

Annual Report 2016

Chair Persons opening letter (Clive)

1. Introduction

As we look back at 2016, there is much to celebrate. We started to work with government agencies to improve legislation to enable better support of care leavers; ran a successful summer camp; won a competition run by Internews for Central Asian countries to develop an innovative IT portal; and completed three research projects to enable us to make decisions about the development of future work.

It will also be remembered as a year with some big changes: we moved out from Michurina Street which hosted 'House Kairat', a boys transition home between 2010 and 2013, and which was our youth centre from mid 2013 to mid 2016; two members of staff that have been part of oasis since the start left at the end of the year; and we recruited a new director to take over when the current director leaves in 2017.

Through the highs and lows of the year our focus has remained the same as it has always been since Oasis started in Kyrgyzstan in 2008: to support some of the most vulnerable members of society. As young people leave the orphanages and institutions where they have grown up, they are starting a journey into independence that can be incredibly hard. Some will make bad decisions that have led them into trouble, and over the year our team have spent time in police stations and courts helping to make sure that the right processes are followed and the young people receive a fair hearing and appropriate punishment. But there are also real encouragements. Recently, one of the young people that the team first got to know when they were living on the streets of Bishkek and have supported for many years started to volunteer in a local hospital, entertaining children with long-term illnesses. It is fantastic that people that Oasis was there for at their time of need are now themselves there for others – making a difference and contributing to society.

2. Activity reports

a. Care Leavers Practical Support Project

A one year project, completed in August, with funding from the Swiss Embassy, and also from Swiss Foundations 'Petram' and 'FOR'. Young people leaving orphanages (care leavers) were supported to make a good transition to living independently through case work, activities at the Oasis youth centre and visits to local orphanages. As a result of the project: *(illustrated in annual report with infographics)*

- 73 care leavers supported through case work
- 63 care leavers supported to enter educational institutions
- 33 care leavers supported to find accommodation
- 30 care leavers helped with documentation and social benefits

- average of 14 people a day at the youth centre?
- 5 orphanages each visited monthly
- 10 volunteers working alongside staff

b. Care Leavers Strategic Development Project

A one year project, completed in August, funded by Swiss Foundations Petram and FOR, and Innocent Voices (for the summer camp). Supplementing the activities of the Care Leavers Practical Support Project (as above), additional support was provided to care leavers, including the provision of food parcels, additional courses at the youth centre, activities at the Bolovodskoe Special School, research for the development of future activities to improve the situation of care leavers, and the annual summer camp. As a result of the project: *(illustrated in annual report with infographics)*

- 281 food parcels were provided to the most needy care leavers
- 2 care leavers were supported to have their babies and receive appropriate care and benefits
- 1 family received social benefits and land
- Research undertaken to determine which communities are most likely to place children into institutions
- 24 care leavers participated in the Oasis summer camp

Illustration of impact – quotations from summer camp:

- “I don’t want to leave the camp because at home I have no friends and nothing to do.”
- “I liked the camp. Here we learned to work in the team, and support each other.”
- “I think the trainings were useful, and will help us in the future.”
- “In life it is the same as in the team games - it is not always the win that is important, but friendship and support. I found good friends here”.
- “I have not participated in such a camp. The attitude is different. The [Oasis staff member] even checks we are OK before sleeping!”.

c. Care Leavers Advocacy Project

A thirteen-month project, started in January, in partnership with East West Management Institute (funding) and local organisation ‘Our Voice’ (implementation). The project laid the foundations for improved legislation to enable better government support of care leavers through the publication of legal analysis of existing legislation, a cost benefit analysis, the use of a simulation tool to build consensus and meetings, working groups and a round-table. As a result, it is anticipated that a government decree will be issued in early 2017.

To achieve this: *(illustrated in annual report with infographics)*

- 800 legal analysis were printed
- 37 pages of legal analysis were written
- 49 participants in round table (from gov’t agencies, Civil Society Organisations and business)
- 31 articles in local media
- 7 radio / TV interviews

- 33 meetings with state agencies
- 87 people participated in simulation exercise

d. Bilim Belek

A four-month project, funded by Internews, to develop a crowd-funding platform to enable people to make donations to support the educational needs of care leavers. The development of the platform was completed at the end of December – see www.bilimbelek.kg So far 8 young people have profiles uploaded.

e. Foodbank

In September, a foodbank was started, building on initial research and activities that were being done as a part of the Care Leavers Practical Support Project. Initially, 25 care leavers received monthly parcels, and the number of beneficiaries was slowly increased each month as donations of food were received. By the end of the year, we had collection boxes in 5 supermarkets, had run a successful social media campaign and had run a food-drive in one of the schools in Bishkek, with the result that by the end of the year, all food needs were being met by local donations.

