



# **Enhancing Human Security in the Former Nuclear Test Site of Semipalatinsk**

**Annual Progress Report #1**

**Covering the period of 01 January 2008 – 31 December 2008**

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## I. Summary

<b>Benefiting country</b>	Kazakhstan
<b>Location</b>	East-Kazakhstan, Pavlodar and Karaganda Oblasts
<b>Title of the project</b>	Enhancing Human Security in the Former Nuclear Test Site of Semipalatinsk
<b>Duration of the project</b>	01 January 2008 – 31 October 2010
<b>UN organization responsible for management of the project</b>	UNDP Kazakhstan (Administrative Agent)
<b>UN executing partners</b>	UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNV
<b>Non-UN executing partners</b>	Semey city Akimat
<b>Total project cost</b>	\$1,978,698
<b>Reporting period</b>	01 January 2008 – 31 December 2008
<b>Type of report</b>	Annual Progress Report #1
<b>Date of submission</b>	28 November 2008

## Abbreviations and Acronyms

<b>Akim</b>	Village/district leader, town/city mayor, provincial governor
<b>Akimat</b>	Council/Administration (of village, town, city or province)
<b>BP</b>	Better Parenting
<b>CBO</b>	Community-Based Organisation
<b>CFC</b>	Child-Friendly City
<b>ECD</b>	Early Childhood Development
<b>EKO</b>	East-Kazakhstani Oblast
<b>HCR</b>	Healthy Child Room
<b>HRBAP</b>	Human Rights-based Approach
<b>IUD</b>	Intrauterine Device
<b>IUNV</b>	International United Nations Volunteer
<b>KZT</b>	Kazakhstan tenge
<b>MDG</b>	Millennium Development Goals
<b>MoES</b>	Ministry of Education and Science
<b>MoH</b>	Ministry of Health
<b>MoLSP</b>	Ministry of Labour and Social Protection
<b>MoU</b>	Memorandum of Understanding
<b>NGO</b>	Non-Governmental Organisation
<b>NUNV</b>	National United Nations Volunteer
<b>Oblast</b>	Province
<b>PHC</b>	Primary Health Care
<b>PMPC</b>	Psychological, Medical and Pedagogical Consultation
<b>Rayon</b>	District
<b>RBB</b>	Results-based Budget

<b>RBM</b>	Results-based Management
<b>RK</b>	Republic of Kazakhstan
<b>SME</b>	Small and Medium Size Enterprises
<b>SSMA</b>	Semey State Medical Academy
<b>SSMC</b>	Semey State Medical College
<b>SSPI</b>	Semey State Pedagogical Institute
<b>TWG</b>	Technical Working Group
<b>UN</b>	United Nations
<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Programme
<b>UNFPA</b>	United Nations Population Fund
<b>UNICEF</b>	United Nations Children's Fund
<b>UNV</b>	United Nations Volunteers
<b>UN CT</b>	United Nations County Team
<b>WHO</b>	World Health Organization
<b>YFS</b>	Youth-Friendly Services

## Executive Summary

In 2008, UNDP together with UNICEF, UNV and UNFPA started a joint three-year programme "Enhancing Human Security in the Former Nuclear Test Site of Semipalatinsk". The UN agencies involved have divided the areas of responsibility according to specific comparative advantages, and have ensured compatibility and coordination in a common effort to face the multi-sectoral nature of the challenges in the region.

Overall, the objectives set by UNICEF, UNFPA, UNV and UNDP for implementation in 2008 were met, in spite of the fact that the project activities started in March 2008 due to the fact that the funds were released to UNDP only in early February 2008. The delayed launch of the project required additional efforts to build up a smooth system of information sharing and establish operational modalities with local partners: the Akimat, the Academic Institutions and NGOs, in order to ensure timely implementation of the activities planned. All activities and achievements are shown in the results section of the report.

**Goal 1** - Health component - to ensure access to quality basic health and social services for vulnerable groups (UNICEF and UNFPA):

The project, designed within a framework of a life cycle approach, aims to address the most critical periods of the child's life and prevent conditions that may affect the health and development of children. Prioritizing preventive and holistic approaches and based on identified needs and gaps in service delivery that cover the whole spectrum of care, education and development of the most vulnerable children, UNICEF in the first year of the project implementation addressed gaps in the service delivery infrastructure and local capacities in the delivery of preventive services. Therefore, in 2008, UNICEF assisted local partners in the establishment of two healthy child rooms, one family support centre and two youth friendly services. 300 health professionals, social and educational workers were trained on applying effective perinatal care, including newborn resuscitation, and early intervention methods and providing timely support to children with development delays and strengthening care practices of families. To ensure the provision of early intervention practices, continuity of services for children with special needs and multidisciplinary approaches, the current regulatory framework was reviewed and improved to incorporate required guidelines and standards of preventive services for children 0-3. 28 local policy makers improved knowledge on the issues of child and family centred policies, including strategic mid-term planning, results based management and results based budgets.

UNFPA have trained and provided with training materials 25 national Obstetricians-Gynaecologists in family planning in a five days duration workshop, 28 national obstetricians-gynaecologists, neonatologists and midwives in implementation of WHO advocated effective perinatal technologies were trained at ten days duration workshop, 20 academic staff members of Semey Medical Academy and obstetricians-gynecologists from public health sector providing services to population of urban and rural areas of Semey region were trained at a five day workshop to apply evidence-based principles to perinatal care. UNFPA has also delivered to the central warehouse in Semey (maternity house No 2) modern contraceptives, has equipped a resource centre for evidence-based medicine with 7 PC, three maternity houses of Semey will be equipped with facilities to implement effective management of delivery by the end of 2008. About 5,000 copies of educational and informational materials (including diaries for pregnant women) will become available by the end of 2008 as well.

**Goal 2 - Economic component - to build capacities for entrepreneurship and business skills, and provide modalities for generating economic and employment opportunities (UNDP):**

UNDP has conducted an analytical research to study markets and growth opportunities for rural SMEs and the main conclusion of the research was that it is more feasible for the existing development conditions of project areas to provide business advisory services via a microfinance organization rather than opening a business indicator. In this respect, UNDP signed a Micro-Capital Grant Agreement with the “The Fund for financial support of agriculture” for the microfinancing programme of the economic component of the project. The same organization will provide business advisory services and implement a microleasing programme in 2009. Two three-day seminars for 34 representatives of rural small and medium size entrepreneurs and the government employees were conducted on business related issues. Also the representatives of big companies, banks, microcrediting organizations and individual entrepreneurs were trained on Corporate Social Responsibility. Teaching modules for rural entrepreneurs on business management and business planning; vocational/technological training; quality assessment; use of microcredit and microleasing were developed and distributed to rural entrepreneurs and local partners.

**Goal 3 - Social component - to mobilize communities and support NGOs and CBOs in providing community services and in acting as agents of change within society (UNDP and UNV):**

UNV and UNDP together have completed a baseline study on NGOs’ capacity in the region. Six one day seminars for 124 representatives of local NGOs, initiative groups, community based organizations and the representatives from the local government on “Implementation of the Social Procurement Law” and “Practical skills on the new Social Procurement Law and fund-raising” and “Mobilization of volunteers”.

Bearing in mind the duration of the project and issues addressed, the impact can be measured closer to the end of project lifespan, for which an evaluation to measure progress, achieved results and identify lessons learned will be undertaken by each agency involved and recommendations for scaling up of piloted initiatives will be developed. Moreover, initial steps were undertaken within the MoU signed between the UN Agencies and the Semey city Akimat to ensure local ownership, sustainability and attainment of the following impact level results:

- Local Government and NGO of Semipalatinsk region are able to better plan family-based and child-focused social policies at local level
- Minimum standards of social counseling and family support services (including services for children with special needs and their families) are developed
- Infant, child and maternal mortality is decreased, health status of young people and HIV/AIDS prevention are improved
- Critical mass of physicians and midwives enabled to provide the appropriate services is there; basic supply is in place; policy makers are sensitized accordingly and educational and informational materials helping to increase awareness of mothers are available, so that necessary conditions to cover remarkable proportion of mothers by effective perinatal technologies have been created
- Rural entrepreneurs are better able to understand and exploit economic opportunities through access to information and training
- Business Advisory services provided to rural entrepreneurs

- Volunteerism-based mechanisms mobilized to contribute to community goals

## **II. Purpose**

The goal of the project as a whole is to alleviate social suffering among the vulnerable groups in the Semipalatinsk region in order to overcome the ecological, health, psychosocial and humanitarian effects of the Cold War. This project will particularly enhance the economic, health, environmental and community security as well as reduce social tensions to prevent potential conflicts. The goals, objectives, outputs and activities are designed to allow:

- Vulnerable families to benefit from raised living standards and quality health and psychosocial support services
- Decrease infant, child and maternal mortality and improve health status of young people
- Enhance and empower civil society and local ownership in order to prioritize people's needs and implement sustainable community initiatives
- Enhance community and resource mobilization and volunteerism to form self-help groups and associations in conjunction with local authorities to undertake small scale projects for improved living standards
- Create markets in rural areas to benefit the poorest through indirect support, namely empowerment and expanded access to financial services

