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**KAZAKHSTAN**

ANNUAL REPORT 2023



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# FOREWORD BY THE RESIDENT COORDINATOR

On behalf of the UN Country Team (UNCT), I am delighted to present you our Annual Results Report 2023. The report is a testament to the collective efforts of the UNCT in the Republic of Kazakhstan, showcasing joint accomplishments of 27 UN entities in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through empowering people, enhancing governance, tackling climate change, and fostering a green economy.

In 2023 Kazakhstan moved further on the path of sustainable development, e.g. adopting a Carbon Neutrality Strategy, adopting a new Social Code, accelerating inclusive digital-based service delivery, taking actions to better protect socio-economic rights of those at risk of being most left behind. To foster these achievements, the United Nations have provided policy advisory

services and promoted international norms and standards as well as implemented catalysing programmes to advance the SDGs. Our initiatives have spanned from enhancing access to education and healthcare to promoting gender equality and economic empowerment, as well as human rights, all aimed at building a more inclusive society.

A highlight of the year was UN's partnership with the Astana International Forum, a platform that brought together global leaders, experts, and stakeholders to discuss and devise solutions for some of the most pressing global challenges. Our involvement in this forum underscores our commitment to fostering dialogue, building partnerships, and leveraging international cooperation to achieve the SDGs.

Our achievements in 2023 year were bolstered by the strong and enduring partnership with the Government of Kazakhstan. This collaboration has been instrumental in aligning our initiatives with national priorities and leveraging governmental support to maximize our impact. The Government of Kazakhstan's commitment to sustainable development, climate action, and social inclusion has been a cornerstone of our shared success, enabling us to achieve meaningful progress across our areas of focus. We also strongly enhanced our partnership with private sector, and the Global Compact in Kazakhstan, which now includes 62 companies and organizations. The civil society remains a backbone in finding innovative solutions for SDGs and piloting them in the country.

I extend my sincerest gratitude to our partners, donors, and all those who have supported our journey. As we look into the future, I am confident that our collective efforts will continue to bear fruit for the people of Kazakhstan and beyond.



Michaela Friberg-Storey  
UN Resident Coordinator in Kazakhstan  
March 2024



# THE UN COUNTRY TEAM IN KAZAKHSTAN

The United Nations initiated its country-based operations in Kazakhstan in early 1993, shortly after the country's accession to the United Nations in March 1992. The UNCT in Kazakhstan is comprised of 27 agencies, funds and programmes (out of which 20 are resident) led by the UN Resident Coordinator to achieve SDGs. To facilitate country-based and regional operations, the UN is located in two

cities: Astana and Almaty. In 2023 the UN in Kazakhstan accounted for 486 staff, including 427 national and 59 international.

The UN system in Kazakhstan commits to remain a valued, rights-based and trusted partner of the Government and people of Kazakhstan, able to mobilize the best expertise and knowledge across key development areas.

The UN Country Team in Kazakhstan is comprised of **20 resident organizations**



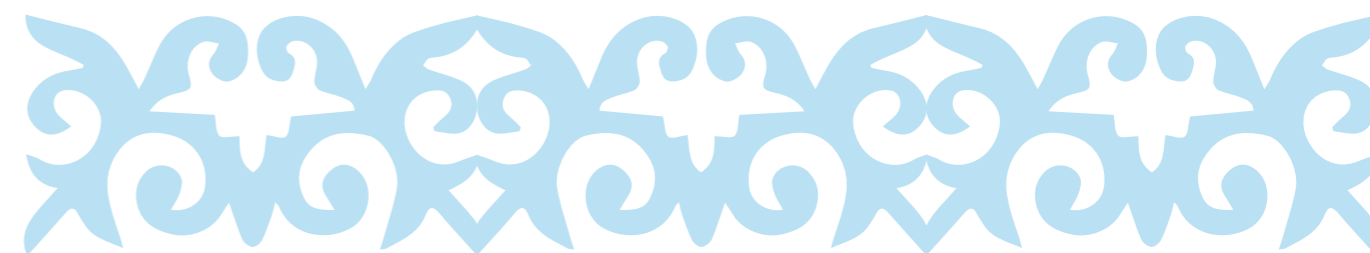
and **7 non-resident entities**







# 1 KEY DEVELOPMENTS IN THE COUNTRY AND REGIONAL CONTEXT



The year 2023 witnessed further implementation of political reforms earlier announced by the President of Kazakhstan. In March 2023, a mixed proportional-majoritarian model was implemented for the early elections of the Mazhilis, the lower chamber of Parliament. The simplification of the registration process led to the establishment of two new political parties: Respublica, founded by entrepreneurs, and Baitaq, the green party. Despite more active political campaign, the voter turnout fell to 54.2%, down from 63.3% in 2021. In addition, women's representation in the Mazhilis dropped by 8% resulting in 18.9% women members of the Parliament in comparison to 27% in 2022. The ruling Amanat party managed to secure 62 seats, consolidating its position within the political landscape. Also in 2023, for the first time akims of pilot 45 districts and cities of regional subordination were elected in elections (not appointed, as previously) marking a movement towards more open local governance.

The economy of Kazakhstan began rebounding from the adverse impacts of the war in Ukraine. In 2023, the economy grew at 5.1% with trade (1.9 p.p.) and industry (1.26 p.p.) contributing the most to GDP growth. The imports surged by 20% to \$61.2 billion, mainly due to strong demand for machinery and equipment and increased exports to Russia, whereas the exports decreased by 7% to \$78.7 billion because of plunge in oil prices. As such, the economy remains heavily reliant on natural resource extraction, and progress towards increasing economic diversity and complexity has been slow. In his State of the Nation Address in September 2023, the President set an ambitious goal of doubling the national economy to \$450 billion by 2029 with a minimum annual real GDP rate of 6%. Achieving this goal requires the identification of new drivers of economic growth and reforms to boost human capital.

Rising prices persist as the primary economic concern for the population, despite inflation falling sharply from its peak of 21.3% in February to 9.8% by December 2023. With less inflationary pressure, the Central Bank lowered its benchmark interest rate by 100 basis points to 15.75% to stimulate demand. An increase of cost-of-living pushes more people below the poverty line. In fact, the national poverty rate was 5.6% in the third quarter of 2023, marking the highest level since the same period in 2020. Furthermore, according to the Listening to Kazakhstan survey conducted in December 2023, 57% of respondents expressed concern about either losing their job or not being able to find one. In response, throughout the year, the Government expanded welfare programs and introduced better coverage with social protection through an innovative solution, the Digital Family Card.

The country shows a strong commitment to Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development. However, among the SDGs, major challenges persist in affordable and clean energy and climate action. The country ranks among the top 20 emitters of greenhouse gas emissions per capita and remains vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Kazakhstan has committed to reducing its GHG emissions by adopting the Strategy on Achieving Carbon Neutrality by 2060, revising its National Determined Contribution, and joining the Global Methane Pledge at COP28.

 GDP: \$261 bln

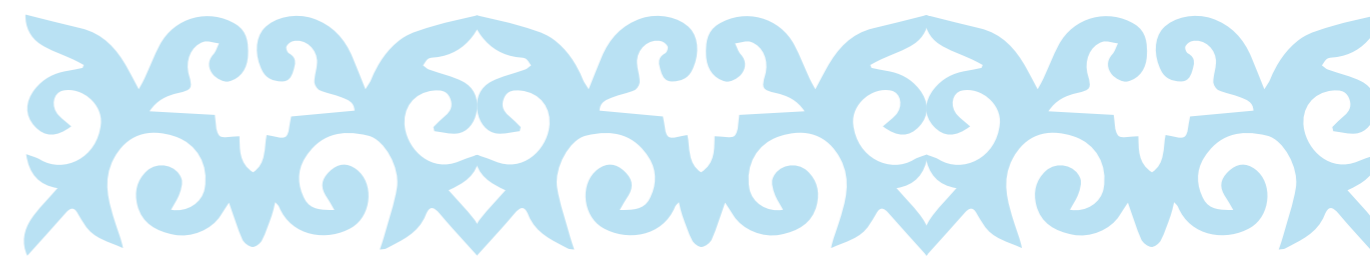
 Real GDP growth: 5.1%

 Inflation: 9.8%





# 2 KEY DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS IN KAZAKHSTAN



Achieving SDGs hinges on contribution from a diverse array of stakeholders. The UN's support to Kazakhstan is only possible through the collaboration of numerous valued partners: government institutions at the national, regional, and local levels, civil society organizations (CSOs), private sector entities, bilateral and multilateral donors, as well as academia and international financial institutions (IFIs). Each stakeholder plays a crucial role in advancing rights-based policies, fostering stable development support, and addressing needs of marginalized groups at risk of being overlooked. Results presented in this report are a testament to the indispensable contributions of these partners, and without their commitment, such achievements would not have been possible.

**The Government of Kazakhstan is the key UN** partner in driving forward the operationalization of development priorities and the 2030 Agenda. Kazakhstan's people own the results of our work, and we align our work with goals and priorities of Kazakhstan. The robust collaboration between the Government and the UN is not only about programme implementation. The Government is one of our largest financial contributors, enabling realization of our mandate. In 2023 Kazakhstan reaffirmed commitment to the SDGs through the operation of the SDG Coordination Council under the Prime Minister's auspices, and five cross-ministerial working groups (as per the SDG "5P" approach), and the establishment of the SDGs Monitoring Committee in the Parliament, signalling a concerted effort to advance sustainable development at the national level.

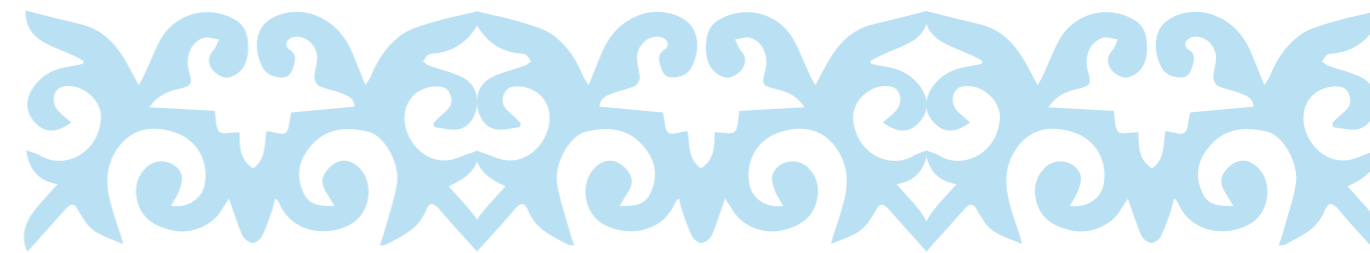
UNCT in Kazakhstan is committed to fostering the active participation of CSOs at every stage of policymaking, planning, and SDG implementation. With a diverse landscape comprising 23,335 registered CSOs in Kazakhstan we collaborate with civil society through four primary avenues: 1) contributing to the strategic planning of UN initiatives, 2) establishing policy partnerships, 3) engaging in advocacy efforts, and 4) actively involving CSOs in the implementation of various programs and projects. This multifaceted engagement underscores the UNCT's commitment to harnessing the unique strengths and perspectives of civil society for a more comprehensive and impactful approach to sustainable development in Kazakhstan.