- 858 kgs of food donated
- 110 food parcels given

f. Hub development

As a result of research to determine the communities most vulnerable to putting children into institutional care, work was started to develop a hub in the Kalys Ordo *novostroiki* (new community) on the outskirts of Bishkek. Initial relationships were built with community members, with a focus on the single women with children living in the area. Some of these women have been helped by food parcels from the Foodbank, and funding is being sought to implement a project to develop social partnerships between the residents, local business and local government agencies.

3. Strategic Development

2016 was the second year of a four-year strategy for the development of Oasis' work in Kyrgyzstan. During the year we accomplished the majority of the goals agreed, including: the start of our first 'community hub'; the implementation of advocacy work to improve legislation; an awareness raising campaign around the situation of care leavers in Kyrgyzstan and which has raised our public profile; on-going support for young people through case work and the youth centre; and the start of a foodbank. In addition, the recruitment of our first local director at the end of the year to start work in 2017 is a key step forward.

The main area where we are behind on our strategy is the development of additional income streams, particularly through the development of an enterprise to provide income for central costs. Initial planning has been done on this and it is anticipated that this will start in 2017.

4. The Oasis Team

In 2016, the Oasis team in Kyrgyzstan was made up of:

- Bermet Djakubova – programme manager and CLAP project manager
- Eliuza Kulmurzaeva – book keeper
- Jim Currell – Director
- Maria Kolesnikova – media expert
- Maryana Tsoy – case worker
- Meerim Osmonalieva – Assistant Director (started in November)
- Nurzhan Akunova – legal support and food bank
- Oksana Shishuk – case worker
- Rustam Karasartov – case worker
- Saliya Asanakynova – finance manager
- Zhanna Zilautdinova – case worker and foodbank

Of particular note is that Rustam Karasartov and Maryana Tsoy, who have been with Oasis since the organisation started, left at the end of December. Their work made a huge difference for many young people and they will be very missed.

We also welcomed Meerim Osmonalieva to the team. She will be replacing Jim Currell as Director in 2017, and started in November in the role of Assistant Director.

5. Finance

a. Partners

Oasis is entirely dependent on charitable giving and income from grants and donations, and during the year has received income and donations from:

- Embassy of Switzerland in the Kyrgyz Republic
- Petram Foundation
- FOR Foundation
- East West Management Institute, Bishkek
- Internews, Bishkek
- TBC (UK church)
- Innocent Voices (US Charitable Foundation)
- ICB (International Church of Bishkek)
- Training Services provided to BPN (Business Professionals Network in Kyrgyzstan)
- Good Neighbours (Clothes and shoes)
- Borsok supermarkets (hosting food collection point)
- Hope Academy (food collection)
- UNISOM (food donation)
- Move Green (food donation)
- Camp Ala Too (food donation)
- Agralit (food donation)
- Individual Donors in Kyrgyzstan, the UK and the US

b. Breakdown of income and expenditure for 2016

i. Income - in currency received

Project	KGS	USD	EUR	GBP
Total Income (including carried forward from 2014)				
Hub Development		3895.08		
CLAP	1,890,675.90			
CLPSP / Foodbank	688,628.05	5,937.43		3,766.00
CLSDP / Transition	63,698.91	8,460.13	10,228.75	1,611.69
Bilim Belek	138,271.46			
Central	405,285.30	61,184.33	2,246.25	2,583.02
Total	3,186,559.62	79,476.97	12,475	7,960.71

ii. Expenditure

Project	KGS	USD
Hub Development	169,898.74	
CLAP	1,795,190.15	
CLPSP / Foodbank	1,269,667.02	176.72
CLSDP / Transition	1,283,146.96	1,720.09
Bilim Belek	116,835.88	
Central	1,098,299.95	2,853.79
Total	5,733,038.70	4,750.60

iii. Total to carry forward into 2017 - in currency as received and held in bank

Project	KGS	USD	EUR	GBP
Hub development	101.03	1,422.16	-	-
CLAP	95,485.75	-	-	-
Foodbank	7,316.29	1,876.43	-	-
CL Transition	36,254.14	2,237.00	-	-
Bilim Belek	21,435.58	-	-	-
Central	3,199.91	54,105.35	-	-
Total	163,792.70	59,640.94	-	-