I. INTERVENTION DATA

Monitoring Report Type: Ongoing
Aid Modality: Project Approach
Project: Single Country / National Project
Project Management: Project managed by the Delegation (devolved)
Financed via a thematic budget line: Yes
CRIS Number: C-163379
Project Title according to Financing Agreement/Financing Decision: PROVIDING ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR WOMEN
Domain: EIDHR
DAC – CRS Sector: 15160 - Human rights
Additional DAC-CRS code: 15160 - Human rights
Geographical zone: Kazakhstan
Keyword (for innovative interventions): N/A
Date Financing Agreement/Financing Decision signed: 04/12/2007
HQ responsible: N/A
Delegation responsible: Elena Levchenko
Monitor: Damira Bekturova
Project Authority: NGO 'Centre for Legal Women's Initiatives 'Sana-Sezim’
Type of implementing partner: Local NGOs/CSOs/Universities
Start date – planned: 27/11/2008
End date – planned: 27/11/2010
Start date – actual: 27/11/2008
End date – likely: 27/11/2010
Monitoring visit date: From: 27/07/2010 To: 23/08/2010

II. FINANCIAL DATA

Primary commitment (EC funding): €203,260
Budget allocated for TA: €162,608
Secondary commitment (funds contracted of EC contribution): €162,608
Other funding (government and/or other donors): €40,652
Total budget of operation: €203,260
Total EC funds disbursed: €146,347
Financial data as at: 07/10/2010
III. GRADINGS

| 1. Relevance and quality of design | a |
| 2. Efficiency of Implementation to date | a |
| 3. Effectiveness to date | a |
| 4. Impact prospects | a |
| 5. Potential sustainability | a |

Note:  a = very good; b = good; c = problems; d = serious deficiencies

IV. SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS

1. Relevance and quality of design.
This project is financed under the EC Thematic Programme. Its Overall Objective (OO) is to ‘Provide access to justice for women of South Kazakhstan region, whose rights have been violated’. Its four Specific Objectives (SO) aim: 1. To improve the legal consciousness of women about their rights and mechanisms for their protection through educational and informational campaigns; 2. To change the practices of law in the area of access to justice for women by having educational trainings for law enforcement, judicial and executive bodies; 3. To improve legal and psychological assistance to women whose rights have been violated; 4. To provide social services to women whose rights have been violated. The project’s four specific objectives are supported by the nine results with achievable and measurable Objectively Verifiable Indicators (OVI). The project objectives are highly relevant to the priorities of Kazakhstan in Southern Kazakhstan, the region, with the highest population density in the country. They also correspond to the country’s priorities announced prior to the current presidency of the OSCE. The project was launched within the European Union’s ‘The European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights’ (EIDHR) of 2006. The contractor, the Legal Centre for Women’s Initiatives ‘Sana-Sezim’ (a local NGO), developed the design of the project setting quite realistic and achievable targets. ‘Sana-Sezim’ implements the project in partnership with the Association ‘Civic Alliance of the South Kazakhstan Region’.

2. Efficiency of Implementation to date.
The project started its activities as planned in November 2008. The overall budget of the project is €203,260 (€162,608 is the EU contribution) with 24 months duration. At the time of monitoring, early August 2010, 80 % of the project time had elapsed and the provision of inputs from all parties was according to the plan. The project has spent the resources in an adequate and transparent way. 77% utilisation of the overall budget is in line with the estimated expenditure. It includes about 40% of the total human resources, 15% of equipment and supply costs and 10% of publication and other costs. The overall allocated resources are likely to be fully utilised given the project team’s proved ability to stick to the implementation timetable. The Logframe (LF) is used as one of the main management tools by the project team along with the action plan. The Grant Application (GA) presents four Specific Objectives planned to be achieved through the nine results and six activities. Project activities are implemented efficiently following the action plan’s timeframe without any delays. The project officially started in November 2008 with a presentation at a press conference in January, 2010, with the participation of the Ambassador of the EU, representatives of the law enforcements agencies and the NGO. The event was widely covered in the mass media. The project team includes a psychologist, a social worker, a lawyer and three 24-7 hotline trilingual operators. All telephone calls are stored in the electronic database that allows monitoring of what kind of assistance and consultancy has been provided to callers. Since the start of the project, 1825 calls have been received and the experts have provided 1133 legal, 657 social and 890 psychological consultations to more than 90% of callers in three languages (Kazakh, Russian and Uzbek). More than 150 cases of females with violated rights have been dealt with by the project. 10,000 leaflets and more than 90 advertisements in local newspapers (‘Rabat’, ‘Otyrar’ and ‘The Third Sector’) have been issued. Two seminars were held for 120 women including women with children infected with HIV/AIDS due to the negligence of medical
staff back in 2006. Three training events have been organised for the law enforcement authorities’ staff of 60.

