



# THE EURASIA FOUNDATION OF CENTRAL ASIA

Annual Report  
2016-2018



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in Kazakhstan



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## Tech companies:

Astana Hub and Zerde Holding



astana hub



ZERDE

# OVERVIEW OF PROJECTS

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- 'Zharkyra' Social Entrepreneurship Program
- Impact Hub Almaty
- Boosting Entrepreneurship in Kuryk
- '3.2.1. Start!' - Youth Social Projects in Kazakhstan

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## Support for Vulnerable Groups



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- Reforming Legal Aid for the Vulnerable

## Good Governance & Citizen Engagement



- Good Governance Initiative Fund
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- 'Our Public Spaces'

## Education & Youth

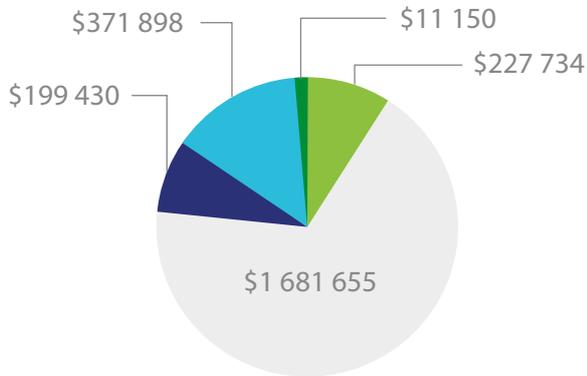


- 'Growing Together' - Preschool Education Initiative in Kuryk
- 'Hand in Hand We Learn' - School Education Development
- Kindergarten Construction in Ust-Kamenogorsk



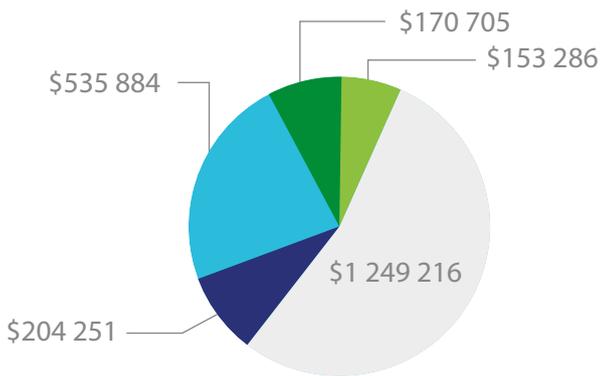
# PROJECTS & DONORS

2016



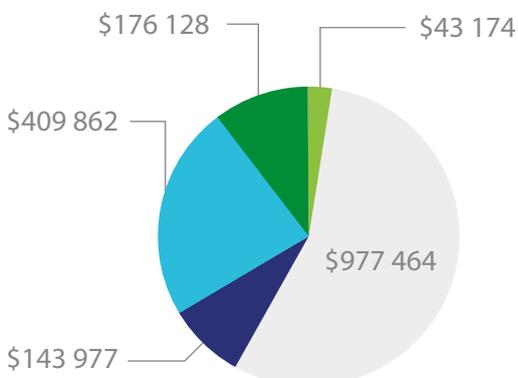
- Civil Society Development and Human Rights
- Good Governance and Community Engagement
- Education and Youth
- Entrepreneurship and Social Entrepreneurship
- Support for Vulnerable Groups

2017



- Civil Society Development and Human Rights
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2018



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## “Zharkyra” Social Entrepreneurship program

January 2016 – ongoing

**Project location:** Atyrau and Mangystau oblasts

**Donor:** Tengizchevroil

## Social Entrepreneurship

This program provides a full cycle of support for social entrepreneurs through acceleration program, mentorship, study tours, and no-interest loans for the first time in Kazakhstan. In 2018, the team replicated the social entrepreneurship development program it undertook in Atyrau oblast to award funding for social business ideas on a competitive basis in Mangystau oblast. In 2019, the program collected 12 million KZT from returned loans and will reinvest this amount next year.

