



UN-Kazakhstan:

25 years of cooperation,
partnership, and trust



UNITED NATIONS
IN THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN

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Astana, 2018



**Foreword by
UN Resident
Coordinator**



Dear Friends in Kazakhstan,

It is my sincere pleasure to introduce UN-Kazakhstan: 25 years of cooperation, partnership and trust.

In February 1993 we opened our first offices in Almaty. 25 years ago, it was a different country and our assistance to Kazakhstan was mainly to serve the country's immediate needs, including humanitarian assistance. Our relationship with Kazakhstan has evolved over time. Now, 25 years later, Kazakhstan is a valuable and proactive member of the United Nations, having introduced a number of important initiatives. Its consistent policy in the areas of nuclear disarmament, regional security and the development of inter-religious dialogue, as well as its advocacy for green energy, as exemplified by the successful hosting of the international exposition EXPO-2017 Astana, all merit the recognition of the world community. It is therefore not a surprise that the country was selected to serve as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council in 2017-2018.

The successful history of the UN's work in Kazakhstan is embedded in the history of Kazakhstan's successful development over the past decades. With Kazakhstan's role in the region and world changing, the work of the UN system in Kazakhstan that initially focused more on technical assistance evolved into drawing international expertise to build the capacity of local actors to design and implement long-term solutions for development challenges.

During the past 25 years, UN agencies have supported the Government's efforts to prepare and implement a large number of strategies, programmes and legislation related to macro-economic reforms, social issues, gender equality, improvement of health and environmental management.

And now, after 25 years, we have a completely different level of relationship with Kazakhstan. We now have a solid presence with 20 UN agencies located in Astana and Almaty, with a vast pool of expertise in different areas. We are no longer providers of foreign aid – rather, we have become Kazakhstan's partner to work together to resolve some of the remaining development challenges to create an even more prosperous society for every woman and every man, every girl and every boy in every corner of this country. Kazakhstan's development experiences have also become the source of inspiration for others, just as the UN increasingly facilitates the exchange of those experiences with other countries.

We are thrilled to accompany Kazakhstan on its path into the future. The UN system in Kazakhstan looks very much forward to elevating our already excellent cooperation to yet another, higher level.

Yours sincerely,
Norimasa Shimomura
UN Resident Coordinator in the Republic of Kazakhstan



United Nations in Kazakhstan



WHO WE ARE

The United Nations System began its country-based operations in Kazakhstan in early 1993, after the conclusion of an agreement between President of the Republic of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev and the then Secretary-General of the United Nations Boutros Boutros-Ghali on 5 October 1992. In 2007, those agencies that had country coverage only, moved to Astana (the new capital of Kazakhstan). Agencies with regional coverage stayed in Almaty.

The United Nations Country Team in Kazakhstan is comprised of 20 resident organizations -FAO, ILO, IOM, UNAIDS, OHCHR, UNICEF, UNDP, UNDP, UNESCAP, UNESCO, UN Women, UNEP, UNHCR, UNOCHA, UNODC, UNFPA, UNRCCA, UNV, and WHO. UNCTAD, UNECE, UNIDO, UNISDR and UNOPS are part of the Post-2015 programming framework.

WHAT WE DO

The United Nations Country Team (UNCT) works with the people and Government of Kazakhstan, along with other development partners, to ensure more prosperous and more secure lives for every woman and man, girl and boy, particularly the most vulnerable.

The United Nations Country Team works on a broad range of issues, including economic and social development and health, environmental protection and disaster relief, the promotion of good governance and human rights, gender equality and the advancement of women.

In our work in Kazakhstan, we ensure that the development and implementation of all United Nations planning and programming documents align fully with national development needs and priorities.

UNCT KEY MESSAGES

The United Nations Country Team in Kazakhstan supports the Government, civil society and the private sector:

- In achieving a future with a healthy population, a green economy, thriving businesses and guaranteed rights for all, through economic, social and political modernisation
- In building an inclusive society, by protecting and promoting the rights and wellbeing of all people, especially the most vulnerable and those at risk
- In developing the capacity of stakeholders at all levels to be more accountable for ensuring equal rights for all women and men, girls and boys
- In promoting multilateral and regional cooperation, particularly in the area of humanitarian and development assistance

COUNTRY PROGRAMMING FRAMEWORK

Programme work at the country level is united by the Partnership Framework for Development (PFD), Kazakhstan, 2016-2020. The PFD is a collective and integrated response to ambitious national priorities set out in the long-term strategic planning document Kazakhstan 2050: New Political Course of the Established State. It also reflects the aspirations for the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), bringing together efforts to further the social, economic and environmental aspects of sustainable development. The PFD is built around three strategic pillars:

- Reduced Disparities and Improved Human Development
- Strengthened and Innovative Public Institutions
- Enhanced International and Regional Cooperation

The overall vision under the PFD is to develop a new pathway for a strategic partnership with Kazakhstan to achieve the Kazakhstan-2050 vision: build a prosperous, equitable and inclusive society where women and men are equally empowered, strengthen accountable and effective public institutions, and facilitate the country's efforts in regional and international cooperation.

The PFD also supports implementation by Kazakhstan of recommendations of the UN human rights mechanisms and the country's engagement with these mechanisms. Consolidated support to the State is ensured to enforce international gender equality commitments.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

In September 2015, world leaders from 193 nations, including President Nazarbayev, gathered at the UN Headquarters in New York to adopt the new United Nations post-2015 global development agenda. It introduced the global SDGs for 2016-2030 that consists of 17 Goals and 169 Targets. SDGs aim to end extreme poverty, promote equity and opportunity for all, and protect the planet, in close partnership among the nations. The UNCT in Kazakhstan works closely with State, civil society and private sector partners on adapting SDGs to the national context, promoting and implementing the SDG agenda in Kazakhstan.

In November 2016, a Mainstreaming Acceleration and Policy Support (MAPS) mission of UN experts took place, the first such mission in the region, which also resulted in the adoption of the Parliamentary Statement on SDGs by Kazakhstan's Senate.

The analysis presented in the MAPS report revealed that the existing national priorities can already help achieve over 60% of the SDGs in Kazakhstan. There were also four broad acceleration areas identified for expedited implementation of the SDGs in Kazakhstan – they relate to governance reforms, diversification of the economy, greening the growth path and tackling inequalities, including gender inequalities.

In August 2018, the Prime Minister of Kazakhstan, building on the UN's advice, issued a Resolution announcing the establishment of a nationally-led and owned SDG coordination architecture. This includes a Coordination Council on SDGs under the chairpersonship of the Deputy Prime Minister. Under the Coordination Council, five inter-sectoral working groups will be formed around the five groups of SDGs (clustered around Goals related to People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace and Partnership) chaired by the relevant State Ministers.

Looking forward, the UN system in Kazakhstan stands firmly in support of the country's aspiration to join the ranks of the 30 most developed countries of the world by achieving the OECD standards. We remain convinced that the 2030 Global Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 SDGs are an excellent instrument that can help Kazakhstan to effectively achieve its development aspirations as articulated in Strategy 2050 and the subsequent reform agenda.

Major Milestones



Photo: A memorial in commemoration of the adoption of the declaration has been established at the Palace of the Republic, the venue of the historic conference

Photo: The flag of the Republic of Kazakhstan being raised at the ceremony opposite the Delegates' Entrance of the General Assembly building



Cooperation between Kazakhstan and the United Nations started long before the Republic became independent.

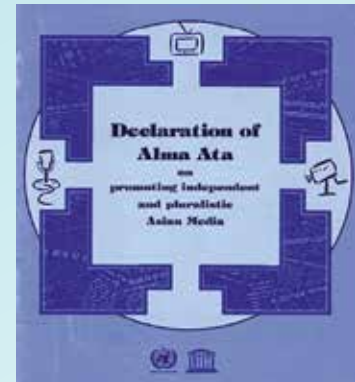
12 September 1978 – Historic Declaration on Primary Health Care was adopted in Almaty during a conference initiated by WHO and UNICEF

2 March 1992 The Republic of Kazakhstan was admitted to membership in the United Nations as an independent state. At its resumed forty-sixth session, the General Assembly admitted by acclamation nine States to membership, following the recommendations of the Security Council. Of the nine States, eight were former Republics of the Soviet Union – Moldova, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Armenia. The other State admitted was San Marino



Photo: Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali (right) meeting with President Nursultan Nazarbayev.

*UNESCO Photo.
Alma-Ata
Declaration
on Promoting
Independent and
Pluralistic Asian
Media*



UNICEF Photo. UN support to vaccination campaign in Kazakhstan



5 October 1992 The UN Secretary-General and the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan signed an agreement between the UN and the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan on the establishment of the UN Interim Office in Kazakhstan with a view to supporting and supplementing national efforts in solving the most important problems of economic development, promoting social progress and a better quality of life

October 1992 UNESCO International Conference on Promoting Independent and Pluralistic Media took place in Almaty

1992 – 1993 The first joint UN mission assesses the situation and delivers vaccines, essential drugs, health supplies, nutritional supplements, education supplies and technical assistance to improve the effectiveness of basic services for women and children



*Photo: Hotel Kazakhstan
in Almaty*

*UNICEF Photo: President Nursultan Nazarbayev
(centre) signs the Convention on the Rights of the Child*



1993 The first UN Office was opened in the Hotel Kazakhstan

16 February 1994 The President of the Republic of Kazakhstan signed the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)



UN Photo/Eskinder Debebe. Ground Zero of Atom Bomb Testing in Kazakhstan



*Photo/Zarina Ospanova.
UN agencies promote
zero tolerance to violence
against women*

1997 – 2014 In support of Kazakhstan's efforts in recovering from the devastating consequences of nuclear test explosions, the General Assembly adopted nine resolutions between 1997 and 2017 calling on donor States and international development organizations to support the efforts of the country in improving the social, economic and environmental situation in the Semipalatinsk region

1998 Kazakhstan joined the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)

Photo: UN Office in Almaty



UNHCR Photo. According to the UNHCR Global Report 2017, every minute 31 people leave everything behind to escape war, persecution and violence. Over half of the world's refugees are children under 18. Kazakhstan hosts refugees and asylum-seekers from Afghanistan, Syria and other countries.

1998 The Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan provided a building for the UN Office in Almaty

January 1999 Kazakhstan acceded to the 1951 Convention related to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol



Photo: First UN office in Astana

*UN Photo/Rick Bajornas.
MDG Summit Opens at UN Headquarters*



1999 The first UN office in Astana was opened

2000 The President of the Republic of Kazakhstan participated in the Millennium Summit and signed the United Nations Millennium Declaration along with other world leaders



WHO Photo. The WHO European Region retains its polio-free status, but constant vigilance is needed

Photo: UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan (left) and President Nursultan Nazarbayev



2002 Kazakhstan was certified by WHO as a polio-free country and re-certified in 2011

October 2002 UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan paid an official visit to the Republic of Kazakhstan



Photo: UNESCO Director-General Koïchiro Matsuura (left) and President Nursultan Nazarbayev



Photo: Yerzhan Kazykhanov, Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan, signs the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, 21 June 2004

2004 Kazakhstan joined the WHO Convention on Tobacco Control

2006 Koïchiro Matsuura, UNESCO Director-General, visited Kazakhstan to participate in the 2nd Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions

UNICEF Photo. Youth and children are the main focus of UN work in the country.



2006 Kazakhstan establishes the Committee for Protection of Children's Rights under the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan

Photo: President Nursultan Nazarbayev addresses the 63rd ESCAP Commission Session in Almaty



17-23 May 2007 The sixty-third session of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) started its work in Almaty. For the first time, the regional commission of the United Nations held its annual session in Central Asia



Photo: Kairat Iskakov, the first military observer from Kazakhstan (photo: 3rd from right) with the mission to Nepal.