In 2023, collaboration with the private sector emerged as a key priority for the country team, reflecting a strategic commitment to strengthen the UN's engagement with the business sector in advancing sustainable development goals. Recognizing the pivotal role that private enterprises play in driving economic growth, innovation, and social impact we harness the resources, expertise, and innovation of the business. Collaboration with the Global Compact, which grew from 7 to 62 companies in 2023, was pivotal in that respect.





# 3 UN DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM SUPPORT TO NATIONAL PRIORITIES IN 2023



## 3.1. Overview of the Cooperation Framework Results

The UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework for 2021-2025 signed on 12 August 2020 (hereinafter Framework or UNSDCF) sets the strategic key principles and priorities of cooperation between the UN and Kazakhstan. The Framework was signed by the Government of Kazakhstan and the UN Resident Coordinator, as well as co-signed by 25 UN entities. The Framework is governed by a high-level UNSDCF Steering Committee, co-chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister and the UN Resident Coordinator. The Framework mainstreams environmental sustainability, and gender-sensitive programming, permeated by the Leave-No-One-Behind (LNOB) principle. It is tailored to the country context and reflects the UN's normative role in strengthening national authorities and policymakers' capacities in creating an enabling policy environment for sustainable development.

### The Framework is structured along three Strategic Priorities (Pillars):

- 1) Empowered People:** Human Capital Development and Social Services;
- 2) Good Governance:** Effective Institutions, Human Rights and Gender Equality; and
- 3) Sustainable Economic Development:** Inclusive Economic Growth and Environmental Sustainability.

### Each Strategic Priority (Pillar) has two Outcomes:

► **Outcome 1.1.** By 2025, effective, inclusive and accountable institutions ensure equal access for all people living in Kazakhstan, especially the most vulnerable, to quality and gender-sensitive social services according to the leaving no one behind principle.

Pillar 1

► **Outcome 1.2.** By 2025, all people in Kazakhstan, especially the most vulnerable are empowered with knowledge and skills to equally contribute to sustainable development of the country.

► **Outcome 2.1.** By 2025, all people in Kazakhstan are protected and enjoy full realisation of human rights and gender equality and a life free from discrimination, violence, and threats, and equally participate in decision-making.

Pillar 2

► **Outcome 2.2.** By 2025, state institutions at all levels effectively design and implement gender-sensitive, human rights, and evidence-based public policies and provide quality services in an inclusive, transparent and accountable manner.

► **Outcome 3.1.** By 2025, all people in Kazakhstan, especially the most vulnerable, benefit from inclusive, resilient, and sustainable economic development with improved productive capacities, skills and equal opportunities for sustainable and decent jobs, livelihoods and businesses.

Pillar 3

► **Outcome 3.2.** By 2025, all people in Kazakhstan, in particular, the most vulnerable, benefit from increased climate resilience, sustainable management of environment and clean energy, and sustainable rural and urban development.





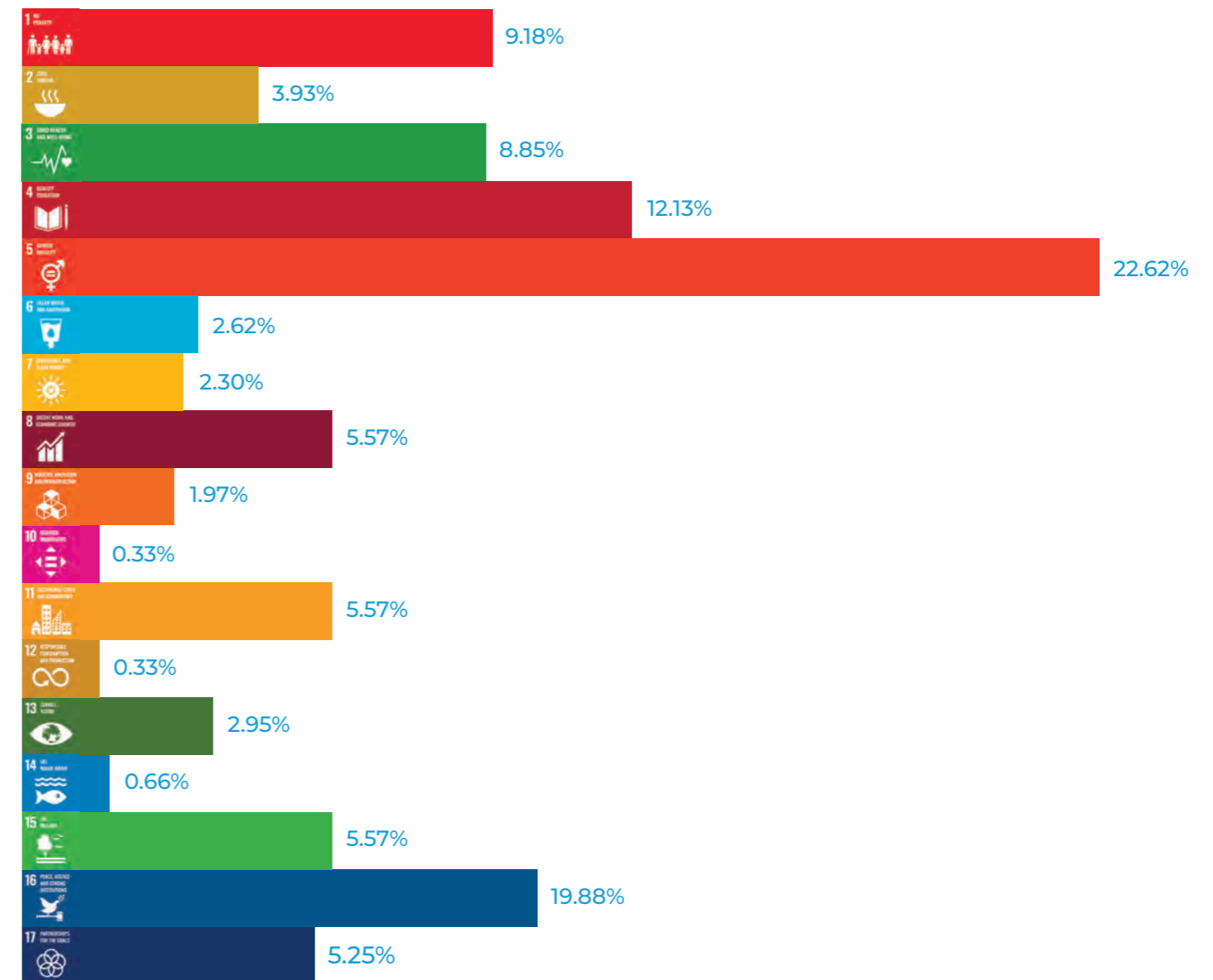
The UN recorded progress across all six Outcomes and 215 activities implemented in 2023, and contributed to reducing the risks related to exclusion, food insecurity, human rights, gender equality, women’s empowerment, environment and other. Nearly three quarters of activities focused on driving progress towards SDG 1 (17.16%), SDG 5 (13.03%), SDG 16 (11.27%), SDG 4 (9.29%), and SDG 3 (8.73%) in 2023. The results achieved reflect the transformative nature of the SDGs and seamless alignment with national priorities — the Kazakhstan 2050 Strategy, the Action Plan for the implementation of the programme “Fair Kazakhstan — For All and Everyone. Now and Forever”, the Ten National Projects, the Concept on Family and Gender Policy until 2030, the Carbon Neutrality Strategy by 2060, and other sectoral strategies.

The Figure below shows the five highest financial allocations per SDGs. Further disaggregation by pillar and outcome can be found in the section on the Financial Overview and Resource Mobilisation.

**Top 5 SDGs with the greatest financial allocations**



**Share of Activities per SDGs**



*Number of Activities in 2023.*

- GOAL 1: No Poverty
- GOAL 2: Zero Hunger
- GOAL 3: Good Health and Well-being
- GOAL 4: Quality Education
- GOAL 5: Gender Equality
- GOAL 6: Clean Water and Sanitation
- GOAL 7: Affordable and Clean Energy
- GOAL 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth
- GOAL 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure
- GOAL 10: Reduced Inequality
- GOAL 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities
- GOAL 12: Responsible Consumption and Production
- GOAL 13: Climate Action
- GOAL 14: Life Below Water
- GOAL 15: Life on Land
- GOAL 16: Peace and Justice Strong Institutions
- GOAL 17: Partnerships to achieve the Goal



## Spotlight Initiative



In 2023, the flagship gender-based violence (GBV) programme – joint EU-UN Spotlight Initiative Regional Programme for Central Asia (SI) came to an end, achieving success in all five areas of engagement.

**Key results of the programme are the following:**

### ► LEGISLATION AND POLICY FRAMEWORK

SI developed an integrated approach, a roadmap and analytical tool to monitor convergence of national SGBV legislation with international standards and strengthening the response to SGBV in CA countries: in total nine guidance tools and knowledge products developed, involving hundreds of experts in dialogues and regional events.

### ► STRENGTHENING OF INSTITUTIONS

The Central Asian Alliance to End GBV, a first of its kind in the region, was established to serve as a multi-stakeholder mechanism based on political and voluntary commitment, providing safe space for deliberations among civil society, state agencies and other relevant stakeholders. Moreover, the project has developed manuals on financing specialised services for survivors, virtual knowledge platform and Standard Operating Procedures on multi-sectoral response to GBV. Hundreds of beneficiaries have built capacity on these policies and SOPs, and dialogue platforms, networks and community of practice were established to set norms on police actions to protect women from violence.

### ► TACKLING SOCIAL NORMS, ATTITUDES & BEHAVIOURS

The UN has implemented several initiatives including Media Academy, regional debates, TikTok campaign and other actions involving over 400 activists and influencers. We also engaged men through a special communication plan and practical guide on

engagement of men. Over 12 million of people in Central Asia raised awareness on gender equality through “HeforShe Campaign”, among others through special videos and products. UN has influenced over one million to change their attitude on GBV through “Do Not Be Silent Campaign” (including through nine DocuDramas, and one documentary). Altogether, more than 15 million people raised awareness on positive social norms change to foster ending violence against women and girls.

