

Newsletter

August 2017



Participants of the C4C programme with Programme Coordinator, Nicole Titera, in Kyrgyzstan. © INTRAC 2017.

Welcome to our August newsletter.

This issue's viewpoint by INTRAC Central Asia Programme Manager, Charles Buxton, highlights the need to stay committed to organisation's values, themes and approaches even (especially!) in the absence of regular funding, and contributes some thoughts and examples on how to do so.

Keeping the focus on Central Asia, our guest contributor, Svetlana Dzardanova from the OSCE Academy in Kyrgyzstan, shares some of the key findings of her recent research on civil society, activism and the state in Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan. She also addresses the key role young activists play in the region to contribute to sustainable development.

Our innovative Consultants for Change programme, aimed at building a cadre of specialist local consultants, completed its third and last face-to-face module in Kyrgyzstan in July and we are delighted to include a feature by the Programme Coordinator, Nicole Titera. After 18 months of intensive work managing 38 participants from six countries and an array of trainers and facilitators from the INTRAC network, Nicole takes stock and reflects on some of the challenges faced and opportunities moving forward.

At INTRAC we are committed to work with local civil society, supporting its development and encouraging engagement and collaboration with governments and donors. Our work with the Foundation for Civil Society in Tanzania and the Civil Society Support Programme in Ethiopia (page six) are two examples of our reach and impact, and our pledge to share the learning among the sector.

Plus our training calendar including our brand new online training 'Fundraising for sustainability', Development in Practice's Special Issue on faith and development, and a guest blog by Wine Tisseur from University of Reading on languages and the SDGs!

Viewpoint

Guest contribution

Our work

Events

Publications & Blogs

Meet the team

www.intrac.org

The programme approach: being creative in the absence of regular funding

At the beginning of 2017, INTRAC's Bishkek office found itself without a major programme. For the previous 18 months we had been engaged in a very busy **project** building the capacity of CSOs in rural areas of Kyrgyzstan, but it was strictly time-limited and non-renewable. We had some smaller consultancies to work on but no one central or unifying programme. In the previous year our regional Central Asia budget had more than doubled from its usual level, and now we faced the reverse.

When you have large, well-funded, multi-year programmes one can talk about the organisation's programme approach as being carefully thought-through, integrated, strategic in aims and multi-layered in implementation. But what about the other times – that are *most of the times* for CSOs, especially smaller and local ones? Here are some thoughts about how we can keep to the strategic objectives that our Central Asia office and partners have developed.



INTRAC organised a seminar on social enterprise in Bishkek with Svetlana Akhmedgaliyeva and Charles Buxton in June to support CSOs and share learning. © INTRAC 2017

First, we see a programme as a long-term commitment to a theme or a way of working. If we have done work, for example, on participation in development over a number of years, in different projects, with the methodology and results documented in some way, I see this as a potential programme. If we have a number of CSO leaders, enthusiasts, local trainers, researchers and evaluators who have regularly shared discussions on a theme, this is another component of the programme approach.

For INTRAC, it's easier to bring together people around a capacity building strategy than a particular sector or theme. For example, around training in organisational development or women's leadership: both these activities tend to focus on medium-term changes (let's be modest and not talk about long-term). They generate challenges, dilemmas and serious discussions and the core team working on them will be reluctant to give up work in these areas even if funding comes to an end. More difficult for INTRAC is holding on to a sectoral theme, because so much of our work is in response to clients' requests. So we might work intensively with youth associations for 2-3 years, then in the next period our main grant or contract is around supporting disabled people's organisations. We learn some important new things about each sector – and then we can't continue with them. However, in my opinion we have the right to focus in a programme way on themes like rights and services for women, people with disability, rural communities, etc. and say "this is a programme" and "we will continue with it because it expresses our values and commitments as a CSO".

Thus in Central Asia we have had a commitment to organisational development since the late 1990s; we have largely passed this torch over to local consultants, but we are always keen to work on it where people think we can help. Ditto analytical/research skills for CSOs, a multi-module training programme that has run eight times in three different countries of Central Asia (plus in Middle East and North Africa), with different development objectives; and a large number of local research studies have been produced and published within it. The same goes for the action learning group methodology, which we learned ourselves 10 years ago and are determined to keep on using wherever we can – because it is still innovative. Civil society sustainability is currently a capacity building and policy issue that acts like a programme across INTRAC's activities in different countries.