With regard to this vision, three different goals have been formulated following specific sectoral demands:

### **Health Component (UNICEF and UNFPA):**

#### **GOAL 1 - Health and Social Services: to ensure access to quality basic health and social services for vulnerable groups**

OBJECTIVE 1.1 By end 2010, 50 % of women of reproductive age and newborn babies of the Semipalatinsk region will receive quality perinatal care support services

OBJECTIVE 1.2 By end 2010, children of 0-3 years of age from 20,000 families living in rural areas of the Semipalatinsk region will benefit from better early childhood development practices

OBJECTIVE 1.3 By end 2010, 10,000 young people of the Semipalatinsk region will enjoy youth-friendly psychosocial and health services

OBJECTIVE 1.4 By end 2010, at least 5,000 vulnerable families in the Semipalatinsk region will benefit from social counseling and family support services

OBJECTIVE 1.5 By end 2010, local Government and NGOs of the Semipalatinsk region will be able to better plan family-based and child-focused social policies at local level

#### **EXPECTED OUTPUTS:**

- 1.1 A pool of obstetricians, gynaecologists, midwives, neonatologists and respective health managers (at least 67%) is enabled to provide quality perinatal services
- 1.2 Sustainable regulatory framework for provision of quality perinatal services is in place

- 1.3 At least 900 primary health care workers (doctors and home visiting nurses) are able to counsel families with children at 0-3 in respect to early childhood development
- 1.4 Enabling regulatory environment for strengthening existing home visiting system for families with children at 0-3 is established
- 1.5 Managers and staff of youth-friendly psychosocial and health services are able to provide quality counselling in respect to young people's sexual, reproductive and psychosocial issues
- 1.6 Regulatory framework for provision of quality youth-friendly psychosocial and health services is in place
- 1.7 The results of piloting in the Semipalatinsk region are used as evidence-based advocacy for nation-wide replication of youth-friendly services
- 1.8 Service providers/social workers effectively support families and enable children to grow up in the family environment

**Beneficiaries:**

- Newborn, young, women, rural households, health workers

**Economic Component (UNDP):**

**GOAL 2 – Economic development: to build capacities for entrepreneurship and business skills, and to provide modalities for generating economic and employment opportunities**

OBJECTIVE 2.1 By end 2010, 150 rural households will benefit from microcredit and microleasing services

OBJECTIVE 2.2 By end 2010, 30% rural entrepreneurs are better able to understand and exploit economic opportunities through access to financial markets, information and training

**EXPECTED OUTPUTS:**

- 2.1 Business Advisory services provided to rural entrepreneurs
- 2.2 Access to microcredit and microleasing services expanded into rural areas

**Beneficiaries:**

- Rural entrepreneurs, women, unemployed

**Social Component (UNDP and UNV):**

**GOAL 3 – Social infrastructure: mobilizing and empowering communities, promoting volunteerism and supporting NGOs/CBOs in providing community services and in acting as agents of change within society**

OBJECTIVE 3.1 By end 2010, 1500 local community members will benefit from initiatives by NGOs/CBOs resulting from training and grant distribution

OBJECTIVE 3.2 By end 2010, 60 self-help groups and associations will be engaged in voluntary action to support small-scale local initiatives

**EXPECTED OUTPUTS:**

3.1 Transparent grant mechanism for NGOs/CBOs established in cooperation with local authorities

3.2 Volunteerism-based mechanisms mobilized to contribute to community goals

**Beneficiaries:**

- NGOs, vulnerable households, local government

**RELEVANCE ON ATTAINMENT OF HUMAN SECURITY**

Kazakhstan has increasing development divisions and raising inequality, with rural poverty incidence being nearly three times as high as urban. Strengthening human security in the most vulnerable parts of the country could prevent escalation of social exclusion in Kazakhstan. This will require a multi-sector approach including improved health services to promote universal access to basic health care, realization of minimum living standards and enhanced local capacity and promotion of partnerships with civil society groups and NGOs.

An inadequate level of living standards, lack of social services and opportunities for income generation, especially in rural areas around Semipalatinsk, highlight multi-sectoral nature of the challenges faced by people living in the region:

- Health and social services (lingering health consequences of radiation, as well as declining health services);
- Environment (ecological consequences of nuclear testing);
- Economic development (collapse of local economy and lack of new economic opportunities);
- Social infrastructure (lack of social infrastructure, lack of social empowerment).

Geographically an intervention in Semipalatinsk is justified by the severe condition of the region where 468 nuclear tests – including 125 above-ground tests – were conducted. The international community and the UN General Assembly highlight the priority of interventions in the region.

A broad range of interconnected issues, namely Health and Social Services, Economic Development and Social Infrastructure are addressed by this project proposal. The approach thereby proposed implies a comprehensive programming focused on enhancing human security by reducing vulnerability, improving delivery of social services, strengthening civil society participation and improving the institutional capacity of the Semipalatinsk region. The project outcomes clearly state that the beneficiaries are vulnerable groups that are currently excluded from active participation in the society - parameter a (IV.1) and *a, d* and *e* (IV.2) defined in the UNTFHS Guidelines.

Along with directly benefiting those particularly vulnerable families by improving living standards and better quality health and psychosocial support services, the project aims at building the capacity of local authority and civil society to identify and monitor the indicators on basic survival, development, protection and participation needs of families. Key milestones to foster the good governance and participatory development are the improved knowledge and skills on results and human rights-based management in planning and delivery of social services.

The approach aimed at empowering local communities and enhancing their mobilization will be harmonized with activities to strengthen the local government capacity in coordination and planning of public spending, service delivery and poverty reduction.

This framework is relevant as per parameters *b*, *c* and *e* defined in the UNTFHS Guidelines (IV.1).

A special attention will be given to facilitating accountable, transparent and open decision-making and programme implementation. As mentioned in the introduction the project focus on the areas neglected by existing programmes and projects, indeed this project is clearly complementary to the Government Programme for Semipalatinsk.

### **Rationale**

Previous efforts in the Semipalatinsk region have achieved development results that will be built upon to help local actors develop partnerships to solve their still-severe problems. In the Government's Semipalatinsk Relief and Rehabilitation Programme, it is recommended that 78 per cent of total resources donated by the international community focus on longer-term efforts such as building capacities and empowering institutions and civil society groups that are dealing with the humanitarian and social effects of the nuclear testing.

The project aims at translating the basic principles of the Human Security concept into concrete projects through ensuring a rights-based approach that leads towards achievement of the MDGs, and uniting and coordinating efforts of local authorities, civil society and donor community to achieve jointly identified objectives. The proposed project fits squarely within Recommendations number 5, 6 and 7<sup>1</sup> of the report of the Commission on Human Security, Human Security Now (2003).

### **MAIN IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS**

The main UN executing partners are the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the United Nations Volunteers Programme (UNV). The main non-UN executing partners are Semey city Akimat and East-Kazakhstan Oblast Akimat

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<sup>1</sup> Recommendation 5: Encouraging fair trade and markets to benefit the extremely poor (including strengthening social institutions to reach the vulnerable and the extreme poor).

Recommendation 6: Providing minimum living standards everywhere.

Recommendation 7: According high priority to universal access to basic health care (including community-based health initiatives).

### III. Results

#### Health Component (UNFPA):

Outputs	OVis	Progress	Recommendations/comments
A pool of obstetricians, gynaecologists, midwives, neonatologists and respective health managers (at least 67%) are enabled to provide quality perinatal services	Number of national Obstetricians-Gynaecologists trained in family planning	1. 25 national specialists from the region trained at 5 days duration workshop facilitated by International Planned Parenthood Federation consultants and received training materials for their further activities in June 2008	Contraceptives were received from UNFPA as a humanitarian supply and distributed to Semey region and circulated there for insuring that follow-up to family planning training is envisaged  Neonatologist to train national professionals was invited by UNICEF
	Number of contraceptives distributed	2. UNFPA delivered to the central warehouse in Semey (maternity house No 2) modern contraceptives: including 5 thousand pieces of IUD and 1.3 million male latex condoms as a humanitarian shipment.	
	Number of national obstetricians-gynaecologists, neonatologists and midwives trained to implement WHO advocated effective perinatal technologies	3. 28 national specialists from urban and rural areas of Semey region trained at 10 days duration workshop facilitated by WHO certified international consultants in WHO recommended format: 1- Obstetrician-Gynaecologist, 1 midwife and 1 neonatologist and received training materials for their further use in August 2008	
	Number of maternity houses fully equipped with facilities to	4. Three maternity houses the town of Semey will be equipped accordingly by	

	implement effective management of delivery	the end of the year. Equipment and inventory to insure implementation of effective delivery technologies is purchasing at the moment with monkey bars (11), heaters (27), obstetrics chairs (12), medical coaches (11), balls (600)	performed on cost-sharing basis with maternity houses
	Number of copies of educational and informational materials for pregnant women distributed	5. About 5,000 copies of educational and informational materials (including diaries for pregnant women) are in the stage of printing at the moment. By the end of December they will become available	
	Availability of resource centres for evidence-based medicine	6. A resource centre equipped with 7 PC assembled in local network established in Semey Medical Academy	The resource centre was placed in the Medical Academy, as that tertiary institution responsible for training of postgraduate and undergraduate medical students is in the best position to insure sustainability of intervention
	Number of obstetricians-gynaecologists trained to apply evidence-based principles to perinatal care	7. In total 20 academic staff members of Semey Medical Academy and obstetricians-gynaecologists from public health sector providing services to population of urban and rural areas of Semei region trained and received training materials for their further use at five-days duration workshop facilitated by national consultants from High School of Public Health collaborating with WHO	Availability of critical mass of trained local academic staff training obstetricians-gynaecologists insures that further training can be provided by local trainers and that a ground to include evidence-based principles in curricula to train postgraduate and undergraduate students is there.