### ► CLOSING THE DATA GAP

SI forged a transformative path by launching cutting-edge learning programs (kNOwVAWdata course), creating digital tools (“IT against Violence” Digital Challenge) pioneered mapping GBV data sources, published and distributed a comprehensive report on GBV prevalence, and conducted primary qualitative research addressing intersecting forms of discrimination and data gaps, focusing on women traditionally left behind. All products served to foster skills of hundreds of beneficiaries in digital tools to fight GBV.

### ► STRENGTHENING CSO CAPACITIES AND REGIONAL WOMEN’S MOVEMENT

The UN and the EU through SI united over 500 civil society actors to form the regional CSOs network. The CSOs network fostered regional online dialogue for CSOs and expert community, discussed recommendations on required legal reforms, and enhanced institutional strengthening of organizations. We also built CSOs capacities through a dedicated small grants programme, and over 4,000 CSOs activists were trained.



## 3.2 Cooperation Framework Priorities, Outcomes and Outputs

### OUTCOME 1.1

**By 2025, effective, inclusive and accountable institutions ensure equal access for all people living in Kazakhstan, especially the most vulnerable, to quality and gender-sensitive social services according to the leaving no one behind principle.**



**60** government officials trained on refugee protection



Social Code adopted



**9,548** school frontline workers engaged in school meal programme



The National Laboratory Policy and Strategy, as well as Plan for Strengthening the National Immunization System for 2023-2025 adopted



Over **5000** healthcare professionals trained; Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination program introduced



Central Asian Alliance to End GBV is established and over 1000 activists, professionals enhanced capacity on GBV

In 2023, the third year of the UNSDCF implementation, the United Nations in Kazakhstan continued to contribute to the sustainable development goals through promoting inclusivity and equal opportunities of all groups left behind in accessing social services, by supporting policy development, policy implementation and piloting scalable programmes to improve social safety of people in Kazakhstan. Important improvements in health, social inclusion, gender equality, and education laid strong foundation for continued progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals.

### Health systems and healthcare access enhanced

UN has played a pivotal role in the spearheading effective national health policies. A landmark achievement was the government's endorsement of the National Laboratory Policy and Strategy, designed to enhance cooperation between the animal and human health sectors under the One Health approach. This strategy enables Kazakhstan to effectively address zoonotic infections and the impacts of climate change on health.

UN has also trained over 5,000 healthcare professionals in various health fields (Infection Prevention and Control, antimicrobial resistance, and health information systems, tobacco control, including training 40 specialists from 20 regional centres on HIV prevention), directly contributing to better quality of



Outcome 1.1 brings together the efforts of



SDG-targets:





## Kazakhstan pledged to improve the lives of refugees and stateless people

Held every four years, the Global Refugee Forum (GRF) is the largest international conference on refugee issues, and is an opportunity for States, humanitarian and development organizations, private sector, academia, UN agencies and more to make concrete pledges to improve the lives of refugees and stateless people.

The Government of Kazakhstan made five pledges at the 2023 event, committing to establish border referral procedures to ensure unhindered access to territory, as well as to provide refugees with access to medical care, employment, education and social assistance on par with citizens.

Together with 49 other UN Country Teams around the world, the UNCT in Kazakhstan joined the UN Common Pledge 2.0, and committed to protect, promote and respect asylum-seekers, refugees and stateless persons' dignity and self-reliance, and enhance their integration into Kazakhstan society, through a greater than ever engagement into UN programmes and projects, enhanced UNCT-wide advocacy, and adapting UN-internal analytical frameworks.



health services for all. Thanks to UN efforts, now 190 clinics in Kazakhstan apply the new Standard on Youth Friendly Health Centres.

The UN Country Team has also supported the government in adopting the Comprehensive Plan for Strengthening the National Immunization System for 2023-2025, directly benefiting the country's entire child population (5.6 million below 17 years old) through improved immunization services.

Focusing on the most vulnerable groups, the UN initiated the HIV Road Map 2023-2026, enhancing national efforts in HIV prevention and treatment, directly improving the quality of life of 25,642 individuals by accessing the increased antiretroviral therapy coverage (surge from 1,333 in 2010).

The introduction of the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination program for 11-year-old girls by Kazakhstan marked a significant advancement in preventive healthcare, supported by UN's technical and financial contributions. This initiative is expected to have a profound impact on reducing the incidence of cervical cancer among women in Kazakhstan.

The UN also facilitated the procurement of life-saving medicines for over 8,228 patients (including 113 children with rare diseases), demonstrating its commitment to improving access to essential healthcare services. This effort not only ensured that patients received the necessary treatments but also resulted in savings for the state budget. Furthermore, UN also have prepared "easy-to-read" materials on reproductive health and rights issues that can be used by persons with mental/intellectual disorders.

### Social protection strengthened

The United Nations has provided strong policy support and advocacy for the first-ever consolidated Social Code, which was adopted on 1 July 2023 by Kazakhstan, directly impacting the systematization and more effective social policies for all

vulnerable groups in the country. In addition to agency-specific support, the UN Country Team has provided joint, consolidated recommendations to the Social Code on multiple aspects, fostering dialogue and consultations on this groundbreaking document.

The UN has supported Kazakhstan to transition the Targeted Social Assistance from subsistence minimum level to median income level – this expands the coverage of more vulnerable people and families. Similarly, UN supported the review of tariff policies for people with disabilities, laying foundations for a per capita regular financing transition in the social service systems, thereby improving the targeting and the efficiency of the subsidies.

The UN advocacy efforts and policy support contributed to the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, a testament to Kazakhstan's commitment to promoting the rights and well-being of persons with disabilities. It also piloted programmes assisting 150 families (582 residents of Kazakhstan, including 362 children) on self-guided living technologies, and contributing to making life and employment of people with disabilities more independent. UN has also continued to scale-up online treatment of young people in 30 Youth Health Centres in five regions of the country. We also trained 65 social service providers for people with disabilities on multi-sectoral response (MSR) services to people with disability subjected to GBV.

### Refugee protection improved

Committed to the principles of leaving no one behind, 60 government representatives participated in training sessions provided by the UN on international legislation and practises on refugee protection. The UN has also continued in-depth policy support to the Government, including on efficient border referral mechanisms and asylum procedures, and ensuring refugee and asylum seeker



access to due socio-economic rights and services.

We provided multi-purpose cash grants to 171 of the most vulnerable asylum seeker and refugee families (reaching 465 individuals), supporting them to access basic needs. Further social assistance programmes supported 251 refugees and asylum-seekers to access health services and psychological support.

The UN provided technical assistance to the development of the Migration Policy Concept 2023-2027, supporting the government to ensure national legislation meets Kazakhstan's commitments as a party to the Refugee Conventions.

### *Women empowered and GBV awareness built*

UN efforts in 2023 focused on combating gender-based violence and empowering women in Kazakhstan. The establishment of the Central Asian Alliance to End GBV, supported by the UN, marked a significant step forward in regional cooperation to address GBV. Two Alliance's conferences brought together over 280 stakeholders to evaluate progress and outline strategic plans for combating GBV in Central Asia. Furthermore, 500 representatives of Central Asian civil society organizations working in GBV and human rights built their capacities to advocate for and impact international standards of GBV policies. Within the Spotlight Initiative since 2020, UN raised awareness on healthy masculinity and gender equality among 7 million people in Central

Asia, and created a regional knowledge-sharing platform potentially benefiting 35 million women and girls in Central Asia. In 2023 we trained no less than 250 professionals in various fields (journalists, state officials etc.) on GBV prevention and multi-sectoral response to GBV.

### *Education, family planning and digital inclusion enhanced*

The UN played important role in promoting education and digital inclusion in Kazakhstan. We developed a digital knowledge and skills-building platform for young people of key populations, which provides vital information on health, gender, and relationships, empowering young people to make informed decisions about their well-being. The United Nations has also piloted school meal program that reached 9,548 school frontline workers and over 429,000 social media users with health education ("Menu for Superheroes" book of recipes). The UN has also promoted family-friendly policies in 350 companies of Kazakhstan.

The UN supported the evidence-based family planning by designing the clinical protocol on family planning, practical manual for primary healthcare providers, and delivering workshops for 195 health professionals. We built capacity of academic institutions by introducing curricula package on providing medical care to GBV survivors. The UN has also launched FAST Heroes programme, where over 800 students learnt to recognize symptoms of stroke.



### **Breaking Barriers: Yelena's Mission to Uplift Women with HIV**

Yelena Rastokina, living with HIV for over a decade, stands as a symbol of resilience. Collaborating with UNAIDS and the Public Association "Answer," her work has had nationwide impact, advocating for those living with HIV and influencing policies at the highest governmental levels.

"The UN has been instrumental in providing guidance and support," Yelena says, "enabling me to empower myself and, by extension, my community." Her efforts have led to tangible changes, particularly through a UNAIDS-funded Mentoring Programme which supported about 200 women in 2023 alone. This initiative helps women with HIV to overcome low self-esteem, accept their status, find employment, and leave abusive relationships.

Yelena's journey highlights the power of personal growth as a catalyst for broader community advancement, exemplifying how collaborative efforts between grassroots organizations and global entities like the UN can drive significant societal change.



**OUTCOME 1.2**

**By 2025, all people in Kazakhstan, especially the most vulnerable are empowered with knowledge and skills to equally contribute to sustainable development of the country.**



**15** refugee youth accessed higher education



**15,329** young people upskilled in STEM



Over **20 mln** people in Central Asia increased their awareness on GBV



Over **15,000** women received reproductive healthcare



**5,000** students and teachers improved their critical digital skills

In 2023, the UN Country Team continued to open opportunities for all people of Kazakhstan in terms of knowledge and skills to contribute to the sustainable development in the country. The UN has been focusing especially on people at risk of left-behind, including refugees, people living with HIV, vulnerable women and children, and many others. Our collective efforts in various

areas across health, education, gender equality, environmental sustainability, digital innovation, and social inclusion fostered significant improvements in the well-being and capabilities of Kazakhstan's diverse communities.

*Health skills enhanced*

Health is one of the most outstanding factors for the quality of life and welfare. To improve healthcare and maintain resilient social growth in Kazakhstan, the UN has spearheaded initiatives to combat non-communicable diseases by delivering health screening services and awareness campaigns for over 5,000 people, and social media outreach to 324,200 young people. It also enhanced HIV prevention and treatment, reaching 1,200 women and adolescents living with HIV with life-changing care and support services, and improved skills of 4,784 teenagers in HIV prevention, sexual and reproductive health, substance use prevention etc. The UN has also prepared a comprehensive package of 15 key interventions related to people health in prisons and trained 32 health officials about its use.

Furthermore, UN has worked toward guaranteeing full and equal access to sexual and reproductive health information and education. Over 9,000 young people across Kazakhstan (including 27 from Central Asia) raised their knowledge on sexual and reproductive health (SRH), gender, gender-based violence, harmful social norms and stereotypes through participation in Y-PEER events. A media campaign on the same topics resulted in 160,000 views. UN built capacities of 57 teachers to provide training to schoolchildren on life-skills-based education, including sexual education. In addition, three leading educational institutions were supported to integrate Comprehensive Sexuality Education into the teacher education and training curriculum.