At the end of our most recent analytical skills training programme, graduates of the programme joined together to write a report on youth and employment in the Fergana Valley region between Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. This theme is critical for economic and human development and conflict prevention in a densely populated area with limited natural resources. At the same time we had been working on other youth projects showed a high level of dissatisfaction of youth, hence high rates of migration to Russia in search of work. The article by Svetlana Dzardanova in this issue (see page 4) illustrates some of the opportunities and challenges young civil society activists face in the two different contexts of Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan.

In the absence of regular funding we have to be creative and show commitment. Having worked on training for trainers in last year's big funded project, at the end of which we produced four new training handbooks in Russian and Kyrgyz, we decided we could not leave things as they were. The local trainers needed further opportunities to use new skills, the handbooks had only been published at the end of the project (as so often) and needed piloting. So we had to make the decision to continue joint work with the trainers (see previous issues of the INTRAC bulletin) and we gained the agreement from partners to do this. Using existing knowledge, links and resources is key here, but in a different way, in new combinations. We gained a small amount of external financial support and contributed the minimum of INTRAC cash for a highly cost-effective series of local meetings. We discovered that in some cases trainers will work for free and participants will cover their own expenses.



Participants at the July workshop of the INTRAC-supported project 'Training in Action' project. © PA Cic Leader.

Meanwhile, our youth and employment research had led us to new partners for INTRAC – trade unions and government employment centres. We had discovered that the links of local NGOs involved in development projects with unions were almost nil. So we developed the idea of NGO-trade union dialogue around a shared concern – youth labour rights. The funding available for this is very limited and has to be spent carefully, but a big set of new opportunities for joint work is emerging. We found that the training materials developed for NGOs can be useful (if adapted) for unions too.

Achieving a programme approach is about identifying medium or long-term priorities and sticking to them. A long-term, well-funded programme is one model. A portfolio of shorter-term projects on a single theme or linked themes can be another. In the latter case, we ourselves will have to make the connections, lead and build the work. Some elements may be funded, while others may not be. This demands flexibility, openness to learning, readiness to work with partial results, a commitment to information exchange, networking and involving previous partners – whether organisations or individuals.



Charles Buxton joined INTRAC at the beginning of November 2001 and is based in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, as programme manager for the Central Asia region. From 1996 to 2001, Charles worked for VSO (Voluntary Service Overseas) in London as a regional programme manager covering Central Europe, the former Soviet Union and East Asia. He has a first degree in Russian and is also a member of Development in Practice's Editorial Advisory Group.

Civil society activism, youth and the state in Central Asia: comparing Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan

Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan are distinguished by stark contrasts between their political regimes. While Kyrgyzstan, which often divides opinion as to whether it can be considered as the region's island of democracy¹ or an anarchic regional oligarchy², has undergone transformation from a presidential to presidential-parliamentary republic, Uzbekistan still represents one of the region's most authoritarian regimes whose international image only recently began to transform with a new president in office. Youth social activism is emerging and developing differently in these Central Asian societies.

My upcoming research paper 'Social Activism in Central Asia: Comparative Activists-State Relations in Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan' explores the role of state structures in shaping regulations and dialogue between activists and the state; state approaches to working with young social activists and engaging them in addressing social issues; or how they create political and/or bureaucratic barriers to their work. The research used various qualitative research methods, including a review of documents, reports, articles and statistical data on youth social activist groups, individuals and initiatives, and 17 in-depth interviews with selected activists, representatives of state structures and experts. For security reasons all respondents from Uzbekistan were guaranteed full confidentiality.

We found that while both Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan tend to have strict regulations and policies that affect civil society and youth, how they apply them in practice, and what that means for social activism, differs. In this short article I explore the conditions for youth social activism in each country.

A comparative study: state of civil society, roles and key issues

Kyrgyzstan has been at the forefront of promoting democracy in the region and is considered to be one of the most open and liberal states. Civil society is mostly represented by young people – the majority of our interviewees were younger than 30 years old, with several organisations such as [Urban Initiatives](#) and [Activist Girls of Kyrgyzstan](#) consisting almost entirely of young female leaders. Young people seem to be the face and spirit of civil society in the country.