EFCA’s social entrepreneurship information and awareness-raising campaign reached an estimated **40,000 residents** in the region. Following a rigorous two-part competition and intensive training program, **for 4 years, 28 social enterprises received 80 million tenge in financial support** to bring their business ideas to fruition. Social enterprises launched in 2016-2019 have reached **over 17,000 residents of Atyrau oblast** to date. Social enterprises supported by Zharkyra employ **250 people**, and the success of the Zharkyra program is ready to expand; two entrepreneurs made statements about their readiness to open branches in another region, in Atyrau oblast.



Tengizchevroil

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## Social Entrepreneurship

### Impact Hub Almaty

January 2016 – January 2018

**Project location:** Kazakhstan

**Donor:** Chevron

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In partnership with an established global network of Impact Hub initiatives, EFCA initiated and supported the development of Impact Hub Almaty – a platform for collaboration and innovation in entrepreneurship.

The first network of its kind in Central Asia, Impact Hub Almaty joined the International Impact Hub network in 2016 as a pre-candidate. During this time, EFCA supported Impact Hub Almaty in its beginning stages to open its office for social and creative entrepreneurs, develop startup assessment methodology, **successfully implement a mentorship program, and engage with the entrepreneurs' community** through events, networking and building connections with wider stakeholders such as government, business, and international organizations.

In mid-2017 IHA progressed to become a Candidate and began to operate as an independent entity; in March 2019 it became a regular member of Impact Hub Association. **Now Impact Hub Almaty operates independently** as a consultancy and community for young leaders and social entrepreneurs to build successful projects together that help to address the most current ecological, social, and other issues. To date, Impact Hub Almaty has engaged with **over 10,000 people** through **500 events**, organized **10 international workshops**, and added **40 partners and 200 members**.





## Social Entrepreneurship

### Boosting entrepreneurship in Kuryk

July 2017- ongoing

**Project location:** Kuryk village, Mangystau oblast

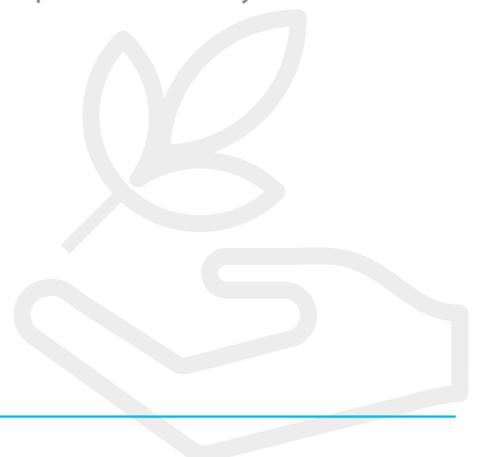
**Donor:** ERSAl Caspian Contractor Company LLC

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This program benefits entrepreneurs and other Kuryk residents by increasing their access to funding and capacity building activities for startups and creating jobs through supporting existing businesses.

EFCA has supported local entrepreneurs through consultative sessions, business externships, and competitions for **grants for business expansion of up to 8.6 million tenge**. These opportunities helped 17 entrepreneurs develop ideas and practical solutions for their business and share their experience with peers from other regions of Kazakhstan. Project activities also helped to establish **a lasting network between entrepreneurs**, where business owners independently come together to mentor one another, organize events like the Entrepreneurs' Summit, and provide jobs and opportunities for growth.

The project also engaged the general Kuryk population to encourage young people and other residents toward entrepreneurship. EFCA conducted trainings on financial literacy, published an Open Online course for business planning skills, and launched several training initiatives including the Startup Thinking School, the Camp Counselors School and the Summer Business Camp for young people. These initiatives **exposed over 150 young people and others to entrepreneurial thinking** and helped **Kuryk residents develop 31 achievable business plans** as part of the competition, out of which **three new businesses have been launched** with the help of EFCA grants: a fish store, a wooden toy factory, and gypsum products factory.





## Social Entrepreneurship

### “3.2.1 Start!” – Youth Social projects in Kazakhstan

May 2017 – ongoing

**Project location:** Kazakhstan

**Donor:** The Coca-Cola International Almaty

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Through this project, EFCA has identified and supported youth initiatives aimed at solving social and environmental challenges throughout Kazakhstan.