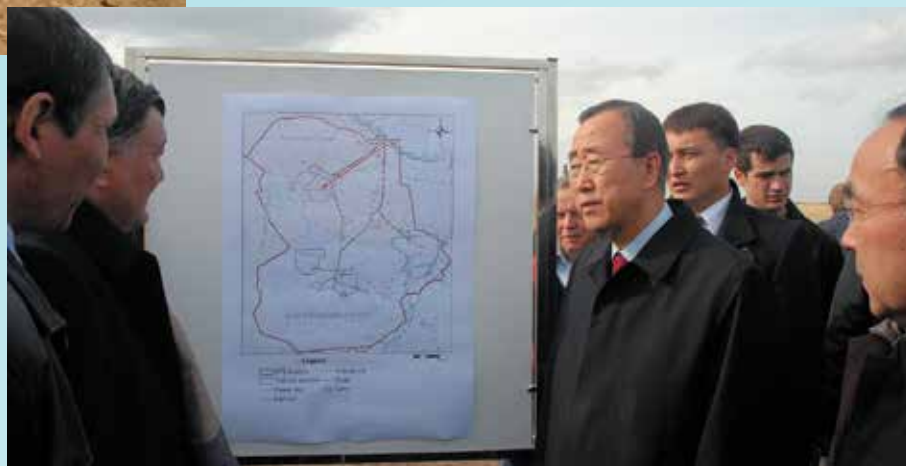


Photo: UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon at the former Semipalatinsk Nuclear Test Site

May 2007 The Republic of Kazakhstan supports UN peacekeeping missions.

April 6-7 2010 UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-Moon, paid an official visit to the Republic of Kazakhstan. The Secretary-General visited the Semipalatinsk former nuclear test site, becoming the first head of the United Nations to do so. He flew by helicopter to the remote "Ground Zero" site where atomic bomb tests were carried out. At the site, he told journalists that Semipalatinsk now stands as a symbol for nuclear disarmament and hope for the future



Photo/Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan. UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon addresses the OSCE Summit participants

UNFPA Photo. UN agencies in Kazakhstan provide a coordinated support for maternal and child health in Kazakhstan



December 1-2 2010 The UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-Moon, attended a historic Summit of the Organization for Cooperation and Security in Europe (OSCE) which signalled the completion of the successful chairmanship of the Republic of Kazakhstan in this international organization under the motto Trust-Traditions-Transparency-Tolerance

2011 Making Pregnancy Safer strategy (Effective Perinatal Care) and Integrated Management of Childhood Illness (IMCI) adopted which led over time to a significant reduction in maternal and neonatal mortality rates in the country (with support from UNFPA, UNICEF and WHO)



UNDP Photo. Kazakhstan delegation at the Rio+20 UN Conference on Sustainable Development

June 2012 At the Rio+20 UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Brazil, 20-22 June 2012) the Kazakhstan sponsored Green Bridge initiative was ratified as a means to create a practical mechanism to achieve an international shift to a green economy, through promoting technology transfer and environmental management practices

and putting in place improved legal, economic and institutional conditions to encourage a new wave of green industry. In 2013 in the aftermath of the conference, the country endorsed the Concept for the transition of the Republic of Kazakhstan to a Green Economy model, transforming national policies towards sustainable development



Photo: Astana Civil Service Hub (ACSH) Founding Conference, Astana, Kazakhstan

March 2013 The Astana Civil Service Hub (ACSH) – an initiative of the Government of Kazakhstan and UNDP, was established by 25 countries and 5 international organizations that unanimously adopted the Declaration on the Astana Hub's founding. Currently the ACSH consists of 40 participating countries. ACSH is a multilateral platform to assist in

promoting civil service effectiveness by supporting the efforts of governments of participating countries in building institutional and human capacity through the main pillars of its activities - partnership and networking, capacity building, peer-to-peer learning and research and knowledge management



UNHCR Photo. The Almaty Process is a regional consultative process on refugee protection and international migration to, from and within Central Asia. It aims to address the multiple challenges resulting from mixed migration dynamics and enhance regional cooperation and coordination on mixed migration.

UN Women Photo. UN supports discussion of cross-cutting issues in promoting gender equality and empowerment of women in the Central Asian region



5 June 2013 The Second Ministerial Conference on Refugee Protection and International Migration: The Almaty Process co-chaired by the Minister of Foreign Affairs Yerlan Idrissov, UN High Commissioner for Refugees Antonio Guterres and IOM Deputy Director-General Laura Thompson

22-23 October 2014 Sub-Regional Review of the Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action +20



UNDP Photo. With disability being such a complex issue, UN has been at the forefront of bringing innovation to this area.



Photo: UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon (right) and Foreign Minister Yerlan Idrissov cutting the ribbon of the new UN building in Astana

January 2015 Kazakhstan ratifies the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

June 2015 United Nations Secretary General Mr. Ban Ki-moon visited Kazakhstan from 9-10 June 2015 to attend the 5th Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions in Astana. During his visit, the Secretary-General with Minister of Foreign Affairs Yerlan Idrissov, participated in the official opening ceremony of the new UN building in Astana



UN Photo/Loey Felipe. A view of the General Assembly Hall during the United Nations summit for the adoption of the Post-2015 Development Agenda

Photo: Baiterek Monument in Astana lit up in blue as part of the global Turn the World UN Blue initiative



September 2015 Within the framework of the 70th Session of the UN General Assembly at the UN summit on the adoption of the Post-2015 Development Agenda, the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Nursultan Nazarbayev, along with other leaders of the UN member states, signed a new document for further global development, stressing that the goals and targets of the Sustainable Development Goals (the SDGs) fully coincide with the priorities and tasks of Kazakhstan

24 October 2015 Three landmark buildings in Kazakhstan became part of the global Turn the World UN Blue initiative. To mark the 70th anniversary of the United Nations, the Baiterek monument in Astana, and two buildings in Almaty – the Hotel Kazakhstan and the Palace of the Republic were lit up in blue - the official colour of the United Nations – on UN Day



UNAIDS Photo. Youth performance addressed to the World AIDS Day



Photo/Almas Dzaksylykov. UN supports partners to eliminate gender inequalities through targeted, gender-focused programmes and by working to ensure that all development efforts take into account the experiences, needs, and contributions of women.



UNOCHA Photo. Official opening of the centre

June 2016 Kazakhstan subscribes to the commitments of the Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS: On the Fast-Track to Accelerate the Fight against HIV and to End the AIDS Epidemic by 2030

14 September 2016 United Nations supported the establishment of Centre for Emergency Situations and Disaster Risk Reduction which is an intergovernmental body with the aim of ensuring effective mechanisms to decrease the risk of emergencies, to mitigate the consequences, to organize a joint response and stimulate regional and international cooperation

6 December 2016 A landmark Concept on Family and Gender Policy up to 2030 adopted by the President, paves the way for reforms towards achieving gender equality, combating gender-based violence and improving the sexual and reproductive health of young people (supported by UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF and UNWOMEN)



Photo: UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres (left) and President Nursultan Nazarbayev



Photo: UN pavilion at EXPO 2017

9-10 June 2017 The United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres visited Kazakhstan within the framework of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Summit and the opening of EXPO-2017 Astana

June-September 2017 Nine UN agencies (ESCAP, UNESCO, UNDP, IAEA, UNIDO, UNICEF, UN Women, UNHCR, UNEP) participated through their exhibits at the UN Section of the International Organizations Plaza at EXPO-2017 Astana. The UN section received over 100,000 visitors. At the award ceremony organized by the Bureau International des Expositions (BIE), “an Honorable Mention was given to the International Organization Joint Pavilion” in recognition of its effort and compliance with the EXPO theme, on an exceptional basis



Photo: Alexander Schmidt, UNODC (left), Kairat Abdrakhmanov, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Yuri Fedotov, Executive Director of UNODC



Photo: Foreign Minister Kairat Abdrakhmanov (left) and Mayor of Almaty Bauyrzhan Baibek unveiling the commemorative plaque.

October 2017 The Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan hosted the 10th Review Meeting of the Memorandum of Understanding on Sub-Regional Drug Control Cooperation, supported by UNODC in Astana

16 February 2018 The 25th anniversary of UN presence in Kazakhstan was marked in Almaty by placing a commemorative plaque at the Hotel Kazakhstan in Almaty where the very first UN office opened in 1993



UN Agencies, Funds and Programmes in Kazakhstan



Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

International Labour Organization (ILO)

International Organization for Migration/ The UN Migration Agency (IOM)

Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)

Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

United Nations Children`s Fund (UNICEF)

United Nations Department of Public Information (UNDPI)

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women)

United Nations Environment (UNEP)

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

United Nations Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA)

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia (UNRCCA)

United Nations Volunteers (UNV)

World Health Organization (WHO)



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION (FAO) OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Fiat Panis. Bread for all.

Mission

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations that leads international efforts to defeat hunger. Our goal is to achieve food security for all and make sure that people have regular access to enough high-quality food to lead active, healthy lives. With over 194 member states, FAO works in over 130 countries worldwide. We believe that everyone can play a part in ending hunger.

Partnership with Kazakhstan

The partnership between Kazakhstan and FAO has been constantly evolving since the country became a member of the Organization in 1997. FAO's assistance in Kazakhstan is shaped by the Country Programming Framework (CPF), which outlines five thematic priority areas: food safety and organic food production, animal health and livestock production, pasture and phytosanitary management, sustainable natural resource management (water, land and forestry management), fisheries and aquaculture and information technologies for agricultural statistics and related data collection and analysis. Jointly prepared with the Government and other partners, the CPF reflects relevant priorities in national development plans, including Strategy 2050 which cites global food security and depletion of natural resources as key challenges. The modernisation of agriculture is a major element of the strategy.

Organic agriculture

Within the framework of the technical cooperation project, a series of conferences and training seminars on the certification of organic products, the development of legislation and organic standards were conducted. Technical assistance and expertise based on international experience were also provided. The goal of the project is to create a sustainable system for the production of organic food to meet the needs of the population and develop a model for ensuring the export of organic products. Another technical support project on the introduction of an organic integrity and traceability system in Kazakhstan is being implemented in 2018. It will increase the transparency of the organic market in the country and build confidence in the local producers and suppliers of organic products.



Oilseeds and Pulses

An analytical sector study on oilseeds and pulses was carried out with recommendations made on value chain development and export promotion. The study investigated the bottlenecks in the development of oilseeds and pulses in the country, including production, storage and logistics infrastructure, regulation issues and access to export markets. The research also contained an evaluation of domestic value chains against other countries.



Dairy sector

FAO and EBRD implemented a technical assistance project which aimed to enhance the competitiveness of the Kazakh dairy industry through the increased involvement of small and medium-sized milk producers and solutions for the improvement of raw milk production and collection. FAO has also elaborated a set of recommendations for small and medium-sized farmers on good dairy farming practices.

Integrated natural resource management

With support from the Global Environment Facility, National Governments and other donors, in 2018 FAO launched the second phase of the Central Asian Countries Initiative on Land Management (CACILM) II to scale up integrated natural resource management in drought-prone and salt-affected agricultural production landscapes in Central Asian countries and Turkey. In Kazakhstan, the project supports the Government in integrating the resilience principles into the policy, legal and institutional framework for integrated resource management. It will also promote broader adoption of climate-smart agricultural practices and sustainable land management, resulting in socio-economic benefits for local communities and global environmental benefits. A special focus will be given to pasture management and improvement.



Pasture management and development of animal feed resources

The main objective of the technical cooperation project is to develop a business model for sustainable pasture management. To achieve this goal, the project team assesses the needs and types of investments for the implementation of business models adapted to the specific climatic conditions of pastures and agro-ecological zones in different regions of Kazakhstan. These business models, with specific pasture management tools and technologies, will be subsequently recommended for use throughout the country. The investment programme for the sustainable use of pastures will also be developed and recommended for public and private investment as one of the project's impacts.

FAO at EXPO-2017

FAO was a participant in EXPO-2017 Astana. In particular, the following events were conducted: International conference Food Security and UN Goals for Sustainable Development 2030: Prospects for the Development of the Organic Production Sector in Kazakhstan in the frame of the Astana Economic Forum 2017.

