

# EURASIA FOUNDATION

A woman with dark hair, wearing a white face mask and a light-colored headscarf with a blue floral pattern, is focused on writing. She is holding a blue pen over a white document. The background is blurred, showing other people and what appears to be a classroom or meeting setting.

## 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

A YEAR LIKE NO OTHER

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT  
AND CHAIRMAN OF THE  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Dear Friends,

2020 was a year like no other. The COVID-19 pandemic increased vulnerabilities worldwide, ushering in unprecedented health, economic, and social crises. Eurasia Foundation pivoted to meet these challenges head-on.

We adapted our work to meet new demands. Creative business models and new technologies enabled us to sustain existing projects and launch new ones.

Our remote learning model, honed for over a decade to provide cutting-edge online training in restrictive and hard-to-reach environments, gave us a strong leg up. We shifted to virtual programming across more portfolios, such as moving our Central Asia Policy Research School online and launching virtual exchanges between American students and civic leaders and their overseas peers.

We deepened existing ties and forged new coalitions with civic organizations, community groups, governments, and private sector partners to reach millions of people worldwide. We helped civic leaders and state officials combine energies to respond to the emergency. We facilitated transparency and accountability, allowing governments to cultivate citizens' trust. We supported local communities, including launching digitized unemployment services in Ukraine, training indigenous entrepreneurs in the United States and Russia, coaching journalists in online safety in the Middle East, and helping women leaders actively participate in peace talks in Afghanistan.

We continued to extend our global reach, launching new e-governance and women's empowerment projects in Afghanistan and Bosnia and Herzegovina, respectively. We also relaunched operations in China, where we are supporting civic sector efforts to identify and meet the needs of local communities.

None of this would be possible without the enduring commitment of our donors and partners. Thank you for your trust and your support.

Warm wishes,



*[Signature]*  
Lisa Coll  
President



*[Signature]*  
William Courtney  
Chairman

# PROMOTING E-GOVERNANCE FOR PUBLIC HEALTH

As governments around the world scrambled to provide tests, medicines, and personal protective equipment to citizens exposed to COVID-19, those who had digitized these processes saw those investments pay off.

Eurasia Foundation's Transparency and Accountability in Public Administration and Services (TAPAS) project supports Ukrainian citizens and the Government of Ukraine to implement e-governance reforms. By harnessing the power of open data, e-procurement, and e-services, TAPAS reforms eliminate opportunities for corruption, improve the efficiency and effectiveness of public service delivery, and foster trust between citizens and government. In 2020, they transformed Ukraine's COVID-19 response.

Large-scale physical distancing measures and movement restrictions under COVID-19 abruptly restricted citizens' access to routine healthcare services. Open data tools developed under TAPAS help Ukrainian citizens efficiently locate affordable medicine. Using an online tool developed with the National Health Service of Ukraine, citizens can explore an interactive map of pharmacies participating in the state-run Affordable Medicines Program. Under the program, patients can obtain certain prescriptions free or subsidized. Maps display pharmacies located within seven kilometers of a patient's primary healthcare facility. Between January and December 2020, citizens accessed the online tool nearly 38,000 times.

E-procurement catalogs developed under TAPAS simplify the process of purchasing small batches of medical supplies quickly and transparently. Using the Prozorro Market online store, small-town pre-schools along Ukraine's war-torn eastern frontier can purchase products like gloves, disinfectants, syringes, and express tests from verified suppliers just as quickly and easily as hospitals and schools in major cities. Furthermore, because prices in Prozorro Market do not vary by purchase volume, buyers can spend money more effectively in the fight against COVID-19. Using the tool, buyers averaged 38% savings on face coverings, 32% savings on disinfectants, and 69% savings on contactless thermometers, compared to market price.

