

ҚОҒАМДЫҚ ҚОРЫ

ОБЩЕСТВЕННЫЙ ФОНД

BOTA FOUNDATION

## Announcements

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### BOTA Foundation completed its mission

The BOTA Foundation was founded in 2008 by the Governments of Kazakhstan, U.S., and Switzerland, and five citizens of Kazakhstan, as a means of returning more than \$115 million in disputed assets in support of poor children, youth, and their families in Kazakhstan. The Foundation began operations in February 2009, following the selection of the international team of IREX and Save the Children, through a tender released by the World Bank, and finished its operations at the end of December 2014. Based upon a decision of the Board of Trustees and the Governments of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Switzerland, and the U.S., the Foundation is in the process of liquidation. The liquidation process is expected to be completed by May 2015, at which time BOTA will cease to be a legal entity.

The BOTA Foundation was the largest child and youth welfare foundation in Kazakhstan during the time of its operation, and was able to improve the health and poverty status of over 208,000 poor Kazakhstani children and youth through its three programs: conditional cash transfers, scholarships to attend higher education institutions of Kazakhstan, and grants to support innovative social service provision.

While the Foundation will be shutting its doors at the end of 2014, it leaves behind an important legacy with several sustainable dimensions. BOTA was able to efficiently and effectively return more than \$115 million in assets associated with corruption to poor children, youth, and their families. The Foundation's experience and lessons provide a model for future asset restitution cases worldwide. In addition to returning the assets to Kazakhstan, BOTA had significant impact on the communities it served. Notably, BOTA's Conditional Cash Transfer Program (CCT) is serving as the basis for a pilot that could lead to restructuring how social assistance is delivered in Kazakhstan. The Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) leaves behind hundreds of graduates who are on their way to breaking the cycle of poverty through finding gainful employment. Through the Social Service Program (SSP), BOTA strengthened hundreds of child welfare NGOs, some of which have gone on to found a national coalition of child and youth welfare NGOs dedicated to continuing the type of work that BOTA had been funding. Former BOTA staff provide the final piece of the Foundation's legacy, as they have already gone on to work for international organizations such as the World Bank, UNICEF, and UNDP, and also started their own local NGOs. Former BOTA staff will bring BOTA's high standards and expert child welfare expertise into their new positions and roles.

External evaluations by Oxford Policy Management (OPM) state that "overall the qualitative evaluation has confirmed that the BOTA programs have been implemented across all three activities with high levels of effectiveness for those that receive the benefit, and, BOTA has been having a positive impact on recipients across all three activities."

More information on BOTA and its achievements can be found in the OPM evaluation reports that can be found on this website or by clicking [here](#).

At the end of its operations, the BOTA Foundation produced a film that describes BOTA's achievements. The film is available in English, Russian, and Kazakh and can be downloaded [here](#).

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