International Conference Development of inclusive Agro-food chains

National Workshop Oilseeds and Pulses: Perspectives of Further Development in Kazakhstan

International Workshop Investment in Energy Smart Agriculture

Projects planned for 2018–2020:

Supporting the nationalisation of Sustainable Development Goals

Value chains and export in the agri-food sector development

Technical support on further organic sector development

Supporting national locust management in Kazakhstan

Adoption of Sustainable Climate Technologies in the agri-food sector (together with EBRD)

Targeted support for agricultural statistical innovation

Development of e-agriculture and agri-food export promotion





INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION

Promoting Jobs, Protecting People

Mission

The International Labour Organization (ILO) is the UN specialized agency working to promote social justice and internationally recognised human and labour rights. Founded in 1919, it is the only surviving major creation of the Treaty of Versailles, which brought the League of Nations into being. It became the first UN specialized agency in 1946.

ILO is devoted to promoting social justice and internationally recognised human and labour rights, pursuing its founding mission that social justice is essential to universal and lasting peace. As the only tripartite UN agency, ILO brings together governments', employers' and workers' representatives of 187 member states, to set labour standards, develop policies and devise programmes promoting decent work for all women and men.

Today, ILO's Decent Work Agenda helps advance the economic and working conditions that give all workers, employers and governments a stake in lasting peace, prosperity and progress.

Four strategic objectives at the heart of the Decent Work Agenda

- Set and promote standards and fundamental principles and rights at work
- Create greater opportunities for women and men to decent employment and income
- Enhance the coverage and effectiveness of social protection for all
- Strengthen tripartism and social dialogue

The main aims of ILO are to promote rights at work, encourage decent employment opportunities, enhance social protection and strengthen dialogue on work-related issues.

ILO adopts international labour standards in the form of conventions and recommendations.

The ILO Decent Work Technical Support Team and Country Office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia (prior to April 2010, called the ILO Subregional Office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia) has operated in Moscow since 1959. The Office coordinates ILO activities in ten countries: Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

Kazakhstan has ratified 24 ILO conventions including all those classed as fundamental.

ILO is implementing projects in Kazakhstan entitled Partnerships for Youth Employment in the Commonwealth of Independent States, 2013 –2023, funded by the LUKOIL company.



Major achievements over 25 years

Kazakhstan joined the ILO in 1993. In Kazakhstan, ILO provides support through a Decent Work Country Programme (DWCP) developed in coordination with its constituents: the Government and employers' and workers' organizations. It defines priorities within national development frameworks and aims to address major Decent Work deficits through policy advice and capacity building.



In helping modernise the country's social security system, ILO has made significant contributions in reviewing methodology to determine the Subsistence Minimum. The 2020 Employment Programme has benefited from strategic ILO contributions and a country study on the transition from informal to formal employment.

Currently, ILO support in the field of employment is provided under the Youth Employment project, which has developed the National Action Plan on Youth Employment. The ILO input into the Labour Code amendments led to the inclusion of a provision on Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) committees at the enterprise level.

The Decent Work Country Programme in Kazakhstan addresses stronger social dialogue, enhanced employment opportunities for women and men and improvements in the OSH system.

The Decent Work concept has become part of the national development agenda with the support of the Government, employers' and workers' organizations.

Its main aims are:

- Improvement of the legal framework and regulations in labour migration, occupational safety and health, the important amendments on OSH introduced to the Labour Code, in line with international OSH standards
- The Concept of Employment of Human Resources and the Employment Programme 2020 adopted in 2011, defining the labour market regulation policy as a specific subject for regulation
- In the field of social dialogue, enhancing the role and status of tripartite bodies, constituents' increased capacities on social and labour conflicts prevention, labour disputes resolution, negotiations and consensus-building

Along with this, significant contributions were made in the development of the strategic document – the Concept of Social Protection in the Republic of Kazakhstan. To implement it, ILO proposed measures on improving the delivery system of the Targeted Social Assistance (TSA) to the neediest categories of the population. The system is operational nowadays.

To promote the fundamental principles and rights at work and harmonisation of labour legislation with international standards, ILO has assisted in the development of the Labour Law and later on the draft Labour Code of the Republic of Kazakhstan (adopted in 2007).

With the active involvement of ILO in the country, the national OSH and labour inspection systems were modernised. The ILO-OSH 2001 management system was introduced. Two comparative analyses (ILO audits) of OSH and the labour inspection system based on ILO conventions and EU Acts were carried out.



ILO consistently contributed to the development of the Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan on Employment and employment programmes including the Employment Program-2020, recently renamed the Employment Road Map-2020. The Youth Employment component aimed on the implementation of the National Action Plan on Youth Employment is a current target for the National Technical Team supported by the ILO project.

Plans for the future

ILO needs to respond effectively to ongoing changes in the world of work in order to be able to advance its mandate for social justice.

In 2019, ILO marks its centenary. The Future of Work initiative will lead to the adoption of a Centenary Declaration.

The following are priorities on the agenda of the centenary:

1. Improving the regulation of labour relations and strengthening social dialogue
2. Enhancing employment opportunities for women and men
3. Improving social protection systems in the context of social modernisation



INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION

UN Migration

Mission

Established in 1951, IOM is the leading inter-governmental organization in the field of migration and works closely with governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental partners.



IOM Director General William Lacy Swing with Chairman of the Senate of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Kemeluly Tokayev. 14 May, 2018

With 172 member states, a further 8 states holding observer status and offices in over 100 countries, IOM is dedicated to promoting humane and orderly migration for the benefit of all. IOM works to help ensure the orderly and humane management of migration, to promote international cooperation on migration issues, to assist in the search for practical solutions to migration problems and to provide humanitarian assistance to migrants in need, including refugees and internally displaced people.

IOM works in the four broad areas of migration management:

- Migration and development
- Facilitating migration
- Regulating migration
- Forced migration

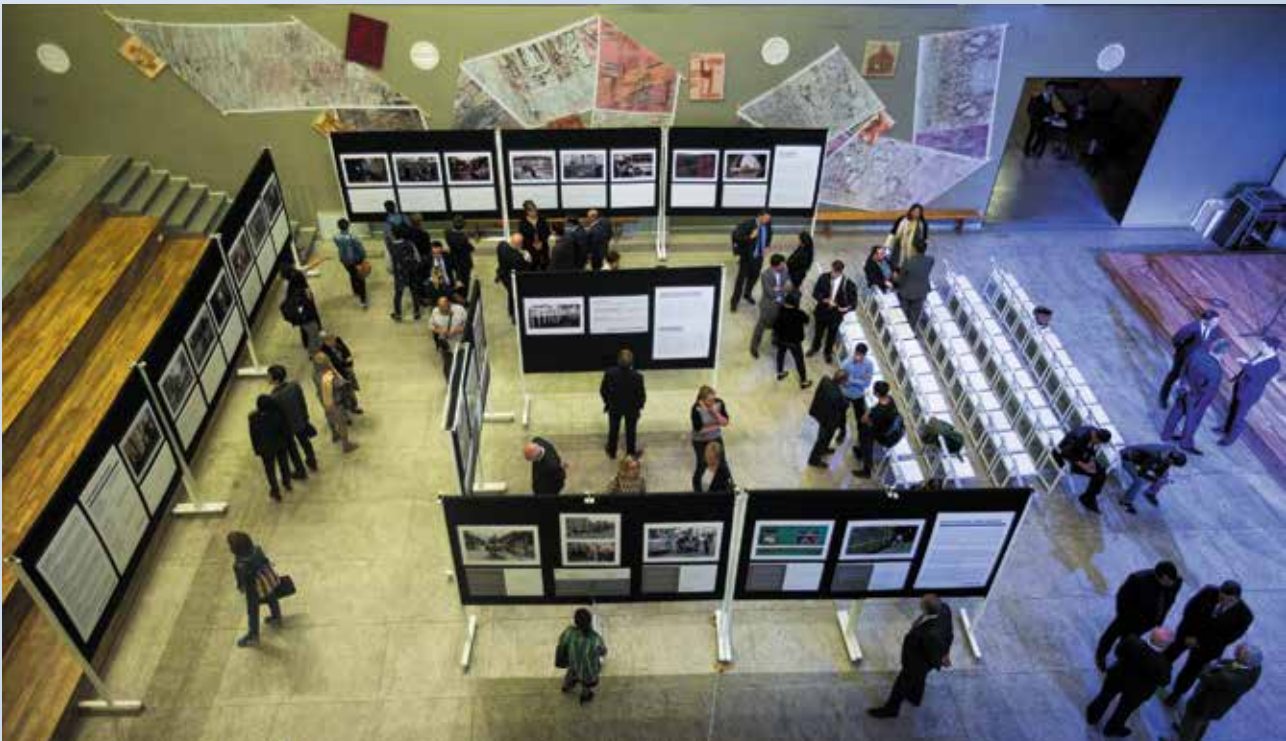
IOM activities that cut across these areas include the promotion of international migration law, policy debate and guidance, protection of migrants' rights, migration health and the gender dimension of migration.

Major achievements over 25 years

The Republic of Kazakhstan became an IOM Member State on 2 December 2002. As the Country Office with Coordinating Functions for Central Asia, the IOM mission in Kazakhstan helps to address specific subregional migration issues and emerging trends in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, establishing priorities for project development and resource mobilisation and stimulating, directing and supporting project development in the country offices in the context of subregional strategies, policies and consultative

processes. IOM in Kazakhstan has played an important part in reforms of migration management and counter trafficking through capacity building, advising and shaping policy, research, technical assistance, public awareness raising and direct assistance to vulnerable groups of migrants and victims of trafficking. IOM has strategic partnerships with a variety of partners including governments, intergovernmental organizations, international organizations, NGOs and the private sector in Kazakhstan.

Migrants An Invisible Force in Central Asia photo exhibition at Kasteev Museum, Almaty. September 5, 2017



Kazakhstan is a participant of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD). It is also a member state of the IOM and is actively involved in IOM-led activities.

Kazakhstan is also a member of the Almaty regional consultative process which was initiated in 2011 by the Government of Kazakhstan, IOM and UNHCR. The Almaty Process promotes sustained dialogue and exchange of information on migration issues and on refugee protection challenges in Central Asia and the wider region.

A major development in terms of labour mobility has been Kazakhstan's membership in the Eurasian Economic Union and access to the common labour market of the Russian Federation, Belarus, Kyrgyzstan and Armenia.

Based on IOM's global experience, since 2016 the Government of Kazakhstan has launched the implementation of the standard of special social services for victims of trafficking through the establishment and support of specialised shelters in almost all regions of the country.





Dejan Kecerovic Chief Of Mission for IOM Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan – visiting IOM shelter for women in Petropavlovsk supported by IOM. December, 2017

Plans for the future

IOM will continue to work with a variety of stakeholders at the regional, national and local grassroots level to achieve its objectives.

Migration and development is a key priority for IOM, especially given the scale of labour migration in the region.

IOM will continue to strengthen regional cooperation and develop coordinated actions in the fight against trafficking and exploitation.

The imperative of addressing the perception of migrants, and migration and of integrating migration in national development planning and in the UN Post-2015 Development Agenda – on the basis of sound evidence – are key points of attention and calls for action.

IOM will further advocate for the introduction of best practice into Central Asian migration and border management systems and promotion, coordination and cooperation.

IOM Central Asia also works on the integration of cross-cutting issues such as gender roles, children and other vulnerable groups and health and migrants' rights.



JOINT UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMME ON HIV/AIDS

UNAIDS is leading the global effort to end AIDS as a public health threat by 2030 as part of the Sustainable Development Goals.

UNAIDS, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, is an innovative partnership that leads and inspires the world in achieving universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support. UNAIDS fulfils its mission by: Uniting the efforts of the United Nations system, civil society, national governments, the private sector, global institutions and people living with and most affected by HIV.

The UNAIDS office in Kazakhstan was opened in 1996. Since then, UNAIDS has been working in close cooperation with the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan, in particular with the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Republican Center on AIDS Prevention and Control and regional and city AIDS centres.