3. Effectiveness to date.
So far, the project team is implementing its activities on time and as per the action plan. It is likely that by the end of the project all the intended results will have been achieved. The OVIIs against the SOs reflect their practical nature and are already becoming realistic. It was possible to interview two female victims/callers whose rights are being protected by the project. They are receiving a wide range of services – legal, social, psychological - of a very high quality. They expressed their deep gratitude to the project team for the benefits they receive free of charge. Training participants representing state authorities are also satisfied with the high standard of these events. Overall, 949 calls related to family/marriage issues, 392 on difficulties with access to justice, 106 on housing, 58 on labour issues, 51 on social benefits, 24 on pensions, 20 on human trafficking and 256 on other issues. These calls demonstrate the wide range of benefits people receive from the project hotlines. The NGO’s website is informative and easily accessible. The project outputs/expected results are leading to the achievement of the four SOs and the likelihood of achieving the project purposes is good.

The OO of the project is to ‘Provide access to justice for women of South Kazakhstan region, whose rights have been violated’. The NGO received a proposal from the Ministry of Interior (MI) that the project will be included in the MI’s plans as a pilot site with the aim of applying their experience in other regions. The project in tandem with the district departments on the protection of women from abuse developed a three-year joint plan of actions causing a good long-term impact. The awareness of the female population about the access to rights is increasing due to advertisements in newspapers, 3-6 calls per day. All these contribute to the achievement of the OO. The OVI at the OO level ‘Application of the project by women who have received knowledge on access to justice and improvement of law enforcement by officers’ is gradually being realised. So far there is no apparent significant external factor that can jeopardise the project’s impact. An unexpected staff change in the Commission on Women and Family-Demographic Policy will not affect the project as a newly appointed inspector is open for collaboration.

The project’s strong advantage is the partnership with the Association ‘Civic Alliance of South Kazakhstan Region’ with its information-resource centre in Shymkent and in 4 districts of SKO. If the MI is able to apply the project experience in other regions, it will create a multiplier effect and might be considered as an unplanned impact.

5. Potential sustainability.
The contractor’s approach is to involve additional resources to ensure further sustainability of the project results. The project team is actively promoting the benefits of the project with the fund-raising purposes not only among the donor community. The state organisations/institutions and the private sector are also in the focus of the project and they are confident in getting funds for maintaining the project’s results. The NGO ‘Sana-Sezim’ was among the stakeholders of the previously EU funded project ‘Labour Migration in Central Asia’ three years ago. The good progress made by the NGO since then and its growth and development to date is apparent and it is likely that ‘Sana-Sezim’ will maintain the project’s results, including the operation of the telephone hotline. The level of ownership of the project partners is very good and is getting higher with each activity implemented in the region. In December 2009 the law on ‘Prevention of Domestic Violence’ was approved by the Parliament of Kazakhstan. About 20 recent revisions introduced in the law aim at the determination of legal, economic, social and institutional basis for the prevention of domestic violence and facilitate the project implementation. In 1998 the country ratified a 1979 United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women. At the completion of the project the South Kazakhstan Region will have trained personnel of the local law enforcement authorities. 120 women have already been educated as a result of three training events. A figure of more than 2000 better informed female inhabitants of the region who enjoyed highly-qualified services and consultations is also contributing to the capacity building targets set by the project. The positive judicial decisions for more than 150 cases of women with violated rights, issued thanks to the project team’s efforts will also give positive feedback increasing the number of better educated and informed women on their rights and also better visibility for the project.

V. KEY OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

None.