



IN TOUCH

ISSUE №18, APRIL 2016

KUMTOR GOLD COMPANY EDUCATES AND BUILDS CAPACITY OF YOUTH IN THE ISSYK-KUL REGION

Investment in education and youth are one of the main focus areas for integrated sustainable development of the Issyk-Kul region, adopted by Kumtor Gold Company.

In this issue of In Touch we will tell you about the projects implemented in cooperation with the Eurasia Foundation of Central Asia.



ISSYK-KUL YOUTH BANKS SUMMED UP THREE YEARS' RESULTS



The national conference titled Youth Banks Contribution to the Sustainable Development of Local Communities was held in March at the American University in Central Asia. It was organized under the

Issyk-Kul Youth Banks' project which is being implemented by EFCA with the financial support of Kumtor Gold Company. Youth organizations, initiative groups and activists from across Kyrgyzstan, as well as representatives of local self-government bodies, international and national NGOs and independent experts took part in the conference.

The conference presented the results of three years' activities and successful operating mechanisms of Youth Banks, forms of dialogue between young people, local residents and local self-government bodies. Also, it considered the

In this issue:

- Investments in education and youth in Issyk-Kul region
- Issyk-Kul Youth Banks summed up three years' results
- Youth Mean Business and its major achievements

avenues of work for the youth organizations to become sustainable agencies in the regions.



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In the past three years of operation in Issyk-Kul province, Youth Banks have implemented over 200 social projects benefitting, directly or indirectly, an estimated 30,000 people. The said projects targeted mostly infrastructure development, support for educational and culture institutions, training courses, as well as holding charity and green events. Kumtor's contribution has amounted 30 million soms over the past three years.

"Investment in education and development of young people's potential are among top priorities in the Issyk-Kul comprehensive and sustainable development strategy adopted by Kumtor Company. Under the Youth Banks Project, we are witnessing the implementation of very creative ideas that have turned into true stories of success. We will keep supporting youth initiatives for achieving our common goals in

developing the potential of young people who hopefully will become national leaders here in the not so distant future," said Rodney Stuparyk, Vice President, Risk Management, Compliance and Sustainable Development.

The conference participants have also exchanged experience and discussed new joint projects designed to maintain cooperation among various organizations throughout Kyrgyzstan. A question about the Youth Banks' future operation in Issyk-Kul province was also considered.

"Youth Banks is an unprecedented method of getting young people involved in social activities. The project was designed to address young people's problems and promote values like civic and individual responsibility. The Youth Bank members have acquired new

knowledge and skills that will enable them to work on unaided. From now on, they are going to operate as an individual organization after the Youth Banks public fund has been registered," said Dinara Ibragimova, FECA program expert.

FOR REFERENCE:

Youth Banks includes initiative volunteer groups that take active part in the life of their native communities. Previously, such groups were formed in six localities, including Balykchi, Karakol, Bokonbaevo, Tamga, Kyzyl-Suu and Tyup. Youth Banks accepts requests and supports the most promising projects designed to improve living conditions in local communities. The Youth Banks public fund was officially registered in 2016.

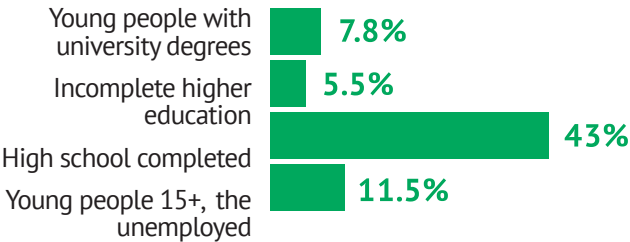
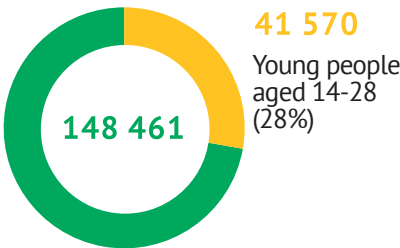
Project results



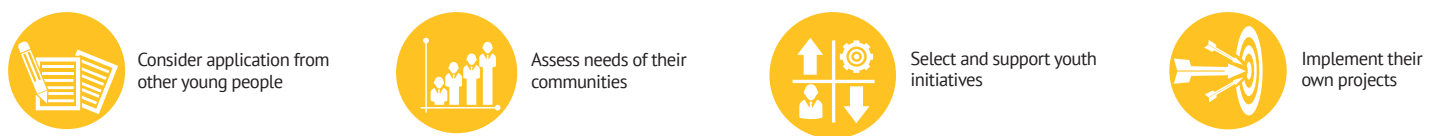
48 Youth Banks' members, 8 people (aged 14-28) per each locality



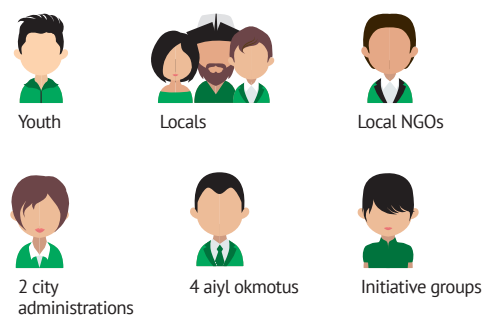
Population of six target areas



Youth Banks' members:



Focus groups:



Primary areas of supported projects



Results:



YOUTH MEAN BUSINESS



Kumtor Gold Company streams to support initiatives of young people from the Issyk-Kul Region. Socio-oriented ideas were mainly realized in frames of Youth Banks project. To support more sustainable and income-generating initiatives, it was decided in 2015 to launch a Youth Mean Business Project, which is aimed at development of Issyk-Kul region young people's business ideas. Based on the review process, 19 business ideas received funding. They are now realizing their potential and are using the knowledge they gained from numerous management and business trainings. With the support of mentors, they will also contribute to economic development of the region and create new workplaces.

Major achievements



350

applications were received for the business ideas competition among the youth of the Issyk-Kul region



About
250

young people got the basics of business knowledge during two selection Startup Weekend events



57

projects were selected for the second round



6

business planning and conducting trainings were held and attended by 57 people



Over
50

businessmen took part in the Investor Day during which young people could present their projects



19

business ideas received funding to the value of about \$150,000



13

mentors provide consulting support to first-time entrepreneurs



From 60
to 100

jobs will be created



Over
200

people visited career fair for young people of the Issyk-Kul region, where over 570 vacancies were presented

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