A UN Joint Team on AIDS was established at the country level, which comprises the following agencies: UNDP, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNESCO, WHO, UN Women, UNODC, ILO, UNDPI, World Bank, UNFPA and UNAIDS Secretariat. The UN Joint Team is chaired by the UNAIDS Country Director.

UNAIDS initiated its work in Kazakhstan by supporting the development of state strategies such as national and sectoral programs for HIV prevention.

In cooperation with the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan, four programmes to counteract HIV infection in the country were developed and implemented in the 1996-2015 timeframe. To date, the issues of fighting HIV/AIDS have been included in the main strategic documents of the Government of Kazakhstan, including the Development Strategy of Kazakhstan 2050 and the State Health Care Development Programme Densaulyk 2016 – 2019.

In the period from 1997-1998, UNAIDS, shared and supported the implementation of a 'harm reduction' strategy for working with people who inject drugs. According to the harm reduction strategy, people who use drugs ought to be provided with options that will help minimise the risks associated with continued misuse of drugs and with possible harmful consequences for themselves and for others. This approach brings benefits for

people who use drugs, their families and society. In 1997, the harm reduction strategy was launched in the city of Temirtau, Karaganda Region with the subsequent improvement of the epidemiological situation of HIV infection in the Karaganda Region, and the city of Temirtau. To date, the financing and implementation of harm reduction programmes for people who inject drugs is supported at the state level.



In the years 2000-2005 UNAIDS, in collaboration with government and AIDS service NGOs, worked to scale up the harm reduction strategy and prevent sexual transmission of HIV nationwide.

In 2005, UNAIDS, along with other UN agencies, in particular WHO and UNICEF, participated in the elimination of the consequences of intra-hospital transmission of HIV infection among children in medical institutions in the South Kazakhstan Region.

From 2000 to the present, UNAIDS has put additional efforts into the capacity building of medical and non-medical AIDS specialists in the second generation of HIV epidemiological surveillance, introducing

innovative practices for the collection and analysis of strategic information in order to better understand the current AIDS situation in the country and use data to develop preventive measures.

In 2017, UNAIDS was granted the status of subregional office and continues to support the establishment and development of AIDS service NGOs in the Republic of Kazakhstan, especially the Community of People Living with HIV (PLHIV).

In 2018, with UNAIDS support, the Kazakhstan Union of PLHIV has developed and signed with the Republican Center on AIDS Prevention and Control a National Plan on Reducing Stigma and Discrimination against People Living with HIV.



Over 25 years of work in Kazakhstan, UNAIDS and its partners have helped the government to raise more than \$60 million (USD) for the implementation of prevention programmes through the provision of technical assistance in the development of country applications to The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria.

By implementing the Unified Budget, Results and Accountability Framework (UBRAF) in 2018-2019, UNAIDS plans to provide financial and technical assistance to the country to the amount of \$300,000 (USD) through funding the activities of UNICEF, UNESCO and UNODC.

Due to the advocacy efforts of UNAIDS, the Kazakhstan Union of PLHIV and other partners, Kazakhstan has made significant progress in providing antiretroviral (ARV) drugs for all in need of treatment by reducing the prices of ARV drugs. The introduction of an international mechanism for the procurement of drugs through UNICEF platforms has made it possible to purchase ARV drugs two times cheaper, and for some drugs 40 times cheaper, compared to the marginal prices existing in Kazakhstan.

If, in 2014, there were only 4,640 patients on ARV treatment, then, in 2018, due to savings because of the reduction in prices for antiretroviral therapy (ART), new fixed-dose combination drugs were procured and 14,740 patients in need were enrolled in ARV treatment.

In 2017, the city of Almaty signed the Paris Declaration, calling for an end to the AIDS epidemic by 2030. The UNAIDS Office, in partnership with partner organizations, provides technical assistance and expertise to the mayor's office and the city health department in the development and further implementation of the programme to combat HIV infection in Almaty.

In June 2016 at the United Nations General Assembly a Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS: On the Fast-Track to Accelerate the Fight against HIV and to End the AIDS Epidemic by 2030 was approved. The Declaration was adopted by all UN member states, including the Republic of Kazakhstan. To achieve the goals of the Political Declaration, the UNAIDS developed a global Fast-Track strategy: 90–90–90 targets (UNAIDS, 2014) - key elements of the Fast-Track strategy imply that by 2020:

- 90% of all people living with HIV will know their HIV status
- 90% of all people with diagnosed HIV infection will receive ARV therapy
- 90% of all people receiving ARV therapy will have viral suppression, which will improve the quality of life and will prevent HIV transmission.

The Republic of Kazakhstan, having signed the political declaration, has assumed obligations to end the AIDS epidemic by 2030. The UNAIDS office will provide comprehensive assistance to the Republic of Kazakhstan to achieve the goals adopted by the world community in the fight against HIV/AIDS, including the targets of 90–90–90.



OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Regional Office for Central Asia

Mission

The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) Regional Office for Central Asia (ROCA) was established in 2008 in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, and currently covers five countries in the region. ROCA has a presence in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, in Astana, Kazakhstan, and is about to establish a presence in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

The OHCHR mission is to work for the protection of all human rights for all people; to help empower people to realise their rights; and to assist those responsible for upholding such rights in ensuring that they are implemented.

According to the mandate of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, as set out in General Assembly resolution 48/141 of 20 December 1993, ROCA engages with governments, intergovernmental organizations, civil society and the private sector as well as with relevant UN partners, to formulate and implement strategies and measures for the promotion and protection of all human rights in the countries of Central Asia.

Major achievements

ROCA works with countries in the region to strengthen the capacity of governments, national human right institutions and non-governmental and civil society organizations to increase compliance with human rights standards and improve protection against human rights violations, in particular violations relating to torture and the right to a fair trial.

Since its establishment in 2008, ROCA has positioned itself as a solid, trusted source of human rights expertise and has established close links with many actors in the region. Previous engagement has resulted in ROCA developing a comparative advantage for promoting and protecting human rights in Central Asia.

Future plans

OHCHR's thematic pillars for 2018-2021 are as follows:

- support for international human rights mechanisms
- mainstreaming human rights within peace and security
- mainstreaming human rights within development
- advancing the core human rights principles of accountability, non-discrimination and participation



ROCA will aim at fostering compliance with international human rights law of legislation, policies and state practice, in particular relating to criminal justice, fundamental freedoms, including freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and association and the prevention/countering of violent extremism. At the same time, the Office will assist states to enhance their capacity for increasing understanding of duty-bearers on human rights related issues. This work will be complemented by providing comprehensive regional support to National Human Rights Institutions in order to render them more effective, independent and interconnected. Furthermore, ROCA will shift specific focus towards civil society, in particular human rights defenders and lawyers, in order to enable them to increasingly advocate and claim rights for their constituencies and protect themselves more effectively from reprisals.

This work will be achieved by helping states to increase capacity and the use of the outcomes of UN Human Rights Mechanisms by policy-makers, legislators and the judiciary and by promoting the mainstreaming of international human rights norms and standards into national legislation, policy and practice. Furthermore, the Office will foster human rights education in order to help shift the trajectory towards an increasingly positive human rights narrative.

In implementing its programme, ROCA will specifically aim at building a global constituency for human rights and protecting and expanding civic space – from the perspective of combatting discrimination of some of Central Asia's particularly vulnerable groups, such as women, youth and ethnic minorities.



UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND (UNICEF)

Mission

Across 190 countries and territories, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) defends and promotes the rights and well-being of children and youth. For more than two decades, UNICEF has been working closely with the Government and Parliament, local authorities and civil society to protect children's rights in Kazakhstan, facilitate access to quality social services, health care and education. Ensuring equal opportunities for children is the most important task for UNICEF, both in Kazakhstan and worldwide. Equality means the ability for all children to survive, develop and fully implement their potential in accordance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which Kazakhstan ratified in 1994. UNICEF is introducing innovative ways to make a better life for every child.

Major achievements

UNICEF has been working in Kazakhstan since 1994. During this time, the priorities of UNICEF have changed significantly: from the supply of vaccines, medicines and other material assistance, to strengthening the capacity of society and the implementation of advanced social technologies in the best interests of children and families. The joint efforts and innovative approaches of UNICEF and the Government have produced profound results:

- The Convention on the Rights of the Child was one of the first international treaties ratified by Kazakhstan in 1994. Millions of children have since benefitted from increased actions and spending on education, health and social programmes.
- Since 2002, all expanded programmes of immunisation and additional vaccination are covered by the Government. In addition, the sustainability of the cold chain was designed and established with UNICEF's support. Kazakhstan became the first country in the region to introduce and accomplish the vaccination against the hepatitis B and pneumococcus.

UNICEF Photo/A.Kim



- Annual maternal mortality rate has reduced by 55 per cent since 1999.
- To reduce the infant and under-five deaths in Kazakhstan, a package of essential practices was developed and reflected in the national regulatory documents on perinatal, neonatal and emergency care.
- A UNICEF-supported iodine deficiency prevention programme allowed up to 93% of the population to consume iodized salt, thus protecting the children of Kazakhstan against the risk of brain development disturbance.
- Today, virtually all women deliver their babies in medical institutions. 33 obstetrical institutions in Child-Friendly Clinics have been established in the country, as well as Baby-Friendly Hospitals.
- Youth-Friendly Services (YFS) were piloted and are now operating in all regions of Kazakhstan.
- Significant improvements and substantial decrease of mother-to-child HIV transmission were achieved through the improvement of national regulations and a series of training sessions.

UNICEF Photo/A.Kim



- UNICEF supported the Government in the development and adoption of the Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan on Specialised Social Services to scale up social work as a preparation process for ratifying the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. UNICEF has also conducted an advocacy campaign Different but Equal to prevent stigmatisation towards children and adolescents with disabilities.
- Community-based services and alternative care solutions are being developed to prevent child abandonment and a reduction of the inflow of children in state-run institutions.
- Support for children in contact with the law by developing justice for children.
- Disaster Risk Reduction was initiated through introducing and integrating disaster risk preparedness training in schools.
- Numerous surveys, studies, research projects and evaluations have been conducted jointly with the Government to present the situation with children's rights.
- UNICEF collaborates with the Government and other partners to ensure that national legislation and regulations contribute to fulfilling the rights and reflecting the interests of all children.
- Through the UNICEF Child Friendly Cities Initiative local governments committed in their strategies to prioritise children's interests in planning, budgeting and policy making. The cities work towards ensuring better access of children and young people to services, reducing the negative impact of urban environment on children's lives.

Plans for the future

Currently, another five-year programme of cooperation between the Government of Kazakhstan and UNICEF for 2016-2020 is being implemented. Close attention is paid to children from the most vulnerable groups, including children with mental and physical disabilities.

UNICEF is working in three major directions in Kazakhstan:

Equity for all children, adolescents and their families:

Expanding social support for target groups through providing them with equal, inclusive access to quality social services and allowances.

Child friendly social environment:

The creation of a social environment which is friendly to children in any life circumstances, especially, protecting them from violence and abuse, including all forms of physical and psychological violence.

Partnerships for children:

The consolidation of state institutions, public associations, the media, the private sector and academia for mobilising joint efforts to promote the rights of the most vulnerable children and adolescents in Kazakhstan and beyond the country. UNICEF is exploring innovative solutions to promote greater child wellbeing and potential and is working on increasing children's voices in local decision-making and promoting Kazakhstan's experience with other countries.



UNITED NATIONS INFORMATION OFFICE IN ALMATY

The representative Office of the United Nations Department of Public Information (UN DPI) / United Nations Information Office (UNO) in Almaty has been carrying out its activities in Kazakhstan and the region of Central Asia since 1993. It is a branch office of the United Nations Department of Public Information that is based in the UN headquarters in New York. UNO is part of the global network of the United Nations Information Centers (UNICs).



UNICs and UNOs are the principal local sources of public information about the UN system. They are strengthening their information presence and enhancing communications at the national level and across the regions, through the use of the most advanced information and communication technologies, including social media, by building partnerships and by adopting strategic communication approaches to field work.