Government officials believe that they are doing a good job in implementing policies which are conducive to youth and social activism, and that are representative of the needs of youth in the country. The Law on Youth Policy was adopted in September 2009, and the Ministry of Youth Affairs was, for the first time in Kyrgyz history, established in 2011 as a political recognition of the role youth groups played in the April 2010 uprising. Presently, the Ministry of Education and Science and the State Agency for Physical Culture are charged with youth policy. I observed optimism among the civil servants interviewed, who positively evaluated their institutions' youth and social work.

At the same time, however, civil servants seem to regard civil activists with a certain degree of distrust, suspecting an ulterior motive and egotistic self-interest. Activists are also rather critical of state policy towards youth and civil action, citing unresponsiveness and passiveness of state agencies, lack of accord between civil society and authorities, lack of continuity and sustainability of youth policy, and so on. According to social media activist, Aibek Baratov, "the decision-making process in state institutions is very complex and usually takes a long time. Sometimes, waiting for permission for an action takes so long, that it becomes irrelevant." One respondent evaluated working with state structures as "extremely difficult", the existing level of cooperation with the latter as "zero", and the overall youth policy as "non-existent". Work with state structures tends to be on a personal level rather than formalised and structured, and relies heavily on connections and informal liaisons.

Remarkably, activists were also critical of their own capacities and mobilising potential. They admitted serious shortcomings in their work and their own inadequate level of training. One respondent

¹ John Anderson. *Kyrgyzstan: Central Asia's Island of Democracy?* Harwood Academic Publishers, 1999.

² Charles E. Ziegler, *Civil Society and Politics in Central Asia*. The University Press of Kentucky, 2015.

confirmed that social initiatives are sometimes undertaken in a haphazard way, without proper preparation, fact-finding and planning done jointly with state structures, and therefore frequently failing. Of course, examples of positive cooperation and success stories are available, but they are hard to find. Despite these factors, and a certain level of opposition from the state, overall conditions for youth social activism are favorable when compared to Uzbekistan where the idea of activism and the word 'activist' are not popular since they are generally considered a 'threat to statehood and the elite.'

Uzbek respondents named four main obstacles to the development of an active civil society: lack of cooperation mechanisms between the state, NGOs and business; bureaucracy and excessive control over the activity of the civil community; distrust towards international donors, local NGOs and activists; and activists being perceived as carriers of liberal (Western) ideas.

Formally the Uzbek state does a lot to support and develop its civil society and youth by adopting various laws, decrees and policies, such as the law 'State Youth Policy in the Republic of Uzbekistan' which specifically targets citizens aged 14 to 30 and provides tools for their political and social participation. According to official data more than 6,000 organisations are now actively working in Uzbekistan, and the number grows each year, but many of these organisations are Government Organised Non-governmental Organisations (GONGOs).

GONGOs enjoy full governmental and financial support as long as they remain loyal and work only on the "safe" issues that were set as priority areas by the state. While members of those state-backed organisations were very positive about the effect of their work and the level of cooperation between the state and activists, as well as the involvement of youth in decision-making, independent activists were pessimistic about the situation. Some respondents affirmed the entire civil sector is dying off because it is under total state control.

The activity of international organisations specifically providing services to the youth in education, health, development and democratisation is strictly regulated by the Uzbek state, and international and local organisations vocal about human and civil rights often get banned or pushed out of the country. The respondents considered human rights "a dangerous field for civil activists", reporting that "everyone who touches upon these problems, faces the threat of persecution, pressure from security services and authorities" and even arrests.

Overall conditions for youth social activism remain therefore extremely worrying in Uzbekistan. The majority of registered NGOs are in fact GONGOs supported by the state and acting in line with state interests. In parallel, many organisations are forced to remain informal due to state regulations, fear, self-censorship and disillusionment. As one of the respondents said: "people are afraid to say too much, and sometimes they do not find it necessary (...) it is very dangerous to engage in activities inconsistent with the state."