While keeping people healthy is a top priority in the COVID-19 pandemic, caring for the health of businesses is also vital to community resilience. An e-service developed with support from TAPAS put COVID-19 support payments into the hands of entrepreneurs, businesses, and employees who suffered most due to pandemic restrictions. The rapid application process, available by mobile app, takes less than 5 minutes to complete. The first round of applications for support payments opened on December 14 and closed on December 31. Within just over two weeks, Ukrainians used the e-service to submit more than 332,000 applications totaling more than \$94 million in assistance.



E-GOVERNANCE TOOLS DEVELOPED UNDER EURASIA FOUNDATION'S TAPAS PROJECT TRANSFORMED UKRAINE'S COVID-19 RESPONSE, ENSURING EQUAL AND TRANSPARENT ACCESS TO CRITICAL RESOURCES FOR CITIZENS AND BUSINESSES ACROSS THE COUNTRY.



EMPOWERING YOUTH TO ELEVATE THE RIGHTS OF THE VULNERABLE AND DISENFRANCHISED IS ONE WAY EURASIA FOUNDATION CHANGES LIVES THROUGH ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP.

## MOVING CIVIC ENGAGEMENT ONLINE

As the world shifted online, educators faced a new challenge: helping students to think deeply about the world at a time when they were most isolated from it. Despite the distance, with ongoing support from Eurasia Foundation, educators learned new ways to guide their students in civic engagement projects during the pandemic.

Eurasia Foundation online courses help educators work with students to think critically about the social issues facing their communities and develop action plans to implement youth-led initiatives. Projects take on a diverse array of socioeconomic challenges, including social equality, mental health, education, accessibility for people with disabilities, and environmental harm. In 2020, teachers and students took these initiatives online, harnessing the power of digital media to amplify their message and extend their reach.

One such initiative, delivered by a group of eighth grade students, focused on supporting children in street situations. With businesses shut and movement restricted in usually bustling urban areas, students asked, what happens to children living or working on the streets? With support from Eurasia Foundation, their teacher, Rania, helped students find answers.

Recognizing the myriad challenges faced by children in street situations, many of which were compounded by the pandemic, students partnered with a local non-profit to launch an awareness campaign. The campaign drew positive attention to this marginalized group in an especially challenging time.

With continued guidance from Eurasia Foundation, Rania worked with students to advocate for these children's rights to education, to be protected from economic exploitation, and to an adequate standard of living. Expanding on these insights, students then began selling the children's handmade goods online to provide them with a reliable source of income during the pandemic.



# CENTERING THE VOICES OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Think the past year of social distancing and isolation has been challenging? Now imagine living your entire life in quarantine. This was the message shared by many people with disabilities to raise awareness about the everyday challenges they face due to lack of accessibility. These struggles were compounded by the pandemic, which disproportionately impacted people with disabilities.

Eurasia Foundation supports people with disabilities in hard-to-reach communities by providing interactive online courses on leadership, social entrepreneurship, advocacy, and coalition building. Courses equip disability advocates with skills to advance their rights to inclusion, economic empowerment, and equal access. They generate supportive networks for nurturing the growth of accessibility-focused campaigns and social enterprises. In 2020, these resources and relationships proved crucial to advocates mobilizing around the COVID-19 crisis.

One such advocate is Mohi, a social worker and participant in Eurasia Foundation's disability activism course. Growing up deaf, Mohi is intimately familiar with the challenges facing the deaf and hard of hearing community. However, the pandemic threw these often-hidden inequities into sharp relief. For example, without the use of sign language on television broadcasts, people who are deaf or hard of hearing often struggled to stay up to date on COVID-19 developments. Hearing-impaired individuals were often wholly excluded from vital, life-saving health information.

In response, Mohi started producing informational videos in sign language and sharing these videos over social media. Videos explored topics like virus transmission, how to effectively disinfect surfaces, and how to safely navigate public spaces.

With support from Eurasia Foundation instructors, he then expanded this project to an online platform by and for the deaf community. The platform provides weekly news and health-related content in both text and sign language videos. Since launching in early summer 2020, the platform has amassed over 3,700 dedicated followers.