UNICs and UNOs are responsible for promoting greater public understanding and support in respect of the aims and activities of the UN and for disseminating information on the work of the organization to local populations, especially in developing countries.

A key task is to promote awareness of the Sustainable Development Goals:

1. No Poverty
2. Zero Hunger
3. Good Health and Well-Being
4. Quality Education
5. Gender Equality
6. Clean Water and Sanitation
7. Affordable and Clean Energy
8. Decent Work and Economic Growth
9. Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure
10. Reducing Inequalities
11. Sustainable Cities and Communities
12. Responsible Consumption and Production



13. Climate Action
14. Life Below Water
15. Life on Land
16. Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions
17. Partnerships for the Goals

UNO in Kazakhstan provides up-to-date and reliable information on the UN and its activities to a wide audience in Kazakhstan as well as across the wider region of Central Asia, delivering information to a wide range of people, including journalists, government officials, civil society representatives, NGOs, students, educators and researchers as well as to the general public.

UNO works with civil society to promote a variety of issues through seminars, round tables, conferences, the implementation of different activities such as Model United Nations simulations, the organization of exhibitions and other events.

UNO publicises priority issues and major events, and organizes the observance of the UN international days, years and decades.



UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (UNDP)

Mission

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) aims at helping countries to eradicate poverty and reduce inequalities and exclusion. We help develop policies, leadership skills, partnering abilities, institutional capabilities and build resilience in order to sustain development results. Present in over 170 countries and territories, UNDP started operating in Kazakhstan in 1993.

Major achievements over 25 years

Over the quarter century of cooperation, UNDP has assisted Kazakhstan in its development agenda, particularly in attaining the Millennium Development Goals and now the Sustainable Development Goals through providing targeted policy advisory support in drafting key national and regional policy documents, legislative drafting, institutionalisation and capacity building of authorities at different levels of government. UNDP Kazakhstan has been working at all levels of society, focusing on helping Kazakhstan to build and share effective solutions in three areas: sustainable development, inclusive and effective governance and regional cooperation and development. Over the 25-year period of UNDP engagement in Kazakhstan, the country office implemented more than 150 projects worth over \$165 million (USD).

In the area of sustainable development, UNDP supported Kazakhstan's transition to the Green Economy model through a number of projects. The major results achieved within the framework of these projects are:

Transformation of national policies towards sustainable development through support with the endorsement of the concept for the transition to a Green Economy model (2013), amendments to the Environmental Code, Water Code and Tax Code, introduction of the Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan On Pasture Lands, and a number of by-laws and regulations.

- Building a **climate resilient agriculture** system on the national and local levels: support in development of the Agribusiness-2020 programme, promotion of organic farming resulting in the first export of organic honey, rehabilitation of more than 750,000 hectares

of degraded land, building the resilience of more than 120,000 farmers to the adverse effects of climate change, demonstration of climate resilient technologies allowing a saving of up to 50% of water and raising productivity twofold.



- Improvement of the **management of protected areas** of 5.3 million hectares through an ecosystem approach: creation of seven new protected areas, expanding three existing protected areas, establishment of an ecological corridor and the creation of 'green jobs.'
 - Promotion of **renewable energy** in Kazakhstan on the legal and practical levels: adaptation of the National Wind Power Development Programme for Kazakhstan (2008-2015) and the Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan for Support of the Use of Renewable Energy Sources (the RES Law) (2009), Development of the Wind and Solar Atlases to support entrepreneurs, investing in green energy projects.
 - Development of **innovative financial mechanisms** to (1) preserve biodiversity - Eco-Damu Programme with the lowest interest rate in the country for the rural population living around protected areas to develop alternative businesses; (2) to attract investments into green urban and peri-urban projects via Public-Private Partnerships and concessional financing schemes in 15 cities of Kazakhstan. These mechanisms support the growth of SMEs in the area of energy-efficiency.
 - Improvement of **urban social standards of living** through raising energy efficiency in residential buildings allowing a saving of up to 30% of energy from one building, providing access to water supply and sanitation, improving the public transport system in Almaty with an 8% increase in the usage of public transport, and modernising indoor and street lighting systems.
 - Building effective **management of persistent organic pollutants** and the establishment of medical waste utilisation practice that resulted in the safe utilisation of over 18,000 mercury thermometers containing 36 kg of mercury, leading to building a sound health management system.
- Another pillar of UNDP's work lies in facilitating the reform processes of Kazakhstan aimed at making public institutions more open, dynamic, and flexible, such as streamlining business processes, functions and the responsibilities of local and national government agencies. UNDP also supports transforming the civil service towards increasing effectiveness and inclusiveness. For the past 25 years, major positive changes were brought in this area due to the continuous partnership between the Government of Kazakhstan and UNDP, among them:
- Development of **performance standards** for civil servants and the upgrade of the public administration performance measurement system. UNDP developed the methodology for public administration performance assessment and conducted the first nationwide assessment encompassing 26 central ministries and 16 regional administrations.
 - Assistance with the country's signing and ratification of the **Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities** and its Optional Protocol and support with extending the country's social protection system to include 500,000 disabled people.
 - Assistance with the **decentralisation of local governance**. UNDP supports the adoption of the new Law on Local State Administration and Self-Governance in the Republic of Kazakhstan and the provision of training to over 2,000 local governors on budgeting and communal property management.
 - Assistance in launching the **mediation institute** in Kazakhstan through the training of 271 professional and 148 non-professional mediators and conducting public awareness campaigns on mediation.

- Assistance with drafting the Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan on Access to Information and the development of recommendations to the Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan on Counteracting Corruption with the participation of civil society. Revision of over 15 laws and by-laws on the issues of gender responsiveness, promoting the principle of inclusive development.
- Assistance to the Government in **expanding the list of public** services to more than 600 services.
- Consolidation of efforts to **support the integration of ethnic Kazakh returnees**. UNDP, in collaboration with UNV, established a centre for the integration of ethnic Kazakh returnees (oralmans) in Semey, developed 20 integration programs and helped over 12,000 ethnic Kazakh returnees to successfully merge into society.



A unique pillar of the work of the UNDP country office with the Government of Kazakhstan lies in supporting the country in translating its successful development experience onto the international arena. In this area, UNDP provided its assistance with the following:

- Establishment of the **Civil Service Hub** – a knowledge and experience-sharing platform across 40 countries
- Establishment of **Kazakhstan's Official Development Assistance (ODA) system**, and its operator, the **KAZAID Agency**
- Piloting of the first **tripartite development projects** with Afghanistan and the African continent that promoted knowledge and experience sharing between the participating countries

Plans for the future

A new era brings new challenges. The alleviation of the effects of climate change, a movement to green sources of energy, the mitigation of the risks of natural disasters, mainstreaming, acceleration and policy support towards achieving the SDGs, prevention of violent extremist influences among the region's youth, efficient use of resources, gender equality and women's empowerment – all of these questions demand urgent attention, and UNDP actively supports the Government of Kazakhstan in its dedication to responding to these challenges. By committing to action and in partnership with the Government of Kazakhstan, the UNDP country office works to empower people, build the resilience of the nation and achieve the SDGs.



ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Mission

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) serves as the UN regional hub promoting cooperation among countries to achieve inclusive and sustainable development. The largest regional intergovernmental platform, with 53 Member States and 9 associate members, ESCAP has emerged as a strong regional think-tank offering countries sound analytical products that shed insight into the evolving economic, social and environmental dynamics of the region.

The Commission's strategic focus is to deliver on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development which is reinforced and deepened by promoting regional

cooperation and integration to advance responses to shared vulnerabilities, connectivity, financial cooperation and market integration. ESCAP's research and analysis coupled with its policy advisory services, capacity building and technical assistance to governments, aims to support countries' sustainable and inclusive development ambitions.

The ESCAP subregional office for North and Central Asia (SONCA) based in Almaty, Kazakhstan, aims to leverage regional economic cooperation and integration for sustainable development, in line with the subregional priorities in North and Central Asia: namely Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

Major achievements over 25 years

Since being granted full membership to ESCAP on 31 July 1992, Kazakhstan has been a key strategic partner in implementing internationally agreed agendas, including the 2030 Agenda in Central Asia and South Caucasus. On 5 July 2011, ESCAP established SONCA with support from the Government of Kazakhstan

in pursuit of a resolution of the General Assembly to strengthen the United Nations Development Pillar. Since then, Kazakhstan has marked major milestones in international and regional cooperation for economic, inclusive and sustainable development under the auspices of ESCAP.



Almaty Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries (2003)

The **Almaty Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs)** was adopted in 2003 to address their special needs and to establish a new global framework for transit transport cooperation. The Programme was adopted at the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries, Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation, organized by the Government of Kazakhstan and the United Nations Development System.

Between 2003 and 2013, the Programme served as an international mandate for the UN and its development partners to support LLDCs to:

- Secure access to and from the sea by all means of transport
- Reduce costs and improve services to increase competitiveness of exports

- Reduce costs of imports and address problems of delays in trade routes
- Develop adequate national networks and reduce loss, damage and deterioration en-route
- Open the way for export expansion
- Improve the safety of road transport and the security of people along the corridors

Succeeded by the Vienna Programme of Action for LLDCs in 2014, the Programme concluded with tangible outcomes. For example, the time to import decreased from 57 days in 2006 to 47 days in 2014 worldwide.

Sixty-third Session of ESCAP held in Almaty (2007)

Commemorating the 60th anniversary of ESCAP, Kazakhstan hosted the sixty-third session of ESCAP in 2007. The session aimed to enhance policy cooperation in Asia-Pacific, including a regional road map for the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals by 2015, as well as a midterm review of the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action. A resolution on International Migration and Development for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States was adopted at the session, calling on ESCAP to compile and analyse information on international migration and providing a forum for dialogue among members and associate members. A series of region-level discussions and the resolution, led to an agreement of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, which is expected to be adopted at a ministerial meeting in December 2018.



Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development (2010)

The sixth session of the **Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development**, convened in Astana from 27 September to 2 October 2010. The Conference renewed political commitment to sustainable development and reviewed the progress made and challenges in the implementation of internationally and regionally agreed green growth agendas, including the Regional Implementation Plan for Sustainable Development 2006-2010.

At the end of the Conference, the Astana Ministerial Declaration on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific was adopted to endorse the Regional Implementation Plan for Sustainable Development 2011-2015 which specified regional priorities, mapped out the way forward and launched specific thematic and programmatic initiatives.

The Astana Green Bridge Initiative was also set out for strengthening cooperation among Asian, Pacific and European countries in support of a shift from the current conventional development patterns to green growth. To implement the Initiative, Kazakhstan has launched the Green Bridge Partnership Programme as well as a capacity building project Supporting the Pacific Voice on Climate Change and Renewable Energy Solutions for Small Island Developing States in the Pacific, in collaboration with ESCAP.



Plans for the future

United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (from 1998 onwards)

At the subregional level, **the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA)** has served as a unique platform for policy dialogue between Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan since its founding in 1998.

Under its auspices, the working groups on transport, trade, energy-water-environment, statistics, gender and knowledge-based development have been intensively working to advance outcomes in economic, inclusive and sustainable development. To celebrate the twentieth anniversary of SPECA, Kazakhstan hosted the 2018 Economic Forum and Governing Council of SPECA in Almaty from 20 to 21 September 2018 to showcase major achievements and discuss its prospects as a mechanism to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Almaty
Office

UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

Mission

As a Specialized Agency of the United Nations, UNESCO contributes to the building of peace, the eradication of poverty and sustainable development and intercultural dialogue through education, the sciences, culture, communication and information.

UNESCO develops educational tools to help people live as global citizens free of hate and intolerance. UNESCO works so that each child and citizen has access to quality education. By promoting cultural heritage and the equal dignity of all cultures, UNESCO strengthens bonds among nations. UNESCO fosters scientific programmes and policies as platforms for development and cooperation.