Moving forward: harnessing the potential of youth

It is generally accepted that youth should have a role in defining the future of Central Asia and in addressing environmental, economic, social and security issues. If youth are to fulfil their potential in actively contributing to sustainable development, it is important for governments and policymakers to properly channel the potential of the young active population, enhance their political and social participation and include them in the decision-making process. While there is still much to do in Kyrgyzstan, it is encouraging to see the growth in youth activism and some support from the state. Hopefully this can provide inspiration for other countries in the region.



Svetlana Dzardanova is Research and Training Coordinator at the OSCE Academy in Bishkek, where she acquired her MA in Political Science in 2009. If you want to learn more about this research and the upcoming research paper, please get in touch (dzardanovasvetlana@gmail.com).



Our work

Supporting the Foundation for Civil Society to monitor, evaluate and demonstrate change in Tanzania

The Foundation for Civil Society (FCS) in Tanzania is one of the largest support mechanisms for capacity building and grant support to civil society organisations (CSOs) in Tanzania. It is a pooled funding mechanism funded by several like-minded donors. Since December 2016, INTRAC Associates Maureen O'Flynn and Nigel Simister, with support from INTRAC Consultancies and Training Director, Clare Moberly, have worked with the FCS to develop a new Theory of Change, Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) framework.

At the heart of this assignment was the challenge of finding a way to analyse and report on the Foundation's extensive portfolio of grants which support hundreds of CSOs across Tanzania to tackle a wide range of development issues. Consequently, in developing the Theory of Change, the INTRAC team sought to go beyond a generic civil society Theory of Change. They worked with the Foundation but also with donors to have a better understanding of what results would look like and what key questions they wanted to explore and answer through the monitoring and evaluation framework. The system should help the FCS to systematically filter information and report in a succinct way, demonstrating achievements that present a bigger picture.



Case-based monitoring and evaluation training with Nigel Simister. © FCS 2017.

The team did an extensive document and literature review, followed up by the identification and interviewing of key informants who became a key part of the design process. This helped to establish the full range of views on the current MEL framework and implicit Theory of Change.

The initial reviews were followed by a series of country visits and Theory of Change and Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning workshops held in Dar es Salaam with FCS staff and Board members, donors, and representatives of CSOs supported by the Foundation. In July 2017, Nigel Simister returned to the country to complete more Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning training, focusing on case studies/stories of change and methods to assess organisational change.

The Foundation is now implementing its new Theory of Change and Theory of Action, including different components on capacity development and governance. It has also developed a new MEL results framework which includes learning questions as well as outcomes, outputs and indicators. The new ToC and flexible MEL results framework are specifically aimed at supporting the Foundation to learn and improve in an extremely complex environment.

If you want to know more about the Foundation for Civil Society Tanzania and their work, visit: <http://www.thefoundation.or.tz/index.php/en/>

Encouraging government and civil society collaboration in Ethiopia: Civil Society Support Programme learning seminars



Clare Moberly (top left) at one of the seminars hosted in Addis Ababa. Image via British Council Ethiopia Facebook page.

INTRAC Associate Bev Jones and INTRAC Consultancies and Training Director Clare Moberly, recently travelled to Ethiopia to participate in a series of seminars on the learning generated under the Civil Society Support Programme (CSSP).

CSSP is a multi-donor fund supporting civil society capacity development in Ethiopia. During its first phase (2011-2017), the programme provided grant-funding and capacity development opportunities to over 500 civil society organisations from across all regions of Ethiopia.

The programme took an innovative approach to supporting constructive engagement between civil society and government at local level. This was based on a strong and ongoing political economy analysis through the life of the programme and the creation of a distinct culture focused on prioritising hard-to-reach people, geographic areas and issues such as prison reform, women's rights and mental health.



Bev Jones at the closing event for the CSSP Phase 1 programme in Addis Ababa. Image via British Council Ethiopia Facebook page.

INTRAC's support to the programme included thought leadership and key input into the design of the programme; Team Leader/Strategic Adviser Role to the CSSP team (2012-16); and technical advice and design of the capacity development components, with a focus on leadership, financial integrity, strategic oversight (internal governance), gender and inclusion.