As the pandemic rages on, Mohi is now working to expand this platform into a collaborative health and information resource for people with disabilities around the world. To ensure his enterprise remains viable in a post-pandemic economy, he is working closely with Eurasia Foundation to develop sustainable financial strategies and growth objectives. Mohi continues to dream big, determined to create a more inclusive and healthy society, lasting long beyond the pandemic.

"I APPRECIATE ALL THAT I HAVE LEARNED FROM THE EXCELLENT EURASIA FOUNDATION STAFF AND INSTRUCTORS. THEY HAVE INTRODUCED ME TO FELLOW PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES AND PASSIONATE ACTIVISTS, WHO HAVE BECOME MY DEAR FRIENDS. THEY HELPED ME REALIZE THAT EVEN I, A DEAF BOY FROM A SMALL TOWN, CAN BE A POWERFUL CHAMPION FOR MY DISABLED BROTHERS AND SISTERS."

– MOHI





"IMPUNITY WILL GIVE RISE TO NEW VICTIMS, MORE WOMEN WILL FALL INTO THEIR NETWORKS, JUST AS I ONCE DID. I DON'T WANT ANYONE TO ENDURE WHAT I HAD TO ENDURE."

– DILYARA

## CHAMPIONING THE MOST VULNERABLE

While the world reels from the effects of COVID-19, human traffickers are capitalizing on the pandemic and continuing to prey on the most vulnerable. Instability and lack of access to critical services caused by the pandemic mean that the number of people at risk of exploitation by traffickers is rapidly growing. In Central Asia, where investigation and criminal prosecution of trafficking cases remains low, COVID-19 has made already high risk individuals even more susceptible to trafficking.

Eurasia Foundation's Central Asian anti-trafficking network rose to meet this challenge head-on.

Comprised of lawyers, civil society organizations, and law enforcement representatives from across Russia and Central Asia, the network meets regularly to collaborate on this intrinsically cross-border issue. In 2020, they developed a multi-country legal toolkit to facilitate assistance in countries of origin, transit, and destination. Within just three months, the network had supported the reintegration of fourteen trafficking victims and provided legal assistance to two migration cases.

To draw further government and community attention to human trafficking in Central Asia, and to build momentum around cases that had been wrongfully dismissed, Eurasia Foundation also facilitated local journalistic investigations into several trafficking cases. One investigation traced the story of Dilyara, a fifty-five-year-old woman who fell victim to sex trafficking. Dilyara escaped and returned home. However, the local prosecution office refused to investigate her case.

Eurasia Foundation supported a high-profile media campaign surrounding Dilyara's experience. Her story received widespread public attention, including from local and national law enforcement officials, who reopened her case. Her trafficker was found guilty of repeat offenses. Dilyara hopes her case will encourage more survivors to speak out about their experience and participate in investigatory processes in the future.



# CURBING CORRUPTION IN PANDEMIC SPENDING

Between March and September 2020, emergency COVID-19 procurement in Kazakhstan amounted to nearly \$1 billion. As the crisis deepened and citizens across the country became increasingly dependent on state healthcare, so too did activists begin to question the effectiveness of public health spending.

Eurasia Foundation's Social Innovation in Central Asia (SICA) program supported Kazakhstani citizens to independently monitor government spending, advocate for improved emergency procurement procedures, and champion the public interest during the COVID-19 crisis.