UNESCO stands up for freedom of expression, as a fundamental right and a key condition for democracy and development. Serving as a laboratory of ideas, UNESCO helps countries adopt international standards and manages programmes that foster the free flow of ideas and knowledge sharing.

UNESCO established its presence in Central Asia through a Cluster Office in Almaty covering Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan in 1994.

Major achievements over 25 years

The UNESCO Almaty Office works in cooperation with various institutions ranging from the Government and its line Ministries, the UN agencies and international organizations, NGOs, experts, private sector companies, media organizations and other national institutions in UNESCO's fields of competence, including UNESCO Clubs, UNESCO Associated Schools and UNESCO Chairs, to implement its programmes.

Over the years of UNESCO's presence in the country, the range and diversity of its cooperation with Kazakhstan has strengthened. The areas of action - many of which are implemented in close partnership with the National Commission of Kazakhstan for UNESCO - include:



Part of the Great Altay Transboundary Biosphere Reserve in Kazakhstan © Sergey Starikov



Celebration of the 1000th Anniversary of Almaty city at the UNESCO Headquarters © UNESCO

In the field of education, regular subregional meetings organized in Almaty have brought together representatives of ministries, educational institutions and experts from the region of Central Asia to have policy discussions on the progress made by the countries on the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, such as those of Education for All and the agenda for Sustainable Development (SDG4). UNESCO has supported the strengthening of the quality of education in Kazakhstan through programmes on Education

for Sustainable Development, Global Citizenship Education, Open Educational Resources and ICTs, Science and Technology Education, multi-lingual and healthy lifestyles education, and promoted lifelong learning opportunities for all.

UNESCO has promoted science-based knowledge generation, dissemination and decision-making, the strengthening of the quality of water education and training, awareness-raising of the communities on issues related to the impact of climate change and disaster risk reduction.

The Central Asian Regional Glaciological Centre, established by the Kazakh authorities under UNESCO's auspices in Almaty in 2017, will support UNESCO's work through global, regional and subregional programmes. With eight biosphere reserves included in UNESCO's World Network, Kazakhstan is an active member of the Man and the Biosphere programme that aims to establish a scientific basis for the improvement of relationships between people and their environments.

The establishment of the Center for the Rapprochement of Cultures under UNESCO's auspices in Almaty in 2016 reflects Kazakhstan's leadership in promoting inter-cultural understanding and tolerance at the international level and follows the country's initiative at the General Assembly to proclaim 2010 as the International Year for the Rapprochement of Cultures and the International Decade for the Rapprochement of Cultures for 2013–2022.

The diversity and richness of Kazakhstan's cultural heritage is testified to by the fact that the country has five sites included in UNESCO's World Heritage List and eight elements on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. UNESCO has supported the strengthening of national capacities in preserving and safeguarding this heritage so as to transmit this to the future generations, but also, promoting heritage-based sustainable tourism. In 2017, Almaty joined UNESCO's Creative Cities Network committed to foster innovation and creativity as key drivers for a more sustainable and inclusive urban development.

In the field of communication and information, UNESCO has promoted quality reporting by supporting the strengthening of the curriculum of journalism faculties and provided technical advice on legislation, including in the development of the Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan on Access to Information in 2015. Almaty has been a host city

for major international and regional conferences, some of which resulted in the adoption of landmark documents, such as the Alma-Ata Declaration on Promoting Independent and Pluralistic Asian Media in 1992. UNESCO's Memory of the World Registry includes three elements of Kazakhstan documentary heritage that are considered of world significance.

Kazakhstan has 55 UNESCO Clubs, 30 schools participating in UNESCO's Associated Schools network and six UNESCO Chairs in the UNITWIN/ UNESCO Chairs Programme.



Petroglyphs within the Archaeological Landscape of Tamgaly ©UNESCO Almaty



THE UNITED NATIONS ENTITY FOR GENDER EQUALITY AND THE EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN

UN Women in Kazakhstan

UN Women – the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, supports UN Member States as they set global standards for achieving gender equality, and works with governments and civil society to design laws, policies, programmes and services needed to ensure that the standards are effectively implemented.

It works to make the global 2030 Agenda – the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – a reality for women and girls. The Agenda recognises that gender equality is central to changing the world and cuts across all the dimensions of sustainable development. Over the years of operations in Kazakhstan, UN Women (UNIFEM prior to 2010) has been providing comprehensive expert support to the Government in the implementation of international commitments expressed in the Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Under UN Women's coordination mandate, it plays the central role in coordinating and facilitating gender mainstreaming in the UN Country Team in the country.

UN Women began its work in Kazakhstan in 1999 as UNIFEM regional office for Central Asian countries. In 2001, it covered all twelve member-countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), promoting initiatives on poverty reduction among women, democratic governance and elimination of violence against women. With the creation of UN Women in 2010, the office became the sub-regional office for CIS countries. From 2012, UN Women had its Multi-Country Office Kazakhstan (Central Asia) based in Almaty and covering Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. From 2018, UN Women has a Country Office based in Astana.

Outstanding achievements marked the partnership with the Government of Kazakhstan in the early 2000s, including the development of the national gender policy based on gender-disaggregated statistics, and the first release of the statistical compendium *Women and Men in Kazakhstan*. This publication backed the launch of one of the early outreach and awareness-raising campaigns on gender equality in Kazakhstan entitled *Numbers Tell*.





The Strategy of Gender Equality for 2006-2016, endorsed by the Decree of the President of Kazakhstan on 29 November 2005, and the mid-term Action Plan for 2006-2008, both developed with technical and financial support from UNIFEM, has become a milestone in the record of cooperation with the National Commission on Women, Family and Demographic Policy under the President of Kazakhstan.

Much effort has been put in by UN Women to prevent and eliminate violence against women and girls in Kazakhstan. From the early 2000s, the organization has been supporting the implementation of civil society initiatives, including the establishment of crisis centres for victims of domestic violence and capacity-building of crisis centres in prevention and response to domestic violence. In 2017, UN Women and the Prosecutor-General's Office cooperated to pilot measures envisaged in the roadmap Kazakhstan without Domestic Violence in Southern Kazakhstan Region. This comprehensive initiative generated ample response, which was sustained through outreach and awareness-building campaigns against gender discrimination and violence, including UNiTE and 16 Days of Activism.

Cooperation between UN Women and the Government of Kazakhstan yielded several large-scale research projects. In 2008, the organization undertook its first study of women's migration in Kazakhstan and in Central Asia. It opened an avenue for cooperation with IOM and the World Bank as part of the 5-year joint regional migration programme. The programme aimed to promote safe labour migration in the region by means of improved management of migration and promotion of human rights and gender equality standards in the national policy and legislation. In 2013, UN Women successfully launched an information and awareness-raising campaign to support the implementation of national commitments on the UN Security Council Resolution Women, Peace and Security. As a result, this theme was incorporated in the new Concept of Family and Gender Policy, adopted by President Nazarbayev in December 2016.

In 2017, UN Women, UNFPA and WHO cooperated in the first survey in Central Asia on the prevalence of violence against women in Kazakhstan. Alongside this, UN Women supported a study of the economic costs of domestic violence. This study attempted to assess the costs of specialised social services, healthcare and access to justice for the state and to examine the effectiveness of budget planning as a response to domestic violence.

In line with its mandate and strategic vision, UN Women continues to promote gender equality and empowerment of women in Kazakhstan in the context of the SDGs. UN Women supports projects addressing unpaid care work and the participation of women in the economic development of the country and the implementation of a comprehensive approach to end gender violence. Such an approach embodies prevention measures, improvement of the legislation, inter-sectoral coordination, provision of quality

services to survivors of violence and strengthened planning, reporting and collection of statistics on domestic violence. UN Women programme activities on the introduction of gender-responsive planning and budgeting at each level of governance serves as the means to improve overall policy efficiency in planning and implementation of state budgets from a gender perspective and to attain the basic principle of the 2030 Agenda of leaving no one behind.

UN Women in Kazakhstan has consistently over the years had a strong communication and advocacy focus to increase knowledge on gender equality and women's empowerment for all, including more recently with a particular focus on men and boys. The Office is a central knowledge hub and produced

hundreds of knowledge products on gender equality and women's empowerment, particular in the Russian language, and now increasing in the Kazakh language.

Since 2017, the Government of Kazakhstan has provided funding to the UN Women's programme in the country. On the whole, the political will of the leadership of the country, committed to gender equality and empowerment of women, quality partnerships with the government institutions, including the National Commission on Women, Family and Demographic Policy under the President of Kazakhstan, civil society organizations and international community are key for the success of all the initiatives promoted by UN Women in Kazakhstan





UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES (UNHCR)

UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency established its presence in the Republic of Kazakhstan in 1995 to assist the country to protect over ten thousand refugees who subsequently naturalised in Kazakhstan or returned to their countries. In 1999, the Republic of Kazakhstan acceded to the 1951 Convention relating to the status of refugees and its 1967 Protocol. The Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan on Refugees was adopted in December 2009 and entered into force in January 2010.

Since its establishment, UNHCR has been the leading UN organization to provide international protection and seek durable solutions for asylum seekers, refugees and stateless people in Kazakhstan. UNHCR advocates for the improvement of the national legislation related to asylum and statelessness. As of 1 January 2018, there were 608 refugees and 209 asylum-seekers, mostly from Afghanistan, and 6,833 stateless persons officially registered in Kazakhstan. The majority of refugees have been residing in Kazakhstan for over five years. Kazakhstan continues receiving asylum-seekers primarily from Afghanistan, and very few from Syria, Uzbekistan and other countries.

UNHCR priority directions in Kazakhstan are:

- Strengthening the asylum procedures
- Supporting refugees' integration
- Ensuring every person's right to a nationality
- Working to ensure every child's right to a birth registration and birth certificate
- The Almaty Process

Strengthening the asylum procedures

UNHCR works with the Government authorities to improve the quality of asylum procedures and the establishment of the well-functioning mechanism of referral of asylum-seekers between the border and migration authorities in line with international standards. UNHCR and partners monitor the admission practice at the borders and raise awareness among border guards on the rights of persons to seek asylum. UNHCR observes the State Refugee Status Determination Commissions and shares its expertise and guidance on asylum-related issues.

Supporting refugees' integration

UNHCR provides legal, medical and social assistance to refugees and others in need of protection directly and through NGO partners. Putting the people first, UNHCR shaped its work to introduce new modalities of assistance, like cash-based interventions, to enhance protection benefits, maintain dignity and improve community relations amongst vulnerable refugees and asylum-seekers in Kazakhstan. UNHCR continues helping those in need of medical services, education and self-reliance opportunities for better integration.



UNHCR ensures all children have birth certificates ©UNHCR Kazakhstan



Supporting local integration, we give hope and help to those who were forced to leave their homes due to conflicts, violence and human rights violations and found a new home in Kazakhstan.

Ensuring every person's right to a nationality

UNHCR promotes accession by the Republic of Kazakhstan to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness. UNHCR assists the Government in developing and strengthening legal and administrative frameworks aimed at

the identification, registration and protection of stateless persons and the prevention and reduction of statelessness. In 2016, UNHCR developed a comprehensive analysis of the national legislation on citizenship and statelessness. This important document will become the basis for the revision of the national legislation in the coming years.

Over the years, UNHCR and its partners have assisted thousands of persons with undetermined nationality to resolve their statelessness situation and receive a legal identity. The right to a nationality is the right to have rights, and UNHCR is working hard together with the Government of Kazakhstan and partners to eradicate this problem in Kazakhstan.

Working to ensure every child's right to birth registration and a birth certificate

UNHCR cooperates with the Government of Kazakhstan, UN agencies and NGOs to ensure that all children born to undocumented parents or parents with undetermined nationality have access to an efficient and free birth registration process regardless of the legal status of their parents. In Almaty in June 2018, UNHCR in collaboration with the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Kazakhstan and UNICEF conducted a Regional Conference on the Right to Legal Identity and Prevention of Statelessness Leaving no one behind at birth.