Sustainable regulatory framework for provision of quality perinatal services is in place	Sustainable regulators framework for provision of quality services is in Place.  Programme managers are knowledgeable about recent developments in the perinatal care	1. Local guidance to implement safe motherhood initiative is in the stage of development  2. The governmental-led area conference to assess the progress of the project will take place in 2 December in Semey Medical Academy	Local guidance is developing in parallel with national guidance through participation of and contribution by Semey professionals in public health and obstetrics and gynaecology
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<b>Objectives/purpose</b>	<b>OVI</b>	<b>Progress</b>	<b>Recommendations/comments</b>
OBJECTIVE 1.1 By end 2010, 50 % of women of reproductive age and newborn babies of the Semipalatinsk region will receive quality perinatal care support services	Percentage of mothers, who received quality perinatal support and family planning service based on WHO/UNFPA approaches	Survey to measure the outcome is planned for the next year. However, outputs of this year envisage that critical mass of physicians and midwives enabled to provide the appropriate services is there; basic supply is in place; policy makers are sensitized accordingly and educational and informational materials helping to increase awareness of mothers are available, so that necessary conditions to cover remarkable proportion of mothers by effective perinatal technologies have been created	

#### **Health Component (UNICEF):**

<b>Outputs</b>	<b>OVI</b>	<b>Progress</b>	<b>Recommendations/comments</b>
A core of neonatologists and respective health managers (at least 64%) are enabled to provide quality perinatal	Increased number of newborn babies of the Semipalatinsk region receiving quality perinatal care support services	1. Two resource centres were established (SSMA and SSMC) to provide pre and in-service trainings for health workers;  2. Essential equipment was made available for the provision of quality care and resuscitation for newborns;  3. A core group of health professionals strengthened knowledge and skills in the	

services		<p>provision of essential perinatal care and promoting adherence of lactating women to breast feeding;</p> <p>4. National and local health workers and academicians were capacitated in monitoring and evaluating progress of the implementation of effective perinatal technologies – in the application of the BABIES methodology as a total quality management tool.</p>	
Sustainable regulatory framework for provision of quality perinatal services is in place.		<p>1. Recommendations on the improvement of the regulatory basis on the provision of quality perinatal care were developed by a working group made of obstetrician-gynecologists and neonatologists from lead health facilities of the country;</p> <p>2. The recommendations, consolidated into one document, will be submitted to the Ministry of Health for approval at the end of this year.</p>	
At least 900 primary health care workers (doctors and home visiting nurses) are able to counsel families with children at 0-3 in respect to early childhood development	Number of families with children of 0-3 age living in rural areas of the Semipalatinsk region benefiting from better early childhood development practices	<p>1. Two healthy child rooms (HCRs) were fitted out with medical equipment (height meter, scales, a screen, a treatment couch), furniture (case, tables, chairs) and multi-media (a TV and video-player). The main functions of the HCRs are the following: healthy life style promotion, training of parents on the essentials of child education using methodical materials (day regimen, nutrition, physical education, tempering, child caring, child hygienic education, timely prevention activities), children screening and identification of delays in cognitive and physical development of children under 3 years of age.</p> <p>2. 41 Master-trainers are now able to provide consultations on the issues of ECD/BP and train peers.</p> <p>3. The ECD model was incorporated into the curriculum of the medical college and medical academy in pre-service training.</p> <p>4. “Cascade trainings” for primary health care workers in respect to</p>	

		<p>ECD/BP are being conducted (totally 189 have already been trained, including physicians and nurses from Semey city and Abraly, Emshi and Zhalaman rayons).</p> <p>5. 65,000 items of informational materials on the issues of ECD/BP became available to raise awareness of health workers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The ECD/BP training modules for trainers and trainees;</li> <li>- The ECD/BP chart booklet for trainers and doctors;</li> <li>- Nutrition status report cards;</li> <li>- MoH order № 691 on strengthening the early children patronage system;</li> <li>- “Breast feeding consulting and care for development” video in two languages (Kazakh and Russian).</li> </ul> <p>For increased awareness of parents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Better Parenting Communication package for families on childrearing was completed and distributed among parents having children under 3.</li> </ul>	
<p>Enabling regulatory environment for strengthening existing home visiting system for families with children at 0-3 is established</p>		<p>1. A technical working group (TWG) on revision of normative and legislative documents pertaining delivery of health care services for children under 3 was established, which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- revised 16 edicts on health services provision to children at primary health care level (PHC) in accordance with the WHO and national policies;</li> <li>- recommendations of the TWG will be shared with leading research centres and medical universities for strengthening interagency collaboration.</li> </ul> <p>2. Practical guidelines on child growth and development were developed in collaboration of a national ECD/BP consultant and the Semey State Medical Academy. The guidelines will be published in early next year.</p> <p>3. A representative from the Semey State Medical Academy was trained on child growth and development assessment at a WHO training of trainers workshop.</p>	

Managers and staff of youth-friendly psychosocial and health services are able to provide quality counselling in respect to young people's sexual, reproductive and psychosocial issues	Number of young people of the Semipalatinsk region enjoying youth-friendly psychosocial and health services	<p>1. The local administration in consultation with UNICEF determined polyclinics №№ 2 and 5 for establishing youth-friendly services. In 2008 the main focus was on refurbishing these premises.</p> <p>2. Representatives of local authorities and staff of YFS participated in YFS planning and training workshops, which were conducted at the national level;</p> <p>3. 6 local experts passed the 1<sup>st</sup> stage of TOT for national master trainers on “Counselling young people on reproductive health in YFS”;</p> <p>4. The planned training of social workers, school psychologists and NGOs on YFS was rescheduled for the next year due to a delay in selecting YFS premises and appointment of the staff.</p>	
Regulatory framework for provision of quality youth-friendly psychosocial and health services is in place		<p>1. To ensure sustainable development, review and pre-testing of youth-friendly services’ norms and standards are underway at the national level aimed at introduction of youth-friendly services principles into the curriculum of pre-service and in-services health training system.</p> <p>2. Communication and advocacy materials were developed and printing will be made in 2009.</p>	
The results of piloting in the Semipalatinsk region are used as evidence-based advocacy for nation-wide replication of youth-friendly services		<p>1. The workshop on advocating for inclusion of youth-friendly services into the agenda of the health reform and nation-wide introduction took place in Taraz (February 2008).</p>	
Service	Number of	1. After the project launch in February	

<p>providers/social workers effectively support families and enable children to grow up in the family environment.</p>	<p>vulnerable families in the Semipalatinsk region benefiting from social counselling and family support services.</p>	<p>2008, a draft Regional Plan of Action on family support, identification of needs in social services, assistance to children with special needs was prepared.</p> <p>2. In April 2008, the review of the system for early identification and social services for prevention of child institutionalization started. The Joint Plan of Action of UNICEF and EKO Akimat on family support and children with special needs was finalized and signed.</p> <p>3. In April 2008 five representatives of health, education and social welfare sectors visited Saint-Petersburg Institute of Early Intervention to share and improve knowledge and practices in the revision of the early identification and referral system for children and their families.</p>	<p>2.1. The joint action plan included the revision of registration of children with special needs, quality control of the services provided and screening parameters, effectiveness of psychological, medical and pedagogical consultations (PMPC), rooms of psychological and pedagogical correction, medical and pedagogical consultations, psychological, medical and pedagogical consultations, home services, normative base effectiveness, technical requirements of preschool-school/school for introduction of inclusive education, assessment of possible introduction of early identification at the level of family health facilities; recommendations on child supporting and developing</p>
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		<p>4. Five meetings of the working group on streamlining the social services system for children with special needs were held in February, May, June, October and November 2008. The following results were achieved:</p> <p>a) agreed terms of reference and issues to be addressed were developed;</p> <p>b) services for children with special needs were mapped out, the results of social services needs assessment and possible ways of developing inclusive education strategy starting from pre-school and integration of social services into the education system were discussed;</p> <p>c) the results of the Semey review of social services for families of children with special needs and early identifications and referral system were presented;</p> <p>d) the progress made in piloting early intervention programmes for children with special needs and family support services in Semey was assessed. It was proposed to include children supporting services into the Oblast development strategy, advocacy activities on inclusive education and amendments to the Education Law of the RK, special educational programmes for children at pre-school level, PMPC involvement into the healthy child rooms or services or enlargement the PMPC responsibilities.</p> <p>e) helped to streamline an understanding of implementing social services standards recently developed as a part of the Law on Social Services and try out a multi-sectoral approach to meet the needs of children with special needs.</p> <p>5. Starting from May 2008 under the guidance of the Semey pre-school center</p>	<p>plan through special social services provided by the local, regional and national authorities and NGO.</p> <p>4.1. The recommendations were developed for consideration of the Ministries of Health (quality organization of screening of psychophysical needs of early children, to overcome the barrier to early children development, to ensure effective functioning of healthy child rooms), Education and Science (to unify the form and contents of the form of person with special needs, include social workers and special pedagogic (correction) specialists training into the governmental order, ensure shifting from special schools to psychological and pedagogical correction rooms, advocacy on children with special needs, prepare normative and legislative base and methodical</p>
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		<p>the first family support center started functioning to support families from vulnerable families on how to provide early care and development and ensure parents are aware of the available for them social services provided in the community. The methodical guidelines on the similar counseling units were tried out for parents in case if there is a shortage of pre-school care facilities. The establishment of the second family support center is now being discussed with Semey city Akimat (including responsibilities, premises, specialists, methodical base and supply). Establishment of family support centres should assist families at risk in the Semipalatinsk region as a part of social reform and social services development with budget co-sharing at the local level.</p> <p>6. The intersectoral group of 30 representatives from government structures and NGOs was trained on the common understanding of the social services/family support standards. Key models were presented to build the local capacity in the establishment of the family support services and re-focusing on de-institutionalisation process in EKO (1-2 July 2008).</p> <p>7. The workshop on early intervention and modern understanding of early childhood development was held in Semey with the help of the Saint Petersburg Institute of Early Interventions and UN volunteers for 57 participants from education, health, social welfare, child protection sectors, Medical Academy, Pedagogical Institute, Psychological and Medical Consultations and NGO in East Kazakhstan and Semey. New approaches in dealing with children with special needs and family support services were presented (21-23 October 2008).</p> <p>8. Akimat of Semey city together with UNICEF and Special Olympics Kazakhstan held the first workshop on</p>	<p>recommendations on inclusive education practices, to prepare guidelines and methodical guidelines on the basis of the healthy child rooms functioning), Labor and Social Protection (complete and confirm the law on social standards that should contain funding and social services for children with special needs), and to the local executing authorities (enlarge PMPCs, CPPC, rehabilitation center in accordance with the law on social and medical and pedagogical support of children with special needs, establish coordination councils on children with special needs, make material and technical infrastructure of PMPC suitable for its functioning).</p> <p>8.1. The Special Olympics Programme is an</p>
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		<p>Healthy Athlete Funfitness Programme for students of Semey State Medical Academy and Semey State Pedagogical Institute in identifying fitness level of children with mental disabilities to ensure they are socialized and integrated into physical training exercises for improvement of their status (22-24 October 2008).</p> <p>9. Press-conference was organized for media to ensure that sport could be an effective tool to help achieve goals in health, education, gender equality, HIV/AIDS, child protection and child development. Now UNICEF is launching initiatives in Semey on including children with special needs into pre-school education, changing attitude towards these children through raising awareness and advocacy. It is planned to organize the similar events in Semey in future to see the progress of children's physical development.</p>	<p>international nonprofit organization dedicated to empowering adults and children with intellectual disabilities to become physically fit, productive and respected members of society through sports training and competition in 30 Olympic-type sports in 165 countries. The Healthy Athletes Programme consists of general physical screening, use of prophylactic treatment methods, informational support and referring to the specialists for more detailed examinations.</p>
<p>Local government are able to effectively apply Human Rights Based Approach and Results-Based Management in assessment, planning and delivery of social services, taking into account special needs of vulnerable families</p>	<p>Local Government and NGOs of the Semipalatinsk region is able to better plan family-based and child-focused social policies at local level</p>	<p>1. In June-July 2008 UNICEF national consultant has reviewed the assistance to children with special needs and their families in EKO, developed the recommendations on improvement and introduction of new approaches and development of interagency cooperation plan aimed at improvement of children with special needs state in EKO.</p> <p>2. On 1-2 June 2008 the seminar on improvement of social services standards provided to the children at local level took place in Ust-Kamenogorsk (with participation of UNICEF international consultant on social standards). During the seminar the groups of social services standards, principles of social services application, types, meaning, sphere of application and characteristics, assessment criteria and social services institutions licensing</p>	

<p>Local government will have knowledge and instruments on the management of effective approaches to convergent services improvement (health, social protection and education) and monitoring of the Convention on the Rights of Child.</p>		<p>were discussed.</p> <p>1. On 1-4 April 2008 Agency for Public Administration of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the National Commission for Gender and Family and Demographic Policy under the President of the RK and UNICEF held a joint training for approximately 30 representatives of local authorities and NGOs of Eastern Kazakhstan (Semey, Kurchatov, Ridder and of other sub-regions of the oblast) on planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of social and economic programmes in the best interests of children and families in Semey (based on RBM, HRBAP, and RBB approaches). The objective of this workshop was to increase/build capacity of civil servants in the area of social and economic policy for children. N.B. UNICEF in cooperation with the Government conducted 2 other similar type trainings that were attended by civil servants from EKO (Semey and other sub-regions).</p> <p>2. One of the UNICEF initiatives of UNICEF in the Semipalatinsk region planned in cooperation with Semey Akimat is to make Semey a Child-Friendly City. For this purpose, the SitAN on child wellbeing in the region is currently being finalized and the local CFC Action Plan is being elaborated for Semey.</p> <p>3. At the CFC Round Table held on 20 November 2008 in Ust-Kamenogorsk, the SitAn on children and young people in Ust-Kamenogorsk and EKO was presented and discussed. Appropriate actions and measures are under development to promote the CFC initiative in Ust-Kamenogorsk, Semey and the region as a whole.</p>	
<p>NGOs are able to monitor the quality of</p>		<p>1. Through the RBM and RBB and HRBAP approaches delivered within the RBM module, NGOs are educated on the tools to monitor the quality of</p>	

service delivery and advocate equity access		services and advocacy techniques for equity access.	
Local authorities will ensure the delivery of social sector services according to the developed standards		1. A set of social services standards are currently being developed and will be piloted in the region as a part of the overall social services reform that is currently underway.	

<b>Objectives/purpose</b>	<b>OVI (objectively verifiable indicators)</b>	<b>Progress</b>	<b>Recommendation s/comments</b>
OBJECTIVE 1.1 By end 2010, 50 % of women of reproductive age and newborn babies of the Semipalatinsk region will receive quality perinatal care support services.	Increased number of newborn babies of the Semipalatinsk region receiving quality perinatal care support services.	<p>1. 14 specialists from Semey Maternities, representatives of National Scientific Center of Mother and Child Health and SSMA took part in the workshop on Essential Newborn Care and Breastfeeding at Semey Maternity home # 2. At the end of the training the participants shared their vision regarding the situations in their maternities using the schemes from the course.</p> <p>2. The recommendations of UNICEF international consultant will be translated and used both at local and national level to improve the quality of parinatal care provided to the newborns and their mothers.</p> <p>3. The recommendations of working group will be consolidated and submitted</p>	

		to the key decision makers in order to adopt the regulation principles on quality perinatal care support services.	
OBJECTIVE 1.2 By end 2010, children of 0-3 years of age from 20,000 families living in rural areas of the Semipalatinsk region will benefit from better early childhood development practices	Number of families with children of 0-3 age living in rural areas of the Semipalatinsk region benefiting from better early childhood development practices.	<p>1. Two training resource centers were established at the clinical bases:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- on ECD/BP at Polyclinic № 1 (training of patronage nurses together with SSMC) and at family health facility № 12 (for training of pediatricians and general practitioners, including specialists from SSMA Chairs);</li> <li>- on Effective Perinatal Care - the SSMA Chair of Obstetrics and Gynaecology and the Chair of Pediatrics with Neonatology course were supplied by medical equipment on newborn resuscitation.</li> </ul> <p>2. Trainings of medical academy specialists and doctors on ECD/BP gathered 101 (including 21 trainers) health workers from the Semipalatinsk region.</p> <p>3. Trainings of patronage nurses were held by UNICEF, Semey State Medical College and Semey Health Department, where totally 88 participants from Semey city, Abraly, Emshi, Zhalaman regions got essential knowledge on ECD/BP.</p> <p>4. 691 Order on patronage system, recommendations of the working group and practical guidelines on</p>	

		<p>WHO growth and development standards application in practical work of pediatricians will develop better early childhood development and better parenting practices in Semipalatinsk region and nation-wide.</p> <p>5. Plans, programmes and methodical materials for before and post diploma training of the health workers tacking into consideration the new approaches on mother and child health with the emphasize on primary health care (PHC) are being tested and evaluated in the Semipalatinsk region.</p>	
<p>OBJECTIVE 1.3 By end 2010, 10,000 young people of the Semipalatinsk region will enjoy youth-friendly psychosocial and health services.</p>	<p>Number of young people of the Semipalatinsk region enjoying youth-friendly psychosocial and health services.</p>	<p>1. The YFSs for providing the young population of the Semipalatinsk region were determined at the bases of polyclinics № № 2 and 5 and being equipped.</p> <p>2. Representatives of Semey newly established YFS participated in the training in Almaty to provide young people with youth-friendly psychosocial and health services.</p>	
<p>OBJECTIVE 1.4 By end 2010, at least 5,000 vulnerable families in the Semipalatinsk region will benefit from social counseling and family support services</p>	<p>Number of vulnerable families in the Semipalatinsk region benefiting from social counselling and family support services</p>	<p>1. One family-support center for consulting pre-school children and their families is already functioning (150 families are covered during 4 months of operation) and the second one is being established in Semey to provide the dwellers of the</p>	

		<p>Semipalatinsk region with family support services. The work of the center will be closely connected with the city administration (Akimat) that committed to provide premises for the second family support center and be actively involved in the work of the center.</p> <p>2. Five meetings of the working groups on children with special needs took place in Semey, Astana and Ust-Kamenogorsk to ensure improvement and consistency in provision of social/family support services for children.</p> <p>3. The recommendations on the improvement of the PMPC functions, family health facilities potential in early identification, on responsibilities of educational and social protection institutions working with children with special needs were developed.</p> <p>4. Students of SSMA and SSPI trained by the trainers of Special Olympics raised their skills of counseling children and assessing their physical characteristics.</p> <p>5. 130 children and their parents were consulted by trainers and students on physical exercises.</p>	
<p>OBJECTIVE 1.5 By end 2010, local Government and NGOs of the Semipalatinsk region will be able to better plan family-based</p>	<p>Local Government and NGOs of the Semipalatinsk region is able to better plan family-based and child-focused social policies at local level</p>	<p>1. 28 representatives of local administration were trained on planning family-based and child-focused social policies at local level.</p> <p>2. Results-based strategy</p>	

and child-focused social policies at local level		was adopted at national level and will be mandatory for the national-wide one (including Semey) from 2010.	
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**Economic Component (UNDP):**

<b>Outputs</b>	<b>OVI</b>	<b>Progress</b>	<b>Recommendation s/comments</b>
Business Advisory services provided to rural entrepreneurs	Increased number of rural entrepreneurs benefiting from access to financial markets, information and training	<p>1. An analytical research to study markets and growth opportunities for rural SMEs was conducted. At the open and transparent competition, SANGE research company was selected to undertake this survey. In August 2008, SANGE submitted its final report. The report made the following recommendations:</p> <p>A) To provide business advisory services via a microfinance institution rather than opening of a business incubator. The business incubator will not be able to cover the main beneficiaries of the economic component, i.e. rural entrepreneurs and it will be difficult for them to travel to the business incubator in Semey from their remote locations. Due to limited resources, it is recommended to transfer the business advisory services to the microfinance institution instead of opening a new entity. The microfinance institution will provide its services through its focal points in the rural areas.</p> <p>B) To narrow the scope of microfinance activities of the project to five particular regions: Abaisky, Beskaragaisky, Abralinsky, Zhanasemeisky and Maisky. These five regions belong to extreme (more than 100 rem) and maximum (35-100 rem) polluted areas and have complete absence of any finance institutions available to the population.</p> <p>The Project Board Members approved</p>	

		<p>the proposed recommendations and the microfinance programme was implemented accordingly.</p> <p>The analysis of the situation of the report is available for use of entrepreneurs.</p> <p>2. Two three-day trainings on business management and business planning; vocational/technological training; quality assessment; use of micro credit and micro leasing were conducted. Totally 34 representatives of rural small and medium size entrepreneurs and the government employees participated in the seminars.</p> <p>3. One-day seminar on Corporate Social Responsibility was conducted for the representatives of big companies, banks, microcrediting organizations and individual entrepreneurs. The main topics included: basics of corporate management, development of corporate management in Kazakhstan and its peculiarities, legislative framework, investment policy and culture of a corporation.</p> <p>All above mentioned seminars were conducted 01-10 July 2008 and included participants from all project regions, i.e. East Kazakhstan Oblast (Semey city, Abiralinsky, Abaisky, Beskaraisky, Zhanasemeisky, Kurchatov city), Pavlodar oblast (Maisky, Lebyazhiy, Bayanaulsky) and Karaganda Oblast (Egendybulaksky region).</p> <p>The seminars got very broad media coverage and very high evaluation marks by the participants (experienced trainer, good organization, useful seminar materials).</p> <p>As a follow up of the above seminars, the Association of Businesswomen of Kazakhstan initiated and conducted one seminar on Corporate Social Responsibility on 02 October 2008 in Semey city with participants from</p>	
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		<p>Almaty, Usk-Kamenagorsk, Pavlodar and Semey cities.</p> <p>4. Teaching modules for rural entrepreneurs on business management and business planning; vocational/technological training; quality assessment; use of microcredit and microleasing were developed/printed/distributed among rural entrepreneurs and local partners.</p>	
<p>Access to microcredit and micro-leasing services expanded into rural areas</p>	<p>Number of rural households benefiting from microcredit and micro-leasing services</p>	<p>1. By the majority of the voices of the Project Board Members the micro-crediting organization “The Fund for financial support of agriculture” was selected for signing the contract for the micro-financing programme of the project. The same organization will provide business advisory services and implement a micro-leasing programme in 2009. The Micro-Capital Grant Agreement was signed on 31 October 2008. The transfer of 100 000 USD for the micro-crediting programme to be disbursed to rural entrepreneurs was done at the beginning of November 2008.</p> <p>As approved by the Project Board Members the micro-financing will cover five regions: Abaisky, Beskaragaisky, Abralinsky, Zhanasemeisky and Maisky. Within the following six months the micro-crediting organization will open its focal points in these five regions. The focal points will provide free of charge business advisory services to rural entrepreneurs. It includes trainings and seminars on business management, business planning, microcrediting, microleasing and other business related issues. These focal points will also do advocacy and awareness about the project and the micro-financing programme in the regions.</p>	

<b>Objectives/purpose</b>	<b>OVI (objectively verifiable indicators)</b>	<b>Progress</b>	<b>Recommendation s/comments</b>
OBJECTIVE 2.1 By	Number of rural	1. Access to microcredit	

<p>end 2010, 150 rural households will benefit from microcredit and micro-leasing services</p>	<p>households benefiting from microcredit and micro-leasing services</p>	<p>services to rural poor is provided through the micro-crediting organization “The Fund for financial support of agriculture”.</p> <p>The Micro-Capital Grant Agreement was signed on 31 October 2008. The transfer of 100 000 USD for the micro-crediting programme was done at the beginning of November 2008.</p> <p>Within six months the focal points will be opened and will provide free of charge business advisory services.</p> <p>The micro-crediting programmes will start as from January 2009.</p> <p>2. Prior to disbursements of the credits, the trainings to rural entrepreneurs on business management, business planning, micro-crediting are provided.</p>	
<p>OBJECTIVE 2.2 By end 2010, 30% rural entrepreneurs are better able to understand and exploit economic opportunities through access to financial markets, information and training</p>	<p>Increased number of rural entrepreneurs benefiting from access to financial markets, information and training</p>	<p>1. An analytical research to study business opportunities for rural SMEs was conducted.</p> <p>2. Three seminars were conducted. Total number of people trained – 44.</p> <p>4. Training modules for rural entrepreneurs were developed and distributed.</p>	

**Social Component (UNDP and UNV):**

<b>Outputs</b>	<b>OVI (objectively verifiable</b>	<b>Progress</b>	<b>Recommendation s/comments</b>
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	<b>indicators)</b>		
Transparent grant mechanism for NGOs/CBOs established in cooperation with local authorities	Number of local community members benefiting from training and grant distribution	<p>1. A baseline study on NGOs' capacity in the region was conducted. At the open and transparent competition the Institution of Analysis and Prognoses was selected to undertake this survey. Small grants programme will be launched in 2009 based on the report recommendations. Proposed training modules are used for seminars and trainings.</p> <p>2. Five one day seminars on "Implementation of the Social Procurement Law" and "Practical skills on the new Social Procurement Law and fund-raising" took place on 28-29 July 2008 in Semey city. At the open and transparent competition "IRIS" NGO was selected to conduct these seminars. The seminars were held in Russian and Kazakh languages for totally of 98 representatives of local NGOs, initiative groups, community based organizations and the representatives from the local government from East Kazakhstan Oblast (Semey city, Abiralinsky, Abaisky, Beskaraisky, Zhanasemeisky, Kurchatov city), Pavlodar oblast (Maisky, Lebyazhiy, Bayanaulsky) and Karaganda Oblast (Egendybulaksky region).</p> <p>The seminars were successful and got very good evaluation marks from the participants.</p> <p>As a result of the work that was done already under the social component of the project, four new NGOs were registered in the region. They understood the perspectives and the changes, which a NGO can bring in the region.</p>	
Volunteerism-based mechanisms mobilized to contribute to community goals	Number of self-help groups and associations engaged in voluntary action to support small-scale	1. One day seminar on "Mobilization of volunteers", was organized together with the UNV team on 30 May 2008 in Semey city. The main themes of the seminar included: history of volunteerism in Kazakhstan, UNV work in Kazakhstan, methods of	.

	local initiatives	<p>encouragement and engagement of volunteers, future strategies and perspectives for local volunteers of the region.</p> <p>26 participants from local NGOs, CBOs, initiative groups and local government representatives from all project regions, i.e. East Kazakhstan Oblast (Semey city, Abralinsky, Abaisky, Beskaraisky, Zhanasemeisky, Kurchatov city), Pavlodar oblast (Maisky, Lebyazhiy, Bayanaulsky) and Karaganda Oblast (Egendybulaksky region) came to the seminar.</p> <p>This seminar was replicated in Lebyazhinsky region of Pavodar Oblast on the initiative of one of the participants of the seminar. He was provided with necessary teaching materials and seminar presentations.</p> <p>The seminar got broad media coverage and good evaluation marks by the participants.</p>	
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<b>Objectives/purpose</b>	<b>OVis (objectively verifiable indicators)</b>	<b>Progress</b>	<b>Recommendation s/comments</b>
OBJECTIVE 3.1 By end 2010, 1500 local community members will benefit from initiatives by NGOs/CBOs resulting from training and grant distribution	Number of local community members benefiting from training and grant distribution	<p>1. Baseline study on NGO capacity in the region was conducted.</p> <p>2. Five one day seminars were conducted. Totally 98 people were trained.</p>	
OBJECTIVE 3.2 By end 2010, 60 self-help groups and associations will be engaged in voluntary action to support small-scale local initiatives	Number of self-help groups and associations engaged in voluntary action to support small-scale local initiatives	<p>1. One seminar was conducted. Totally 26 people were trained.</p>	

### **Implementation constrains**

The UN Joint Programme was planned to be started from 2007, but due to the delay in the release of funds, the UN agencies received money in February 2008. Soon after that, in February 2008, the UN Agencies Joint Mission to Semey and Ust-Kamenogorsk was undertaken to present the project and plan the work in the framework of the Joint Programme. The project activities began in March and no changes were made in the total budget of the project but due to late funding and inflation the stakeholders had to revise the project work plan (project management, budget for activities).

The project start concurred with a reorganisation of the health organizations in the region. Due to this fact the bases for YFS and start of the related activities of UNICEF was done with 6 months delay. Bearing in mind that the causes of the problems addressed within the programme lay away from its scope, UNICEF puts lot of efforts to bring attention of local and national policy makers to the essential need to apply holistic approach to solve existing problems and explore family as an initial unit of the society. Although, the understanding of that is only emerging in the country with little practical implication at all levels. Therefore, the models and approaches that include interagency cooperation (working groups and events with participation of health, educational and social workers of Semey and EKO – on children with special needs, joint seminar with Special Olympics etc.) being piloted in Semipalatinsk region planned to be scaled-up at national level.

UNFPA reports that there is a kind of tension between Semey Medical Academy, which is responsible for training of postgraduate and undergraduate medical students and subordinated to Ministry of Healthcare directly and public health institutions for reproductive health, which are responsible for provision of services to women and subordinated to local health authorities, for possession with the project benefits (e.g. resource centre equipped with personal computers, mannequins, trips for personnel and so on). The project sustains partnerships with all organizations, but takes into account their real roles in the health system, so that to reinforce common functions of partners rather than to create unusual functions for them that would have hardly been sustainable. Simultaneously the project brokers collaboration between academic staff and public health staff. Further efforts are needed to convert competition into collaboration.

Due to tight schedule and the late start of the project activities UNDP had to postpone the actual disbursements of microcredits to rural entrepreneurs to January 2009. The selection of the microcrediting organization “The Fund for financial support of agriculture” and the signing of the Micro-Capital Grant Agreement was done in October 2008. The money transfer for the microcrediting and business advisory services programmes was done at the beginning of November 2008.

For same reasons as above UNDP/UNV postponed the job start of the UNV team from 2008 to 2009. Due to increased inflation and proforma costs it was decided to shorten the duration of the contracts of two IUNV from 1.5 years to 1 year and to decrease from three NUNVs to two people. The job interviews are scheduled for mid December 2008 and UNVs will start working together with the project team as from 01 February 2009 in Semey city.

### **Lessons learnt**

- **Good practice/innovation/project management**

In UNDP, UNV, UNICEF and UNFPA focal points are appointed to facilitate the coordination. These UN focal points together with the National Project Director meet once in two months and each reports on their Agency’s project progress, budget delivery, lessons learnt, open issues and problems. The smooth implementation of the project components (health, economic and social) is ensured by the Local Project Managers.

Overall coordination of the project rests with the Project Coordinator. The Project Board is the main body responsible for the overall supervision of the project components, their concepts, strategies, work plans and budgets. The main and alternative members of the Project Board were appointed. The Project Board members are represented by the National Project Director (Chair), the UN Resident Coordinator (Co-chair), and representatives of the UN Executing partners: UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA and UNV, representatives of Non-UN Executing Partners - Local Administration, donor representatives and civil society representatives. Main signed documents of the project are the memorandum of understanding between the UN agencies and the joint programme document between the UN agencies and the National Partner - Semey city Akimat.

- **Working with partners and impact of key partnership**

UN Implementing Agencies have established good cooperation between the Agencies as well as with the National partner – Semey city Akimat and local partners (SSMA, SSPI, SSMC, NGOs). The work on the Joint Programme with the local authorities (Semey city Akimat) began in February 2008, when the UN agencies mission visited Semey and Ust-Kamenogorsk and signed the MoU, where the main project activities were included with timeframes and responsible parties. Further, cooperation continued on preparation, carrying out and follow-up the project activities that took place in Semey (issuing orders on participations of the trainings (of health, education, social, economic workers) and premises of the courses, negotiations on youth-friendly services, family support centres. Always during the events or visits connected to the project implementation the representatives of Akimat (international cooperation department, health department, employment and social programmes department) were actively involved in the process.

At the meetings of UNICEF staff with Akimat representative support of Akimat in promotion of primary health care services, early childhood development/better parenting initiative, expansion of pre-school education, children friendly schools, youth friendly services, family support were discussed. Also future joint activities aimed at promoting of the Child-Friendly City initiative in Semey city, conducting a joint international or national conference on children with special needs in middle of 2009 with involvement of the key professors and students etc. were spoken out.

Another key role in partnership with Semey high and professional education institutions play SSPI, SSMA, and SSMC. Some of these connections were even built 10 years ago, for example, SSPI supported early childhood development, improving quality of pre-school and secondary education, mastering counseling and family support skills, etc. The academic support of the institute helped to document best practices and present them at national level like a child-friendly school initiative and early childhood development standards.

Through UNDP/UNV negotiations and cooperation with Semey city Akimat, the latter has provided office premises in a city building for two Project Managers of UNDP and UNV, two NUNVs and two UNVS on free of charge basis. The project covers only communication costs. Another result of this good cooperation is that the project has now a webpage on the official website of the Semey city administration, where information about the project and its activities is presented. Such effective multi-stakeholder partnership that combine the efforts of local government, the private sector and civil society organizations are essential to achieve positive development outcomes in the remote communities.

The project has established also a very good cooperation with local mass media. All project activities and events got broad media coverage.

- **Application of human security concept**

The goal of the UN Joint Programme is to alleviate social suffering among the vulnerable groups in the Semipalatinsk region. A multi-sectoral approach addressed a set of interconnected issues taking into account the multi-faceted challenge of human security in Semipalatinsk. The project aimed at enhancing the economic, health, environmental and community security as well as reducing social tensions to prevent potential conflicts will allow vulnerable families to benefit from raised living standards and quality health and psychosocial support services; decrease infant, child and maternal mortality, improve health status of young people and build capacities for entrepreneurship and mobilize the communities. While most donor support has so far been provided to deal with the most urgent environmental and medical concerns, the Joint Programme strives to address the critical problems with a long term development prospective. Also the project aims at translating the basic principles of the Human Security concept into concrete projects through ensuring a rights-based approach that leads towards achievement of the MDGs, and uniting and coordinating efforts of local authorities, civil society and donor community to achieve jointly identified objectives. As it was anticipated that through this initiative, the UN agencies involved in the project promote positive changes among people and local authorities, social engagement, and support the economic recovery in a long term development perspective, which is in line with both national and local government priorities as identified in many strategic development documents. The project implementing agencies work hand in hand with local authorities and civil society, who repeatedly expressed their interest in support to this very initiative.

**Other lessons learnt**

- Planning process and allocations of resources must be more flexible especially in challenging time of the world crisis, which provides impact on health programming, availability of governmental funds to sustain interventions and presence of commodities and services for the project implementation in the market. Lack of delivery for this year happened much due that to crisis.
- There is a need to harmonise downstream interventions in Semey area with up-stream interventions related to overall health reform, so that Semey project creates a viable example for other regions of the country, but not a lifeless precedent of interventions based on support from outside, which are not congruent with the national guidance. Learning that lesson was a reason for deliberate delay with the development of the local guidance on effective care for mothers, which could have been disavowed by the national guidance, and for re-direction of efforts to insure influence of specialists of Semey on the development of the national guidance.
- Community mobilization has a positive effect on enabling local people to organize themselves to resolve their own social and economic problems. As the result of the project work, four new NGOs were registered in the region, which are willing to undertake action in order to improve their communities.
- Cooperation with regional mass media is important to raise public awareness about the project work and the problems of the region on the whole.

**Important findings from project evaluations conducted in the course of the year**

- The preparatory assessment for the implementation of the economic component showed that the most vulnerable regions in terms of microfinancing are Abaisky, Beskaragaisky, Abralinsky, Zhanasemeisky and Maisky regions. These five regions belong to extreme (more than 100 rem) and maximum (35-100 rem) polluted areas and have complete absence of any finance institutions available to the population. Therefore, it was decided to narrow the scope of microfinance activities of the project to these particular regions. It was also recommended to provide business advisory services via a microfinance institution rather than opening of a business incubator. The business incubator will not be able to cover the main beneficiaries of the economic component, i.e. rural entrepreneurs and it will be difficult for them to travel to the business incubator in Semey city from their remote locations. Due to limited resources, it was recommended to transfer the business advisory services to the microfinance institution instead of opening a new entity. The selected microfinance organization, the Fund for financial support of agriculture, provides its services through its focal points in the rural areas.
- The situation analysis in Semey started with the identification of gaps in the early identification and referral system for families and children with special needs. It showed the necessity to intervene in promoting a child-friendly approach to early intervention and tools, revision of roles and responsibilities of the existing institutions, identified needs of families for social services. In addition a comprehensive situational analysis on children's state in Semey is being carried out together with the local researcher to identify the amount and birthrate of the population, amount of children's polyclinic and establishments with the children's departments, children mortality in the age range from 0 to 14, number of children with special needs at the age up to 16 years old, who get special aids, the rate of the infant and children mortality, the vaccination data, percentage of children, who is totally breastfed, number of the state pre – school organizations, including the adequate provision of the places for the children, data on the juvenile crimes and the registered number of crimes against children, number of orphans and the children left without the charge of their parents and the number of establishments for such children etc.

#### **Any actions taken or planned in response to the recommendations of project evaluations**

Based on the results of the above mentioned UNICEF data of situation analysis in Semey it is planned to elaborate the subsequent local Plan of Action for Children and Family based on Child-Friendly City Concept for Semey as well as more targeted content of the Family support services and training courses for the social workers.

#### **Impact of key partnership and inter-agency collaboration**

The UN Joint Programme aimed at enhancing human security in the former nuclear test site of Semey is the first experience of joint UN programmes from its design to implementation. The UN agencies involved have divided the areas of responsibility according to specific comparative advantages, and have ensured compatibility and coordination in a common effort to face the multi-sectoral nature of the challenges in the region. Thus, UNICEF and UNFPA are responsible for ensuring quality basic health services, improvement of health care and social services for health workers, establishing friendly environment for young people, introduction of Safe Motherhood Initiative and improvement of perinatal services. UNDP works to expand economic opportunities available for the poor through the provision of rural business advisory services and the expansion of access to finance through microfinance services. UNDP and UNV work together to develop the social infrastructure through training targeted to NGOs/CBOs and grant disbursements. The UN Agencies participating in the Joint Programme signed the

MoU and appointed UNDP as an administrative to fulfil the number of functions (to receive administer contributions from donors, to disburse such funds to each of the participating UN organizations in accordance with instructions from the Joint Programme Steering Committee, compile financial reports produced by each of the participating UN organizations into a consolidated report and distribute such financial reports together with consolidated programme reports; provide final reporting etc.). Cooperation among the Agencies is realized on day-to-day practice (coordination issues, preparation and follow-up actions of the project regular meetings, sharing experiences with national and international experts (for example, on Chernobyl projects in Ukraine and Belarus).

In August during the two-week joint seminar of UNICEF/UNFPA on Essential Obstetrics Care/Essential Neonatal Care in Semey 38 professionals (obstetricians, neonatologists, midwives, neonatal nurses) from different EKO maternities were successfully trained. Before the seminar UNICEF and UNFPA staff communicated on preparatory work: lists of participants, training materials (methodical and practical), accommodation and meals of the participants, seminar base etc. The workshop included both joint and group sessions that allowed the participants to focus on the multidisciplinary issues and develop plans of action for specific maternities in groups consisting of obstetricians, neonatologists, midwives and neonatal nurses.

Moreover, UNV Programme Coordinator in Kazakhstan, participated in the early intervention seminar that took place on 22-24 October in Semey, where she spoke about the role of voluntary services in social sector, the mission of UNV, their programme, types and areas of volunteering.

UNV and UNDP are successfully cooperating on all the project activities within the social and economic components of the project.

**Percentage of budgeted funds actually spent - 88 %.**

## **IV. Forthcoming annual work-plan**

Within the health component UNICEF plans further development, revision and endorsement of norms and standards on provision of quality medical and social services; continuing the work on establishing and equipping YFSSs, family-support services and healthy child room with necessary materials and equipment and training their staff on ECD/BP; further work with local administration and NGOs on effective application of the Human Rights Based Approach and Results-Based Management in assessment, planning and delivery of social services, taking into account special needs of vulnerable families. UNFPA plans procuring/producing of missing basic supplies, contraceptives, printing education materials for professionals and IEC materials for clients; monitoring and evaluation of implementation of Safe Motherhood Initiative; participation of Semey health staff in the development of national methodological guidelines for implementation of safe maternity initiative.

Within the economic component of the project of UNDP high priority is given to the microfinancing programme. The pilot microleasing programme will be implemented by the selected microcrediting organization, the Fund for financial support of agriculture. The Fund will develop a detailed plan for the microleasing programme and after UNDP's approval of it will receive 100 000 USD for the microleasing activities. Business advisory services will be provided to rural entrepreneurs via established focal points in rural areas. The disbursement of microcredits will start as from January 2009. Quarterly three day seminars on business related issues will be throughout the year.

Within the social component of the project priority is given to awarding small grants to registered NGOs of the region. Small Grants Committee in 2009-2010 will allocate totally the amount of 130 000 USD for different social projects in the priority areas. International and National UNVs will work on creation of self-help groups in selected rural areas, on village development plans that outline possible social, economic and ecological projects. On the quarterly basis one day seminars on various social issues will be organized for the beneficiaries.

A cascade of various seminars will be conducted within the health, economic and social components.

Estimated budget required – USD 683,967.54

<b>Annual Work Plan for:</b>		<b>Enhancing Human Security in the Former Nuclear Test Site of Semipalatinsk</b>					
<b>Period:</b>	<b>2009</b>						
<b>Expected Outputs</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>				<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Planned Budget</b>
		<b>Q1</b>	<b>Q2</b>	<b>Q3</b>	<b>Q4</b>		
<b>1. Health and Social Services: to ensure access to quality basic health and social services for vulnerable groups</b>							
1.1.1 A core of obstetricians, gynaecologists, midwives, neonatologists and respective health managers (at least 64%) are enabled to provide quality perinatal services.	Conducting 3 training courses on Essential Newborn Care and Breastfeeding and adjust on-job training for health personnel and managers of all maternity houses of Semipalatinsk region.	X	X	X		UNICEF	\$10 000,00
1.1.2 Sustainable regulatory framework for provision of quality perinatal services is in place.	Development, review and endorsement of normative-legislative basis for provision of quality perinatal medical services.	X	X	X	X	UNICEF	\$3 750,00
1.2.1 At least 900 primary health care workers (doctors and home visiting nurses) are able to counsel families with children at 0-3 in respect to early childhood development.	Conducting 25 trainings of primary health care workers in respect to early childhood development (Better Parenting).	X	X	X	X	UNICEF	\$20 000,00
	Follow-up to training and advocacy workshops for adjusting training curricula for current needs, ensure smooth implementation of the programme and its sustainability.	X	X	X	X	UNICEF	\$1 200,00

1.2.2 Enabling regulatory environment for strengthening existing home visiting system for families with children at 0-3 is established.	Introducing revised regulations on quality counseling health care services for children under 3 and pregnant women (including printing and distribution of the revised records and monitoring forms).	X	X	X	X	UNICEF	\$3 500,00
1.3.1 Managers and staff of youth-friendly psychosocial and health services are able to provide quality counselling in respect to young people's sexual, reproductive and psychosocial issues.	Establishing at least three youth-friendly psychosocial and health services in Semipalatinsk city (including supply component).	X	X			UNICEF	\$8 000,00
	Conducting two trainings of youth-friendly services and NGO staff on youth friendly targeted interventions and outreach work.	X		X		UNICEF	\$6 000,00
	Conducting four trainings of social workers and school psychologists on counselling of young people at risk.	X	X	X	X	UNICEF	\$4 500,00
	Conducting four trainings for peer educators and two advocacy meetings with participation of young people, decision makers, mass media.	X	X	X	X	UNICEF	\$1 500,00
1.3.2 Regulatory framework for provision of quality youth-friendly psychosocial and health services is in place.	Development and pre-testing youth-friendly services norms and standards with the involvement of young people.	X	X	X	X	UNICEF	\$2 400,00
	Development and printing communication and advocacy materials.	X	X	X		UNICEF	\$5 500,00
1.3.3 The results of piloting in the Semipalatinsk region are used as evidence-based advocacy for nation-wide replication of youth-	Conducting two sub-national and national workshops to advocate for inclusion of youth-friendly services into the agenda of the health reform and nation-wide		X		X	UNICEF	\$8 000,00

friendly services.	introduction of youth-friendly services based on the results of piloting in Semipalatinsk and other regions.						
1.4.1 Service providers/social workers effectively support families and enable children to grow up in the family environment.	Establishing of family support center (including supply and development of materials).	X	X			UNICEF	\$15 000,00
	Conducting two training sessions on Social Work.	X		X		UNICEF	\$8 000,00
1.4.2 Local government are able to effectively apply Human Rights Based Approach and Results-Based Management in assessment, planning and delivery of social services, taking into account special needs of vulnerable families.	Development of standards and progress indicators for family support service.	X	X	X	X	UNICEF	\$4 000,00
1.5.1 Local government will have knowledge and instruments on the management of effective approaches to convergent services improvement (health, social protection and education) and monitoring of the Convention on the Rights of Child.	Conducting trainings for local NGOs, including training on Results-based management in social sphere.		X			UNICEF	\$7 000,00
1.5.2 NGOs are able to monitor the quality of service delivery and advocate equity access.	Elaboration/development of strategy/instruments on applying Human Rights-based Approach to Programming in planning and delivery of social sector services.	X	X	X	X	UNICEF	\$5 000,00
1.5.3 Local authorities will ensure the delivery of social sector services according to the	Elaborating the Local Plan of Action for Children and Family based on Child-Friendly City Concept for Semipalatinsk Region.	X	X			UNICEF	\$7 500,00

developed standards.	Evidence-based advocacy on the local, regional and national levels to ensure sustainability and replication of child-focused planning initiatives to be promoted and recommended for adoption throughout the country.	X	X	X	X	UNICEF	\$2 500,00
Administrative/management costs							\$33 346,40
<b>Sub-total</b>							<b>\$156 696,40</b>
Programme Support Cost							\$10 675,00
<b>Total</b>							<b>\$167 371,40</b>
1.6 A pool of obstetricians, gynecologists, midwives, and respective health managers is enabled to provide quality medical services	Three one-day duration workshops to present evidence based medicine resource centre to health managers of the affected area	X	X			UNFPA	\$6 000,00
	Two five day duration workshops to train 30 health professionals on the essence of evidence based medicine and on how to use evidence based research data facilitated by local Medical Academy	X		X		UNFPA	\$21 000,00
	Three-day duration review workshop on integration of effective perinatal care with HIV/AIDS and STI interventions for 20 leading obstetricians-gynecologists and midwives			X		UNFPA	\$10 000,00
	One-day workshop to train 20 health facility managers and quality control administrators in Reproductive Health / Safe Motherhood Initiative		X			UNFPA	\$4 000,00

	Procuring/producing of missing basic supplies (partograms, balls, gravidograms, delivery positions posters, visual aids, equipment) contraceptives, printing education materials for professionals and EIC materials for clients	X	X	X	X	UNFPA	\$17 000,00
1.7 Sustainable regulatory framework for provision of quality perinatal services is in place	Monitoring and evaluation of implementation of Safe Motherhood Initiative: Survey among 100 health professionals and 500 clients on implementation of effective perinatal and family planning technologies and field visits		X		X	UNFPA	\$17 000,00
	One-day meeting to assess the progress of component				X	UNFPA	\$4 000,00
	Participation of Semey health staff in the development of national methodological guidelines for implementation of safe maternity initiative including effective perinatal care and confidential audit	X	X	X	X	UNFPA	\$14 000,00
<b>Sub-total</b>							\$93 000,00
Programme Support Cost							\$6 510,00
<b>Total</b>							<b>\$99 510,00</b>
<b>2 Economic: To build capacities for entrepreneurship and business skills, and provide modalities for generating economic and employment opportunities</b>							
2.1 Business Advisory services provided to rural entrepreneurs	Supporting and building capacity of the organization selected to provide business advisory services and to deliver trainings to rural entrepreneurs through international UNV and national expertise	X	X	X	X	UNDP	\$41 120,00

	Delivering quarterly (4) three-day trainings and one-day workshops in for rural entrepreneurs on business management and business planning; vocational/technological training; quality assessment; use of micro credit and micro leasing and CSR	X	X	X	X	UNDP	\$72 123,00
2.2 Access to microcredit and microleasing services expanded into rural areas	Assigning capital for pilot leasing programme to a local microfinance institution	X				UNDP	\$100 000,00
	Advice and basic training by microleasing experts to the microfinance institution staff on the establishment of a microleasing programme		X			UNDP	\$4 500,00
	Advocacy and awareness raising on microleasing	X	X			UNDP	\$3 800,00
<b>3 Social: Mobilizing and empowering communities, promoting volunteerism and supporting NGOs/CBOs in providing community services and in acting as agents of change within society</b>							
3.1 Transparent grant mechanism for NGOs/CBOs established in cooperation with local authorities	Awarding small grants to registered NGOs/CBOs during the public sessions of the Small Grant Committee		X	X	X	UNDP/UNV	\$20 000,00
	Monitoring visits to track the implementation of projects financed with grants by project and programme staff		X	X	X	UNDP/U/UNVNV	\$1 300,00
3.2 Volunteerism-based mechanisms mobilized to contribute to community goals	International UNV to support and conduct training of national UNVs	X	X	X	X	UNDP/UNV	\$61 173,00
	National UNVs support the creation of self-help groups in selected rural areas through follow-up activities on delivered trainings and day-to-day presence and advice	X	X	X	X	UNDP/UNV	\$22 532,00

	Village development plans that outline possible social, economical and ecological projects are developed by CBOs		X	X	X	UNDP/UNV	
	Organizing quarterly trainings for local NGOs/CBOs at the rayon level on (1) organizational development and technical capacity building; (2) poverty, environment, sustainable livelihoods, gender and human right issues; (3) humanitarian, social mandate of NGOs and CBOs; (4) participatory assessment techniques; (5) practical skills on the new Social Procurement Law and fund-raising; (6) Results based management of social programs and monitoring of local budget implementation (7) mobilization of volunteers	X	X	X	X	UNDP/UNV	\$14 000,00
Monitoring and Evaluation	The mid-term evaluation is conducted by independent consultants			X		UNDP/UNV	\$5 000,00
Administrative/management costs		X	X	X	X	UNDP	\$123 365,00
<b>Sub-total</b>							<b>\$468 913,00</b>
Programme Support Cost							\$32 823,91
<b>Total</b>							<b>\$501 736,91</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>							<b>\$768 618,31</b>

## V. Resources and financial implementation

- a) An outline of the total approved budget and a summary of the resources available to the project.

Table 1: Total approved budget and summary of resources available to the project:

	Amount (US\$)		
	Previous period (A)	Current period (B) 01/01/2008 to 31/12/2008	Total (C=A+B)
Total approved programme costs (I)	-	<b>1,832.128</b>	<b>1,832.128</b>
<i>Programme costs received to date (II)</i>	-	<b>786,484.00</b>	<b>786,484.00</b>
Total approved Total approved PSC (III)	-	<b>128,248.96</b>	<b>128,248.96</b>
<i>PSC received to date (IV)</i>	-	<b>55053.88</b>	<b>55053.88</b>
AA-fee	-	<b>18,321.04</b>	<b>18,321.04</b>
<b>Total funds received to date (V)</b>	-	<b>841,537.88</b>	<b>841,537.88</b>
<b>Total approved budget (VI = I+III)</b>	-	<b>1,960,376.96</b>	<b>1,960,376.96</b>
Estimated total expenditure (VII)	-	<b>744,491.00</b>	<b>744,491.00</b>
<b>Balance (VIII = V-VI)</b>	-	<b>-1,118,839.08</b>	<b>-1,118,839.08</b>
Expenditure vs funds received (IX = VII/V)	-	<b>88%</b>	<b>88%</b>

## VI. Promotional activities

Throughout the reporting period, more than 20 newspapers articles in “Vesty Semey” (3000 subscribers), “Semey Tany” (1500 subscribers), “Arna” newspapers and national newspaper “Kazakhstanskaya Pravda”, and TV reports on TVK6, Kazakhstan-Semey TV channels (300 000 audience on each channel) were produced about the project’s events and activities. Also there were some website articles. The local population is aware of the project and its activities. Please see the photos and the publication materials in a separate attachment.