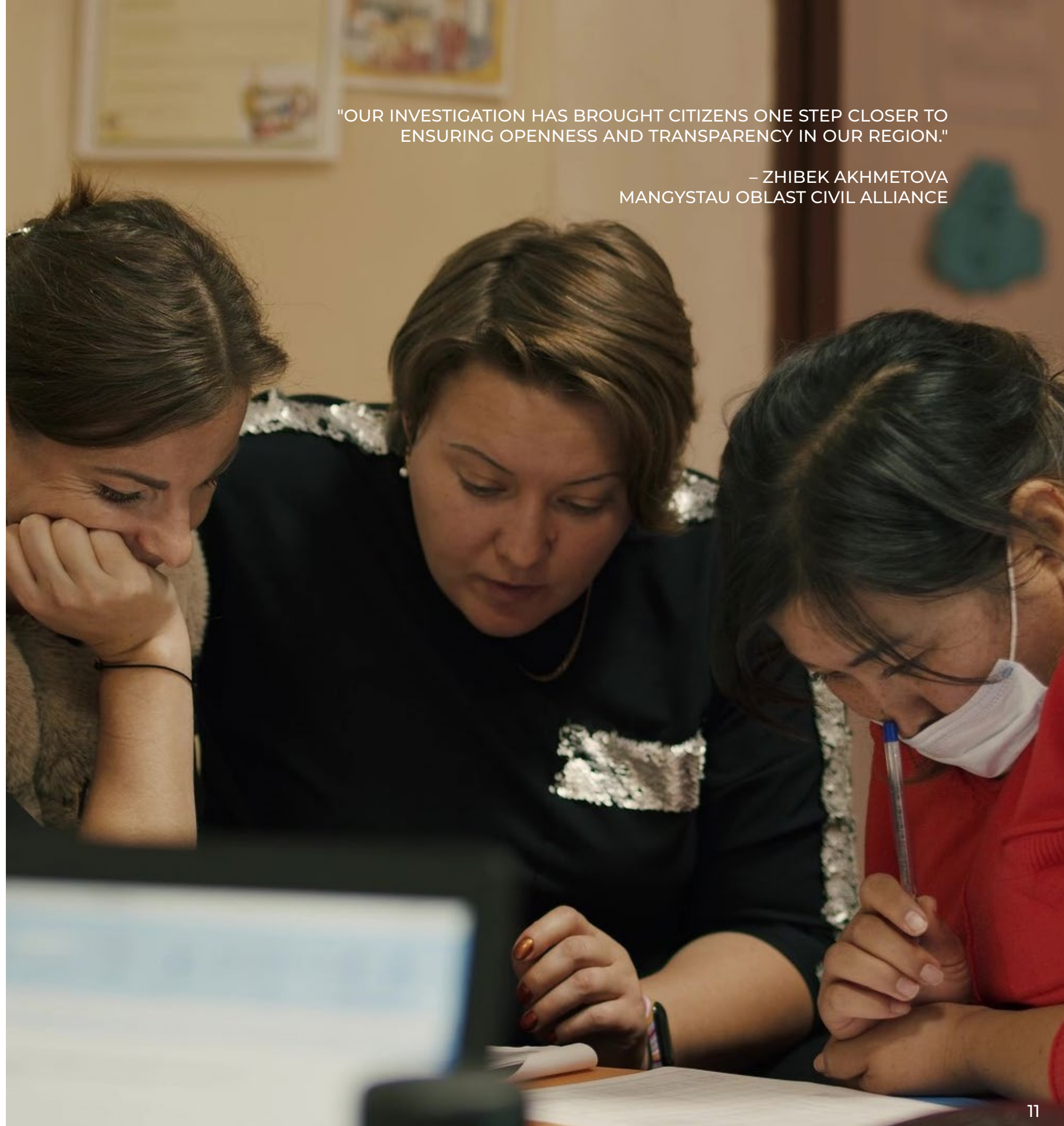
In the Mangystau region of Kazakhstan, as the pandemic dragged on, citizens recognized a dearth of critical medical supplies, including life-saving drugs and medical equipment. With support from Eurasia Foundation, members of the Mangystau Oblast Civil Alliance undertook a six-month public spending watchdog campaign. E-procurement specialists trained citizens across Mangystau region in effective public procurement monitoring. Using open data available through Kazakhstan's public e-procurement system, combined with a government-supplied filter for COVID-19-related contracts, citizens of Mangystau analyzed high risk, potentially corrupt tenders. The project revealed dubious purchases of various medical devices, including fans and personal hygiene items, by regional agencies.

