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ANNUAL REPORT 2020



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FOREWORD

It is my pleasure to present the 2020 Annual UN Country Results Report for the Republic of Kazakhstan. The COVID-19 pandemic meant that 2020 was one of the most challenging years in recent history. The first cases in Kazakhstan were confirmed on 13 March, and by the end of the year, over 150,000 people had been infected and over 2,000 people had died. Beyond these sobering numbers, the pandemic and global shutdowns meant that our work had to adapt quickly to respond to the greater health and other socio-economic needs in the country, as well as to continue our programmes and initiatives designed to support Kazakhstan achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and its national development priorities.

To meet the challenges of a new COVID-19 reality, the UN Country Team (UNCT) conducted a number of rapid assessments (including a gender assessment of the crisis' impact), identified immediate challenges and adjusted our programmatic and non-programmatic portfolios. As a result, we were able to repurpose and mobilize nearly \$16 million for COVID-19 response—one quarter of which went to procuring medical supplies and training health care workers in infection prevention and control, case management and testing laboratories.

During 2020, we also continued to implement the cooperation agreement between the United Nations and the Government of Kazakhstan—the 'Partnership Framework for Development, Kazakhstan, 2016-2020' (PFD). Overall, the

UNCT's work in Kazakhstan contributed to improved living conditions of the country's most vulnerable; more equitable and higher quality social services; more efficient and effective policymaking; improved environmental protection; greater regional cooperation and greater alignment with the 2030 Agenda. We supported important review processes of the 'Strategic Development Plan 2025' (a major mid-term strategic document for the country), of the Digital Kazakhstan Programme through an SDG lens, and of a 'Concept of Public Administration Reform 2025'. Each of these outlines a vision for transformative changes in the years to come.

Towards the end of 2020, a new framework, the 'United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2021-2025' was co-signed by the Government of Kazakhstan and the UNCT. Two additional UN entities (the International Telecommunication Union and the United Nations Office for Project Services) joined our UNCT.

The UN response to the pandemic is now mainstreamed into our non-emergency programmatic work and we are committed to move forward together to help Kazakhstan's ambitious development agenda. We will continue pursuing innovative, gender-sensitive programming, policy and financial solutions; addressing complex development challenges through a collective working approach, and supporting Kazakhstan's achievement of the SDGs so that no one is left behind.



Michaela Friberg-Storey
UN Resident Coordinator
in the Republic of Kazakhstan



UN COUNTRY TEAM

The United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in Kazakhstan stands firmly in support of the country's commitment to achieve the SDGs and the ambitious vision of the Government's forward-looking development agenda.

The UNCT is comprised of 20 resident organizations:

DGC, DRR, FAO, ILO, IOM, OHCHR, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNDSS, UNEP, UNESCAP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNODC, UNRCCA, UNV, UN Women and WHO.

and seven non-resident organizations:

ITC, ITU, UNCTAD, UNECE, UN-Habitat, UNIDO and UNOPS.

Key development partners of the UN development system in the country

Helping implement the PFD in Kazakhstan were ministries and local authorities, Parliament, the judiciary, civil society organizations and the private sector, via their own plans and programmes.

National Partners Include:

- > Administration of the President
- > Government Ministries, Agencies and Commissions
- > Parliament
- > Senate
- > The Supreme Court and local courts
- > Akimats (i.e., municipalities) of selected regions

In adherence with the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and the Accra Agenda for Action, the United Nations system liaised and coordinated with international financial institutions (IFIs), particularly the World Bank, to ensure that the

UNCT's development co-operation was aligned, harmonized and managed for greater effectiveness. For example, the United Nations supported innovations in the financing mechanisms to attract investments from the private and banking sectors to support energy efficiency efforts. In addition, in partnership with the World Bank, the UNCT implemented important justice sector reform initiatives.

The European Union supported several strategic interventions, including the Spotlight Initiative Regional Programme for Central Asia and Afghanistan. This initiative focuses on strengthening efforts to end sexual and gender-based violence against women and girls.

Additionally, with the assistance of UN agencies and multilateral development banks, Kazakhstan introduced an institutional architecture to facilitate reaching the 2030 SDG targets, including a Coordination Council chaired by the first Deputy Prime Minister, five working groups (People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace, Partnership) chaired by line ministers and a coordination office facilitated by the Economic Research Institute under the Ministry of National Economy.

The UN also partnered with national and international civil society organizations, as well as artisans, ethnic Kazakh returnees, innovation labs, judicial training institutions, members of the LGBTI community, religious leaders, and state and non-state media journalists.





1



KEY DEVELOPMENTS IN THE COUNTRY AND REGIONAL CONTEXT

The pandemic changed the health, economic and development landscape in Kazakhstan. As for most countries, 2020 was the most challenging year for Kazakhstan's economy in the last two decades. The impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic threaten to reverse human development gains.

In the Central Asia region, the pandemic and its impact have highlighted pre-existing issues in social services and the economy. While many economies in the region have recovered (albeit gradually) from the last oil price drop and resultant economic crisis, not all governments had the fiscal reserves for emergency support and protection measures. Substantial fiscal deficits have already been recorded and are expected to widen further in 2021. As a result of the pandemic, inequities, vulnerabilities and poverty increased throughout the region. However, many countries showed some resilience by being able to provide basic public services, including health care, and by accelerating the adoption of digital technologies to sustain supply chains of essential products and services.

In Kazakhstan, the pandemic halted global activity in the second quarter and depressed global demand and price of oil, the country's main export commodity. The economy is expected to contract in 2020 for the first time since 1995 by 2.5 percent, and Kazakhstan's poverty rate is expected to reach 12-14 percent in 2020 (from a baseline of six percent in 2016),

according to the World Bank. The pandemic has particularly hit the retail, hospitality, wholesale, and transport sectors, which account for around 30 percent of the country's employment and are mostly concentrated in cities. However, the most significant increases in poverty rates are expected to occur in rural areas.

The Government implemented strong policy measures to minimize the pandemic's impact on people and the economy, including tax deferrals, subsidized loans for working capital, and improved access to emergency medical services, including for people without health insurance or who have not yet enrolled into the Mandatory Social Health Insurance system.

Based on an improved global economic outlook, a higher demand for exports and a resumption of domestic economic activities, the economy is now expected to grow by 2.5 percent in 2021 and by 3.5 percent in 2022, according to World Bank forecasts¹.

Nonetheless, lacklustre growth in productivity, over-dependence on the oil industry, and high level of informality in the economy pose serious challenges for sustainable growth and the creation of an effective social protection system, particularly for the most vulnerable. In addition, there are emerging challenges, such as a weaker global demand for fossil fuels, greater regional competition for outside investments, greater risks of instability in the domestic financial sector, and a greater need for accountable and transparent governance.

¹Source: Global Economic Prospects (2021), Table 2.2.2 Europe and Central Asia country forecasts.
<https://www.worldbank.org/en/publication/global-economic-prospects>



2

UN DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM SUPPORT TO NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES THROUGH THE PARTNERSHIP FRAMEWORK

Overview of Partnership Framework Results

During 2020, the programmatic work of the United Nations in Kazakhstan was guided by the 'Partnership Framework for Development, Kazakhstan, 2016-2020' (PFD), a cooperative agreement between the United Nations and the Government of Kazakhstan. The PFD was a collective and integrated response to ambitious national priorities set out in the long-term strategic planning documents 'Strategic Development Plan of the Republic of Kazakhstan until 2025' and 'Kazakhstan 2050: New Political Course of the Established State'.

The PFD also reflected the country's aspirations for the SDGs, bringing together efforts to further the social, economic and environmental aspects of sustainable development. The PFD reinforced the country's 2050 agenda to advance human development and equitable economic growth through capacity development; to strengthen transparency and accountability systems; and to deliver quality social services. The PFD also supported implementation by Kazakhstan of recommendations of the UN human rights mechanisms and the country's engagement with these mechanisms.

The PFD was built around three Strategic Pillars:

1. Reduced Disparities and Improved Human Development
2. Strengthened and Innovative Public Institutions
3. Enhanced International and Regional Cooperation

Six Outcomes were adopted under these Pillars, and these guided the United Nations' work in the country during 2020.

- **Outcome 1.1:** Improved equitable access to integrated quality social services (health, education, social protection, legal et al.) for the population, including for socially vulnerable and disadvantaged individuals and groups.
- **Outcome 1.2:** Diversification of the economy provides decent work opportunities for the underemployed, youth and socially vulnerable women and men.
- **Outcome 1.3:** Ecosystems and natural resources are protected and sustainably used, and human settlements are resilient to natural and manmade disasters and climate change.
- **Outcome 2.1:** Rights holders benefit from improved government policymaking and implementation through enhanced participation and subnational and national levels.
- **Outcome 2.2:** Judicial and legal systems and public institutions are fair, accountable and accessible to all.
- **Outcome 3.1:** The Government, together with partners, promotes the achievement of SDGs in the region and leads in promoting and implementing United Nations principles, standards and conventions.



The PFD coordination structure includes a high-level Steering Committee and five Results Groups. The Steering Committee was co-chaired by the United Nations Resident Coordinator on behalf of the United Nations system and by the Deputy Prime Minister on behalf of the Government.

The UNCT remains convinced that the 2030 Global Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 SDGs are excellent instruments that can help Kazakhstan effectively achieve its development aspirations. 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. 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.

During 2020, the United Nations effectively leveraged its comparative advantages as an impartial provider of policy advice based on

international experience and good practices and as a provider of high-quality technical expertise in specific areas. This led to the development (or adoption) of laws and policies that are better aligned to international standards and norms and more sensitive to the needs of most vulnerable populations in Kazakhstan.

For example, as a result of UN programmes and interventions in 2020:

- **Nearly 100,000 people benefitted from direct social services.**
- **Over 7,000 people received critical training.**
- **70 campaigns were organized to raise awareness among vulnerable groups about human resource norms and available services.**
- **47 settlements adopted models for sustainable low-carbon development.**
- **150,000 MWh energy was saved through introduction of energy efficient appliances and equipment.**
- **New finance mechanisms were introduced.**

Guiding Principles

The PFD also reinforced the crosscutting principles for action outlined in 'Kazakhstan 2050': to move away from service delivery support and further focus on upstream policy and advocacy work to strengthen the overall enabling environment for development, particularly for vulnerable groups. Improving the quality and sustainability of both institutional and human capacities was central to these efforts.

These principles were aligned with the Human Rights-Based Approach and involved the **mainstreaming of results-based management, environmental sustainability, and gender-sensitive programming.** In particular, the UNCT-SWAP Gender Equality Scorecard² has been used effectively to improve the capacity of the UNCT to integrate gender equality and empowerment of women into the PFD cycle.

Results achieved in the implementation of the COVID-19 response

The UNCT was well-placed to address the multifaceted aspects of the increasing COVID-19 challenges. The UN undertook various steps, including conducting a number of rapid assessments to understand the situation and the gaps (gender, vulnerable groups, businesses, etc.); reviewing and reprofiling its programmatic and non-programmatic portfolio to address the COVID-19 challenge; and identifying the key immediate challenges, including the need for closer cooperation within the UNCT and multilateral cooperation with IFIs.

Some of the successes in the UNCT COVID-19 response include:

- The UNCT repurposed and mobilized nearly \$16 million to respond to the crisis.
- In the first half of 2020, \$4 million went to procure medical supplies and train health care workers in infection prevention and control, case management and laboratories.
- Over 2.4 million PPE items and close to 44,000 COVID-19 tests were delivered throughout the country.
- 388,000 children received water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) supplies and services.
- 306,100 health care workers received maternal, newborn and child health supplies and communication materials.
- 57,404 children were supported with distance/home-based learning.
- 1,006 civil servants of the central and local executive bodies of Kazakhstan were trained on effective teleworking.
- 143 health facilities were supported in maintaining essential immunization services.
- 4,307 migrants on the border received critical support such as medical assistance and provision of personal protective equipment (PPE) supplies via NGO partners.
- 12,000 hygiene kits were distributed for health care workers in all 17 administrative regions.

² https://unsdg.un.org/sites/default/files/UNCT-SWAP_Gender-report_Web.pdf



Youth Volunteers Make A Difference During COVID-19

Since April 2020, 500,000 people in Kazakhstan have received information in a number of areas, including mental health support during quarantine, ending violence against women and children, and on-line learning thanks to United Nations volunteers.

The UN, together with the National Volunteer Network, launched an online volunteering programme #HealthyAtHome. The initiative, which started with only 200 people, has so far drawn around 1,500 motivated young people—keen to invest their time, talents and positive spirits to support other young people across the country. The young volunteers raise awareness about COVID-19 through social media networks, using the information and materials provided by the UN, and increase community engagement around important messages at the local level.

As part of the programme, volunteers attend weekly training webinars on various topics, including the importance of distinguishing fact from fiction about the coronavirus and strengthening participants' digital media skills.

“The UN not only helped me to understand COVID-19 and its impact on children, but also other socially important issues and ideas, as well as equipped us with necessary skills and knowledge to deliver them,” says Lina, 14, from Almaty. “I am really happy to know that my contribution is valuable, and I can make an impact in our society.”

Partnership Framework priorities, outcomes and outputs

OUTCOME 1.1

Improved equitable access to integrated quality social services

SDGs impacted



During 2020, the focus of the United Nations was to support the Government of Kazakhstan in sustaining in sustaining existing positive results in the social sector, while addressing remaining disparities. The UNCT affirmed access to minimum guarantees of social protection by improving national social protections, including access to services for women, youth, children and vulnerable groups (i.e., persons with disabilities, migrants and members of their families, victims of trafficking, refugees, asylum seekers and stateless persons, and those who inject drugs).

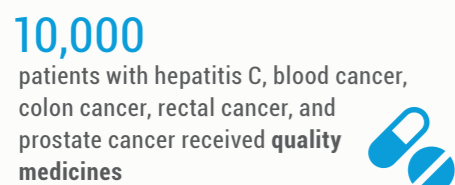


During 2020, UN agencies focused on the following:

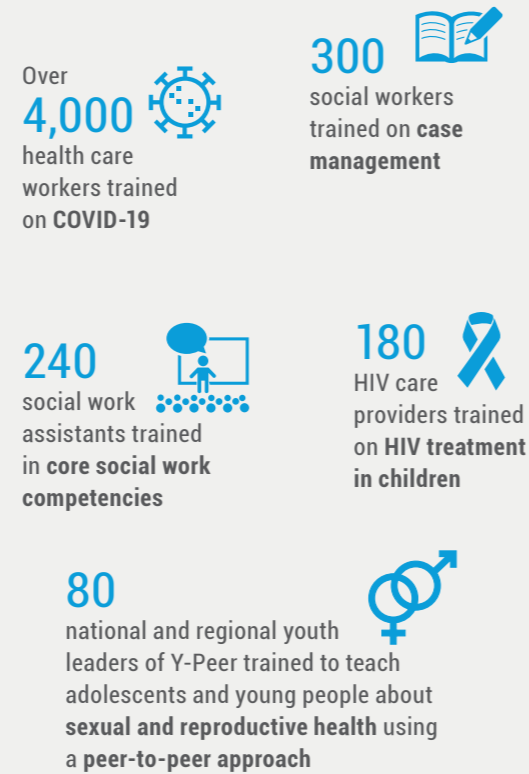
1. Improving policies and guidelines for the treatment of HIV, Hepatitis C, tuberculosis (TB), and substance use disorders. Increasing numbers of people receiving treatment for HIV, Hepatitis C, TB, and substance use disorders.
2. Developing and implementing a national multisectoral policy to prevent and control noncommunicable diseases.
3. Developing national education policies and plans to advance access to high-quality, equitable lifelong learning.
4. Students gaining knowledge, skills and values needed to live healthy lives and promote sustainable development.
5. Victims of trafficking and vulnerable migrants having access to rescue, rehabilitation and reintegration services.
6. Improving the quality of maternal and child health services at primary health care offices and hospitals.
7. Enabling the national social protection system to provide quality social services for vulnerable groups.
8. Enabling the Government to implement and monitor policies and programs to promote adolescent health and well-being, including mental and reproductive health.
9. Enhancing the capacity of state actors to strengthen the national legislative framework and deliver quality services to respond to violence against women and children.
10. Supporting health officials to engage in policy dialogues with stakeholders to develop and implement local health policies and strategies in line with Health in All Policies.



As a result, nearly 100,000 people benefitted from direct social services. For example:



Over 6,500 people received critical trainings, including:



The UN, in partnership with the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Population, launched a new digital platform—the Portal of Social Services. It is a reliable source of information for provision of social services and assistance for all parties in the social protection system. The ultimate goal is to have all people with disabilities (PWDs) benefit from using the Portal. (There are an estimated 690,000 PWDs in Kazakhstan).



During 2020, several guidelines were developed and submitted to the Government or partners for approval and use, including on social services and legal counselling at youth health centres; clinical guidelines for HIV prevention, diagnosis, treatment and medical care; national guidelines on TB preventive treatment and systematic screening of TB (in partnership with the National Tuberculosis Programme); a manual for conducting an assessment of obstetrics services; and 22 clinical protocols and algorithms for the provision of various types of medical care and psychological counselling services to adolescents and youth related to reproductive health.

In addition, the UN provided technical assistance and conducted assessments, such as an assessment of the quality of home visiting services delivered by primary health care and social workers during the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as a rapid gender assessment of the COVID-19 situation in Kazakhstan. The UNCT also helped with the formulation and implementation of policies, e.g., for policies involving population ageing and intergenerational and gender relations.



“The UniSat project helps break down the barriers many girls face, change damaging attitudes and inspire interest in aerospace careers among girls and young people across the country,” says Raushan Ibrasheva, Innovation Officer for UNICEF in Kazakhstan.

Aiming for the Stars

During 2020, the United Nations and the Science and Technology Park of Al-Farabi Kazakh National University launched the UniSat project, a free five-month course that taught 20 girls and women aged 14-35 how to design, engineer, programme, build and launch small satellites.

Young people aged 10-24 years make up almost one fifth of Kazakhstan's population, yet education has not kept pace with the knowledge and skills needed for today's and tomorrow's economy, including in the science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) sectors. The UN is working with the government and partners to mainstream STEM education in Kazakhstan, particularly for girls and young women.

“The UniSat project helps break down the barriers many girls face, change damaging attitudes and inspire interest in aerospace careers among girls and young people across the country,” says Raushan Ibrasheva, Innovation Officer for UNICEF in Kazakhstan. The project also teaches transferable skills such as teamwork, communication and project management.

Looking forward, the UN plans to scale up the project through innovative crowdfunding and sponsorship, as well by enhancing the satellites themselves.

For Amina Sadu, 17, the programme helped her gain confidence and dream bigger. She now wants to work in theoretical physics and create a school for children from poorer homes so they too can learn. “UniSat opened up opportunities that I never even dreamed of,” says Amina.

OUTCOME 1.2

Diversification of the economy provides decent work opportunities for the underemployed, youth and socially vulnerable women and men


SDGs impacted



During 2020, UN agencies focused on the following:

1. Raising awareness about and building capacities around culture's contribution to economic development.
2. Providing policy advice and building capacities to strengthen educational systems to equip youth and adults with skills for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship.
3. Targeted awareness-raising efforts to improve citizens' understanding of human resource norms and available service for those whose rights are infringed.
4. Creating decent work opportunities in rural areas, including through innovative finance mechanisms.
5. Launching innovative low-carbon initiatives in urban areas.
6. Strengthening national capacity for women's economic empowerment. Removing systemic barriers associated with women's participation in unpaid work and unequal access to care services.
7. Developing tools for women's economic empowerment to enhance women's engagement in income-generating activities.

Results

Over **5,000** beneficiaries were directly impacted by UN activities 

2,500  villagers had work opportunities and additional income in sustainable agriculture and agritourism

379 teachers, policymakers and other officials improved their skills and knowledge to strengthen the country's education policies 

37  farms with more than 330,000 hectares of farmland were certified for EU organic production

70  campaigns organized to raise awareness among vulnerable groups about human resource norms and available services

68  socially vulnerable rural women received computers, internet connection and resources to improve their access to social services and develop their entrepreneurial skills

More than **350** youth were certified for key skills and knowledge for better employment opportunities 

54  practitioners and officials learned more about the contribution of cultural and creative industries to economic development

The United Nations initiated the development of the Law on Social Entrepreneurship (with a focus on women from vulnerable groups), conducted an analysis of best international practices in social entrepreneurship legislation and evaluated the profitability of social entrepreneurship for women. In addition, the UN conducted a training for government and private sector actors (including private recruiting agencies and entrepreneurs) on human rights, workers' rights and ethical recruitment.

Environmental and economic sustainability

During the year, special attention was given to Kazakhstan's transition to a 'green' economy as a means to build a diversified economy, moving away from its reliance on the oil sector. Focus was given to developing 'green' economy-related knowledge and skills, small- and medium-sized enterprise development, and strengthened capacities for local administrators. Additional focus was given to introducing new opportunities such as ecological tourism, special protected areas, 'green' procurement, and sustainable urban development and waste management. In addition, the United Nations supported the development of strategies and management plans for ecological tourism in three pilot national parks (Sairam-Ugam, Katon-Karagai and Kolsay Kolderi).

Kazakhstan's pledge for carbon neutrality by 2060 was supported by the United Nations through greater integration of climate and green economy policies and a demonstration of best practices. The UN introduced finance solutions, including innovative financial mechanisms and loans for rural entrepreneurs to finance 39 low-carbon projects. The UN also launched a green finance accelerator, which will support diversification of innovative financing instruments such as green bonds, factoring and others.



Job Opportunities for All

In April 2020, the United Nations launched the new Rehabilitation Centre in Nur-Sultan city, the capital of Kazakhstan. The Centre is a project to help people with disabilities find jobs.

In Kazakhstan there are 430,000 persons with disabilities of working age, but only 25 percent of them are employed. Many employers are reluctant to employ PWDs due to prevailing stereotypes and/or lack of accessible infrastructure. As a result, most persons with disabilities work in temporary jobs with no stable earnings or social protection.

The Rehabilitation Centre provides psychological, legal and career counselling, as well as on-the-job support to help clients adapt to a workplace. A Centre lawyer also examines employment contracts to ensure their rights are upheld and that salaries are paid from the initial apprenticeship.

Before becoming hearing-impaired Bauyrzhan Balmagambetov, 38, was a construction site supervisor in various companies. Once he acquired a disability, the employers refused to work with him, and he was unemployed for over five years. However, his luck changed when he came to the Centre. "The centre found me a job within three days as an operator in a glove sewing factory," he says. "Now, I can provide for my family."

OUTCOME 1.3

Ecosystems and natural resources are protected and sustainably used, and human settlements are resilient to natural and manmade disasters and climate change

SDGs impacted




During 2020, UN agencies focused on the following:

1. Enhancing energy efficiency, supporting more effective policies and strengthening capacities to address greenhouse gas emissions.
2. Increasing resilience of livelihoods of the most vulnerable communities in remote regions.
3. Integrating agri-climatic disaster monitoring and information systems and tools into national early warning systems.
4. Enhancing national capacities in the development and implementation of sustainable environmental policies, sustainable forest management and sustainable infrastructure. Ensuring natural resources and terrestrial ecosystems are better protected, resilient, sustainably managed and used.
5. Introducing sustainable consumption and production practices at the national level and strengthening the capacities of respective governmental officials.
6. Improving the management of food-borne risks along the farm-to-table continuum.
7. Developing policy measures to improve inland transport connectivity and to advance decent, adequate, affordable, energy-efficient and healthy housing for all.
8. Strengthening responses to local and national water security challenges through enhanced water education, scientific research and awareness raising.

9. Strengthening coordination mechanisms and legislative frameworks for the implementation of the Minamata Convention, which aims to protect human health and the environment from the adverse effects of mercury.


10. Capacity-building activities under the Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution, Water Convention, Industrial Accidents Convention and Aarhus Conventions.

Results

47  settlements adopted models for **sustainable low-carbon development**


150,000  MWh energy saved through **energy efficient appliances and equipment**

415,000  hectares of newly established **protected areas**

1,630,378  hectares of **ecosystems strengthened** in response to climate variability and change

46  farming institutions adopted diversified, **climate-resilient livelihood options**

2  financial instruments for **biodiversity conservation developed**

2  tools developed on automatization of irrigation water supply and **ground water table management**

1  **treaty mechanism developed**

1  high-level meeting on **Reducing Methane Emissions in the Oil and Gas Sector** with representatives from Ministries of Energy and Environment, as well as National Oil Companies of Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Russia, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, International Oil companies and organizations

Risk reduction

The United Nations helped strengthen public resilience to environmental and disaster risks, as well as to climate change. Focus was given to improving agricultural techniques, ecosystem management, sustainable fisheries and biodiversity conservation.

Through advocacy and coordination, the UN enabled more multisectoral approaches to disaster preparedness, emergency response and early recovery. The UNCT offered technical assistance to strengthen risk assessment, risk management and surveillance, linking natural and environmental protection with the protection of human health.

In supporting the transition to a 'green' economy, the UNCT worked to improve sustainable water management, promote modernization of environmental governance and foster a 'green' transition at local levels. The United Nations provided assistance in developing and launching mechanisms to promote biodiversity and land use in sustainable, yet poverty-alleviating ways, to help rural communities. The United Nations also worked on the expansion of national nature protected areas to contribute to the sustainable use of natural resources and ecosystems.

As part of the new UN project on the conservation of forest ecosystems, comprehensive work was launched to assess the current state of biodiversity and develop scientific rationales and feasibility studies for the expansion of some existing nature protected areas, as well as for the creation of a new one. In addition, a training toolkit on biodiversity conservation and biosphere reserves was developed to increase young people's knowledge of biodiversity conservation.



Maps of Hope

In May 2020, leading scientists and environmental policy experts from around the world met with national stakeholders to create 'maps of hope' that identify Kazakhstan's essential life support areas (ELSAs). ELSAs are areas that conserve critical biodiversity and provide humans with essential ecosystem services, such as carbon storage, food, fresh water, water filtration and disaster risk reduction.

Kazakhstan is one of five pilot countries that will create 'maps of hope', which will guide where actions to protect, manage, and restore nature can enable Kazakhstan to deliver on its strategic priorities for biodiversity, climate, and sustainable development.

The project will also create an interactive tool that can enable dialogue across sectors by showing trade-offs and synergies between different priorities.

"There is also a growing demand for information on ecosystem services and natural capital, both from government bodies at all levels, users of natural resources (farmers and businesses), and research and educational institutions," said Askhat Kainarbekov, Chair of Forestry and Wildlife Committee, Ministry of Ecology, Geology and Natural Resources of Kazakhstan.

The meeting in May was supported by the United Nations, the Ministry of Ecology, Geology and Natural Resources, the National Geographic Society, with the support of the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation and the Global Environmental Facility (GEF). Since 2004, the United Nations has implemented 10 biodiversity conservation initiatives in Kazakhstan with financial support from the GEF, as well as through grants with the Kazakh government.

OUTCOME 2.1

Rights holders benefit from improved government policymaking and implementation

SDGs impacted



During 2020, the United Nations worked with the Government of Kazakhstan to improve government policymaking and implementation, providing technical support, bringing in best international practices and enhancing institutional capacities. Particular attention was given to collecting disaggregated and subnational data, with an emphasis on gaps in social services data. The UNCT promoted the use of a more unified database for analysis and the use of evidence-based policy in forming effective development plans. These are especially critical given the disparities across the country, despite its middle-income status.

The UNCT advocated for greater civil society involvement in health and social protection policy design, planning, implementation and monitoring at national and subnational levels (with a focus on Mangystau, Kyzylorda and Eastern Kazakhstan). Similarly, civil society organizations, particularly those that are community-based, were encouraged to become more meaningfully involved in developing HIV policies and services, in line with the needs of HIV-affected communities and populations at higher risk.



During 2020, UN agencies focused on the following:

1. Improving national policies and legislation so they are responsive to the needs of the right-holders.
2. Supporting civil society's capacity to contribute to government policymaking.
3. Enabling the collection of comprehensive, up-to-date and disaggregated data that are aligned with international standards and available for national policymaking and international reporting.
4. Eliminating HIV mother-to-child transmission in Kazakhstan and obtaining certification by WHO.
5. Promoting multisectoral collaboration in developing and implementing policies and programmes on road safety.
6. Strengthening national capacity in the field of gender responsive planning and budgeting.
7. Supporting the launch of the Digital Transformation Centre (DTC), created to increase effectiveness and quality of public services.
8. Strengthening the potential of women to actively participate at the decision-making level through training and creating a network.

Results

7,000 people from **14** regions responded to a sociological survey on the **quality of public services**



The **Population Situation Analysis (PSA)** report was uploaded to and made available on the website of the Bureau of National Statistics

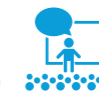


Key findings of the PSA and Generation and Gender Survey (GGS) reports were presented to the Mazhilis (lower house) of Parliament and to the National Commission for Women, Family and Demographic Policy; distributed to ministries, universities, UN agencies and embassies; and disseminated through mass media



National disaggregated data on population, the sexual and reproductive health of young people, social-economic well-being, gender and intergenerational relationships, ageing, gender-based violence, and sexual and reproductive health and rights of persons with disabilities were gathered, analysed and available for policy formulation

16



specialists of the National Statistics Bureau were trained on **demographic analysis, National Transfer Accounts and the Active Ageing Index measurement methodology**

15



media outlets and five media-related NGOs were supported in efforts to **debunk disinformation and 'fake news'** and to report on elections and violence against women and girls

10



university journalism programmes promoted **international standards in journalism education**



An interagency state bodies' working group (42 members) on **gender responsive budgeting** was created

A **pilot gender analysis of programmes and processes** in a local executive body (Akmola region) was conducted with the aim of replicating it at the national level



Technical support provided to the Ministry of National Economy on the design of a comprehensive roster of state functions (over 7,000 functions) and nationwide functional review of oblast-level administrations



OUTCOME 2.2

Judicial and legal systems and public institutions are fair, accountable and accessible to all

SDGs impacted



In recent years, significant measures aimed at modernization of the national judicial system have been taken by the United Nations in cooperation with national partners (e.g., the Supreme Court and the High Judicial Council) in order to increase the institutional capacity, improve the operational effectiveness of courts and to ensure genuine independence of the judiciary.

During 2020, the United Nations supported national dialogues between Government and non-governmental partners on combating human trafficking and on establishing a national referral mechanism to assist victims of trafficking, asylum seekers, refugees and stateless persons. Special assistance was given to the development of new instruments, strategies, policies and programmes for crime prevention and criminal justice reform.




Activities and outputs in 2020 included:

166 
juvenile police officers participated in a series of online **Education for Justice (E4J) trainings**

159,210 
people reached through the nationwide TV broadcasting of the E4J educational tool


The UNCT supported the development of several methodologies to improve **judges' caseload management**

The UN helped operationalize the **Police Modernization Road Map**






A community police model 
was successfully piloted in the Karaganda region.


44 
representatives from 28 banks were trained through the national programme on **'Countering the Financing of Terrorism'**


The UN began implementation of a Returning Foreign Terrorist Fighters Detention Programme, which offers **technical assistance to law enforcement, corrections, and justice sector agencies**


The UN provided expert support in development and piloting of a prison security audit framework, **enhancing the capacities of 107 prison officers**


The UN conducted a situational analysis of prison-based rehabilitation and post-release social reintegration **programmes for prisoners**


The UN conducted a sociological survey about the reasons for radicalization to **violence in prisons in Kazakhstan**. The UN also helped set up a **new Prison Staff Training Centre** on preventing extremism in prisons based at the Kostanay Police Academy


A new prisoner classification framework, including a risk and needs assessment tool, was piloted in eight prisons in the Karaganda and Pavlodar regions


The United Nations provided technical support to Parliament on the development of amendments to the Constitutional Law on Elections and the Law on Political Parties, which introduced a **gender quota for women and youth in political parties' list of candidates**

OUTCOME 3.1

The Government, together with partners, promotes the achievement of SDGs in the region and leads in promoting and implementing United Nations principles, standards and conventions

Kazakhstan is broadening its diplomatic reach, with more active participation in some international organizations and representation on all continents. Kazakhstan's location presents opportunities as well as challenges. As a landlocked nation, it is geopolitically and culturally vulnerable to competing regional visions, water scarcity and potential instability. Kazakhstan enjoys strong diplomatic and economic cooperation with the Central Asian countries of the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. Over the course of the last year, the United Nations system supported the implementation of regional initiatives vital for building bridges between the countries of the region.

The UN also promoted Kazakhstan's active participation in global SDG initiatives and helped increase the Government's capacities to achieve the SDGs.



During 2020, UN agencies focused on the following:

1. Strengthening capacity of Central Asian governments to have an effective regional dialogue on migration, its related challenges and the SDGs.
2. Kazakhstan playing a leading role in reducing and preventing statelessness in Central Asia.
3. The development and approval of the 'Regional Environmental Programme for Sustainable Development of Central Asia (REP4SD) for 2020-2030', successor to the 'Regional Environmental Action Programme (REAP)'.
4. Improving the understanding of transboundary and subregional issues by sectoral ministries through the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia.
5. Enabling strategies for ensuring that the best interests of the child were considered in decisions on the distribution of overseas development assistance (ODA).
6. Increasing the capacity of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Health, Ministry of National Economy (Committee on Statistics) and the Ministry of Education and Science to monitor SDGs and facilitate regional issue-based platforms.
7. As part of the broader ODA policy in Kazakhstan, increasing Afghan women's access to quality higher education and technical and vocational education and training in Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan.
8. Providing support to the Governments of Central Asia to enhance their capacities to deal more effectively with transnational threats posed by violent extremism, terrorism, illegal drug trafficking and organized crime; ensure water security; address socio-economic vulnerability; and mitigate inter-ethnic tensions.
9. Strengthening science-policy interface for disaster risk reduction (DRR) and climate change adaptation.
10. Assisting the Government to meet its commitments based on international treaties, including Security Council Resolution 1325 (Women, Peace and Security), the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence, and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995).



Throughout 2020, the United Nations system supported regional initiatives vital for building bridges between the countries of the region, including the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation Programme (CAREC), the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO). The UNCT also fostered greater cooperation against transnational organized crime and corruption; improved regional connectivity; and fostered engagement on issues involving mixed migration, trafficking in persons, drug trafficking and regional food security.

The Spotlight Initiative Regional Programme for Central Asia and Afghanistan was launched to combat violence against women and girls, as well as gender-based violence. It is expected to benefit 233,000 people directly and 46 million indirectly across five Central Asian countries and Afghanistan.

During 2020, the UN helped facilitate:

- The Global High-Level Conference, which brought together high-level representatives from Central Asian governments, as well as senior representatives from the UN, World Bank, the UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) and International Alert to look at best practices emerging in

Central Asian states on the prevention of violent extremism (PVE), as well as the role of international actors to further support PVE efforts and cooperation in the region.

- A regional dialogue, 'Prevention of Violent Extremism in Central Asia: Progress Made and Challenges Ahead', with nearly 100 participants across national authorities, international development partners, civil society and youth.
- Two Regional Youth Exchanges to increase awareness of young people from Central Asia on UN Security Council Resolution 2250, the principles of the youth, peace and security agenda and conflict analysis, as well as to develop their skills in intercultural exchange, dialogue, advocacy and critical thinking.

Several workshops and seminars were held, including a training course on countering the financing of terrorism for 15 representatives of Central Asia governments; a regional capacity-building workshop for governments and private sector partners to support uptake of ethical recruitment practices; and a seminar on SDG interlinkages and methods of SDGs integration in the national planning for 165 Government employees.

The UN also:

- Technically supported two publications of the Committee on Statistics: 'Publication on SDGs gender profile in Kazakhstan' and 'SDGs 2015-2019 Statistical Digest'.
- Developed two policy briefs: 'Definitional Frameworks: key issues in defining and criminalizing terrorism and violent extremism by Central Asian jurisdictions' and 'Procedural Frameworks: prosecuting and trying terrorist and violent extremist offences in Central Asia'.
- Awarded 50 scholarships to Afghan women to pursue specific qualifications in Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan.

Key Challenges

While there were significant advancements towards the SDGs, there were also challenges, many of which were related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

- COVID-19 accelerated existing disparities within the country, and the impacts of the pandemic threatened the attainment of SDGs.
- The population at large is experiencing hindered access to routine health and other social services due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

- Resource mobilization and delivery decreased because of reduced funding opportunities. The UNCT had to refocus funds, and in some cases postpone planned activities, in response to the pandemic.
- Many partners, especially among the most vulnerable groups, could not be reached by UN programmes because of restricted travel opportunities and because many groups had limited internet access.
- As for much of the world, the UNCT had to quickly pivot to working remotely, including offering programmes, trainings and meetings online. It is difficult to assess the quality and impact of online events. While larger audiences could be reached, online discussions cannot replace face-to-face meetings.



Support to Partnerships and Financing the 2030 Agenda

Despite the ongoing challenges brought by the COVID-19 pandemic, the UNCT in Kazakhstan mobilized resources for other programmes, including partnerships with the Government of Kazakhstan and other non-UN actors.

In November 2020, with the support of the UN, the Government of Kazakhstan was able to unlock over \$1 million in new funding for SDGs from the Joint SDG Fund to scale up and support its future efforts towards developing a gender responsive, integrated national financing framework (INFF) in Kazakhstan. This Fund will help the Government develop a holistic SDG financing strategy to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of public spending and mobilize additional SDG financing; align national planning, budgeting and financing with SDGs (with a specific focus on mainstreaming

gender and child dimensions); and strengthen SDG monitoring and accountability mechanisms by involving non-governmental actors in the budgeting process. For instance, by the end of 2020, the SDG Gender Profile to show Kazakhstan's progress on 34 SDG gender-related indicators was published jointly with the National Committee on Statistics.

Another example was the UN mobilization of \$6.5 million from the Adaptation Fund for the implementation of the regional 'Reducing vulnerabilities of populations of Central Asia from glacier lake outburst floods (GLOFs) in a changing climate' project in 2020. The project aims to strengthen climate change adaptation strategies in Central Asia by reducing societal risks and vulnerabilities associated with GLOFs through strengthened monitoring, advanced early warning



systems and improved analytical and response capacities. This project helps the Government advance its SDGs, in particular SDG 6, SDG 11, SDG 13 and SDG 15.

In addition to mobilizing financial resources, the UN created and supported several innovative partnerships, such as the national SDG Platform in Kazakhstan. The Platform, established by the UN, has the participation of more than 1,500 national partners, experts, think-tanks, youth, academia and NGOs. The SDG Platform will help users better understand and support vulnerable groups, while strengthening social protection and improving small- and medium-sized enterprises' resilience and support skills development.

At the regional level, the Regional Hub of Civil Service in Astana (ACSH), an initiative of the Government of Kazakhstan and the United Nations, organized more than 20 online capacity-building events, in which over 3500 civil servants, scholars and experts from 46 countries took part. The ACSH also launched the Virtual Alliance of practitioners to facilitate sharing COVID-19 responses. The digital platform gathers and disseminates existing practices and innovative solutions employed in different countries and organizations. To date, over 10 countries and 20 organizations have contributed to this digital platform, disseminating

over 40 cases and articles on existing practices and innovative solutions employed in the region and beyond.

The UN continued to support the efforts of national partners in SDG nationalization and progress acceleration. With the aim of raising awareness of citizens and national partners about the SDGs, a set of 17 videos on the SDGs was filmed with participation of 17 experts from different areas. The videos were a prerequisite to play a digitalized 'Mission-2030' game that aims to identify problems from an SDG-oriented perspective and suggest recommendations to the Government for integration into the national planning system.

Effective UN partnerships extended beyond Kazakhstan. For example, the Almaty Process, launched by Kazakhstan in 2011 in cooperation with the UN, is a regional consultative process for the protection of refugees and international migration to, from and within the Central Asian region and includes seven participating states: Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Turkey. Iran and Pakistan have observer status. During 2020, as part of the Almaty Process, three technical experts meetings were organized by the UN to discuss important aspects and pertinent issues of mixed migration flows in Central Asia, including the development of a strategy with key priorities and objectives of the Almaty Process for the coming years.

The UN continued to support and consolidate its Central Asian Network for Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (CAPVE), aiming to enhance regional cooperation and facilitate the networking and sharing of good practices and internationally recognized PVE approaches. In December 2020, 68 (49 percent female) representatives of government agencies, civil society, and academia from Central Asian countries, as well as UN international experts and representatives of the international community attended an online regional meeting of the CAPVE. During the meeting, the Law Enforcement Academy under the General Prosecutor's Office of Kazakhstan was identified as the new CAPVE chairing agency.

Results of the UN working more and better together: UN coherence, effectiveness and efficiency

The PFD agreed upon by the United Nations in Kazakhstan with the Government of Kazakhstan offered an opportunity for United Nations programmes and funds to work together more efficiently and effectively. For example, some joint programmes were developed to enhance cooperation between UN agencies and Government institutions (e.g., several UN agencies worked together with the State Committee on Statistics to build their capacity for gathering data, including disaggregated data).

In 2020, the UNCT was focused on the five Results Groups (one for each of the five thematic areas that cover one or two PFD outcomes). Each Results Group was co-chaired by two heads of agencies on behalf of the UNCT and each developed a joint work plan for 2020. These work plans were used to coordinate activities between UN agencies and report on results (e.g., annual reports). These Results Groups were pivotal in improving overall communication and coordination between agencies, ensuring that programmes, when similar, were complementary and did not overlap. They also allowed beneficiaries to report to one entity rather than multiple agencies, reducing their workload and improving communication.

In addition to the Results Groups and Joint Programmes, the Resident Coordinator's Office (RCO) remained in close contact with the Regional Development Coordination Office (DCO) in Istanbul and DCO HQ in New York, both in terms of contributing to and following up on guidance and advice from these centres. The RCO continued pursuing opportunities for integration of corporate priorities in its deliverables. Furthermore, informal networking mechanisms between RCOs peers in the region and beyond have proved useful in exchanging ideas on a number of issues (e.g., UNCT governance mechanisms).

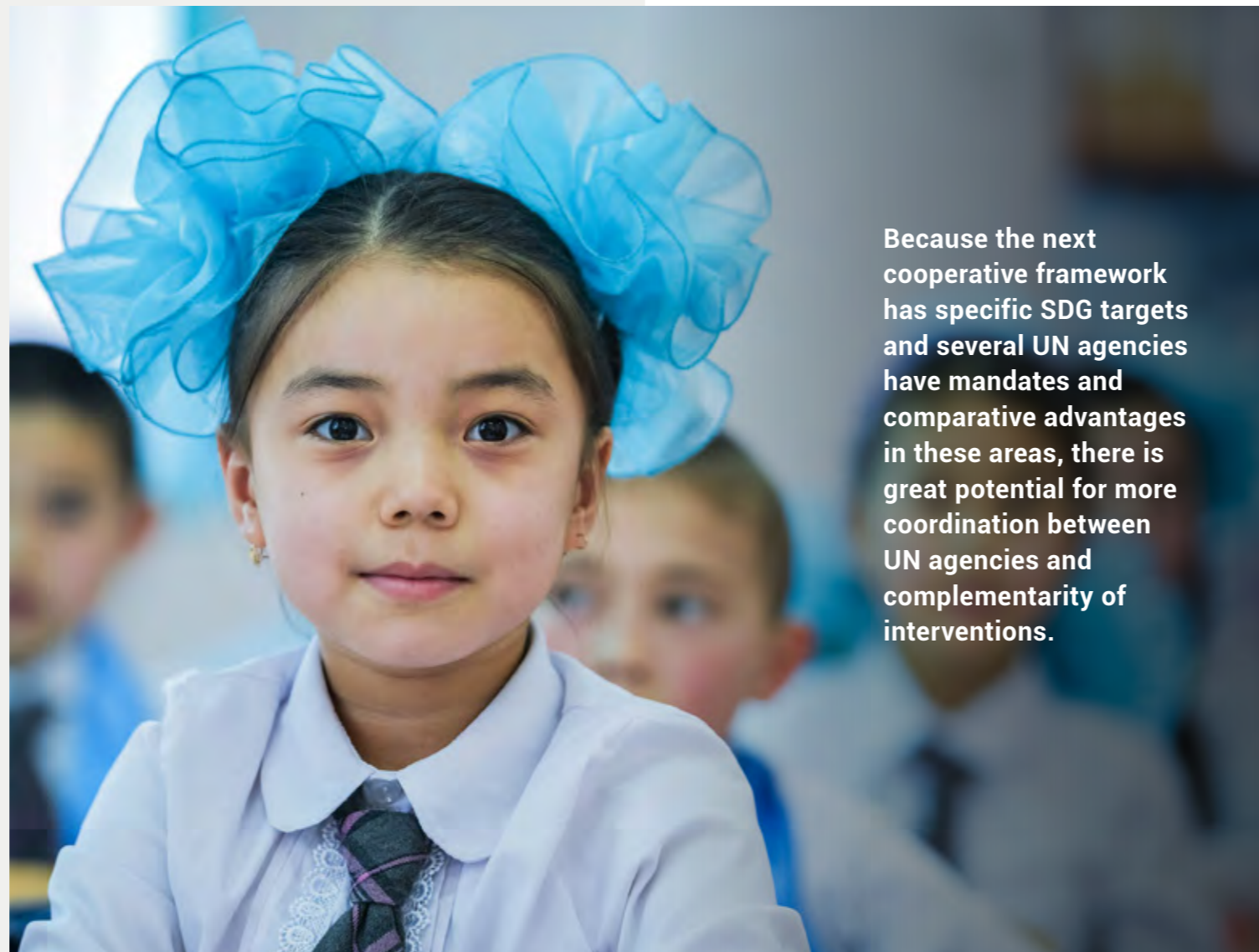
The UNCT, under the overall leadership of the Resident Coordinator (RC), drafted the 'COVID-19 Socio-Economic Impact Analysis' and presented to the Government a joint 'Socio-Economic Response and Recovery Plan'. This process involved each UN agency reconsidering its role in the context of COVID-19 response within the approved UN frameworks for Kazakhstan.

In March, the UN RC created the COVID Response Management Team for effective coordination and rapid decision-making. This team has four inter-agency groups: 1) Emergency Programme Response, 2) Contingency Planning, 3) COVID Communications and 4) COVID Socioeconomic Response. Since March, COVID-related updates are standing items in all UNCT meetings (held on a monthly basis).

In an effort to improve upon and scale up achievements from the PFD, the UNCT decided that regional programmatic cooperation would be mainstreamed into all result areas (outcomes) of the new the 'United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF)', including climate change and environment, education, energy, gender equality and women's economic empowerment, gender-based violence, health care, knowledge-based development, social protection, statistics, sustainable transport, trade, transit and connectivity and water.

In the second quarter of 2020, during the final stage of developing a new framework for 2021-2025, the UNCT conducted an assessment of members' individual and collective capacities. The assessment showed that delivery capacities were hindered by inadequate funding and human resources, particularly in the areas of Gender Equality (SDG 5) and Human Rights/Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions (SDG 16). As a result of this assessment, the UNCT conducted a Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) analysis, which resulted in the creation of more effective capacity development strategies.

Efficiency has been achieved in terms of reducing duplication due to the joint planning and harmonization of some common services under the Business Operations Strategy (BOS). To a lesser extent, the UN agencies used the PFD as a platform for resource mobilization. Joint programming involving several agencies proved effective in addressing regional disparities and unequal access to sustainable development and was characterized by greater ownership of stakeholders. However, it was limited in its scope.



Because the next cooperative framework has specific SDG targets and several UN agencies have mandates and comparative advantages in these areas, there is great potential for more coordination between UN agencies and complementarity of interventions.



Working together in addressing COVID-19 pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic has strained national governments, the UN and their partners. It has also highlighted the responsiveness and agility of the UN to respond to crises. In August 2020, a UNCT 'COVID Response and Recovery Plan for Kazakhstan' was finalized. In total \$14.56 million is committed to 53 programmatic projects, with an additional \$1.14 million committed to 35 non-programmatic projects.

This Response Plan consists of five streams (health first; protecting people; economic response and recovery; macroeconomic response and multilateral collaboration; and social cohesion and resilience) to protect the needs and rights of people living under the duress of the pandemic, with a particular focus on the most vulnerable groups and people who risk being left behind.

In addition, the UN, in partnership with the Asian Development Bank (ADB), established a COVID-19 Solidarity Fund for Kazakhstan, which aims to provide the necessary training and retraining for building capacity and skills in emerging sectors.



Communicating and advocating together

During 2020, the UN Communications Group's activities focused on enhancing joint work across UN agencies on key communication priorities, such as COVID-19 risk communication, community engagement and UN observance days, including the UN75 campaign. UNCT COVID-19 response communication efforts tackled the distribution of information on COVID-19 safety and prevention, fighting stigma, raising awareness of domestic violence and lockdown fatigue, and countering misinformation. Extra attention was paid to providing information to the most vulnerable (children, women, persons with disabilities and migrants).

In addition, throughout 2020, the UNCT organized a significant number of online outreach events dedicated to UN international observances and campaigns, including the UN75 campaign, Human Rights Day, Holocaust Remembrance Day, International Day of the Girl Child, International Women's Day and 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence and Youth Day, during which the Spotlight Initiative Regional Programme for Central Asia and Afghanistan was officially launched. Due to reinvigorated social media efforts, the total online coverage comprised 15 million views with an engagement rate of 873,000.

Implementation of the Business Operations Strategy

The UNCT's Business Operations Strategy (BOS) for 2020 revolved around:

- Finance service line (with a focus on contract management for banking services);
- Information and communication technology (ICT) service line;
- Human resources service line (worked on harmonization of rates for local consultants and individual contractors);
- Procurement service line; and
- Common administration services, including common facilities/premises (with focus on the environmental sustainability of common premises; carpooling; and long-term agreements (LTAs) for printing services).

Through innovation, cooperation and change management initiatives, activities in each of these contributed towards a more effective delivery of results within the recognized resource constraints.

For example, the UNCT has enhanced its common administration of services, including common facilities, through the implementation of environmentally-friendly waste management practices and improved ICT solutions. ICT colleagues created a new platform accessible to all agencies in both locations (Almaty and Nur-Sultan) and from all eligible UN staff accounts. The new ITC service line is a friendly and flexible system that offers a unified approach for booking of common services in an efficient, effective and transparent manner. Additionally, ICT colleagues created a central database for all valid current LTAs. This helps the UNCT more efficiently meet the programmatic and administrative needs for contracting providers.

Evaluations and Lessons Learned

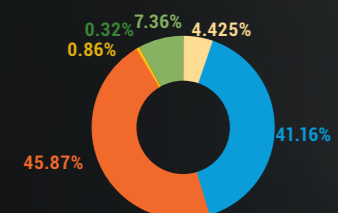
As 2020 marked the end of the PFD, a final evaluation was completed that offered some lessons going forward with the new cooperative framework:

- A lack of proper indicators and data made it difficult to assess the status of vulnerable groups, including women, children and people with disabilities.
- As gender was not fully mainstreamed, there was insufficient monitoring of the achievement of gender-related aspects. Thus, gender should be sufficiently mainstreamed in the programmes and initiatives under the UNSDCF and the new Joint Work Plans.
- Since UN agencies are in both the Result Groups and other UNCT working groups, greater streamlining of work is recommended.
- Implementation of the new cooperative framework should be more focused on achievement of the SDGs in the areas where the UN system has comparative advantages and where UN agencies may achieve maximum consolidation of efforts and strategic partnerships (e.g., promoting innovative, multisectoral approaches in the area of integrated social services).
- Effective communication of the cooperative framework and greater accountability to stakeholders are essential for strategic partnership development. Monitoring and evaluation of results should become more participatory and meet the needs of both UN agencies and national partners in terms of information and data gathered on the contributions to the achievement of SDGs.
- It is critical to establish a common goal for joint activities and to avoid competing priorities related to programming and reporting modalities of individual agencies. In addition, when designing and implementing a programme or initiative, it is important to bear in mind current capacity constraints.
- Development of a joint M&E plan linked to a communication strategy is recommended to increase accountability to partners and beneficiaries and enhance joint communication of results. The UNCT communications group will be limited in their efforts to communicate results and raise visibility of achievements unless these results are regularly identified and reported in a manner that helps tell the story to the broader public of how and whom the UN, with its partners, helps in Kazakhstan.

Financial Overview

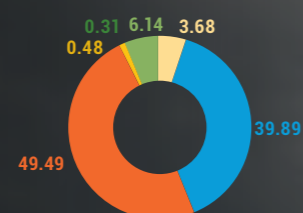
Cooperative Framework Priority Area	Projected Budget (in USD)	Actual Expenditures (in USD)
Outcome 1.1	1,552,017	1,311,959
Outcome 1.2	14,436,500	14,220,338
Outcome 1.3	16,089,621	17,640,330
Outcome 2.1	303,000	171,200
Outcome 2.2	111,956	111,956
Outcome 3.1	2,580,592	2,189,167
TOTAL for 2020	35,073,686	35,644,950

Distribution of projected required expenditures by outcome



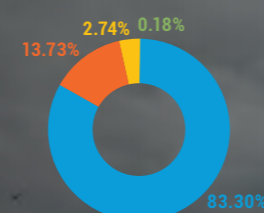
● Outcome 1.1 ● Outcome 1.3 ● Outcome 2.2
● Outcome 1.2 ● Outcome 2.1 ● Outcome 3.1

Distribution of actual expenditures by outcome



● Outcome 1.1 ● Outcome 1.3 ● Outcome 2.2
● Outcome 1.2 ● Outcome 2.1 ● Outcome 3.1

Expenditures by funding modality



● Other ● Agency Core
● Vertical Fund ● One Fund

Resource mobilization

Taking into account the limited financing opportunities in Kazakhstan (due to its upper middle-income status), the UNCT has been fostering new partnerships and diversifying its resource base. While the Government of Kazakhstan continues to be the largest donor for many UN agencies, most agencies use their own financial resources. In some cases, the Government co-finances programmes through tied grants and other mechanisms.

During 2020, nearly \$16 million was repurposed and mobilized for COVID-19 response—one quarter of which went to procuring medical supplies and training health care workers in infection prevention and control, case management and testing laboratories.

The United Nations strengthened cooperation with one of its key partners, the European Union, and mobilized \$4.2 million for the implementation of the Spotlight Initiative Regional Programme for Central Asia and Afghanistan, which focuses on employing innovative approaches to understand, prevent and respond to sexual and gender-based violence and harmful practices.

Resource mobilization strategy

- Resource mobilization and delivery decreased in 2020 because of reduced funding opportunities.
- Additional funding will be sought to close the gap between the needs and financial resources for UNCT Kazakhstan's COVID-19 response.
- Going forward, COVID-19 responses will be mainstreamed into existing programmes and initiatives.



3

UNCT KEY FOCUS FOR NEXT YEAR

The UNCT in Kazakhstan stands firmly in support of the country's commitment to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. In 2020, a new framework, the 'United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2021-2025', was signed. During 2020, two more non-resident UNCT members (the International Telecommunication Union and the United Nations Office for Project Services) officially requested to become official signatories to UNSDCF, confirming the alignment of their potential programmatic activities in Kazakhstan with the UNSDCF commitments. Moreover, as requested by their Executive Boards, UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF have developed their Country Programme Documents (CPDs) for the upcoming period based on and in accordance with the UNSDCF. The alignment of the CPDs with the UNSDCF was confirmed by the Resident Coordinator.

A key goal for the UNCT is to strengthen cooperation with the Government, civil society, private sector, academia, media outlets and other partners. Synergies resulting from cross-boundary, subregional and regional programmes and actions that target the Central Asia region will be actively pursued to enhance achievement of results under the Cooperation Framework, increase coordination between UN agencies, build partnerships with non-UN actors and mobilize resources necessary for achievement of the SDGs, including through strengthened cooperation with IFIs.

As we look to 2021 and beyond, the UN system in Kazakhstan will remain a valued, rights-based and trusted partner, focused on providing its partners in the Government and society. The most relevant, gender-sensitive policy advice, technical assistance and access to global networks. The UNSDCF and the UN's COVID-19 Response Plan reflect the UN system's pledge to the Government and to the people of Kazakhstan to always pursue the most sustainable, gender-sensitive, integrated, effective and efficient development pathways to achieve the 2030 Agenda.



ACRONYMS

ACSH Regional Hub of Civil Service in Astana	PFD Partnership Framework for Development, Kazakhstan, 2016-2020
CAREC Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation Programme	PPE Personal Protective Equipment
CPD Country Programme Document	PSA Population Situation Analysis
CSTO Collective Security Treaty Organization	PVE Preventing Violent Extremism
DCO Regional Development Coordination Office	PWD People with Disabilities
DDR Disaster Risk Reduction	RC Resident Coordinator
DTC Digital Transformation Centre	RCO Resident Coordinator's Office
E4J Education for Justice	REAP Regional Environmental Action Programme
ELSA Essential Life Support Area	REP4SD Regional Environmental Programme for Sustainable Development of Central Asia
GEF Global Environmental Facility	SDG Sustainable Development Goal
GGI Generation and Gender Survey	STEM Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics
GLOF Glacier Lake Outburst Flood	SWOT Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats
ICT Information and Communication Technology	TSA Targeted Scenario Analysis
IFI International Financial Institutions	UNCT United Nations Country Team
INFF Integrated National Financing Framework	UNSDCF United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
ODA Overseas Development Assistance	WASH Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
OSCE Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe	

CREDITS

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