**Digital family card**

In Kazakhstan, more than 980,000 families out of a total of 5.9 million lack official income, including critical benefits such as pensions and social assistance. Merely 127,600 families received targeted social aid in 2022, while an additional 3 million citizens are categorized as vulnerable. Identifying these vulnerable groups has proven to be challenging due to a predominantly paper-based process and lack of awareness about available support programs, impeding the utilization of social safety nets.

To address these gaps in social protection, Kazakhstan introduced the Digital Family Card initiative. Piloted by UNDP and launched in partnership with the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of the Population and the Ministry of Digital Development, Innovation, and Aerospace Industry, this online platform plays a pivotal role in identifying and assisting families in need. Implemented in two phases, the initiative began by digitising all 5.9 million families to assess their well-being.

Subsequent evaluation encompassed dimensions like health, education, social protection, employment, finance, justice and agriculture, scrutinizing over 80 socio-economic indicators. After processing the data with the family vulnerability assessment, the Digital Family Card automatically initiates state support measures, identifies the responsible public authority and through e-government provides the service in proactive mode, making obsolete the need for citizens to apply for each service individually. Additionally, the initiative piloted a mobile app for social workers to access

the digitalised information, which reduces the time needed to organise cases and process information and allows for greater efficiency and transparency when carrying out daily monitoring, reporting and assignment of services.

As we navigate the path towards 2030, partnerships and innovative financing mechanisms remain integral to our success. By fostering collaboration and mobilizing resources, we are not only meeting the challenges laid out in the 2030 Agenda but also creating a blueprint for sustainable development that transcends borders and generations.



Outcome 1.2 brings together the efforts of:



SDG-targets:





### Early education and digital learning improved

The UN team in Kazakhstan has supported upskilling of 15,329 young people (53% of girls) in STEM, as well as implemented early childhood education programs, impacting 2,500 children with quality education frameworks. We also equipped 300 educators with knowledge on healthy lifestyle education. We also advanced inclusive education policies, enabling 800 refugee children to access formal education systems. We also supported parents – 46,423 of them learned on early childhood development from social media. The UPSHIFT skills development programme (life skills and competencies focusing on social innovation and social entrepreneurship) has been further strengthened, and 3,600 adolescents from 101 educational institution attended the programme, and 700 children are benefiting from the Akelius literacy programme (for migrants and other children). All these activities resulted in improving the life choices of vulnerable people, ensuring inclusion and use of best international educational practices for country's development.

To advance modern and more effective learning methodologies, the UN has enhanced digital connectivity for rural schools, providing high-speed internet access to two educational institutions (514 students). We also introduced digital literacy programs, equipping 5,000 students and teachers with critical digital skills.

### Gender equality and women's empowerment strengthened

We supported reproductive health services, reaching 15,000 women and girls across rural and urban areas. We also carried out campaigns against gender-based violence, engaging more than 10,000 individuals in awareness activities and support services (including men through “MenEngage” programme, but also volunteers, government officials and specialists); 20 million were reached through “HeForShe” and “You are

not Alone” campaigns that advocates to end all forms of gender-based violence in Central Asia. Virtual GBV platform established in 2023 allows all women in Central Asia to build their capacity on GBV prevention SOPs, methodologies, training materials and tools. Hundreds of CSOs, experts and women have already used this resource. 40 specialists from the Spiritual Administration of Muslims of Kazakhstan and madrasahs were trained on provision of psychological support services to Muslim women survivors of violence. The UN has also fostered the Dialogue of Women of Central Asia chaired by Kazakhstan in 2023, with high level meetings attended by over 100 women.

### Refugees' life choices enhanced

In line with the Refugee Convention, refugees have access to government-provided primary and secondary education, but not yet tertiary studies, which limits their prospects of finding formal and stable employment in the future. With the support of the UN and international scholarship programmes – such as DAFI, and the Bologna Process – in 2023, 15 refugee youth accessed higher education.

Following UN advocacy, the Ministry of Science of Kazakhstan committed to introduce a quota for its higher education scholarship programme by 2024, enabling eligible refugees to pursue higher education and contribute to the economy and society of Kazakhstan. The UN has also facilitated migrant integration programs, directly assisting 500 migrants with employment and community integration services (cash-based interventions).



### Yasamin's Dream

A refugee in Kazakhstan since she was a one-year-old, Yasamin dreamed of becoming a doctor. Excluded from competing for government grants, affording university seemed impossible. With thanks to the Bologna Process Scholarship, the UN, and the Government of Kazakhstan, Yasamin is now studying General Medicine at Al-Farabi Kazakh National University.

Despite the numerous challenges faced, Yasamin always remained focused on her goal. Her admission to the General Medicine programme was a turning point. “The UN has been a beacon of hope,” she says, appreciative of the support that helped her to secure the scholarship.

Yasamin is one of the first students in Kazakhstan to study under this scholarship programme, which was launched in 2023 with support of the Government. Embodying the power of education and international assistance in changing lives, Yasamin's journey is a personal triumph, and a symbol of global solidarity.



**OUTCOME 2.1**

**By 2025, all people in Kazakhstan are protected and enjoy full realisation of human rights and gender equality and a life free from discrimination, violence, and threats, and equally participate in decision-making.**



**1,3 mln** of people are aware how to prevent violence against children



**436** women with HIV acquired leadership and self-help skills



Journalist skills supported



**821** professionals trained and National Targeting Centre established



**664** individuals obtained legal identity documents



**5,593** officers trained — prisoners' rights better protected

In 2023, the United Nations in Kazakhstan engaged to foster human rights, gender equality, and ensure a life free from discrimination. Our efforts focused on technical support, policy changes, legal developments, and the delivery of digital tools and services, aligning with national priorities and SDGs. Policy changes facilitated by these efforts have significantly impacted the legislative landscape in Kazakhstan, establishing a robust framework for the protection of human rights and the promotion of gender equality. This comprehensive approach underscores the UN's commitment to driving sustainable development and enhancing the well-being of people of Kazakhstan.

*Right-based law enforcement improved*

Thanks to our efforts a National Targeting Centre was established, and 821 professionals are well-equipped to combat illicit trafficking and cybercrimes, benefiting law enforcement across multiple levels. As a result, 940 kg of narcotic drugs were seized at the borders in 2023 by officers trained by the UN. We also supported modernization of policing in line with international standards, better investigative capacities on synthetic drugs, and improved the human rights protection in communities, not least by training 60 police officers in 2023. Thanks to UN support, more than 460 representatives of law enforcement authorities better investigate and address crypto-currency and blockchain crimes. The Government has adopted a law on combating trafficking in persons with the UN support, and UN provided series of trainings on victim-centered approach for police, prosecutors and judges.



Outcome 2.1 brings together the efforts of



SDG-targets:





### *Anti-money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism system improved*

The UN has provided expert support on preparing Kazakhstan's authorities for the Eurasian Group (EAG) Mutual Evaluation of Kazakhstan's Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT) system. Among other, the UN team co-led 5 round-table discussions, conducted 12 high-level meetings with the main partners, designed and delivered 7 training courses. Two courses were included in education curriculum of the Law Enforcement Academy. Over 150 professionals benefited from the series of training courses.

Kazakhstan presented its Mutual Evaluation Report on compliance with the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) Recommendations on AML/CFT international Standards during the EAG Plenary meeting in 2023. Excellent results of the Mutual Evaluation of Kazakhstan demonstrate the compliance of the country's AML/CFT system with international standards, financial system protection, and shadow economy reduction.

### *Prisoners' rights better protected*

Today, the rights of people in penitentiary institutions are better protected. The UN has initiated large-scale training programmes for prison and probation officers on Minimum Standard Rules of the Treatment of Prisoners (Nelson Mandela Rules) – in 2023 alone 5,593 officers took the training. With UN support, Kazakhstan has also launched a programme for post-release monitoring and probation of violent extremist prisoners and foreign terrorist fighters.

### *Statelessness reduced*

In 2023 through the support of the Government of Kazakhstan, the UN, and national CSO partners 664 people with undetermined nationality obtained legal identity documents, enabling them to access

basic rights such as education, healthcare, employment and freedom of movement.

The UN delivered guest lectures to more than 80 officials working on issues related to citizenship and asylum, building understanding of national and international standards in protecting stateless and forcibly displaced people.

At the Global Refugee Forum, the Government of Kazakhstan pledged to establish legislative safeguards to reduce statelessness and reduce the number of stateless people through naturalisation in 2024.

### *Women rights protected*

Women in Kazakhstan and other countries of Central Asia networked to advance the gender equality and women's empowerment through supporting the National Women's Machinery, carrying out the Regional Generation Equality Forum, as well as the Dialogue of Women in Central Asia that engaged 370 people (80% of women) and launching the state's commitments in the field of Technology and Innovation for Gender Equality, as well as knowledge building sessions for around 150 government officials and civic activists on legal reforms related to GBV and Women, Peace and Security. Twenty-five private sector partners also know more about women empowerment principles, and eight companies signed to apply these principles in their work. Committed to the principle of leaving no one behind, 436 women with HIV acquired leadership and self-help skills.

### *Children rights protected*

Thanks to UN support and advocacy efforts the National Plan on Child Protection Against Violence, Adolescent Suicide Prevention was adopted, and 1.3 million of people are aware about positive behaviour to prevent violence against children and suicide prevention and 2.4 million TikTok unique users joined sessions



### **Blending Tech and Care in Social Entrepreneurship**

Assem Tazhiyeva is revolutionizing child care with her social startup – Ozim Platform. This mobile app provides crucial information for parents, including those with children with disabilities, aligning with SDG 3 and SDG 4 on education and health. Her entrepreneurial journey led her to the Women's Entrepreneurship EXPO 2023 in Astana, Kazakhstan.

Assem's project is fuelled by a commitment to gender equality, inclusion, and equity – principles she aligns with the UN. "Working with UN agencies, we incorporate global resources and knowledge to devise effective solutions," she says. Ozim Platform, meaning "myself, on my own" in Kazakh, mirrors her proactive approach to problem-solving. With support from UNICEF, the Ozim Platform was qualified for international Digital Public Goods (DPG) status. DPG projects hold great social importance, and DPG status helps projects obtain international recognition and support to solve global problems.