One trainee, Khanshaiym Kuspanova, focused on public spending on a Mangystau agricultural stabilization fund. The fund provided financial assistance to farmers to stabilize regional food prices during the crisis. However, Khanshaiym's analysis revealed that the prices of staple foods in Mangystau skyrocketed during the pandemic, growing at the fastest rate nationwide. The agricultural stabilization fund had failed to contain food prices, suggesting it had not been applied effectively. Khanshaiym also revealed that purchases related to the fund were carried out in violation of the rules of public procurement—that is, they lacked technical specifications or proof of work performed—but were accepted and paid in full.

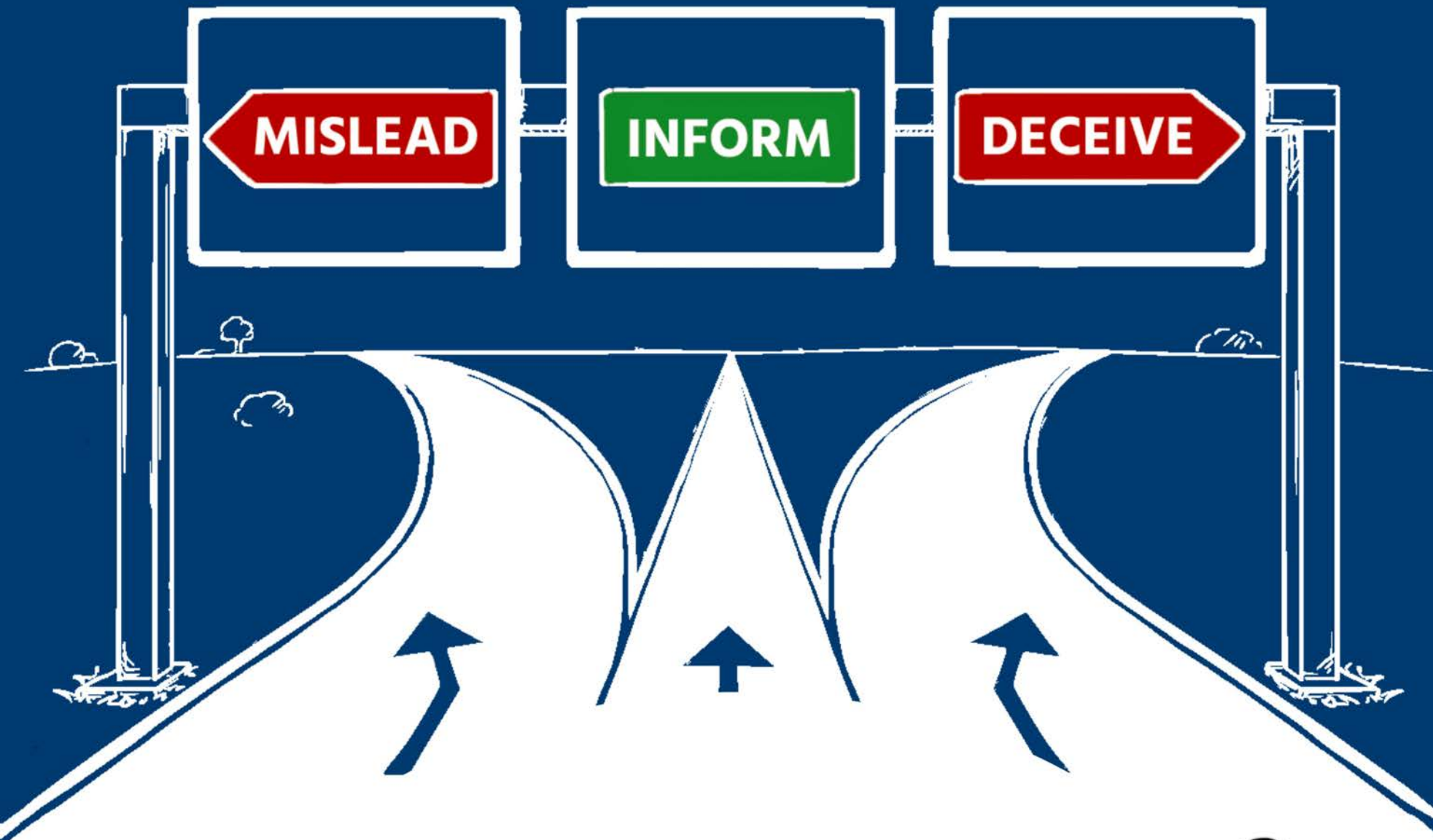
Based on the results of these investigations, the Mangystau Oblast Civil Alliance prepared a series of recommendations for local authorities, who have opened multiple investigations into the suspect procurements.

