

Kazakhstan

1 Project Summary

Project Title:

State Anti-Corruption Program for 2001-2005

Priority Areas of Reform: political, economic, social and legal

Improvement of legislative and legal base for anti-corruption activities, general practical measures, strengthening of law-enforcement agencies and judiciary, advocacy of state anti-corruption policy, development of international anti-corruption cooperation

Implementing Institution:

The Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan

Contact Person:

Mr. S. Akyzbekov

Beginning and End of the Project:

Beginning: 2001

End: 2005

2 Project Context

Which deficiencies and/or problems that allow corruption to proliferate does the project address and aim to resolve? Please outline the related current legal or institutional framework and its weaknesses or the exact circumstances that require improvement:

Said State Program is focused on implementing Kazakhstan Development Strategy until 2030, the Republic of Kazakhstan Anti-corruption Law, and Republic of Kazakhstan National Security Strategy until 2005.

3 Expected Outcome of the Project

In relation to the above mentioned deficiencies and/or problems, which concrete improvements are expected to be achieved through the project? In which way does the project help to curb corruption?

Political, economic, social and legal outcome including building citizens' confidence in authorities, reduction of shadow economy activities, reinstatement of justice as a major instrument of state and public regulations, reduction of corruption practices in different agencies.

4 Components – Main Activities – Method

What are the project's components, implementation steps, main activities and/or methods to achieve the above mentioned outcome and objectives?

In partnership with all the stakeholder organizations Program Implementation Action Plan was developed wherein actual measures, stages and schedules of activities, responsible structures and sources of financing have been identified.

5 Involvement of non-governmental actors

In which way does the project involve civil society actors or other stakeholders and have they been consulted during the project development phase?

The Program stresses the importance of increasing responsibility against corruption not only on behalf of state agencies but also civil society/. Possibility for international organizations assistance to the Government in this area was not excluded which will contribute to the establishment of civilized society in Kazakhstan.

6 Related Projects under the 1st Implementation Cycle

Is the project linked to reforms accomplished under the Action Plan's 1st Implementation Cycle? In which way does this project follow up previous activities?

7 Project Financing and Budget

Approved or estimated overall project budget:

National and Local budget and donor international institutions resources are envisaged as Program sources of financing.

Is external funding required?

If external funding is required, have donor organizations been approached yet, and have any commitments been made?

If external funding is required, what percentage of the total project costs requires external funding?

8 Technical Assistance

Is external technical assistance required? Have relevant agencies been approached and have they made any commitments?

Implementation Assessment

9 Output Evaluation

Has the impact of the project on the identified deficiency (cf. item 2 above) been measured or evaluated? Please describe the evaluation method and the outcome.

Yes, such evaluation has been conducted. Semiannually the Government reported to the Republic of Kazakhstan President on the Program implementation progress and outcome.

10 Overall Project Assessment

Did the project meet the defined goal (cf. item 3 above)? Did the project remedy the deficiency identified (cf. item 2 above)? Has the project been fully implemented in the foreseen timeframe (cf. item 1 above)?

In general, intended objectives have been achieved. Program implementation has been performed within the scheduled period.

11 Project Design Changes (if any)

Have any modifications to the project been made in the course of its implementation compared to the initial design of the project (cf. item 4 above)? What circumstances made these changes advisable or necessary?

None

12 Major Lessons Learned

Given the assessment of the project above, what experience can be drawn from the implementation of this project for future reform projects under the Anti-Corruption Action Plan?

Alongside with the positive outcomes achieved during the Program implementation a range of problems has been identified as well.

First, the presence of legal deficiencies and gaps and the significant number of reference rules in legislative acts allow state agencies to pass departmental acts entrusting some officials with unreasonably broad powers. Republic of Kazakhstan Land Code, Republic of Kazakhstan Anti-corruption, Public Procurement, Licensing Laws and other laws and regulations governing issuance of permits are priority legislative acts that require amendments and changes.

Further unification of regulatory acts that govern anti-corruption issues in line with the international agreements and treaties is required.

Second, further simplification of administrative procedures and in the first place tax and customs procedures is essential. Aiming at reducing corruption they should be simple, clear and widely accepted. Requirements for information and documentation should be brought to the minimum.

Improvement of administrative procedures should lead towards restricting personal communication between officials and clients as well as to the reduction of accepted reporting and sanctions.

Third, capacity building is not accordingly efficient. The analysis of administrative corruption offences shows that junior public employees comprise guilty majority. Their salary level and social vulnerability create economic conditions for corruption.

The above-mentioned assumes introduction of the range of measures allowing to set high professional requirements for public employees, as well as establishment of remunerations and

career development systems based on the objective and unbiased assessment of civil servant's professional capacities and qualification.

Fourth, monitoring of the sources of state agencies corruption is absent. Introduction of this is explained by the necessity for tracing corruption factors and mechanisms, assessment of its level and structure, analysis of anti-corruption measures efficiency.

Such assessment shall serve as a basis for introducing internal control system in the central government and among local executive agencies aimed at the prevention of the corruption practices.

Fifth, in the recent years' practice shows the absence of civil society participation and awareness on the essential level regarding the government anti-corruption policy issues. In line with this, it is necessary to introduce civil society participation mechanisms in the Program implementation. Not least important is the introduction of open-to-public and efficient procedures for raising public awareness on the progress on combating corruption.

Sixth, the level of international anti-corruption cooperation is not sufficient. In this respect, it is essential to develop forms of international law-enforcement bodies cooperation and intensify the efforts of the Republic of Kazakhstan in joining fundamental international anti-corruption and money laundering conventions.

13 Follow-Up

Is it planned to continue or extend this project or to continue a linked reform project? Which measures have been taken to ensure the sustainability of the outcome and the future assessment of the project's impact?

New State Anti-Corruption Program for 2006-2010 has been adopted where all the above-mentioned insufficiencies and drawbacks have been taken into consideration.