Assem believes in starting with individual efforts to address global challenges. Her story, an inspiration at the UN Women's EXPO Satellite Event, where she was selected for mentorship among the top five startups from over 60 female entrepreneurs, illustrates how personal initiative can lead to substantial social impact.



on cyber-bullying prevention. UN advocacy and technical support facilitated ratification by Kazakhstan of the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child that allows children to seek redress outside the national justice system. The Forum of Fathers, which gathered 232 participants from four Central Asian countries popularized new models of parenting and positive family values. The UN has also supported the establishment of Family Support Centres, and 90 residential care managers were trained to transform their work towards family assistance and support. This supports the transition from institutional to family-based models of childcare and introducing professional foster families as an alternative through a legislative reform. Moreover, over 170 professionals working with children returning from conflict zones were trained, resulting in improved gender-sensitive services for more than 400 children.

#### *Journalism and digital inclusion enhanced*

Comprehensive capacity building of journalism in Kazakhstan ensures higher professionalization of the journalism in the country, building journalists' digital capabilities, covering specific topics (e.g. terrorism), tracking media viability indicators, safety of journalists, as well as supporting rights of journalists (manuals and guidance on media and journalism) and advocacy for international standards in legal framework related to journalism. Collaborative efforts of several Agencies have led to significant advancements in education, particularly in digital literacy and inclusion, as well as ensuring that children and educators in remote areas gain access to quality educational resources and technology.





**OUTCOME 2.2**

**By 2025, state institutions at all levels effectively design and implement gender-sensitive, human rights, and evidence-based public policies and provide quality services in an inclusive, transparent and accountable manner.**



Parliamentary Commission to monitor SDGs supported



Skills of **2,500** akims and local officials improved to implement reforms



Healthcare delivery for **10,000** people improved



Global Assessment of the National Statistical System conducted



Nearly **900** CSO activists are better equipped to prevent and respond to GBV



First National Baseline Assessment on business and human rights conducted



Three new mechanisms for public accountability and transparency in government operations adopted

Results below represent a concerted effort by various UN Agencies to bolster the capacity of state institutions in Kazakhstan for implementing public policies and services that are inclusive, evidence-based, rights-based and gender-sensitive.

*Local governance capacities built*

UN has facilitated key initiatives including the endorsement of the Action Plan on Human Rights and the Rule of Law, conducting the First National Baseline Assessment on Business and Human Rights, and supporting the work of the Parliamentary Commission to monitor SDGs implementation. Furthermore, in collaboration with the Ministry of National Economy, 2,500 akims and local officials from urban and rural areas across all 17 regions of Kazakhstan built their governance and public service delivery skills to implement reforms. All 166 districts with rural settlements were covered and contribute to empowering local officials to deliver public services more efficiently. Moreover, 340 government officials enhanced their capacity acquiring skills for identifying best-fit innovative approaches in governance and public service delivery through digital means. According to latest data, the citizen satisfaction with public services increased from 75.4% to 81.2% of the population.

*Inclusive governance is more effective*

Agencies' efforts have been pivotal to ensure these policies are not only adopted but effectively implemented. This collaboration has extended to the organization of five national conferences, engaging over 500 policymakers and civil society representatives in meaningful dialogue. Enhanced community engagement efforts have resulted in the organization of over 40 community forums, reaching out to approximately 5,000 participants. These forums have played



Outcome 2.2 brings together the efforts of:



SDG-target:





a crucial role in amplifying the voices of marginalized groups and integrating their perspectives into policy-making processes.

Our efforts have led to significant governance reforms, with the establishment of three new mechanisms for public accountability and transparency in government operations, directly involving over 2,000 citizens in the feedback process. Furthermore, a series of 20 workshops were conducted, benefiting over 800 government officials and stakeholders, aimed at integrating evidence-based approaches into public service delivery. These initiatives have contributed to a marked improvement in the quality and accessibility of public services, particularly in rural and underserved areas. We also supported the implementation of gender-sensitive budgeting in local and national government planning. The UN continued to support National Human Rights Centre, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Constitutional Court and the Ministry of Justice in adopting human rights approach, establishing National Preventive Mechanism, addressing UPR recommendations – all leading to more effective and human rights-based governance model in Kazakhstan.

The Global Assessment of the National Statistical System supported by the UN sets path for reforms and improvement of the statistical system in Kazakhstan. We also trained 130 specialists from 10 CIS countries on census methodologies, data dissemination and utilization (35 from Kazakhstan). Importantly, the UN has provided significant support to the development SDG Financing Dashboard, which allows the Government of Kazakhstan to track the SDG budgeting and financing in the country.

### *Healthcare sector digital transformation strengthened*

The integration of evidence-based practices has led to the launch of 10 pilot projects focusing on health and education, directly impacting over 10,000 beneficiaries by improving service delivery efficiency and

effectiveness. Additionally, with UN support, five methodological recommendations and two technical specifications improved the health insurance system's quality, adaptability, and efficiency were considered by the relevant authorities. In health sector 15 health professionals improved their skills in dealing with vulnerable groups, including men having sex with men (MSM) and sex workers. Similarly, in Mangystau region, 15 staff members of the Mangystau AIDS Centre were trained, and six MSM outreach workers were capacitated to raise HIV awareness among over 100 MSM. The UN has supported HIV data collection, by assisting in submitting 80 indicators for Global AIDS Monitoring, and trained 40 specialists resulting in improved evidence-based policies in this area.

### *Gender policies mainstreamed*

Over the year, we have seen the adoption and implementation of 15 new policy frameworks that prioritize gender equality and human rights. These frameworks have been instrumental in guiding the legislative and administrative reforms across various sectors. This UN policy support went hand in hand with supporting capacity building of various actors. For instance, 105 offline and 292 online professionals and activists are now skilled in gender policy and women's leadership in emergency situations and peacekeeping; 430 regional CSO leaders engaged in dialogues and built their capacity as civil society actors for gender equality. The UN has trained and held seminars for 54 representatives of the creative industry in eight regions to raise awareness and promote coordinated actions for gender equality. Additionally, 180 professionals have tools to analyse the demographic trends and family policy. To protect women rights, UN has supported examination of educational materials for anti-discrimination and gender-oriented content, aiming for an inclusive educational environment. 35 participants graduated from the kNOWVAWdata course, with seven receiving certificates of expertise. The feedback loop between the Government and



### **Global Insights, Local Impact: Elevating Probation Training Standards**

Raigul Mukhtybayeva, the Head of the Probation Service Training Center at Kostanay Academy, has been instrumental in transforming probation services in Kazakhstan, thanks to the UNODC program. This collaboration has revolutionized the Academy, introducing international expertise and improving technical capabilities.

A significant achievement under Raigul's leadership was the development of training modules on religious extremism and terrorism. Another major advancement was the translation of the Nelson Mandela Rules into Kazakh, making them accessible to 70% of the staff in their native language. "Introducing these rules in Kazakh was crucial for deeper understanding and connection," Raigul reflects.

Raigul is determined to pass on her knowledge to future generations, aiming for a long-term impact in probation services. "My aim is to embed this learning into the fabric of our future workforce," she asserts.

This effort is part of an EU-UN global initiative that has already enhanced the skills of over 1000 prison and probation officers in managing and reintegrating violent extremist prisoners.



civil society on GBV was further built through 15 meetings with more than 450 participants from over 200 CSOs, and two regional meetings involving 80 CSO representatives and 40 stakeholders. The UN has supported wide-scale 16-Days campaign against Gender Based Violence, with multiple events reaching over one million people – contributing to the change of social norms, including a joint engagement with international community in Kazakhstan.

### *Advocacy and data improved*

The UN has provided in-depth support in the process of the design of the law on trafficking in persons. We also supported the Government by analysing economic, cultural, and educational integration barriers for migrants in pilot regions. In the area of child rights, the UN continued extensive support the Child Well-Being Index (which analyses budget allocations to children issues) and child-rights monitoring – activities that frame the right-based and comprehensive approach to ensuring welfare of children in Kazakhstan. Furthermore, young people shared their experiences and empowered their peers: engaged 145 in-person participants, 146,000 on social media, and 150,000 reel views.





**OUTCOME 3.1**

**By 2025, all people in Kazakhstan, especially the most vulnerable, benefit from inclusive, resilient, and sustainable economic development with improved productive capacities, skills and equal opportunities for sustainable and decent jobs, livelihoods and businesses.**

In 2023 the UN continued to support inclusive, resilient, and sustainable economic development in Kazakhstan by building skills of officials, entrepreneurs, farmers and other people. The UN has focused on the empowerment of vulnerable groups, gender equality, and the promotion of environmental sustainability, reflecting the UN's multifaceted approach to supporting Kazakhstan's development goals.

*Business skills developed*

We have opened new business and sustainable jobs opportunities for hundreds of people. For instance, over 85 women entrepreneurs showcased their businesses, boosting visibility and networking opportunities for women-led enterprises at the Entrepreneurship Satellite EXPO. Thanks to UN-provided green finance and grant programs 40 green jobs were created in Kazakhstan – resilience of SMEs was strengthened. Over 100 tourism industry representatives were trained, including 63 women, enhancing sustainable tourism services (ecotourism). We have also enhanced startup ecosystems by training 33 students and 18 teachers, focusing specifically on women and girls, to foster entrepreneurship and digital innovation. The UN has also launched a startup competition in 2023.

Moreover, 500 people in North Kazakhstan now have knowledge and skills in clean biofuels to adopt in their business and private consumption; two pilot projects are implemented to showcase the viability of biofuel combustion for achieving carbon-neutral heating in Kazakhstan, while concurrently establishing sustainable



Over **2300** SMEs improved compliance with cross-border requirements



**27** Afghan women and girls graduated in Kazakhstan



Among **170** stakeholders improved the knowledge of agricultural practices



Capacities of hundreds of policy-makers and professionals built in just transition, creative industries and environmental sustainability



Central Asia Gateway trade portal is operational



Over **200** people enhanced their business opportunities

Outcome 3.1 brings together the efforts of



SDG-targets:





## Navigating Water Challenges: Kazakhstan

Kazakhstan is grappling with water resource shortages, exacerbated by the fact that almost half of these resources originate outside the country. The Issue-Based Coalition (IBC) on Environment and Climate Change, UN-Water, UNEP, UNECE, UNRCCA, UNDP, FAO, UNICEF, UNDRR, ILO, UNESCO, and RCO organized an inter-agency discussion with the objective of assessing the current status of SDG6 in Kazakhstan, identifying gaps and challenges, and finding ways for joint interventions that leverage each agency's unique expertise and resources. The work resulted in a consolidated "One UN" recommendations on a draft new Water Code presented to the Government of Kazakhstan.



biomass industry. This contributes to adopting environmentally sustainable solutions and greater use of alternative energy sources in Kazakhstan. The alternative energy share in Kazakhstan has amounted to 4.5% in mid-2023, with the aim to increase it up to 10% in 2030. Worth to mention, the final draft of the Green Economy Concept has been submitted to the Government.