The Almaty Process

UNHCR works with IOM and Central Asian governments to promote the Almaty Process, the regional consultative process on refugee protection and international migration. It aims to address the multiple challenges resulting from mixed migration dynamics and enhance regional cooperation and coordination on mixed migration and refugee protection.

Together with UN agencies, UNHCR promotes the Sustainable Development Goals with a focus on reducing the vulnerability of persons of concern and improving their resilience.

UNHCR Regional Representation for Central Asia is located in Almaty; UNHCR National Office for Kazakhstan is located in Astana.

For more information, please visit UNHCR Central Asia website: www.unhcr.kz and Facebook page: UNHCR Central Asia.



*Refugee boy shares his story at the World Refugee Day event
©UNHCR Kazakhstan*



UNITED NATIONS OFFICE FOR COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS

Mission

In September 2007, the Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) established a presence in Central Asia with a subregional office based in Almaty, Kazakhstan – the Regional Office for the Caucasus and Central Asia (ROCCA).

The urgent need for strengthening the disaster preparedness and response capacities in the region led to the initial transformation in 2012 of the subregional office into a fully-fledged regional office with additional coverage of the Caucasus. As a result of the humanitarian situation in Ukraine, the regional office expanded its coverage again in 2014 and since then it has also covered Ukraine. The entire region involves 9 countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Ukraine), with a combined population of 131 million people.

Since 2012, ROCCA has established Humanitarian Advisor Teams (HATs) in Armenia, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan to ensure dedicated support to



governments and partners on the ground in planning and coordinating concerted emergency response preparedness efforts. The HATs work under the supervision of the United Nations Resident Coordinator (RC) and also cover the remaining countries in the region. They fulfil their coordinating and supporting functions through local coordination mechanisms, such as the Disaster Response

Coordination Unit (DRCU) in Kyrgyzstan, Rapid Emergency Assessment and Coordination Team (REACT) in Tajikistan and others. These mechanisms consist of partners across the entire humanitarian spectrum, including National Disaster Management Organizations (NDMOs). The HATs received technical support and guidance from the OCHA Regional Office.

As of 1 April 2018, the OCHA Regional Office was closed, however OCHA maintains a presence through 4 HATs in Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.

Major achievements

OCHA has been supporting Kazakhstan in the following areas:

- Strengthening the Government's capacity to respond to emergencies in cooperation with international and local humanitarian partners. In 2009-2017, a number of events were organized, including KazSpas (a competitive event for specialists from the emergency services), humanitarian action training programmes, protecting the rights of civilians in natural disasters, crisis communications workshops, Inter-Agency contingency planning, humanitarian information management and geographic information systems (GIS) workshops, Civil-Military coordination round tables, national simulation exercises, thematic discussions to support regional consultations for the World Humanitarian Summit, emergency response planning and risk management index workshops.
- Supporting Kazakhstan's role as a regional leader in responding to emergencies and providing humanitarian aid to the region and worldwide.

Kazakhstan is one of the largest humanitarian donors from the Central Asia and Caucasus region. OCHA maintains close cooperation with the Kazakhstan Agency for International Development (KazAID). Starting from 2007, Kazakhstan reports to the Financial Tracking System (FTS), which enables monitoring of the humanitarian funding flow.

- Promoting Kazakhstan's engagement with international response coordination mechanisms, such as the International Search and Rescue Advisory Group (INSARAG) and the United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination Team (UNDAC). Kazakhstan became a member of INSARAG in 2011. In addition, Kazakhstan's representatives participated in training sessions on the On-Site Operations Coordination Center (OSOCC) which is a valuable tool in any sudden-onset disaster involving international relief resources.
- Working closely with the Kazakh Government to improve the national and regional legal frameworks for better disaster management. OCHA is part of UN joint efforts to support the process of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) in Kazakhstan.
- Providing strong support to the establishment and capacity building of the Center for Emergency Situations and Disaster Risk Reduction - a regional inter-governmental coordination body that aims to enhance regional and international cooperation on early warning, disaster risk reduction and emergency response.

Plans for the future

OCHA will continue to work closely with other UN agencies in implementing its mandate and supporting the Government of Kazakhstan.



UNITED NATIONS OFFICE ON DRUGS AND CRIME

Mission

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) is mandated to support the implementation of efforts to address the complex challenges of drugs, crime and terrorism. Evidence-informed strategies on countering narcotics, the prevention of transnational organized crime and violent extremism are central to peace, stability and effective governance in the region, and are based on the rule of law and human rights that ensure sustainable development. No country alone can address these complex problems. Therefore, collaboration, joint programming, sharing of information, expertise and experience are critical.



CARICC

The Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre (CARICC) for combating the illicit trafficking of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and their precursors was established within the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Sub-Regional Drug Control Cooperation in 1996 between Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and UNODC. The Centre was established in Almaty. The main objective of CARICC is the coordination of the efforts of its member states in combating illicit drug trafficking at the regional level and the facilitation of enhanced cooperation

between the competent authorities of the member states in combating transnational organized crime. The pilot phase of CARICC was implemented in 2007. Fifteen countries – Afghanistan, Austria, Belarus, Canada, China, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Pakistan, Romania, Turkey, UK, Ukraine and USA and two international organizations – INTERPOL and Southeast European Law Enforcement Center have obtained observer status. In October 2017, CARICC celebrated its tenth anniversary of operations.

In Astana in October 2017, the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan, hosted the 10th Review Meeting of the MoU on Sub-Regional Drug Control Cooperation. In his speech, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Kairat Abdrakhmanov, mentioned that during its 10 years of existence, CARICC has achieved considerable results and now is the only effective regional structure in the sphere of information sharing and coordination of efforts in combatting illicit drug trafficking. In his speech Yuri Fedotov, the Executive Director of UNODC, noted that CARICC remains a key element of UNODC's Networking the Networks initiative, which is building bridges between regional law enforcement bodies along the major opiate trafficking routes.

A report on ten years of CARICC activities and the future plans of the Centre was presented by its Director, Grigory Pustovitov. The report identified the achievements in coordinating the efforts of the competent authorities of the participating states in the fight against drug crime. Pustovitov stated that plans include the strengthening of actions in the fight against illicit financial flows from drug offences. At this stage of development, CARICC, in cooperation with the competent authorities of its member states and other partners, is also implementing measures to counteract the illicit spread of new types of psychoactive substances and synthetic drugs in the territories of the CARICC member states.

UNODC Future Plans

Overall, UNODC's integrated harmonised country-level, regional and global programmes on strengthening drug law enforcement, anti-money laundering, strengthening criminal justice systems, penitentiary reforms, transnational organized crime and anti-corruption, as well as health programmes related to drug demand reduction and HIV prevention within a rights-based framework, are helping in strengthening networks within and between regions, enabling international cooperation, supporting operational coordination, and achieving efficiency and effectiveness through the sharing of knowledge, information, experience and expertise.



Kairat Abdrakhmanov, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Republic of Kazakhstan, Yuri Fedotov, Executive Director of UNODC and Ashita Mittal, the UNODC Regional Representative for Central Asia



UN POPULATION FUND (UNFPA)

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) is an international development agency that promotes the right of every woman, man and child to enjoy a life of health and equal opportunity. UNFPA supports countries by providing demographic data to formulate policy and programmes based on the observance of human rights.

The mission of UNFPA is to deliver a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe, every young person's potential is fulfilled, and every girl and woman enjoys respect.

During the transitional years following Kazakhstan's independence from 1992 to 1999, UNFPA worked to strengthen maternal health, equipping Kazakhstan's service providers with best practice and knowledge in the area of international standards of reproductive health and reproductive rights. Besides, the Fund supported the strengthening of maternal health by providing basic training, medical equipment and contraceptives.

As the country evolved, so did the character of the assistance which UNFPA provided to Kazakhstan. Over the years UNFPA started bringing in predominantly technical and consultancy support





with a focus on assisting the provision of sexual and reproductive health. This work also included support towards the development of national strategies for sustainable development with due account of links between healthcare, population dynamics and the equal rights of women and men.

UNFPA contributed to the achievement of a wide array of national priorities, including the reduction of maternal deaths and the improvement of maternal health. According to the estimates of the Statistics Committee of the Ministry of National Economy of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the maternal death rate in 1991 in Kazakhstan was 67.20 per 100,000 live

births. Due to the successful introduction of perinatal technologies, the maternal death rate in Kazakhstan fell by more than four times to 12.5 per 100,000 live births in 2017. The infant mortality rate in 2017 dropped almost 3.5 times against the 1991 figure (from 27.30 to 7.93 per 1,000 live births).

UNFPA provided the formulation of evidence-based national development programmes on the status of the most vulnerable groups of people, including adolescents, youth, old people, people with disabilities, migrants and people living with HIV. These efforts helped expand the access of these groups of people to maternal and reproductive health

services. In addition, UNFPA supported Kazakhstan with the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. As a result of the support from UN agencies, including UNFPA, healthcare services were expanded. The free basic benefit package now includes antiretroviral drugs for people living with HIV.

Recognising that the widespread access of young people to information on reproductive health largely determines the health of the entire nation, UNFPA promotes advocacy and communications based on the peer-to-peer principle. There are now ten youth Y-PEER centres operating on this basis. Around 200 consultants were trained to competently provide information to teenagers about safe sexual behaviour.

A course designed to provide correct and competent information about sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights has been developed and piloted among college students. Over 300 college teachers were trained to teach reproductive health issues to students. These teachers have trained more than 30,000 teenagers and young adults on how to protect their reproductive health, prevent unwanted pregnancies, abortions and sexually transmitted infections.

Efforts are underway to improve the work of youth-friendly services to ensure that they provide comprehensive information and services to adolescents on issues relating to their sexual and reproductive health.



UNFPA also actively promotes gender equality, with a particular emphasis on preventing violence against women and girls and harmful practices, such as early and forced marriages. Presently, UNFPA provides technical support to the Government of Kazakhstan to strengthen the system of inter-sectoral response to gender-based violence through the collaboration of the sectors of healthcare, social support and the police.

Within the framework of the cooperation with the Government of Kazakhstan to promote the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development adopted in Cairo and of national strategic programmes, as well as to achieve the third and fifth Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), UNFPA cooperates with the country's leading religious organizations of Islam and Orthodox Christianity on the issues of improving maternal and reproductive health, preventing gender-based violence and improving the status of families. UNFPA's technical assistance helped strengthen the potential of religious leaders to speak on issues of maternal and reproductive health, with a focus on young people, prevention of gender-based violence, early and forced marriages and practices that are harmful to the health and well-being of girls and women. Texts of sermons containing messages of preventing violence against women have been developed to be read at Friday prayers in mosques and at Sunday services in churches across Kazakhstan. UNFPA also supported religious leaders in the development of outreach and educational materials as well as a training course on these issues to be incorporated in the learning curricula of religious facilities and for the advocacy among future religious workers for appropriate preaching among believers.

UNFPA supports the strengthening of national data collection and dissemination systems and improving the accessibility of evidence-based analysis on population dynamics and their links to sustainable development, providing support in strengthening



national institutional potential on population analysis and population projections, monitoring of progress on the SDGs, conducting censuses in 2000, 2010 and 2020 in accordance with UN international standards and recommendations and in running and analysing the following national surveys: Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (2005, 2010, 2015); a survey on the Prevalence of Violence against Women (2016) and a survey on the programme Generations and Gender (2018).

Plans for the future

UNFPA will continue working on expanding and improving the services of family planning, maternal and reproductive health and the fulfilment of reproductive rights, with a special focus on young people. The Fund will support the strengthening of national institutional mechanisms to promote gender equality and prevent gender-based violence, as well as integrating evidence-based analysis of population dynamics and its links to sustainable development into national policies and development programmes.



UNITED NATIONS REGIONAL CENTRE FOR PREVENTIVE DIPLOMACY FOR CENTRAL ASIA

Mission

The United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia (UNRCCA) was established on the initiative of the five Governments of Central Asia in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan in 2007 to support national authorities in identifying and addressing existing and potential threats to regional peace and security. In implementing its initiatives, UNRCCA interacts with regional and international organizations. The Centre began operations in 2008 and is led by a Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG).

