of NGOs</i>	U.S. Embassy Democracy Commission	USD 9 980
6.	<i>Harmony Caravan</i>	U.S. Embassy Democracy Commission	USD 25 250
7.	<i>Youth Theatre for Peace</i>	U.S. Agency for International Development	USD 55 090
8.	<i>Building capacity of local government representatives and the non-governmental sector to deal with conflict situations</i>	European Commission	EUR 20 657
9.	<i>Promoting civility and tolerance in the Ferghana Valley</i>	Caritas-France	EUR 31969
10.	<i>Developing the capacity of women and young people to reduce the impact of conflict</i>	Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs	KGS 251 406

11.	<i>Cooperation</i>	Danish Refugee Council	EUR 2 392
12.	<i>Improving Inter-Ethnic Tolerance</i>	Osh Field Office OSCE	EUR 15 000
13.	<i>Peaceful Transitions</i>	UNHCR	KGS 2 164 358
14.	<i>Peacebuilding through involvement of economic actors</i>	Osh Field Office OSCE	KGS 174 652
15.	<i>Peace Through Religion</i>	Oslo Coalition on Freedom of Religion or Belief	EUR 27 663
16.	<i>Involving students in peacebuilding</i>	DFID (Department For International Development UK)	USD 53 420
17.	<i>Preventing conflict through joint approaches to security in the Ferghana Valley</i>	DFID UK	USD 25 293
18.	<i>Stability Through Dialogue and Joint Action</i>	U.S. Embassy Democracy Commission	USD 25 471
19.	<i>Photography Workshop: Cameras in Children's Hands</i>	Soros Foundation - Kyrgyzstan	USD 1 986

Total:

EUR 214 902
 USD 223 490
 KGS 2 590 416

V. PERCENTAGE BREAKDOWN OF GRANTS RECEIVED BY FTI IN 2010



VI. DEVELOPMENT WITHIN FTI

BUILDING EMPLOYEE CAPACITY:



- Training for FTI employees in *Reconciliation and conflict intervention in South Kyrgyzstan* following events in June 2010, FTI arranged training for its employees on issues of justice and reconciliation and the potential of FTI to intervene in and prevent conflict, including the following key points:
 - Details;
 - What is conflict about?
 - What are the current consequences of the conflict?
 - What can we predict about the future situation?
 - Problems;
 - Justice and reconciliation;
 - Conditions for reconciliation;

FTI BOARD:

During 2010, four meetings of the board were held in which the following questions were discussed:

28 January 2010

- Development of FTI's 2010 Annual Plan to include resolutions made during the General Meeting of FTI Employees.
- Approval of final changes to the following documents: Project Development Cycle, Politics, The Cash Situation.
- The re-registration of the Osh Regional Office (ORO) as a branch of FTI.
- Initiatives implemented through current projects and to be implemented in future projects.

24-25 June 2010

1. Analysis and evaluation of the post-crisis situation in the south of the country.
2. Discussion of FTI's response measures to the post-crisis situation in the south of the country.

7 August 2010

- Discussion of issues of project development and problem analysis.
- Examination of FTI's PR strategy.
- Discussion of the General Meeting of Employees and how to further build the capacity of FTI employees
- Approval of changes to internal FTI documents

- Obstacles to reconciliation
- FTI intervention:
 - 1) *What resources do we have?*
 - 2) *What do we not have enough of?*
 - 3) *Where can we get it from?*
- **Training for FTI monitors:** after events in June, FTI conducted periodic monitoring of the situation. In August, training for monitors was organised during which the following questions were discussed:
 - Methods of monitoring;
 - Questions to be asked during monitoring;
 - Guidelines for compiling reports based on findings;
 - Conflict sensitivity during the monitoring process;
- **Exchange of experiences between FTI office managers:** in November, the office managers of FTI's three regional offices were invited to FTI's Head Office in Bishkek to share their experiences of office administration and discuss questions of standardising paperwork and methods of communication.

6 November 2010

- Questions of employee security and the security of valuables and the organisation's technological assets.
- Discussions about FTI's Financial Policy, Accounting Policy and additions to the Financial Policy. Questions surround the introduction of the 1C budgetary programme in the Bishkek Head Office (BHO) and Batken Branch (BB).
- Discussion of problems of organisational and institutional development:
 - Project bids and strategic directions for development;
 - Exchange of experiences between FTI employees;
 - FTI employee evaluations.

VII. OUR EMPLOYEES 2010

Raya Kadyrova *President*

FTI BOARD

Anara Eginalieva *Director of the Head Office in Bishkek*

Robert Abazbekov *Coordinator for South Kyrgyzstan*

Asel Dzhymataeva *Director of the Osh Regional Office*

Asylbek Kochkorbaev *Director of the Jalal-Abad Regional Office*

BATKEN BRANCH

Nazguly Aldasheva *programme manager*

Gulpariz Kozubaeva *accountant*

Bazarbai Maseitov *project manager*

Makhmadier Khasanov *project manager*

Gulnara Temirbaeva *project manager*

Maksat Duisheev *project assistant*

Bakhrom Rakhmankylov *leader of the Politics Youth Club (PYC)*

Urustambek Koshunbetov *project assistant*

Gulnara Aizhigitova *office manager*

OSH REGIONAL OFFICE

Zhumaguly Bolponova *project coordinator*

Erkin Kochkarov *project assistant*

Dilorom Isakova *project assistant*

Tugolbai Abdymalikov *project assistant*

Dooron Marzabaev *project assistant*

Asamat Shamamatov *project assistant*

Gulnur Toyalieva *responsible for mobilisation*

Nurgul Sultanova *accountant/office manager*

BISHKEK HEAD OFFICE

Gulbara Kukanova *finance manager*

Samara Papieva *programme director*

Tazhykan Shabdanova *project manager*

Gulzhan Tabaldieva *administrative assistant*

Aigul Birimkulova *accountant*

Artyom Ponomarenko *project assistant*

Elise Laker *international volunteer*

JALAL-ABAD REGIONAL OFFICE

Zhanyl Musaeva *project assistant*

Asel Dzhumaeva *project coordinator*

Ermek Dzhamashev *project assistant*

Akmaly Mamadaliev *responsible for project mobilisation*

Bakyt Ysmanov *project assistant*

Asem Chotieva *administrative assistant*

AKSYISKII REGIONAL OFFICE

Nurbek Sariev *Director of the Akysyiskii Regional Office*

LEILEK REGIONAL OFFICE

Khamza Salyamov *Director of the Leilek Regional Office*

Azamat Pulatov *project assistant*

Contact Details for FTI Offices

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