### *Policy-making capacities built*

We have built capacities of policy-makers and professionals on issues of policy development on economic and local development, just transition, creative industries as well as environmental sustainability of the business. 32 participants of the subregional workshop now have greater understanding and skills in institutional capacity and policy framework. The UN has also conducted a study tour for six senior ministers and members of Parliament to facilitate knowledge exchange and policy development, therefore contributing to learning and adopting best practices for economic development policy in Kazakhstan. We have also continued to foster dialogue on economic development through multiple knowledge products, policy analyses, surveys, and studies on just transition, cultural heritage, digital literacy skills, transport infrastructure and other areas.

### *Trade and transport connectivity facilitated*

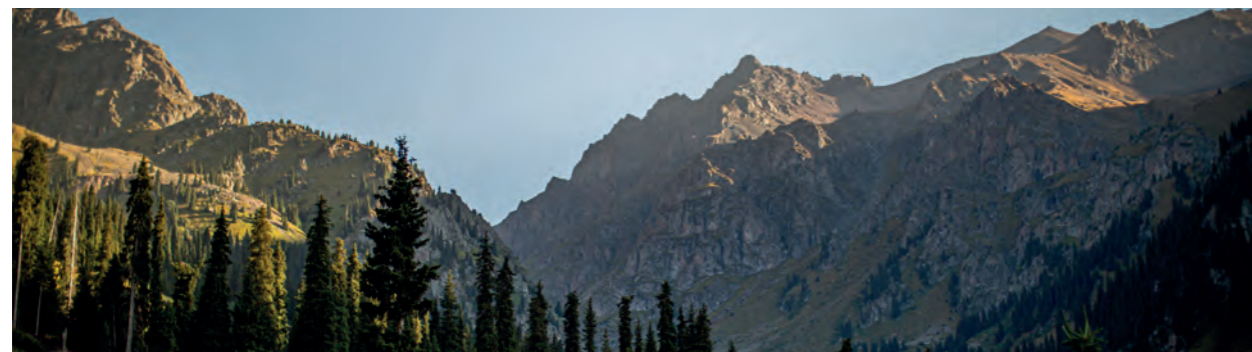
Importantly, the UN heavily supported dialogue on trade facilitation – numerous meetings, capacity building events and studies were conducted. In 2023 the UN has launched the Central Asia Gateway – a regional platform that aggregates information from each national trade facilitation portal in five Central Asian countries, and gives operators easy access to product-specific information on cross-border trade formalities,



therefore helping significantly to benchmark them and foster their harmonization. Dozens of capacity building events together with QazTrade for more than 2,300 participants improved SMEs compliance with cross-border requirements. Kazakhstan is among the beneficiary countries for projects aimed at constructing resilient, climate-adaptive, and economically viable transport infrastructure networks. These projects focus on supporting countries along the Euro-Asian inland transport corridors by establishing coordination and performance review mechanisms. Additionally, as part of the project to enhance the capacity of Central Asian countries in developing sustainable urban mobility policies, Kazakhstan has benefited from ForFITS assessment of future CO<sup>2</sup> emissions and energy use. This assessment demonstrates the potential impact of car-sharing and carpooling initiatives on achieving sustainable transportation.

### *Vulnerable groups supported for better life choices*

In line with principle of leaving no one behind, the UN targeted multiple groups to ensure their inclusion into economic and social life. After a full-cycle study in universities, 27 Afghan women and girls graduated from universities of Kazakhstan, marking a step towards gender equality and empowerment. Moreover, the UN's vulnerability assessments and humanitarian assistance for 500 beneficiaries underscored the UN's commitment to migrant welfare and integration.



### *Agriculture and rural development enhanced*

Agriculture is an important sector of economy, contributing to wealth of people that are often left behind in remote and rural areas. The UN has trained 104 small family farmers on neutralizing land degradation. We have also built capacities of officials and farmers through a series of five online trainings attended by 40-50 participants per session to promote sustainable agricultural practices. To reduce the adverse effects of the climate change, the UN has spearheaded demonstrations of climate-smart agriculture technologies aimed at increasing resilience among farmers. Furthermore, 20 small-scale entrepreneurs enhanced their investment knowledge through a special Rural Invest software product training.

### *Women entrepreneurship skills enhanced*

The UN has built skills in marketing and monetizing art through workshops on creative economy seminars held for over 80 women. Moreover, 60 rural women improved their economic potential and self-reliance through practical trainings in four regions of Kazakhstan. We also promoted gender equality in trade by facilitating round table discussions.



### **Transforming Agriculture: Armanzhan's Sustainable Farming Model**

In Malovodnoe village, Almaty region, Armanzhan Zhamiev's passion for gardening, particularly apples, took a professional turn after the Soviet Union's collapse. A former student at the Kazakh Agrarian University, he joined his father to revive apple orchards, transitioning from academia to agrarian life.

Facing challenges like invasive pests and environmental extremes, Armanzhan adopted sustainable methods and scientific advancements. His collaboration with the FAO and the Institute of Plant Protection and Quarantine, incorporating Integrated Pest Management techniques, has been transformative. This approach reduced pesticide use and treatments (from 16-17 to 5-7 times per season) while achieving abundant, high-quality crops (up to 50 tons/ha).

"Working with the UN helped us shift from chemical-heavy practices to a more natural approach," Armanzhan states, grateful for the support that led to remarkable agricultural successes. His story exemplifies how embracing science and sustainability can yield impressive results in challenging conditions.



**OUTCOME 3.2**

**By 2025, all people in Kazakhstan, in particular the most vulnerable, benefit from increased climate resilience, sustainable management of environment and clean energy, and sustainable rural and urban development.**



Regulatory framework for carbon markets established and Kazakhstan joined Global Methane Pledge



Reducing emissions of **76,000** tons of CO<sub>2</sub> positively affect 112,000 people



Carbon Neutrality Strategy 2060 adopted



National Determined Contributions revised



Protected areas increase to **7.8 mln** hectares



Over **3 million** people accessed DRR and CA information



**50,000** trees planted by communities



**28,000** children and 3,600 teachers enhanced their DRR and CA capacities

In 2023, the UN Agencies in Kazakhstan continued policy support and piloting innovative projects to ensure Kazakhstan's path toward green and resilient economy. We fostered significant policy changes, improved management of natural resources, increased access to clean energy, and enhanced capacities in disaster risk reduction and climate action. The efforts have directly impacted the livelihoods, health, and resilience of communities, particularly benefiting vulnerable groups through access to sustainable resources and education on climate action, sustainable environment management, clean energy, and rural and urban development.

*Key climate resilience policies adopted*

The Carbon Neutrality Strategy 2060 was officially adopted by Kazakhstan in February 2023, marking an important milestone for country's commitment to address adverse impacts of human footprint on the planet. United Nations has provided considerable expertise support and technical assistance to the Government of Kazakhstan, spearheading inclusive dialogue over the Strategy, combined with development of Article 6 regulatory framework for carbon markets, and update of the Green Economy Concept. Furthermore, Nationally Determined Contributions were revised by Kazakhstan showcasing a significant policy shift towards sustainable and clean energy development. UN advocacy efforts and technical assistance also facilitated Kazakhstan's joining the Global Methane Pledge, which aims to reduce global emissions of 155 UN members states by 30% until 2030.

*Clean energy enhanced*

UN Agencies' support contributed to increase of protected areas to 7.8 million hectares and increase of state funding to protected



Outcome 3.2 brings together the efforts of



SDG-targets:





## Reducing Methane Emissions: Kazakhstan

Kazakhstan has joined the Global Methane Pledge at COP28, signifying its commitment to contribute to global efforts to mitigate methane emissions. To support the Government of Kazakhstan in reducing methane emissions, UNCT is working to bring UN-wide resources and knowledge to the country. We connected relevant ministries, national operators in the oil and gas industry, and NGOs with UNEP's International Methane Emissions Observatory (IMEO). This allows local companies to participate in research, receive training, and access technical guidance on

reducing methane emissions. A three-day training on Methane Emission in the Oil and Gas Sector was organized for the management and technical specialists of the national oil company, KazMunayGas, with the support of UNEP and ABC-iCAP project. During COP28, KazMunayGas also joined the UNEP IMEO's initiative – Oil and Gas Methane Partnership 2.0.



areas to \$78 million, directly affecting over 40 thousand people. Among other, we enhanced technical capacities of 14 protected areas and nine forestries with specialized equipment, including the installation of 28 wind-solar panels, facilitating forest fire prevention and improving conditions for inspectors. We further conducted analysis for the creation of five new protected areas in the Almaty and East-Kazakhstan regions, potentially covering 1,466,837 hectares. UN piloted four renewable energy projects with a total capacity of 334 kW - over 36,000 people accessed clean energy as a result. In total 112,000 people felt positive changes in terms of access to energy and better environment due to UN support, and reduction of over 76,000 tons of CO2. Using new financial support mechanism, 17 projects covering a wide range of industries providing efficient green energy solutions to college, hotel, trade centres chemical manufacturer, city lighting provider etc. improved green energy efficiency use, benefitting over 68,000 people. Moreover, with UN facilitation, biomass waste fuel briquette production was analysed, and production was initiated in two villages; we also work on changing attitudes and consumer behaviour in relation to biomass fuel (over 500 households informed). Additionally, in a forward-looking horizon, UN has facilitated an in-depth expert discussion on hydrogen production in Kazakhstan.

UN has pursued implementation of green finance instruments, mobilizing \$3.5 million and leveraging an additional \$290 million, achieving a \$127 leverage for every donor dollar.

### *Communities engaged for the environmental sustainability*

The UN has led environmental conservation projects, planting 50,000 trees and reducing carbon emissions significantly in targeted communities. The Country Team has also promoted sustainable agricultural practices, benefiting over 3,000 farmers with training and resources to implement eco-friendly farming methods. Sixty women in four oblasts

increased their skills in producing cheese and milk products.

### *Climate-resilient agriculture strengthened*

The UN Country Team has supported improved pasture management by policy support to the draft Law on Pasture, demonstrating the integration of sustainable practices in agricultural and land management. We have conducted 20 meetings of the working group on pasture management to build capacities of state officials and farmers to adopt climate-resilient and effective policies, as well as conducted study tours, research and expert support. UN has also provided technical support on land degradation issues (including land degradation portal, salinity mapping etc.), as well as piloted cultivation of drought-resistant forage crops (4 genotypes), and seeds were distributed among farmers for further upscaling. 150 people were trained on obsolete pesticides and rapid environmental assessment in 2022-2023. Similarly, UN has fostered aquaculture development, by building capacities of fish farmers and officials in 2023. Furthermore, the UN facilitated governance policies of human mobility in the context of climate change, particularly in mountain regions, aiming to reduce vulnerability and leverage migration for climate change adaptation.