As the programme drew to a close, the five learning seminars were held in Addis Ababa and Adama over June and July 2017 on the following topics:

- Prison reform
- Marginalised communities and their access to services
- Khat addiction
- Mental health
- Women and girls: education and protection

The seminars were a success, bringing together representatives from government, civil society, communities and development partners to listen and debate the experience generated under CSSP Phase 1, and to encourage further government and civil society collaboration to achieve more practical changes for hard-to-reach citizens.

CSSP was managed by a consortium, led by the British Council (Ethiopia) and funded by seven international donors including IrishAid, UKAID, Canada, the Dutch, Danish and Norwegian MFAs and SIDA. For further information on the programme, see <https://www.intrac.org/projects/establishing-civil-society-support-programme/>.

FEATURED PROGRAMME: Consultants for Change

By Nicole Titera, Programme Coordinator.

I'm not sure many people get to say that they do their dream job but I am one of the lucky few that fall into this category. With funding from the NAMA Foundation, over the past 18 months I have managed the Consultants for Change (C4C) Programme. I have had the privilege of working with 38 aspiring and established civil society consultants from six countries as well as a plethora of talented facilitators and mentors from across the INTRAC network to make the programme a reality.



The mountain model of change developed by Dr Rick James .
© Rick James/INTRAC 2017.

C4C is a flag-ship programme on localising capacity building support and at the heart of the content is the Mountain Module for Change developed by Dr Rick James. It's a framework for understanding the process of change and how, as consultants, we can support an organisation to genuinely learn and improve – something that the C4C participants have really picked up and run with!

At the beginning of July 2017, the C4C Kyrgyzstan participants and staff in INTRAC's Central Asia office welcomed the whole C4C cohort to Lake Issyk Kul for the last face-to-face training.

The final intensive five-day training focused on accompanying implementation and concluding a consulting relationship to genuinely inspire change in a client organisation. Participants also put into practice newly honed writing techniques to develop case studies to be included in the next edition of the Consulting for Change core text. We are so excited that the participants get to reshape the programme materials based on their experiences and contexts. We hope to make the second edition widely available by the end of 2017 as well as translations into Russian and Arabic – so watch this space and keep an eye on INTRAC's website.

One of the most energising sessions over the course of the week was how to develop a consultancy business plan and exploring models for future collaboration among the consultant group. While it may sound a bit dry, the participants' enthusiasm to develop plans about how to share the core C4C principles – the idea of consulting with commitment, competence and character – in their own countries, was infectious. For me it is really inspiring to see the participants picking up the ideas and theories learnt through the programme, adapting them and making tangible plans to share knowledge, skills and experiences.



Consultants for Change Programme Coordinator Nicole Titera with some of the participants at the final five-day training held in Kyrgyzstan. © INTRAC 2017.

While understanding change is important, we also appreciated that giving participants the opportunity to strengthen existing specialism would be useful. Evaluations will be an important area of work for many of the C4C consultants, so with that in mind we offered a four-day workshop on Monitoring and Evaluation for Change following straight on from the final core C4C module.

The highlight for me were the Most Significant Change and Impact Grid sessions. The techniques were explained by Alison Napier (INTRAC Monitoring and Evaluation lead) and Anne Garbutt (INTRAC Fellow) who facilitated the whole workshop. The participants put their learning into practice using the C4C programme as a case study. They reflected on “a significant change that has happened in their lives since joining the C4C programme” and then together went through a process of selecting the most significant stories and later mapped these onto an impact grid. In terms of work satisfaction it doesn’t get much better than hearing about how different elements of the programme you’ve made happen have influenced people’s approach to their work and lives.

It’s not just during the face-to-face modules that I have had the chance to connect with the ‘C4Cers’. Between the three face-to-face modules the participants have applied their learning through practical work and written assignments as well as interacting through INTRAC’s online learning platform. The most recent written assignment asked the participants to reflect deeply on who they are and how this informs the way they work. I had the pleasure of reading these submissions about their journeys.

One of the participants from Palestine worked with Bill Crooks, one of the lead facilitators of the programme, to transform some of the key elements in her written assignment into a powerful digital narrative. You can delve into Bisan’s powerful story of a how a young girl's experience of living under Israeli occupation shaped her choices and future plans to become a consultant committed to civil society development by clicking this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WI01EhzljYY>.