"OUR INVESTIGATION HAS BROUGHT CITIZENS ONE STEP CLOSER TO ENSURING OPENNESS AND TRANSPARENCY IN OUR REGION."

– ZHIBEK AKHMETOVA  
MANGYSTAU OBLAST CIVIL ALLIANCE



EURASIA FOUNDATION SUPPORTS CITIZENS OF ALL AGES IN NAVIGATING THE DANGEROUS INFODEMIC SURROUNDING THE CORONAVIRUS, TO PROTECT THEMSELVES, THEIR FAMILIES, AND THEIR COMMUNITIES.



## BREAKING DOWN DISINFORMATION

Access to reliable information is critical to protecting individual and public health. Around the world, the COVID-19 pandemic has been accompanied by a flood of misleading, unreliable, and malicious information, often communicated over social media. This flood of disinformation has hindered the efforts of scientists, public health professionals, governments, and civil society to effectively communicate about the virus and how to manage it.

To help citizens distinguish fact from fiction and promote a free and independent media, Eurasia Foundation trains investigative journalists, media producers, and media consumers to recognize and refute false narratives. Programs explore the motivations, strategies, and tactics used to spread false information, and coach citizens in vital critical thinking and fact-checking skills.

Iskandar is a youth entrepreneur and health advocate, who enrolled in Eurasia Foundation's media literacy workshops to learn how to be an effective digital citizen. Iskandar recognized that members of his community, which was hit hard by the pandemic, were awash in dubious information and unsure of where to turn for help. Iskandar wanted to be part of the solution.

As part of the Eurasia Foundation course, Iskandar participated in a multi-day online media literacy campaign. The campaign combined videos, media challenges, polls, infographics, links to reliable news and resources, and insights from international media experts. Iskandar learned how to identify unreliable news stories, analyze the motivations behind these narratives, and prove certain stories were spreading inaccurate information about the pandemic. He also practiced communication and leadership skills to help others in his community locate reliable information and debunk false claims.

Following the campaign, Iskandar launched an ongoing advocacy project to help raise awareness about COVID-19 for people with preexisting conditions.



# UNITING WOMEN AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

With the onset of stay-at-home orders, emergency responders recorded spikes in calls reporting domestic violence worldwide. To connect American and Russian women in dialogue on gender-based violence—and shed light on this so-called shadow pandemic of COVID-19—Eurasia Foundation supported a series of digital training and networking interventions.

The project united over 200 at-risk women, and professionals who work with them, in direct dialogue about gender-based violence. Women explored the unique risks faced by different demographics of American and Russian women, based upon factors such as age, ability, sexuality, race, geography, and socioeconomic status.

In one activity, women wrote letters to their younger selves, and peers in the opposite country read and responded to the letters. In another, participants explored different types of gender-based violence and developed creative action plans to mobilize against violence in their communities.

Sessions harnessed the power of storytelling to shift perspectives, encourage compassionate exchange of ideas, and foster robust international support networks. Exchanges built women's communication, leadership, and cross-cultural relationship-building skills



"I LEARNED THAT DESPITE THE LANGUAGE AND CULTURAL DIFFERENCES BETWEEN WOMEN IN RUSSIA AND THE U.S., WE FACE SIMILAR DIFFICULTIES REGARDING GENDER EQUALITY. BY HEARING WHAT HELPED OTHER WOMEN IN THEIR STRUGGLES, I LEARNED WHAT MAY BE ABLE TO HELP ME WHEN I ENCOUNTER SIMILAR PROBLEMS. IT WAS POWERFUL TO HEAR ABOUT THIS FROM WOMEN I DID NOT KNOW AND MADE ME FEEL COMFORTABLE OPENING UP ABOUT THIS IN THE FUTURE."