### *Disaster risk reduction and climate action enhanced*

With UN support, new national WASH standards in schools were adopted, aligning Kazakhstan with international standards. Resulting from our advocacy and awareness building activities over 3 million people accessed Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Climate Action (CA) information, while 28,000 children and 3,600 teachers enhanced their DRR and CA capacities. We educated over 500 emergency, health, education, and social welfare workers, along with civil society organizations and academics, on protecting



children's rights in emergencies. We also strengthened City of Astana's resilience efforts, including participation in international forums and workshops focused on disaster risk reduction and urban resilience. UN has also supported regional DRR efforts by developing the early warning system for transboundary risks and organizing high-level DRR platform for key stakeholders from Central Asia to high-level events. The UN has also spearheaded climate action education, supporting positive changes in communities, including vulnerable groups.

Through inventory of laws and policies, a series of dialogues, workshops, analytical studies and policy advice, the UN enhanced capacities in biosphere conservation, regional water management (including glaciers), water pollution, transport, trade, climate change

policy dialogues, and sustainable energy transition. These actions also enhanced the understanding and management of the complex interplay between migration, environmental degradation, and climate change. UN provided concrete recommendations for making necessary institutional and normative changes and developing capacities to substantially increase the uptake of renewable energy. Furthermore, we built government's capacity for the integration and application of digital technologies in urban public transport systems, facilitating the transition to more sustainable and efficient transport modalities. UN has also prepared an inventory map of hazardous facilities in the Syrdarya River Basin, and developed evidence to address water challenges in Kazakhstan.



### Guardian of the Green

Yerzhan Kelemseitov, a forest ranger for over 15 years, is a true guardian of the Zharkent region's 60,000 hectares of vital woods. Yerzhan has been fulfilling this crucial role while living with cerebral palsy, demonstrating that physical challenges are no barrier to making a significant environmental impact. His daily tasks involve patrolling the forests, protecting them from fires, and contributing to their restoration. He nurtures seedlings in the forest nursery, ensuring the ongoing growth of this vital ecosystem.

"Being a forest ranger is a great responsibility, humans need forest, and forest also needs human support," Yerzhan notes.

His dedication aligns with UNDP and the Global Environment Facility's efforts in forest conservation. Yerzhan's story exemplifies how individual commitment can resonate with and contribute to global environmental goals.





### 3.3 Partnership and financing the 2030 Agenda

In our commitment to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals outlined in the 2030 Agenda, partnerships and strategic financing play a pivotal role. This section delves into the collaborative efforts and financial mechanisms that have been instrumental in driving UNCT's progress towards SDGs achievement.

The UN's work was a collective effort involving governments, businesses, civil society, and academia. Our partnerships with diverse stakeholders have enabled the exchange of knowledge, resources, and expertise, fostering innovative solutions to complex challenges. Key data on governments' support is presented in other areas, in this section we focus on the partnership with private sector and civil society.

#### Partnerships with a private sector

Cooperation with private sector was one of major country team priorities in 2023 to jointly champion the sustainable development. The UNCT has established an inter-agency group on cooperation with private sector.

The UNCT initiated and hosted two “Kazakhstan Business for Sustainable Development” workshops in 2023 for over 120 entities in Almaty and Astana to dialogue with business community on Sustainable Development Goals, Global Compact, and Kazakhstan's strides in SDGs.

Cooperation with Global Compact was exemplary in that regard. Number of Global Compact membership for Kazakhstan has increased from 7 to 62 (over 800%) over the course of 1,5 years. In September 2023, the launch of the Global Compact's Multi-Country Advisory Committee for the Central Asian Region marked a significant milestone in the partnership, featuring UN Resident Coordinators in Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, alongside prominent government and private sector CEOs. It was symbolic that the first in-person meeting of the Advisory Committee in Kazakhstan took place in UN Plaza in Almaty.

We also supported the corporate sector in integration of Women Empowerment Principles (WEPs) in their programmes and

policies resulting in Kazakhstan's leading position in the number of WEPs signatories (49) in Central Asia. Moreover, the private sector played a crucial role in advocacy initiatives during the international campaign 16 Days of Activism against GBV.

In October 2023, the 6-month SDG Ambition Accelerator for Central Asia in Russian language has been introduced, garnering an unprecedented 37 company sign-ups, surpassing participation rates in many countries.

We plan to implement more joint initiatives in 2024 including but not limited to consultations related to formulation of the new UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework for 2026-2030. The success of these initiatives underscores the commitment and enthusiasm within the private sector to integrate SDGs into corporate strategies and operations.

#### Civil Society Engagement

The UN Country Team in Kazakhstan actively engages CSOs in various stages of

policy-making, planning, and implementation related to the SDGs.

In the end of 2023, the UNCT has decided that in 2024 it will develop the Civil Society Plan of Action — a set of joint civil society initiatives that go beyond Agencies' daily engagement with the civil society. The UNCT also nominated a UNCT-wide focal point on engagement with civil society counterparts and a liaison between the UN Secretariat and UNCT.

Moreover, the UNCT held a dynamic dialogue with civil society counterparts, aiming to fortify collaboration for sustainable development through Six Transitions – the modular building-blocks of SDG achievement. Over 50 key stakeholders gathered to discuss strategies enhancing collective impact on sustainable development. Participants passionately engaged in addressing pressing challenges and collectively formulated recommendations for the government: innovation, modernization, collaboration, investment, legislative improvement, and better coordination emerged as pivotal strategies for progress.







### 3.4 Results of the UN working more and better together



Four joint programmes implemented



One inter-agency working group and three thematic dialogues established



Nearly 16 million people reached through social media



\$300,000 realised in cost avoidance through BOS 2.0 in 2023

#### UN System Delivering as One

In 2023, the UN Country Team continued its joint work within three key Result Groups to discuss synergies and cooperation in key areas — in four meetings throughout the year we have streamlined our advocacy, policy support, and discussed challenges and results. Tailored UNCT configuration and architecture allows to provide integrated policy support (e.g. Water Code, Social Code, law on trafficking in persons, environmental issues etc), reduce transaction costs, and avoid duplication of UN efforts.

During 2023 we have established the Task Force on Common Pledge for Refugees, Thematic Dialogue on Water, and ad hoc Thematic Dialogue on Gender-Based Violence. We have also established the

Occupational Safety and Health Committee to improve the care for UN staff. The UNCT has strengthened its cooperation with the Extended Gender Thematic Group, and on this platform we have implemented joint actions within 16 Days of Activism against GBV campaign.

#### Currently, the UNCT has the following operating structures that strong dialogue on key policy issues and joint work:

- Extended Gender Thematic Group
- Internal (UN) Gender Thematic Group
- Rule of Law Thematic Dialogue
- Poverty Reduction Group
- Joint UN Team on AIDS
- Common Pledge for Refugees Task Force
- Human Rights Working Group
- Private Sector Working Group
- Disability Inclusion Team
- Youth Thematic Group
- UN Network for Migration
- PSEA Task Team
- Occupational Health and Safety
- Task Force on Common Pledge for Refugees
- Thematic Dialogue on Water (within Result Group 3)

#### Our collaboration is further enhanced through several joint programmes that allow for joint support by the UNCT, and these programmes included:

- Spotlight Initiative Regional Programme for Central Asia (UN Women, UNDP, UNFPA)
- UBRAF — Unified Budget, Results and Accountability Framework Country Envelope 2022-2023 (UNAIDS, UNODC, UNFPA, UN WOMEN, UNESCO, UNICEF, UNDP, WHO)
- Economic empowerment of Afghan women through education (UNDP, UN Women),
- Partnership for Action on Green Economy - PAGE (UNEP, UNDP, ILO, UNIDO, UNITAR).

Currently the UNCT is also exploring possibilities of enhancing joint area-based planning for specific vulnerable regions in the country.







### Communicating the United Nations' Joint Achievements in 2023

The year 2023 marked a pivotal period for the United Nations in strategic communications and milestone achievements, as outlined in the Joint Communications and Advocacy Strategy 2021-2025 and the Joint Annual Communications Plan 2023. With the UN Communications Group (UNCG) support, the UNCT successfully raised awareness about the SDG Summit and various UN observance days, while expanding its media presence across traditional and social platforms. A major highlight was the 30th anniversary of the UN's presence in Kazakhstan and the Astana International Forum, where the UN's role as a strategic partner was underscored through the successful SDG Media Zone, drawing significant attention and engagement. The establishment of the Central Asian Alliance to End Gender-Based Violence, a major outcome of the Spotlight Regional Programme, was a significant step in addressing societal challenges. Additionally, the UN's participation in the first International Volunteer Forum emphasized the importance of volunteerism in achieving the SDGs and enhancing community resilience.

Other joint communication activities encompassed International Women's Day, highlighting the critical role of women in technological innovation and digital inclusion, World Environment Day with business engagement on environmental initiatives, World Food Day, and the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, along with the UNCT field trip to Semey. The year also featured visits from senior UN officials like USG ESCAP Executive Secretary Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana, ASG Vladimir Voronkov, UNESCO Director-General Audrey Azoulay, and High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Turk.

The year's communications strategy was marked by creativity, especially in collaborations with the art sector, resulting

in the publication of a children's tales book in the Kazakh language to engage young audiences on sustainable development topics. The production of animated videos, visually engaging campaign materials, and the use of advanced AI tools for rapid visual creation underlined the commitment to innovative and effective communications. This approach led to a 45% increase in social media engagement, reaching nearly 16 million people.

### Improved Efficiency of Operating as One

The UNCT in 2023 has further implemented the Business Operations Strategy (BOS) to leverage joint business operations through eliminating duplication, strengthening collective bargaining power, and maximising gains from economies of scale. As part of the BOS 2.0 annual review, the UN Operations Management Team (OMT) prioritised improved effectiveness and cost-efficiency, simplification and harmonisation of procedures, high impact/low complexity interventions, and going beyond operational procedures towards shared organisational goals. The BOS review affirmed cost savings of nearly \$300,000 in 2023, with a total of \$1.8 million in cost-avoidance in 2019-2023.

To promote accessibility, the OMT has finalized an assessment of the inclusivity of the working environment. Inclusive criteria were further mainstreamed in procurement practices and guidelines. Additionally, efforts to promote environmentally friendly practices in the UN common premises progressed in 2023 through the continuation of the operation of the Common Premises Committee (CPC) in Astana and Almaty. The OMT has also reviewed the Common Premises data to allow better analysis for new possible projects for common premises.