There was such fantastic energy on every day of the training and from each participant throughout the programme. The logistical headaches that inevitably come along with a large multi-country training programme have faded into background and what I am left with is a real sense that people want to put their learning into practice and share their skills and knowledge. That for me is more than I could have hoped for when setting out on this journey 18 months ago. It’s bittersweet that this chapter is coming to close, but I am excited to see how C4C changes and what happens next...



The Consultants for Change cohort at Lake Issyk Kul for the last face-to-face training. © INTRAC 2017.



As part of NAMA’s legacy of support, INTRAC is developing an online course based on this successful C4C model! Sounds like something your organisation might want to do? Get in touch with Nicole Titera via info@intrac.org to find out more.

Conferences

The October Revolution in Central Asia 1917: in search of local agency, 27 June 2017, Kyrgyzstan

INTRAC's Bishkek office helped conceptualise and organise a one-day conference devoted to the 100th anniversary of the October 1917 revolution in Russia. Funded by the Friedrich Ebert Foundation in Kyrgyzstan, the conference aimed at critically assessing the revolutionary years with regard to local agency, thus highlighting a facet of the revolution which is rarely paid attention to. It asked questions about the main actors and narratives that enabled the ideas of the revolution to advance and ultimately spread into Kyrgyz society; and about empowerment of the powerless as this was advanced by the Bolsheviks. We argued that some key ideas from 1917 have lived on in the concept of civil society, despite the domestication of the latter by mainstream liberalism.

After a series of historical presentations in the first half of the day, INTRAC staff and colleagues from local civil society organisations organised a short civic forum that tried to bring the discussion up to date. Organised as a 'world café', it was arranged around five thematic tables with broad topics (1. The state and its institutions, 2. Civil society practice and organisations, 3. Labour and property relations, 4. Gender issues, 5. Ethnicity, religion, interpersonal relationships).

The discussion was lively and lots of views were heard. Some 50 people attended the event and a report will be available from the Friedrich Ebert Foundation later in 2017.

Upcoming events

Translating development, 12 October 2017, London

Join us on 12 October 2017 at this free seminar organised by INTRAC and the Universities of Reading and Portsmouth, with the support of the Institute for Modern Languages Research. The seminar aims to provide a forum for translators working in the area of development and NGOs to talk about their work, and to discuss the challenges that it involves. For more information visit www.reading.ac.uk/listening-zones-ngos or contact Wine Tesseur at w.tesseur@reading.ac.uk.

Register at our Eventbrite page: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/translating-development-tickets-36265083842>

Complex problems, complex solutions: NGOs in a changing development landscape, 8 September 2017, Bradford

NGOs are facing a new development landscape, needing to respond and adapt to 'disruptive change'. At the Development Studies Annual Conference 2017 (Bradford, UK, 6-8 Sept), the NGOs in Development Study Group (co-convened by INTRAC) will explore new research that seeks to understand these responses, and the implications for NGOs within a broader complex system with multiple actors.

For full details go to <http://nomadit.co.uk/dsa/dsa2017/conferencesuite.php/panels/5789>. Find out more information about the NGOs in Development Study Group here: <https://www.devstud.org.uk/study-groups/ngos-in-development>



INTRAC training

NEW ONLINE TRAINING COURSE

Online fundraising for sustainability

25 September – 3 November 2017, Oxford

Our new online course will provide you with an opportunity to deconstruct the term 'fundraising' and view it from the angle of organisational development and sustainability. Fundraising for sustainability is built around the aim of reducing an organisation's exposure to risk whilst increasing its ability to pursue strategic goals.

The course provides approximately 25 hours of training over 5 weeks and consists of a blend of real time webinars led by our highly experienced trainers, individual and group activities, opportunities to interact with participants on the course through discussion forums on the INTRAC learning platform, and individual coaching to enable attendees to apply the learning to their work.

[Learn more](#) about the course and [apply now!](#)

Theory of change for planning and impact assessment

2 – 6 October 2017, Oxford

This course introduces the elements of theory of change and offers the opportunity for participants to apply and experiment with the key ideas and processes using their own case studies, as well as illustrative examples presented by the course facilitator.