The project team attracted over **800 students** to participate in meetings at leading universities in Almaty and in Nur-Sultan and engage with more through the online platform created for the project, 321start.kz. **5 innovative business solutions were developed** as a result of these meetings with Kazakhstani HEIs.

Through workshops, e-courses, and business incubator programs, the acceleration program enabled creative young entrepreneurs aged 18 to 29 to learn how to transform their ideas into business plans and social projects, pitch their ideas, and study the basics of the project management to form competition teams.

Students and young professionals participated in the eco-business competition organized by “3.2.1. Start!” to develop sustainable business solutions **and engaged with business leaders from 15 Kazakhstani companies**. 3 startups created by participants (a chimney-sweeping business, a fitness gym in a rural area, and a social tailor shop) were **awarded 3 million tenge as a competition prize**.

#### 5 innovative business ideas developed by participating students

- Creation of an automatic horizontal plant care device using Arduino
- Assembly & sale of biogas reactors, producing biogas & biofertilizer by utilizing organic waste
- “Eco-friendly mobile constructions”, eco-technologies for producing organic food products at home
- Production of biodegradable packaging with mineral fertilizers
- Production and sale of organic vermicompost fertilizer, composted with the use of worms





## Corporate Social Responsibility

### Promotion of CSR Principles and Children's Rights in Mangystau Oblast

November 2017- June 2018

**Project location:** Mangystau oblast

**Donor:** UNICEF

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This project aimed at promoting the protection of children's rights, CSR principles and private-public partnership in Mangystau oblast.

The project team developed a basis for **collaboration between key stakeholders of CSR activities** on protecting children's rights in Mangystau oblast. This allowed EFCA to identify measures for developing a dialogue between large companies, municipalities and local communities in CSR activities, including children's rights protections in Mangystau. **50 CSR professionals, schoolchildren, and CSOs were instructed on UNICEF Children's Rights and Business Principles** in building child-friendly business environments, on CSR practices in Mangystau oblast, and on the role of children in shaping the social responsibility of corporations.

The EFCA team, alongside experts from Ukraine and Kazakhstan, developed a **comprehensive report on the role of business in promoting and protecting children's rights in Mangystau oblast**, as well as a report on the role of international organizations in private-public partnership (PPP) mechanisms in Kazakhstan with a particular focus on children and youth PPP projects implemented in Mangystau oblast.





## Corporate Social Responsibility

### Monitoring and Evaluation of NCOC's Social Projects

March – June 2018

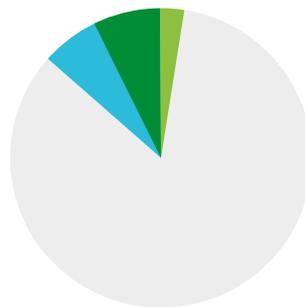
**Project location:** Mangystau and Atyrau oblasts

**Donor:** North Caspian Operating Company N.V. (NCOC)

This project aimed to monitor and evaluate NCOC's sponsorship and support for charity projects in 2013-2015. To this end, EFCA conducted a series of interviews to monitor sponsorship and charity projects supported by NCOC in 2013-2015 in Mangystau and Atyrau oblasts. The team interviewed **155 organizations that received NCOC support** in Mangystau oblast (in Fort-Shevchenko, Taushyk, Bautino, Daulet, Kyzyltobe, Saln Shapagat, and Akshukur) and in Atyrau oblast (in Makat, Dossor, Geolog, Ganuiskino, Makhambet, and Zhanbai).

The monitoring efforts showed that NCOC supported organizations through **procurement of equipment, training, financial support, and food coupons**. The project team made recommendations to NCOC based on the monitoring effort to further improve NCOC's social projects portfolio, including to follow up on its sponsorship efforts, **promote success stories**, and share them with the community.

#### NCOC Charitable Support



- Equipment
- Training
- Financial Support
- Food Coupons

#### Training included

- Workshops
- Preparation for secondary school exams
- Courses

#### Equipment included

- Computers
- Interactive whiteboards
- Recreational equipment
- Sports equipment





## Support for Vulnerable Groups

### Reforming legal aid for the vulnerable

January 2017-December 2019

**Project location:** Zhambyl, Pavlodar, Almaty, South Kazakhstan, East Kazakhstan, West Kazakhstan, and Karaganda oblasts

**Donor:** The European Union

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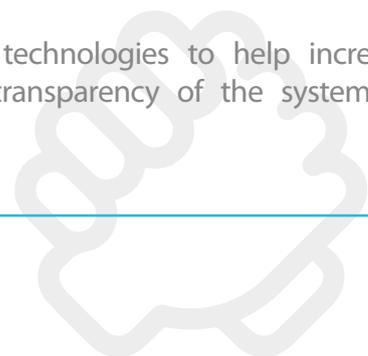
The project was designed to improve vulnerable people's access to government-funded legal aid by researching the current legal system, making recommendations to government administrations, and hosting conferences on access to legal aid.

In partnership with the Taldykorgan Human Rights Center legal team, EFCA conducted the first comprehensive research and advocacy activities of its type in seven regions of Kazakhstan. Regional civil society organizations surveyed vulnerable youth and women, convicts, and minor offenders about major barriers in accessing state-guaranteed legal aid. Lawyers analyzed over **100 national and international laws** relating to governmental provision of legal aid, which included a study tour to Georgia to compare with the Georgian model of legal aid and experience of EU-funded projects on reforming legal aid in Georgia. Based on the Georgian practice, recommendations were proposed to regional and national authorities to improve coherence between international and Kazakhstani laws.

Roundtables in the 7 target regions and the **2018 National Conference in Nur-Sultan** in partnership with the Soros Foundation of Kazakhstan united **50 representatives of NGOs, government administrations, and the legal sector** and almost 200 participants to discuss the issue of state-guaranteed legal aid.

#### Key recommendations

- Expand the number of vulnerable groups who are able to claim free legal aid and create fairer conditions of access to this legal aid
- Examine the financing of state-guaranteed legal aid to be sourced not only from the federal government budget, but also from municipal budgets, private donations, and other sources
- Introduce new administrative technologies to help increase access to legal aid and the transparency of the system of state-guaranteed legal aid





## Empowering South Kazakhstan CSOs to Promote Human Rights

March 2015 - April 2017

**Project location:** Kyzylorda, South Kazakhstan, Zhambyl, and Almaty oblasts

**Donor:** The European Union, Embassy of the United Kingdom

## Support for Vulnerable Groups

This project created and empowered a **network of 18 South Kazakhstan civil society organizations (CSOs)** to more effectively advocate for greater recognition of human rights and improved access to services for vulnerable groups, including people with disabilities, women and children, and youth in transition. This locally-based network allowed NGO groups to exchange knowledge and advice with other CSOs working with the same vulnerable groups, as well as **receive mentorship from a specialist** in their type of rights advocacy. Regional CSOs were able to work together in a way they never had before to help each other face collective challenges in their regions.

The project helped the network CSOs **provide community advocate assistance to 2645 vulnerable people**, secure access to **legal support for more than 250 court cases** of vulnerable individuals, and **increase the legal literacy of 1612 people** from vulnerable groups and public sector workers through special trainings and workshops. As a result of the project, **6 heads of NGOs entered Public Councils** at various regional and national levels of government.



British Embassy



EUROPEAN UNION

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## Good Governance & Citizen Engagement

### Our Public Spaces

September 2018 - ongoing

**Project location:** Mangystau oblast  
(Bautino, Fort-Shevchenko, and Borankul)

**Donor:** Tengizchevroil

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The project goal is to increase community engagement through the improvement of public spaces in Bautino, Fort-Shevchenko, and Borankul.

The team identified major challenges of public space infrastructure in target areas through focus groups and meetings with local authorities and active residents. EFCA attracted **150 participants** in its “community mobilization” and “project design and management” workshops, which increased awareness about benefits of community engagement and transmitted skills in design and management of social community projects for residents and local activists.

In close partnership with the local akimat, the team organized a competition among the three target areas to award funding **for 10 public infrastructure projects engaging 300 local residents**. The projects implemented with the support of EFCA for a total of 21.5 million tenge, including projects to provide services for mothers and children with disabilities along with open public spaces, proved to be **4 times more cost-efficient than government estimates**.

### Highlighted Public Infrastructure Projects

#### Bautino

- Mother and Child room
- Family recreation area

#### Fort-Shevchenko

- ‘Youth Alley’
- ‘Kunshuak’ children’s playground

#### Borankul

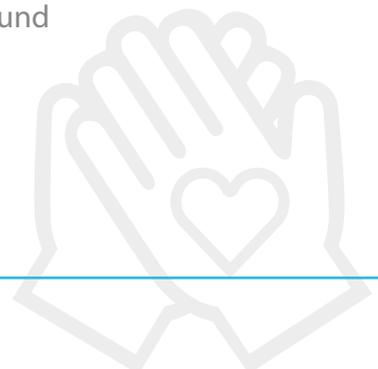
- Kindergarten playground
- ‘My School Is My Home’



Tengizchevroil

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## Good Governance & Citizen Engagement

### NGO Sustainability Initiative

December 2015 - May 2017

**Project location:** Kazakhstan

**Donor:** The Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands

This project benefited Kazakhstan human rights NGOs by improving their programmatic, financial, and organizational sustainability and overcoming common issues with project design, monitoring and evaluation.

The NGO Sustainability Initiative helped **20 human rights NGOs from 11 regions of Kazakhstan** to increase their knowledge and application of tools to support long-term organizational and financial sustainability. In accordance with the project team's assessment of organizations' needs, EFCA provided webinars and face-to-face training on topics such as sustainability, strategic planning, fundraising, business planning, social entrepreneurship, and marketing. EFCA also launched an **8-week Sustainability Marathon**, where participating organizations implemented weekly tasks as a more intensive method of catalyzing organizational change.

By the end of the project, **8 NGOs** developed strategic and business plans, **5 NGOs** reported improvement in fundraising, and **3 NGOs** launched new commercial services.



Embassy of the  
Kingdom of the Netherlands

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## Good Governance & Citizen Engagement

### Good Governance Initiative Fund

October 2014 - September 2018

**Project location:** Kazakhstan, Tajikistan

**Donor:** USAID

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This project worked to improve the quality of life of citizens of Kazakhstan and Tajikistan through institutionalized good governance reforms by close collaboration with government, civil society, and private sector partnerships, resulting in improved service delivery, public policy, legislation, and regulations.

In Kazakhstan the program supported 22436 people, including women, youth, people with disabilities, and people living with HIV/AIDS within the framework of 43 different projects in partnership with NGOs working in:

- Education
- Healthcare
- Public transportation
- Agriculture
- Public infrastructure
- Youth advocacy
- Environmental protection

More than 30 recommendations for improving existing legislation on the provision of legal aid were sent to regional and national governmental bodies. All GGIF projects were implemented in direct partnership with government authorities. More than 90% of end beneficiaries of GGIF-funded initiatives reported an improvement in the quality of government services and a positive impact on their quality of life according to an independently conducted project evaluation.

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## **Highlighted project results**

### **HIV/AIDS advocacy**

- New methadone distribution centers serve 400 patients, offering a safe option for opioid replacement therapy

### **Disabilities advocacy**

- The procedure for registering a disability is now easier in Kazakhstan, processed in a single window format

### **Agricultural business**

- The business portal ([www.agrobiz.kz](http://www.agrobiz.kz)) has simplified and improved business for its 30,000 users in the agricultural industry

### **Suicide prevention**

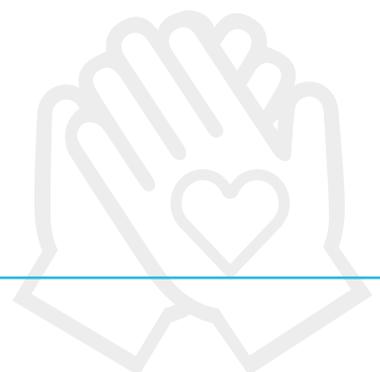
- 17,426 families in Kazakhstan were consulted and treated for youth suicide prevention
- 300 school psychologists were trained