### 3.5 Financial Overview and Resource Mobilization

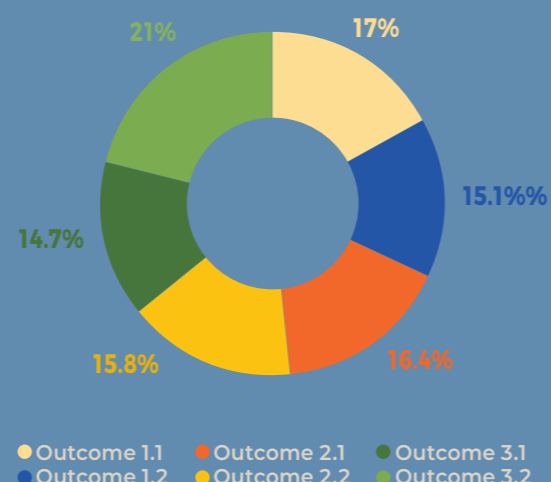
#### Financial Overview

##### TOTAL 2023 EXPENDITURES BY COOPERATION FRAMEWORK OUTCOME

Outcome	Expenditures
Outcome 1.1	5,679,403
Outcome 1.2	5,036,423
Outcome 2.1	5,478,285
Outcome 2.2	5,263,621
Outcome 3.1	4,908,918
Outcome 3.2	7,029,270
<b>Total</b>	<b>33,395,920</b>

Note: Based on the available agency data as of February 2024.

##### 2023 Expenditures by Outcome



##### 2023 BUDGET BREAKDOWN BY AGENCY (\$)

Agency	Required Resources	Available Resources	2023 Expenditures
FAO	1,735,592	1,735,592	1,277,892
ILO	300,000	325,622	325,622
IOM	2,349,678	2,276,135	1,421,705
ITC	600,000	600,000	600,000
ITU	85,000	80,000	79,000
OHCHR	400,963	400,963	306,998
UN Women	2,608,089	2,608,089	2,445,000
UNAIDS	252,046	252,046	222,046
UNCTAD	298,295	298,295	298,295
UNDP	16,493,707	16,493,707	14,041,765
UNDRR	10,000	10,000	10,700
UNECE	130,700	130,700	130,700
UNEP	1,692,414	1,692,414	465,725
UNESCO	1,331,940	2,052,456	844,600
UNFPA	573,500	735,500	1,430,247
UN-Habitat	321,332	331,333	8,000
UNHCR	959,926	917,078	917,078
UNICEF	4,250,800	1,211,300	2,598,748
UNIDO	500,000	500,000	255,459
UNODC	4,078,129	4,034,379	2,940,340
WHO	1,276,000	2,776,000	2,776,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>39,949,816</b>	<b>39,461,609</b>	<b>33,395,920</b>

Note: Based on the available agency data as of February 2024.

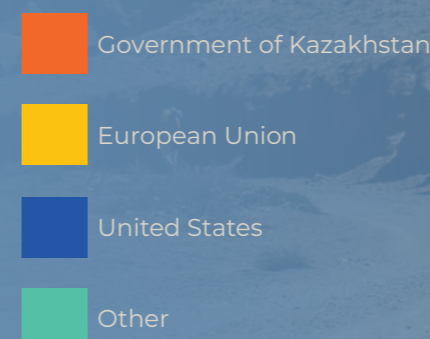
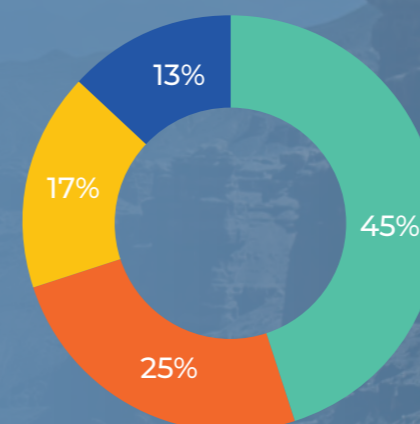
#### Resource Mobilisation

In 2023, the UN secured 102% coverage of the approximately \$39.9 million required resources for the implementation of UN activities with available resources of \$39.5 million. The total expenditures reached nearly \$33.4 million, out of which 23% represented core-funding and 77% non-core funding. Non-core funding, in its majority, was mobilised from other sources, including GEF, Hungary, Japan, Korea, Russia, Finland, Sweden, Italy, Turkiye, etc. (45%), the Government of Kazakhstan (25%), the EU (17%), and the US (13%).

While the Government remains the UN's largest contributor, a combination of the country's upper-middle-income status, declining core resources, and fluctuating government cost-sharing, increased the need to innovate and diversify the resource portfolio. Both the UN and the Government emphasise diversifying the source of resources and partners, particularly from the private sector, to implement the current strategic frameworks, including the SDGs and Agenda 2030 priorities encapsulated in the Cooperation Framework.

To align with the evolving global development landscape and the unique circumstances within the country, the United Nations Country Team persisted in its efforts to identify existing and emerging collaborations. This involved enhancing value, seeking fresh avenues for financial and programmatic backing, such as:

- Collaborative initiatives with the Government of Kazakhstan, involving cost-sharing and partnerships;
- Engaging with conventional donors in Kazakhstan on both bilateral and multilateral fronts;
- Exploring the potential involvement of International Financial Institutions;
- Increasing opportunities for cooperation and partnerships with the private sector;
- Seeking collaboration with non-traditional partners through the provision of information, incentives, and instruments.



Share of Sources of Funding to the UN System in Kazakhstan in 2023





# 4

## UN KEY FOCUS FOR 2024



The United Nations will continue aligning its engagement with priorities and policies of the Government, especially taking into account priorities identified in September 2023 address of the President of Kazakhstan to the people of Kazakhstan, as well as so called “Ten tasks of the President to the Government of Kazakhstan” from February 2024. Therefore, the UN will continue supporting policies that ensure that no one is left behind, human rights are observed, discrimination is addressed, social support is effective, the economy is diversified, and moves toward green solutions. We will continue our advocacy and piloting solution for the decarbonization of industry by strengthening SMEs, entrepreneurship, digital and green innovations, improved health and education governance, as well as further engagement in empowering skills, competencies and opportunities of people that have been left behind and exposed to poverty and exclusion.

In 2024, the UNCT in Kazakhstan will start preparatory actions to adopt a new UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework in 2025. This year, the UNCT will engage in a complex data collection and consultations process to prepare a new Common Country Analysis (CCA). The CCA will analyse comprehensive data on key development areas and will include analysis of risks and vulnerabilities – evidence critical in identifying priorities of the next Cooperation Framework. The UNCT will also conduct the evaluation of the ongoing Cooperation Framework and start dialogue on new priorities that will define cooperation between the Government of Kazakhstan and the United Nations in 2026-2030.

Human rights protection and gender equality remain among key priorities of the United

Nations. The UN will advocate and assist the Government in meeting its international human rights obligations in the area of human rights. The UN will continue building the institutional capacity of the relevant Government bodies and the National Human Rights Institution, along with to support the country’s fulfilment of obligations under treaty bodies and/or potential human rights mechanisms. Simultaneously, remaining adamant to eliminating gender disparities, the UN will continue empowering women, enhancing women’s political representation, preventing and responding to gender-based violence.

The UN will remain a committed partner of Kazakhstan for the Astana International Forum and will engage with various stakeholders, including government, international community and civil society on the Summit for the Future.

The UN system configuration remains adequate for the tasks, represented by a variety of resident and non-resident entities, Agencies, Funds and Programmes, including regional commissions. This allows us to draw from a wide range of thematic expertise, both national and international. In 2024, continued efforts will be made to enhance operation of non-resident agencies in Kazakhstan.

The resource mobilization efforts will continue in 2024, and a greater focus will be made on harnessing expertise and leveraging partnerships at strategic entry points, as well as outreach to both bilateral partners, private sector and pooled funding mechanisms. The expertise makes the UN uniquely positioned in supporting critical governance reforms in various sectors of economic and social life.



# LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

<b>AIDS</b>	Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
<b>BOS</b>	UN Business Operations Strategy
<b>CCA</b>	United Nations Common Country Analysis
<b>CIS</b>	Commonwealth of Independent States
<b>CO2</b>	Carbon Dioxide
<b>COP28</b>	The 28th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
<b>COVID-19</b>	Coronavirus Disease 2019
<b>CSOs</b>	Civil Society Organisations
<b>DAFI</b>	Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative
<b>DAMU</b>	State-owned Fund for the Entrepreneurship Development
<b>DGC</b>	Department for Global Communication
<b>ERI</b>	Economic Research Institute
<b>ESCAP</b>	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
<b>ESG</b>	Environmental, Social, and Governance
<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>FAO</b>	United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization
<b>GBV</b>	Gender-Based Violence
<b>GDP</b>	Gross Domestic Product
<b>GEF</b>	Global Environment Facility
<b>GEWE</b>	Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment
<b>GHG</b>	Greenhouse Gases
<b>GRF</b>	Global Refugee Forum
<b>HDI</b>	Human Development Index
<b>HIV</b>	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
<b>HPV</b>	Human Papillomavirus
<b>IBC</b>	Issue-Based Coalition
<b>ICT</b>	Information and Communication Technology
<b>IFIs</b>	International Financial Institutions

<b>ILO</b>	International Labour Organization
<b>IOM</b>	International Organization for Migration
<b>IPC</b>	Infection Prevention Control
<b>IT</b>	Information technology
<b>ITC</b>	International Trade Centre
<b>ITU</b>	International Telecommunication Union
<b>LNOB</b>	Leave-No-One-Behind Principle
<b>MPTF</b>	Multi-partner Trust Fund
<b>MSMEs</b>	Micro Small and Medium Enterprises
<b>MSR</b>	Multi-Sectoral Response
<b>NDC</b>	Nationally Determined Contributions
<b>NGO</b>	Non-Governmental Organisation
<b>OHCHR</b>	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
<b>OMT</b>	UN Operations Management Team
<b>PAGE</b>	Partnership for Action on Green Economy
<b>PSEA</b>	Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse
<b>PWDs</b>	Persons with Disabilities
<b>RCO</b>	UN Resident Coordinator Office
<b>SDGs</b>	Sustainable Development Goals
<b>SGBV</b>	Sexual and Gender-Based Violence
<b>SI</b>	Spotlight Initiative
<b>SMEs</b>	Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises
<b>SOP</b>	Standard Operating Procedure
<b>SRH</b>	Sexual and Reproductive Health
<b>STEM</b>	Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics
<b>UN</b>	United Nations
<b>UN Women</b>	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
<b>UNAIDS</b>	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
<b>UNAMA</b>	United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan
<b>UNCG</b>	UN Communications Group
<b>UNCT</b>	United Nations Country Team
<b>UNCTAD</b>	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Programme
<b>UNDRR</b>	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
<b>UNDSS</b>	United Nations Department of Safety and Security



UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UN-Habitat	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
UNRCCA	United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia
UNSDCF	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2021-2025
UNV	United Nations Volunteers
UN-Water	United Nations' Coordination Mechanism on Water and Sanitation
VNR	Voluntary National Review
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WEPs	Women's Empowerment Principles
WHO	World Health Organization

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**UNITED  
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KAZAKHSTAN**



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