Online monitoring and evaluation

4 October – 15 November 2017, Oxford

This course will strengthen your skills in supporting the monitoring and evaluation of projects and programmes from programme design through to evaluation and impact assessment, and help you to tackle monitoring and evaluation challenges that you may be facing.



Publications and blogs

New special issue of Development in Practice!

Faith and health in development contexts



We are delighted to share with you the latest special issue of Development in Practice: faith and health in development contexts. With 13 articles and four viewpoints, this special issue explores the role of faith-based organisations as key voices for a life-promoting environment and for the inclusion in the benefits of development of all people. The guest introduction by Christopher Benn from the Global Fund and the article on antenatal care in Northern Ghana are open access!

Explore the special issue here: <http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/cdip20/27/5?nav=toCList>

Why are languages missing from the Sustainable Development Goals? Guest blog by Wine Tesseur

In May 2017, Wine Tesseur participated in the Symposium on 'Language, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and vulnerable populations' at the United Nations in New York, where she presented some of the early findings from The Listening Zones of NGOs project. UN policy makers, NGO practitioners, and scholars participated in the two-day Symposium, which highlighted the central role of language in development. Participants emphasised that disregarding language in policy efforts often undermines such efforts and ultimately hinders progress towards achieving the SDGs.

Read Wine's blog post 'Why are languages missing from the Sustainable Development Goals?' here: <https://www.intrac.org/languages-missing-sustainable-development-goals/>

The struggle for civil society in Central Asia, now available in Russian



'The Struggle for Civil Society in Central Asia' describes the gradual establishment of the civil sector in Central Asia despite the economic and social crises that marked the first decade of independence. The book looks in detail at the ecological, women's and democracy sectors of civil society, analyses the causes and impact of the 'coloured revolution', and summarises the opportunities and challenges for civil society organisations today, from local to global level. The book is now also available in Russian. Get in touch with Charles Buxton at icap@intrac.kg to order your copy.

Meet the team

Annalisa Addis, Training Assistant

Annalisa joined INTRAC in July 2017 as Training Assistant. In this role, she coordinates the day-to-day running of online and face-to-face open training courses, providing administrative and logistical assistance to the training team.

Annalisa has a PhD in African and International Development Studies jointly awarded by the University of Cagliari (Italy) and by the Ruhr-University Bochum (Germany). Her research focused on the grey area between humanitarian relief and development interventions.



Ajay Mehta, INTRAC Associate



Ajay Mehta is a capacity development specialist passionate about supporting the growth and sustainability of national and international civil society organisations to increase their social impact.

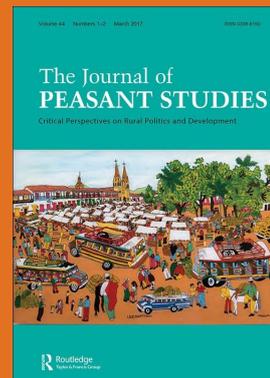
Over the years, Ajay has worked in partnership with INTRAC on several projects, including the Common Ground Initiative [Peer Learning Programme](#) designed to strengthen the capacities of African Diaspora organisations. Currently, Ajay is the trainer on INTRAC's new online course 'Online fundraising for sustainability'.

News from Routledge Taylor & Francis Group



Virtual special issue collaboration: The Journal of Peasant Studies and The Canadian Journal of Development Studies

We're pleased to present a unique collaborative promotion between *The Journal of Peasant Studies* and *Canadian Journal of Development Studies*, available here: <http://explore.tandfonline.com/page/bes/collab-17>.



Both impactful and well-respected titles within their fields, we find it only natural that these two titles sit together within this 'virtual special issue' collaboration. The articles in these two special issues are concerned with continuities and ruptures in processes of agrarian-environmental change in Southeast Asia, and are free to read in their entirety online until the end of 2017.



Oxbridge Court, Osney Mead

Oxford OX2 0ES

United Kingdom

Tel: +44 (0)1865 201851

Fax: +44 (0)1865 201852

info@intrac.org

www.intrac.org



INTRAC is a company limited by guarantee No.2663769,
Registered in England; Registered Charity No. 1016676