At the time of its establishment, UNRCCA was one of the UN's first institutions dedicated to preventive diplomacy. In 2017, it marked ten years of working in the field of preventive diplomacy in Central Asia. The Centre puts into practice the Secretary-General's call for a stronger focus on prevention. It supports the

implementation of the SDGs in the region particularly SDG 16 on peace, justice and strong institutions. In addition, its activities promote General Assembly and Security Council resolutions on sustaining peace, among others.

The triennial Programme of Action of UNRCCA (2018-2020) is aimed at helping the Governments to be better prepared and to deal more effectively with the problems currently before the region and with emerging new challenges. These include (but are not limited to): transnational threats like terrorism and organized crime (drug trafficking in particular), violent extremism, water and energy security, socio-economic vulnerability and inter-ethnic tensions.



The activities of the Centre are focused on five key priority areas which correspond to the Centre's mandate:

- Promoting prevention among the governments of Central Asia
- Monitoring and early warning
- Building partnerships for prevention
- Strengthening the UN's preventive activities in the region
- Encouraging cooperation and interaction between Central Asia and Afghanistan

In conducting its activities, the Centre seeks to take advantage of new opportunities in the region, including: a strengthening spirit of good-neighbourly relations in the region; an increasing shared understanding of the need for greater regional economic connectivity and a stronger focus on prevention as well as a growing appreciation of the close link between sustaining peace and sustainable development within the international community.

Platform for Dialogue

The Centre organizes high-level meetings, including annual meetings of Central Asian Deputy Foreign Ministers, which provide a unique forum for senior officials to exchange views on security and stability challenges in the region. These meetings also provide opportunities for UNRCCA to get direct feedback and recommendations on its work from counterparts in the Central Asian capitals as well as to foster political support for new and ongoing projects.

Since 2009, the Centre has organized nine annual seminars within the framework of its Strategic Dialogue Series. The main purpose of the Strategic Dialogue seminars is to analyse security-related developments in Central Asia together with the national academic institutions, think-tanks, governmental agencies, civil society, international and regional organizations. Three of them were held in Kazakhstan and were devoted to regional cooperation as a factor for peace and stability in Central Asia, to the role of parliaments in preventive diplomacy in Central Asia and to the role of women and youth in conflict prevention. In addition, these seminars provide networking opportunities among state officials, academics, regional organizations and independent experts.

Project activities

UNRCCA plays an increasingly important role in facilitating regional dialogue on trans-boundary water issues, building the capacity of Central Asian countries in water diplomacy in order to strengthen mutual understanding, to support the implementation and coordination of international donor initiatives and to support the development of

positive relations between Afghanistan and Central Asia with respect to trans-boundary water issues. In this context, UNRCCA continues to implement its project entitled Strengthening Cooperation on Trans-Boundary Water-Sharing in the Aral Sea Basin. The Centre also works with the Central Asian countries to raise awareness of the threat of melting glaciers and climate change. Kazakhstan, which suffers appalling consequences from the desiccation of the Aral Sea, particularly in the Kyzylorda and Aktope regions, is a crucial partner in these efforts. For example, Kazakhstan hosted a number of UNRCCA workshops on water diplomacy and regional cooperation on trans-boundary water management for the civil servants and decision-makers of the Central Asian states and Afghanistan.

UNRCCA also plays an important role in regional counter-terrorism efforts. Since 2010, together with the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT), UNRCCA has worked with the Central Asian countries on implementing the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in the region, in close coordination with the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism. In 2011, this work resulted in the Joint Plan of Action for implementing the global strategy in Central Asia, the first such regional plan anywhere in the world. Phase III of this project was launched in April 2018 in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan. Along with other Central Asian countries, Kazakhstan has actively participated in this project's implementation and hosted some major international forums on counter-terrorism, initiated by the Centre. Most recently, UNRCCA and UNOCT organized a regional workshop entitled Addressing Conditions Conducive to the Spread of Violent Extremism and Terrorism, in the context of this project, in Astana on 21 and 22 May 2018.



Capacity Building

UNRCCA also regularly organizes training programmes and conducts lectures aimed at building the capacity of civil servants, Government officials, students and other key stakeholders throughout Central Asia. Over the years, the Centre has trained more than 1,000 specialists in various fields of preventive diplomacy. For example, in June 2018 UNRCCA organized a training workshop for Central Asian and Afghanistan government officials in Almaty, which was focused on peacemaking, mediation and conflict resolution.

In implementing all of the above-mentioned activities, the Centre maintains close contact with the UN country teams in each of the Central Asian republics, as well as cooperating with other international and regional organizations active in the region, including the OSCE, CIS, SCO, EU, CSTO, NATO, IMF, WB and many others.



THE UNITED NATIONS VOLUNTEERS (UNV)

UN Volunteers: Bringing change and empowering communities in Kazakhstan through the power of volunteerism

The United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme contributes to peace and development through volunteerism worldwide. Administered by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UNV works with partners to integrate qualified, highly motivated and well supported UN Volunteers into development programming and promote the value and global recognition of volunteerism. In Kazakhstan, the UNV Field Unit has been supporting UN entities to strategically and meaningfully integrate volunteerism into the implementation and delivery of their mandates since 1993.

In the last 25 years, UNV partnered with various UN entities in Kazakhstan to provide support in such areas as international law, security, economic development, social progress, the environment and human rights. Over 200 UN Volunteers to date have engaged with local communities, sharing their skills in numerous fields and accelerating the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the country.

In December 2016, the Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan on Volunteer Activity was adopted by

the Government of Kazakhstan, allowing the UNV Field Unit to establish new strategic partnerships with the Government focusing on development and institutionalisation of the national volunteer infrastructure, youth engagement and civic participation for enhanced capacity building of human capital.

UNV's participation in EXPO-2017 Astana serves as an excellent example of successful partnership both with UN partners and the Government. UNV,





together with the UN entities, partnered with the Government of Kazakhstan to advocate for the SDGs and to convene a dialogue around the issues of sustainable energy.

With the help of UNV, over 50 ExpoStudent Volunteers were involved and served at the UN pavilion, where visitors got a first-hand account of the UN's work in advancing sustainable development around the world. UN Volunteers were the real Ambassadors for Change, giving their time and dedication to spread the messages of sustainability at EXPO-2017 Astana.

Furthermore, UNV in Kazakhstan is a strong believer in the power of youth to achieve peace, inclusion, social justice and sustainability. To mark the contributions of youth in Kazakhstan, last year UNV celebrated International Youth Day, gathering young people to discuss the role of the youth in promoting energy efficient lifestyles, advocating for sustainable development and securing equal access to resources. At the end of the event, a declaration was signed to summarise the results of the event discussions into recommendations from young people in Kazakhstan for improved youth involvement and participation in

sustainable development, social inclusion and energy efficiency processes.

It is important to note that UN Volunteers from Kazakhstan are engaged not only locally, but also on a global level. Kazakh citizens serving as International UN Volunteers work in such countries as Laos, Malawi, Mozambique, Ukraine and others. Embedding more Kazakh UN Volunteers to serve in developing countries and enhance development impact will further strengthen the country's footprint in international development cooperation.

With boundless enthusiasm, UNV will continue to provide tireless support to partners at the UN and the Government of Kazakhstan for the achievement of Agenda 2030. The role UN Volunteers play in Kazakhstan is best expressed by Norimasa Shimomura, UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in Kazakhstan: "UN Volunteers play a crucial role in Kazakhstan, reaching out to communities at the grass-roots level, bringing innovation and empowering people. They are the real 'experts for change', a combination of outstanding inspiration and commitment."



WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO)

WHO Country Office in Kazakhstan

Mission

The WHO Country Office in the Republic of Kazakhstan was established in 1994 in Almaty. Since 2009, the Office has been located in Astana.

The role of the WHO Country Office is to support policy-making for sustainable health development, taking a holistic health-system approach. This includes providing guidance based on World Health Assembly resolutions and WHO policy documents, building up local relationships to implement technical cooperation and ensuring that public health measures are sustainable and coordinated.

Country Office work priorities are set out in the biennial collaborative agreement between WHO Regional Office for Europe and Kazakhstan, in alignment with the WHO Health 2020 policy framework, and the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

The Office implements the agreement in close collaboration with national institutions and international partner agencies.

WHO also operates a centre of technical expertise – the WHO European Centre for Primary Health Care – in Almaty, hosted by the Government of Kazakhstan. The Centre supports Member States in reforming systems to deliver people-centred, integrated health services. It provides technical support to strengthen the delivery of services that are based on a primary health care approach and focuses on the integration of primary care with public health, hospitals and the social sector.

Major achievements over 25 years

Promoting inter-sectoral collaboration and a shared responsibility for health are the foundations of health governance in Kazakhstan. With WHO technical support, Kazakhstan has adopted consecutive national programmes on healthcare development: The State Health Care Development Programme Salamatty Kazakhstan 2011–2015 and the State Health Care Development Programme Densaulyk 2016–2019. These seek to “improve the health of the people of Kazakhstan in order to ensure the country’s stable sociodemographic development”.

Kazakhstan made significant progress towards reaching the Millennium Development Goals

(MDGs) including a two-thirds reduction in mortality among children under age 5 (MDG4), and a fall in the maternal mortality rate from 55 per 100,000 live births in 1990 to 12.5 in 2015 (MDG5). Life expectancy at birth for both sexes was 70.2 years in 2015, recovering from a drop to 64.4 years in 1995.

The country is now building on those successes to achieve the health-related Sustainable Development Goals, for which a particular priority is moving towards Universal Health Coverage (UHC), as the country shifts from a budgetary-financed health system towards social health insurance. In addition, Kazakhstan is working with WHO on SDG monitoring





through two health information networks: Central Asian Republics Information Network (CARINFONET) (for which WHO/Europe is the secretariat) and the European Health Information Initiative.

In 1995, WHO and UNICEF launched the Integrated Management of Childhood Illness (IMCI) as a global strategy to end preventable child mortality and promote child health and development. Kazakhstan was the first of the countries of the WHO European Region to implement IMCI, which was introduced and adapted to the country context in 1999. IMCI has contributed to the reduction in under-5 mortality in Kazakhstan and has led, along with vaccination

against pneumococcal and haemophilus infection, to the reduction of pneumonia morbidity and mortality. IMCI in Kazakhstan is sustainable, as it has been supported by the national health reform programme, relevant policies, and national and regional funding. It has been integrated into pre-service and post-diploma medical education.

Kazakhstan ratified the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control in 2007 and is implementing cross-sectoral measures outlined in the Convention to protect people from tobacco use. Kazakhstan has bans in place on all forms of direct advertising. Smoking is partly prohibited in public places, while

enforcing smoke-free environments requires further strengthening. Warning labels with images constitute 40% of the package area. The revenue from tobacco excise increased from 46 billion KZT in 2013 to 79 billion KZT in 2014, while the annual sales of cigarettes dropped from 30 to 27 billion pieces, which indicates an encouraging rise in tobacco taxes.

Kazakhstan is on track to achieve the global target of a 25% reduction in premature mortality from noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) by 2025. To tackle this burden, Kazakhstan is investing in the transformation of its primary care services to make them more people-centred and integrated.

Kazakhstan's work to combat NCDs has been strengthened by the introduction of a management programme for NCDs at the primary health care level, as part of cooperation with WHO.

Plans for the future

The current State Health Care Development Programme Densaulyk 2016–2019 focuses on public health services, NCDs, control of communicable diseases, and support to maternal and child health and strengthening the health care system.

The Global Conference on Primary Health Care, co-hosted by the Government of Kazakhstan, WHO and UNICEF, will take place in Astana, Kazakhstan from 25-26 October 2018, on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the Declaration of Alma-Ata. This year the world will come together to reaffirm the principles of the original declaration and renew our commitment to strengthening primary health care to achieve our collective health goals for the 21st century





**UNITED NATIONS
IN THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN**