

Central Asia: Sub-Regional NGO Action Plan aimed at achieving the 2020 goal «The toxic free future!»

(The goal was articulated at the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development: «... to minimize by 2020 the harmful effects to human health and the environment resulting from the use and production of chemical substances ...»).

The current document was developed based on the outcomes of the seminar “The effects of toxic chemical substances on human health and the environment in Central Asia: solutions for the problem” (2007) and a series of seminars conducted to discuss and develop the Sub-Regional NGO Action Plan (2008).

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Paragraph 23 of the Action Plan adopted at the World Summit on Sustainable Development aims to «... minimize by 2020 the harmful effects on human health and the environment caused by the use and production of chemical substances, by applying scientifically proven transparent evaluation and risk management procedures accounting for the precautionary requirements stipulated in the Principle 15 of the Rio-de-Janeiro Declaration on the environment and development...»

In 2002, the World Summit on Sustainable Development resulted in the adoption of the Action Plan that promoted the goal of building by 2020 the world where the use and production of chemical substances no longer have considerable negative effects on human health and environmental conditions. The next step on the way to achieving the declared goal led to the adoption of the Strategic Approach to International Regulation of Chemical Substances that served as the basis for a comprehensive policy roadmap to ensuring chemical security. The Strategic Approach includes key policy components which NGOs championed for decades, including the precautionary principle, the safe replacement principle, the obligation of the polluting party to pay, the right to know, the liquidation of harmful chemical substances based on the classification of dangers and public rights.

In Central Asia non-governmental organizations actively support achievement of the goal declared at the World Summit on Sustainable Development and implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Regulation of Chemical Substances. The Central Asian NGOs believe that the chemical security issues, including the effects caused by persistent organic pollutants, are highly relevant to the countries of the Region. Central Asian states achieved some progress in developing the institutional and legislative foundations for the advancement and implementation of the Basle, Stockholm and Rotterdam Conventions as well as other international agreements. Central Asia exhibits a certain level of awareness, scientific resources and potential and opportunities for public participation.

The Central Asian NGOs actively participate in the projects implemented by the International POPs Elimination Network (IPEN), which have resulted in successful implementation of a series of actions aimed at alleviating the chemical pollution problems in the region. At the same time, the situation in the region calls for further advancement of the progressive actions, definition and active pursuit of new high-impact projects. It is critically important to improve education and information-sharing systems in the framework of the 2020 goal "The toxic free future!", expand opportunities for civil society participation, ensure institutional, financial and technical support for these processes.

In 2007, "Greenwomen" Environmental News Agency in cooperation with the Chemical Security Program implemented by the Eco-Accord Center (Ms. Olga Speranskaya, Coordinator of the international project for POPs elimination in the EECCA region) launched a joint project aimed at supporting achievement of the 2020 goal "The toxic free future!"

PROJECT GOAL

The current project aims to:

- Facilitate the improvement of environmental conditions in Kazakhstan and other Central Asian states and protect future generations from POPs and other similar chemical substances;
- Support and advance the IPEN Declaration “For the toxic free future” envisioning total elimination of toxic substances in the world by 2020;
- Expand actions aimed at facilitating understanding and active dissemination of information about POPs and other similar substances among local authorities, business leaders and non-governmental organizations in Central Asia;
- Guarantee NGO participation in projects and actions aimed at implementation of the National Action Plans adopted in the framework of the Stockholm Convention and other international initiatives in the sphere of chemical security.

To further sharpen the focus of the project, we have conducted a Sub-Regional Seminar entitled “The effects of toxic chemical substances on human health and the environment in Central Asia: solutions for the problem”. Participants of the seminar assessed the capacity of Central Asian states to achieve the goal of eliminating toxic substances by 2020, presented international best practices and projects aimed at addressing chemical security issues. The keynote presentations were delivered by the representatives of the International POPs Elimination Network (IPEN) and Women in Europe for a Common Future – WECF. The breakout working group sessions resulted in the development of the priorities for the Central Asian sub-regional approach (NGO Action Plan) to chemical security issues.

SECTION I STRATEGY

Introduction

«Central Asia: Sub-Regional NGO Action Plan aimed at achieving the 2020 goal ‘The toxic free future’ incorporates ideas and actions proposed in 2008 by the leading Central Asian organizations in cooperation with the Chemical Security Program administered by the Eco-Accord Center. The key goal of the Program is to develop a common approach for Central Asian NGOs in the sphere of chemical security and particularly as it relates to the achievement of the 2020 goal “The toxic free future!”.

The draft Action Plan results from on-line discussions among the key stakeholders of the project. It was adopted at the seminars in Almaty, Bishkek, Tashkent and Dushanbe in the spring of 2008. The document is designed for presentation to the government officials in the respective Central Asian states as well as potential donors interested in providing financial support for implementation of the project.

Problem Definition

Chemical Pollution – a major social and environmental problem

In Kazakhstan, the greatest danger emanates from persistent organic pollutants (POPs). Persistent organic pollutants (POPs) constitute a very diverse group of chemical substances. POPs are highly toxic and even small doses of POPs are capable of having profound negative effects on human health and wildlife. Chemical substances and compounds that constitute this group can be airborne, can be carried by water streams or by migrating animals and can accumulate in land and water ecosystems at great distances away from the sources of emissions.

In Kazakhstan, there are approximately 25 million hectares of farmlands. Until 1990s pesticides were heavily applied across this territory at an annual consumption rate of 35-40 thousand tons. In 1986-1995, the applied levels of chemicals used for plants protection fell to the annual level of 1.8 thousand tons, resulting in the decreased pesticides application per every hectare of farmlands. Since 1998 the rate of pesticides application has been growing again and currently reaches 9-11 thousand tons per year. Herbicides and fungicides constitute the vast majority of the plants protection chemicals. Despite the fact that in 1971 the use of DDT was prohibited across the Soviet Union, in Kazakhstan DDT was used until early 1990s in the sphere of veterinary medicine. Based on the research conducted in 1985, DDT and DDE concentrations were detected in the stretch of Syr-Darya river from the border with Uzbekistan to the Kazakh town of Kazalinsk. In the same period, researchers detected multiple deaths of fish and birds whose bodies contained high levels of DDT and its metabolites.

In 1982-1987, in Kazakhstan scientists detected 14 cases of mass deaths of fish resulting from accumulation of chlorinated organic pesticides in the natural habitats. For example, in 1987, DDT was detected in one-third of all surveyed bodies of water: in water, water plants, primitive organisms, internal organs of fish and sediments. In terms of surface pollution, by 1987 the average DDT levels in the soil fluctuated from 1.2 to 5.9 of the maximum acceptable levels. In 1994, out of 12 thousand soil samples collected throughout Kazakhstan, 10% tested positive for the presence of chlorinated organic substances. In 1993, the levels were even higher and reached 20% of all soil samples. Based on these results, we believe that 10-20% of soils in Kazakhstan are currently polluted by chlorinated organic pesticides including DDT and other persistent organic pollutants.

Among the banned pesticides chlorinated organic pesticides play a major role. The group includes aldrin, dieldrin, DDT, heptachlor, polychlorpinen and polychlorcamfen. In Kazakhstan, the volume of outdated and unusable pesticides increases every year, while the volume of decontaminated substances and protective packaging tumbles. Heightened levels of concern are caused by outdated pesticides accumulated in the zones which are also polluted by the salts of heavy metals and radio nuclides. Among pesticides still available at storage facilities one can find substances that were used in agriculture over 40 years ago. Large quantities of undesirable or outdated pesticides, inadequate storage conditions and lack of proper

packaging materials, opportunities for unauthorized access and uncontrolled use of packaging for household purposes, high risks for human health and the environment, especially in times of natural disasters and incidents caused by human actions (floods, fires, catastrophes etc.) make us believe that the problems related to the outdated pesticides stockpiled in Kazakhstan should be raised to the top of the list of major environmental and social problems requiring immediate and effective attention and intervention.

Currently all Central Asian states experience identical challenges resulting from chemical pollution and the adverse effects of chemical pollution for human health and the environment. The five Central Asian republics maintain stockpiles of outdated and unusable pesticides. There are no reliable monitoring and environmental control systems that focus on shipments and utilization of toxic substances, while the countries suffer from the lack of specialized properly equipped storage ranges designed for long-term maintenance of chemical substances.

The toxic substances adversely impact human health and the environment. The public is particularly concerned about toxic substances contained in food products. Some food products contain such environmental pollutants as mercury, lead, radio nuclides and dioxins. The chemical pollution of food products may result in short- or long-term damage to human health. This factor requires special attention and consideration when assessing potential dangers of chemical pollution for the most vulnerable groups, such as children, pregnant women and senior citizens. The effects of pesticides and other persistent organic pollutants on the human hormonal system are of particularly grave concern. The Central Asian states have accumulated a lot of reliable information that documents the human health impacts of chemical substances contained in food products. Non-governmental organizations operating in Central Asia are highly concerned by the lack of control over imports and exports of toxic wastes. There are documented instances when railroad cars full of dangerous chemical substances (granozan – organomercury compound) were used for attempted shipments from Kazakhstan to China. In areas of irrigated agriculture where huge quantities of pesticides were routinely applied for extensive periods of time, concentrations of chemical substances in produce exceeded all acceptable parameters by a factor of 10-15. For example, in 1967-1990, in Uzbekistan the levels of fertilizer application reached 315-435 kilograms per hectare, more than 20 times higher than the established safety norms. In Tajikistan the level of pesticides applied per each hectare of agricultural lands was 7-10 times higher than the USSR national average, and more than 3 times higher on a per capita basis (1977). For decades Central Asian republics consistently ranked among undisputed leaders in these categories.

Central Asian non-governmental organizations participate in international processes in the sphere of chemical security, in particular, in the Women in Europe for a Common Future – WECF project and the International POPs Elimination Network – IPEN.

Mission

«Central Asia: Sub-Regional NGO Action Plan aimed at achieving the 2020 goal ‘For the toxic free future!’ was developed to support Central Asian non-governmental organizations in their work and collaboration with government officials, municipalities, business people, legal entities and individuals that have a stake in implementation of civil society initiatives in the sphere of chemical security. The Action Plan also aims to engage communities at large in the environmentally critical decision-making through participation in programs and projects.

Project Goal

To facilitate achievement of the 2020 goal “For the toxic free future!”

Objectives

The Action Plan is designed to ensure that all interested parties can receive information about the harmful effects of toxic substances on human health and the environment that allow the stakeholders to include these issues in policy decision-making, legislative development, capacity building, logistical support, access to information and experience in the sphere of chemical pollution and facilitation of cooperation at the international, regional and national levels.

Additional Objectives:

To support all interested parties (non-governmental organizations, government officials and businesses) in addressing chemical security issues in the following realms:

- Non-governmental participation in environmentally critical decision-making;
- Development of the unified NGO strategy in the sphere of chemical security;
- Organization of NGO activities in Central Asia to address specific issues in the sphere of chemical security;
- Information-sharing and institution of a systematic approach to data collection by NGOs on chemical security issues;
- Facilitation of on-going cooperation between NGOs and other sectors of the society.

Participants and Partners

Achievement of the 2020 goal impacts and can be of interest to the following members of the society:

Citizens (individuals)
Local communities (communities of farmers in rural areas)
NGOs (operating in the spheres of women's rights, information, public health, environmental protection, environmental law, environmental information, environmental education etc.)
Workers (organized in labor unions) of industrial enterprises
Governmental agencies working in the sphere of environmental protection and pollution control
Planning agencies and think tanks
Independent experts
Public health agencies
Local, regional and national government officials
Students and educators
Statistical agencies
Media outlets
International organizations
Donors

SECTION II

PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

Key Approaches

Widespread public awareness of chemical pollution and its harmful effects can facilitate achievement of the 2020 goal “For the toxic free future!” To support achievement of the goal we shall pursue three approaches:

1) Dissemination of information and knowledge about the harmful effects of toxic substances on human health and the environment

It is critically important to develop in a variety of formats and disseminate among all interested audiences information about the current situation in Central Asia, the international experiences and best practices and achievements in the sphere of chemical security. The development of educational curricula, courses, programs and recommendations will facilitate creation of the necessary environment and pre-conditions for regular re-training and enhancement of professional skills and knowledge among a variety of specialists including experts working at the local governmental agencies, industrial enterprises, transportation companies and agricultural businesses. These actions will lead to the establishment of uniform criteria for testing and certification of government officials and professional stimulation of staff members who focus on addressing chemical security issues. The current approach also calls for organizing lobbying actions and campaigns as well as exhibitions aimed at promoting the 2020 goal “For the toxic free future!” Combinations of these actions will allow participants of the project to influence policy decision-making, participate in the legislative process and provide logistical support for changes taking place at the national and sub-Regional levels.

2) Facilitation of access to information, knowledge and experience in the sphere of chemical pollution

Participants of the project will promote involvement of governmental agencies and international organizations in the process of promoting public awareness and providing media agencies with relevant and up-to-date information. We shall coordinate and support NGO activities aimed at promoting public awareness and generating discussions (including virtual discussion forums) on issues related to chemical security. The project calls for supporting the activities and media projects leading to increased public awareness of chemical pollution and its effects, achievements and experiences in the sphere of chemical security adapted to the local conditions. Participants of the project will develop customized curricula and educational materials covering chemical security issues. A part of the project will be dedicated to the development and distribution of electronic video and audio materials as well as other means of information to promote access to resources and information on chemical security using modern means of communication, including on-line resources.

3) Capacity building and promotion of cross-sector cooperation at the international, regional and national levels

This approach calls for enhanced cooperation among NGOs, government and business entities in Central Asia aimed at effective accumulation and application of experiences, resource mobilization and promotion of mutual trust. Participants of the project will rely on the informational resources and experience of the International POPs Elimination Network, Eco-Accord Center and other international organizations. To overcome the gaps in cross-sector cooperation among key stakeholders in Central Asia and facilitate capacity building the project will actively engage international organizations and government officials across Central Asia generating funding and support for educational, methodological, research and information projects aimed at advancing the 2020 goal “For the toxic free future!” at the national, regional and international levels.

Program Development Actions

Approach I

Public awareness and dissemination of information about the harmful effects of toxic substances on human health and the environment.

The community at large can play an important role in the development of the effective dialogue among all key stakeholders (consumers, industry representatives and manufacturers) and ensure on-going communication among national and regional initiatives leading to the achievement of the 2020 goal “For the toxic free future!”. The open exchange of information and knowledge will facilitate increased public awareness among all participants of the process leading to marked improvements of the chemical security situation in Central Asia.

The experience accumulated by non-governmental organizations in dealing with government representatives and business leaders places the responsibility for providing data and information about the effects that toxic substances have on the environment and the people. Educational materials (or programs) that cover chemical security issues should target the needs of specific target audiences = governmental agencies, consumers, manufacturers, industrial groups producing toxic substances and those who are responsible for industrial policy and regulation. This can be achieved by adapting high quality reliable materials to the needs of the target audiences.

The challenges on the way to the achievement of the 2020 goal in Central Asia stem from the fact that chemical security issues are placed very low on the list of policy priorities, in legislative deliberations and in the development of executive strategies at the national and sub-Regional levels. The general public will facilitate advancement of the 2020 goal as a national and regional priority, if we can identify and document benefits resulting from the improvements in the environmental and economic situation that improve public health and living conditions and alleviate poverty.

Actions

Promotion of the 2020 goal “For the toxic free future!” should be perceived as a priority in the national and regional environmental policy.

Development of policies, legislative acts, action plans, programs and projects should guarantee effective public participation in actions related to the regulation of chemical substances.

Forms and methods of cooperation in this sphere should lead to the establishment of the on-going dialogue among all stakeholders (participants) aimed at promoting and achieving the 2020 goal.

The process should facilitate development of educational programs for government representatives, non-governmental organizations, municipal leaders, managers of industrial enterprises and journalists providing extensive coverage of the chemical security issues.

Approach II

Access to information, knowledge and experience in the sphere of chemical security.

Non-governmental organizations in Central Asia recognize the importance of the clear and open information exchange system that ensures effective communication regarding the effects of toxic substances on the environment and human health. Central Asian NGOs actively promote the Stockholm Convention on persistent organic pollutants – POPs and the Aarhus Convention on access to environmental information public participation in environmental decision-making and access to justice. All Central Asian states (except Uzbekistan) have ratified the Stockholm and Aarhus Conventions. It is currently important to ensure ratification of the other chemical conventions and protocols, including the Aarhus Convention Protocol on the Pollutants registration and transfer registry. These and other international agreements clearly define the importance and role of public participation in developing more secure environmental conditions.

Actions

Ensure complete and timely dissemination of information among the general public regarding chemical security issues and public participation in the decision-making processes in the sphere of chemical substances regulation.

Development and dissemination among all stakeholders the necessary materials and publications aimed at promoting the 2020 goal.

Approach III

Capacity building and enhancement of the cross-sector cooperation at the international, regional and national levels.

Effective cooperation is imperative to ensure improvement of the chemical security situation at the national, sub-Regional and international levels. NGOs must facilitate cooperation among national and international organizations to promote participation in the decision-making process to attract attention of international organizations to chemical pollution issues impacting Central Asian states. Non-governmental organizations can play a role in ensuring on-going cooperation with the International Chemical Security Forum that includes IPEN, UNEP, UNDP, OECD and WHO, as well as a number of international non-governmental organizations.

Non-governmental organizations can also contribute to the development and promotion of the Global Action Plan developed in the framework of the Strategic Approach to cross-sector cooperation in chemical substances regulation and civil society participation.

The lack of organizational capacity remains among the key obstacles on the way to achieving the 2020 goal. Capacity building actions can target representative of the agricultural community, public health professionals, private entrepreneurs, local and municipal administrations, non-governmental organizations. It is important to ensure that capacity building aims at cooperation and coordination of actions undertaken by all participants. NGOs can contribute to the assessment of the current needs, development and implementation of national action plans in the sphere of chemical security, elimination of outdated rules and legislative requirements, enhancement of quality sanitary surveillance over goods and food products, technical capabilities development, structural development of regulatory services, creation of educational programs and materials, professional training and education.

Actions

Develop cooperation with UNEP, International Chemical Security Forum and other international entities that work in the sphere of chemical substances regulation.

Devote special attention to the dialogue among representatives of industrial enterprises, governmental environmental protection agencies and the general public addressing chemical security issues.

Facilitate implementation of the Strategic Approach and advance specific actions at the national and regional levels by building cross-sector partnership relations.

Support development of actions in the framework of the Strategic Approach to cross-sector cooperation in chemical substances regulation and civil society participation.

Ensure active NGO participation in national coordination bodies responsible for the Strategic Approach implementation in the countries of the region and guarantee transparency of their actions.

Promote cooperation among national and foreign companies aimed at introduction and implementation of environmentally safe technologies in the sphere of industrial and consumer wastes recycling.

Actions in the framework of program implementation

1) Promotion of the 2020 goal “For the toxic free future!” in the framework of the national and regional environmental policy

Analysis of the current legislation, NGO needs and capacity assessment

Summary

The activities will be focused on legislative research that will provide the foundation for consulting services, practical actions and subsequent information-sharing. These actions will be focused on assessing potential benefits from the improvements in the environmental and economic conditions that alleviate poverty and impact public health and the overall living conditions.

A special emphasis will be placed on facilitation of public participation in national and regional policy development in the sphere of chemical security, including activities in the following spheres:

- Cooperation with the governmental agencies, municipalities and business leaders to strengthen the role of NGOs in environmental policy development and decision-making by providing NGOs with opportunities to voice their informed concerns and positions at all levels;
- Secure the role of non-governmental organizations as conduits of public opinions and expectations;
- Strengthen the dialogue between NGOs, the general public and governmental organizations to develop coherent policy decisions in the sphere of chemical security and to foster the development of social partnership in Central Asia;
- Active participation of the general public in chemical security action planning at the national level;
- NGO recruitment for participation in discussions and decision-making in the sphere of chemical security at all levels;
- Organization of discussion forums focused on chemical security issues reaching out to all members of the community;
- Facilitate participation of various governmental agencies in the discussions targeting partnership mechanisms and participation in intr-agency working groups convened to develop regional and national action plans in the sphere of chemical security (for example, POPs).

Expected Outcomes:

- Identification of NGO development needs;
- Research focused on public participation in chemical security action planning at the national and regional levels;
- Development of the national network of experts and practitioners;
- NGO participation in the development of regional and national policy in the sphere of chemical security, including organization of the “round tables” focused on preventing chemical security threats that result from sporadic decision-making.

Training Seminars

Summary

As a result of the chemical security knowledge gap analysis conducted in 2007 at the training session entitled “The effects of toxic chemical substances on human health and the environment in Central Asia: solutions for the problem” we documented an acute lack of knowledge among NGO staff members in the sphere of chemical security, environmental legislation development and implementation. The seminar participants stressed the need for further comprehensive training sessions based on contemporary research findings and data analysis that employ progressive methodology and account for the current economic realities.

Participants of the seminar adopted the findings presented in some of the publications developed by Eco-Accord (Russia) as well as pesticides inventory development guides created by a group of NGOs based in Chelyabinsk (Russia).

Business leaders also feel the need for advanced training sessions that will enable them to adopt modern environmental management techniques.

In conducting the training sessions, we shall focus our attention on the following groups of activities:

- Consultations with international and national experts and chemical security program participants;
- Cooperation with international networks and NGOs;
- Organization of a series of seminars that focus on the Stockholm Convention provisions and development of the Pollution emissions and transfer registries;
- Development of the foundation for the POP registry and the pollution emissions and transfer registry;
- Specialized training sessions on various aspects of chemical security for government representatives, business leaders and NGOs.

Expected Outcomes:

- Identification of experts and themes for consultations;
- Introduction of standards, experiences and regulations used in the United States, EU nations and other countries;
- Development of training sessions for government officials, business leaders and NGOs;
- Launch of a system of POP registries in Central Asia;
- Support provided to local officials and business leaders in developing the foundation for implementation of the emissions registration system.

2) Access to information, knowledge and experience in the sphere of chemical security.

Expanded access to information at the national and regional levels accounting for the Aarhus Convention provisions and national legislative acts adopted by Central Asian states.

Summary

Data collection and dissemination constitute the core priorities of the current Action Plan. We need to develop the Information Policy Concept and regional resource centers capable of providing information to large groups of constituents, ensuring open access to information and information dissemination based on individual requests.

In 2007, participants of the training session “The effects of toxic chemical substances on human health and the environment in Central Asia: solutions for the problem” identified the following challenges:

- Lack of public awareness of the chemical security issues;
- Unwillingness of governmental agencies to take initiative and share relevant information with the general public;
- Inadequacy of information provided in response to requests and questions raised by the general public;
- Lack of information available from all key participants regarding chemical security issues.

We propose to address the current situation in the sphere of data collection and dissemination by taking the following actions:

- Obtain funding from donors to fund the position of Administrator for Information Technology and Communication. The Administrator will be responsible for managing the information component of the Action Plan.
- Develop a database that will include information about NGOs, government officials, business leaders, scientists and experts working in the sphere of chemical security (including their names and contact information);
- Create a list of links to web sites that cover chemical security issues;
- Share with all partners and project participants information about most up-to-date international best practices;
- Develop approaches for sharing information about results and best practices;

- Include NGOs into the regional policy development process by ensuring on-going exchange of information and opinions between the government and NGO sector;
- Disseminate information required to conduct effective public awareness campaigns;
- Develop a regional web page;
- Produce information materials covering regional and national chemical security issues;
- Establish a virtual library to facilitate dissemination of information.

Expected Outcomes:

- Development of the Information Policy Concept in the sphere of chemical security;
- Creation of the national and regional resource centers;
- Establishment of the virtual library;
- Increased awareness of the importance of chemical security issues among all participants of the program;
- Increased awareness among partners, program participants and the general public across Central Asia;
- Achievement of transparency in environmental information presentation, dissemination and sharing;
- Improvement in the public's ability to access information.

3) Build capacity and strengthen cross-sector cooperation at the international, regional and national levels

Summary

In Central Asia the general public rarely participates in the actions undertaken by governmental agencies in the sphere of chemical security. NGO representatives believe that many of the international recognized documents and experiences are not known in the countries of the region. Additional challenges result from the complexity and diversity of the current processes and the lack of adapted analytical publications available in Russian. There is an acute need to build capacity for effective cooperation at the regional, national and international levels.

We propose the following actions aimed at building capacity and fostering cooperation at the national and regional levels:

- Public awareness campaigns to raise public and NGO awareness of international processes and experience in the sphere of chemical security;
- Organization of virtual forums to foster dialogue among NGOs and the government (for example, using the e-government on-line resources);
- Initiate development and implementation of the new types of information exchanges among the government entrepreneurs and NGOs;
- Promote cooperation among NGOs, local and municipal governments and state agencies to coordinate actions aimed at implementation of programs in the sphere of chemical security;
- Develop NGO capacity to participate in action planning at the national and regional levels;
- Maintain relationships with international experts and NGOs;
- Ensure that the majority of Central Asian NGOs understand and support the principles of IPEN Declaration.

Expected Outcomes:

- Active knowledge acquisition in the sphere of chemical security;
- Improved mutual understanding among various participants of the program;
- Better understanding of the various positions and opportunities for cooperation.

- Increase in the number of NGOs working to address chemical security issues at the national and regional levels;
- Well-planned and successfully implemented NGO plans and projects;
- Development of cooperation among NGOs and other sectors;
- More active NGO participation in the decision-making process..