— MARIA  
INTERVENTION PARTICIPANT



# PARTNER AND LEGACY ORGANIZATIONS

The Eurasia Foundation Network consists of seven locally rooted, independent organizations that collaborate to advance a shared mission across the Eurasia region. Eurasia Foundation also played a key role in establishing five legacy organizations and continues to support their initiatives and institutional growth.

## Partner Foundations



East Europe Foundation of Moldova



East Europe Foundation of Ukraine



New Eurasia Foundation



Eurasia Foundation of Central Asia



Europe Foundation



Eurasia Partnership Foundation Armenia



Eurasia Partnership Foundation Azerbaijan

## Other Legacy Organizations



Caucasus Research Resources Center Georgia



Caucasus Research Resources Center Armenia



Gazelle Finance



European Humanities University



Kyiv School of Economics





# STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

(as of September 30, 2020)

## Expenses

Program Services	\$9,554,382
Management and General Supporting Services	\$1,817,122
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$11,371,504</b>

## Assets

Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$790,527
Investments	\$873,029
Line of Credit Receivable	\$232,000
Grants, Accounts, and Other Receivables	\$1,119,858
Prepaid Expenses	\$21,584
Fixed Assets	\$640,713
Advances and Deposits	\$24,608
Right of Use Asset	\$2,037,105
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$5,739,424</b>

## Liabilities

Loan Payable	\$563,900
Operating Lease Liability	\$2,183,944
Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	\$459,212
Grants Payable	\$469,067
Refundable Advance	\$35,222
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$3,711,345</b>

## Net Assets

Without Donor Restrictions	\$1,910,177
With Donor Restrictions	\$117,902
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>\$2,028,079</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b>\$5,739,424</b>

# 2020 PARTNERS AND DONORS

## Partners

Council on International Education Exchange  
Caucasus Research Resource Center Armenia  
Caucasus Research Resource Center Georgia  
Data Journalism Agency TEXTY  
East Europe Foundation  
Eurasia Foundation of Central Asia – Kazakhstan  
Kyiv School of Economics  
Ministry of Digital Transformation of Ukraine  
Ministry of Economy of Ukraine  
Ministry of Health of Ukraine  
Mobility International USA  
Navanti Group  
New Eurasia Foundation  
Open Data Institute  
Samir Kassir Foundation  
Social Boost  
SOE ProZorro  
Student Television Network  
Transparency International Ukraine

## Donors

### Government Agencies

U.S. Agency for International Development  
U.S. Department of State  
U.S. Embassy in Moscow  
U.K. Foreign, Commonwealth, and Development Office

### Organizations

Carnegie Corporation of New York  
Chevron  
Open Society Foundations  
The HAND Foundation  
Millennium Partners

### Individuals

Anonymous  
Randy Bregman  
The Honorable William Courtney  
Thomas Dine  
Robert Drumheller  
Dr. Alton Fye  
Frank Ingriselli  
Kevin Klose  
The Honorable Richard Morningstar  
The Honorable Thomas Pickering  
David R. Slade  
Susan Thornton  
Judyth Twigg  
Leif Ulstrup  
Daniel Witt  
The Honorable Kenneth Yalowitz

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**Frank C. Ingriselli**, President, Indonesia Energy Corporation

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## ABOUT EURASIA FOUNDATION

Eurasia Foundation is an international nonprofit organization dedicated to empowering citizens to take responsibility for their own civic and economic prosperity. Since 1992, we have partnered with the U.S. government and other public and private funders to support the development of vibrant civil societies, open and effective governments, and international partnerships throughout Eurasia, the Middle East, and China. For more information, visit [www.eurasia.org](http://www.eurasia.org).



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