### **Children with terminal illnesses**

- In Kyzylorda, a “social hotel” has been opened for children with cancer in need of social support and their parents

### **Disabilities advocacy**

- A new accessibility mobile app & website, “Inclusive Pavlodar” ([www.dospav.kz](http://www.dospav.kz)), is used by 10,500 of Pavlodar’s disabled residents



### “Hand in Hand We Learn” - School Education Development Program

February 2016 - ongoing

**Project location:** Kuryk, Mangystau oblast

**Donor:** ERSAl Caspian Contractor

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The main focus of this project is to aid teachers' career development and psychological competences, as well as to integrate Step by Step and Montessori teaching methodologies into Kuryk school curricula.

The project successfully integrated new teaching methodologies into Kuryk schools by opening 4 classes; teachers have reported that the Montessori and Step by Step environment and principled teaching have significantly improved children's motivation. **68% of teachers are actively involved in the program**, sharing new technology skills and teaching methodologies in the classroom and with colleagues at over 40 other schools in the oblast. School psychologists also received training, which improved the quality of their services, as a result of which **23 adults and children have reported reduced suicidal thoughts**.

EFCA also focused on local children themselves: children who underwent the Leadership Camp demonstrated increased leadership skills during and after the camp. 9-11th grade **students from schools in Kuryk independently organized 2 charity concerts** for donations to food banks and surgery crowdfunding and have started volunteering initiatives to visit veterans, elderly people, and children in hospitals, and plant trees around Kuryk.

**The regional Department of Science and Education in Mangystau have encouraged the replication of the project to other areas in the oblast.**





## Education and Youth

### “Growing Together!” - Preschool Education Initiative in Kuryk

January 2013 - ongoing

**Project location:** Kuryk, Mangystau oblast

**Donor:** ERSAl Caspian Contractor

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The program “Growing Together!” is aimed at increasing training capacity of kindergarten teachers and administrators, applying Montessori and Step by Step methods and disseminating the acquired knowledge and skills among teachers from other Mangystau oblast kindergartens.

Successful training through the project has added **13 Step by Step classes and 5 Montessori classes in Mangystau oblast kindergartens**, increased teachers’ qualifications and prepared children for adult life through skills-based training. Additionally, kindergarten administrations were trained to improve their strategic planning and provide opportunities for teachers’ professional development.

The project also expanded its focus to include Kuryk elementary schools in order to ensure a harmonious transition for children from Montessori and Step by Step kindergartens. The trained teachers now **share their new knowledge with other teachers in the region** by delivering training and monitoring schools’ integration of modern teaching methods into the kindergarten curriculum, and have received **awards recognizing their achievements** from the oblast Department of Science and Education.

**The project team is currently writing a Kazakh-language guide for teaching kindergartners through Montessori and Step by Step methodologies.**



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## Education and Youth

### Kindergarten Construction in Ust-Kamenogorsk

October 2014 – December 2016

**Project location:** Ust-Kamenogorsk, East Kazakhstan oblast

**Donor:** The AES Group of Companies

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This project responded to EFCA's 2010 research showing an acute shortage and growing demand for preschool education in Ust-Kamenogorsk by **building a kindergarten in Ust-Kamenogorsk for 140 children.**

EFCA's project team explored several avenues to find the right way to increase kindergarten-level education in Ust-Kamenogorsk. Needs assessment determined that a large-occupancy kindergarten presented several advantages, including a **large social impact and greater financial sustainability** compared to small-occupancy kindergartens.

EFCA implemented the full cycle of the building project by identifying and registering land for construction, developing the design and cost estimation for the kindergarten, and identifying a contractor to manage construction. After the construction project was completed, the kindergarten was transferred to state ownership and began operating in Ust-Kamenogorsk.



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284/3 Zharokov Street, Almaty, Kazakhstan  
[almaty@ef-ca.org](mailto:almaty@ef-ca.org)  
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