

# UNITED NATIONS MULTI-PARTNER HUMAN SECURITY TRUST FUND FOR THE ARAL SEA

## BACKGROUND

The drying up of the Aral Sea, which was the fourth largest lake in the world until the 1960s, is among the greatest human-made global environmental disasters whose negative effects go beyond national and regional boundaries. It has affected the livelihoods of millions of people living in the region, with the epicenter in the Republic of Karakalpakstan, in Uzbekistan.

An evolving crisis, the Aral Sea disaster has a number of negative consequences, including land degradation and desertification, shortage of drinking water, malnutrition, deterioration of health conditions and the livelihoods of the local population. The socio-economic and environmental consequences are further complicated by the rapid speed of its negative effects.

### Shrinkage of the Aral Sea

1960



2017



Despite significant efforts to address these issues, the lack of a unified development strategy with an inter-sectoral, integrated approach, the inadequate coordination of aid flows, the duplication of activities, and low degree of government ownership of development assistance have limited the effectiveness of interventions so far and the sustainability of the results.

## WHY THE HUMAN SECURITY APPROACH?

The human security approach is an optimal framework to analyze and plan for interventions adapted to the conditions of vulnerable communities due to the Aral Sea crises. Using a multi-sectoral lens, it develops a holistic set of interventions that are 1) people centered; 2) comprehensive; 3) context-specific; and 4) prevention oriented.

## OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE OF THE FUND

The Multi-Partner Human Security Trust Fund for the Aral Sea region in Uzbekistan (MPHSTF) aims to be transformative, evidence- and human-rights based, and inclusive in its goal of catalyzing and strengthening a multi-sectoral and people-centered response to address the consequences of one of the world's biggest man-made environmental disasters. The MPHSTF provides a coherent strategy to coordinate aid flows and increase government ownership to enable sustainable results.

The MPHSTF's theory of change has identified six clusters of inter-related problems that include:

- Environmental insecurity;
- Economic insecurity
- Food insecurity
- Health insecurity
- Social insecurity
- Ineffectiveness of donor assistance.

The MPHSTF is in line with the Busan development effectiveness principles on local ownership, focus on results, partnership of development partners, and transparency of aid.

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The assistance provided through the MPHSTF is based on a single programmatic framework, which has been developed based on the results of an independent socio-economic survey conducted in the communities most affected by the environmental disaster.

The Fund aims to build the resilience of communities in Uzbekistan affected by the Aral Sea ecological disaster through achieving the following five outcomes:

<b>Outcome 1</b>	The stress on local communities due to the deteriorating environmental situation reduced
<b>Outcome 2</b>	The employment and income generation opportunities for local communities increased
<b>Outcome 3</b>	Local community access to affordable and healthy food and clean drinking water secured
<b>Outcome 4</b>	The overall health of the local population improved and healthy lifestyle promoted
<b>Outcome 5</b>	The living conditions of local populations improved, with particular focus on vulnerable groups such as women, children and youth

## GOVERNANCE

The MPHSTF governance arrangements provide for an efficient and effective decision-making and oversight framework, ensuring a streamlined fund allocation process and clear lines of accountability. The governance arrangements are built on and informed by the principles of inclusiveness, transparency, accountability

The Steering Committee has the overall responsibility for the MPHSTF. It is responsible for leadership, strategic direction, and decisions on eligibility, allocation and other managerial and oversight aspects. It will be co-chaired by a High Level Government representative and the UN Resident Coordinator in Uzbekistan, and will include the representatives of national ministries, UN agencies, NGOs and contributing donors.

At a later stage, the Steering Committee may consider the establishment of an Advisory Committee, which would serve as an information-sharing forum once the number of donors and Participating UN Organizations becomes so large that their inclusion in the Steering Committee would no longer be feasible.

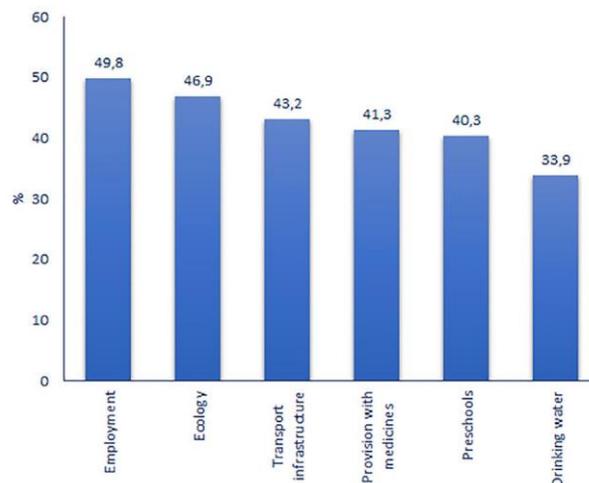
A Technical Secretariat will provide operational and administrative support to the MPHSTF Steering Committee in ensuring coherence, qualitative development of operational documents, monitoring of the results achieved, and conformity of the MPHSTF activity with the priorities of the Government.

The implementation of interventions will be the responsibility of the Participating UN Organizations (PUNOs) – UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNODC and UNESCO. Each PUNO will be programmatically and financially responsible for MPHSTF resources received.

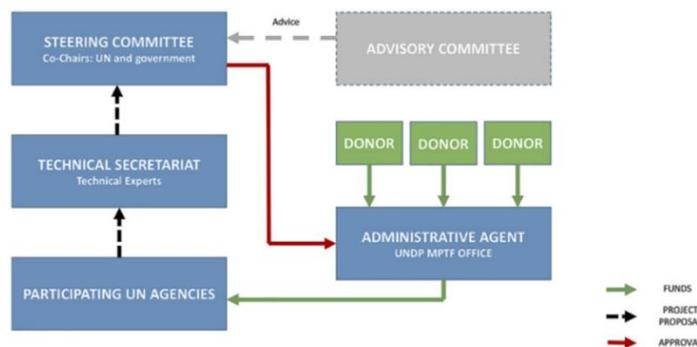
The Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (MPTF Office), a UN center of expertise on pooled financing mechanisms housed by UNDP, will administer the MPHSTF as the Administrative Agent. The key

responsibilities of the Administrative Agent include receiving contributions from donors, administering the fund in accordance with the relevant UN regulations, rules, policies and procedures, and ensuring the preparation of consolidated narrative and financial reports based on reports provided by the PUNOs.

**Figure 1. Needs Assessment results, 2017: Population basic needs by priority area, in %**



**Figure 2. The MPHSTF Governance Structure**



## FUND OPERATION

The Steering Committee issues 'Call for proposals' for funding from the MPHSTF and will allocate funds to PUNOs based on proposals submitted by them through the Technical Secretariat. The Technical Secretariat reviews the proposals in terms of their alignment with the eligibility criteria and makes recommendations to the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee make decision on approval of proposals for funding taking into account the review by the Technical Secretariat. After approval of the proposals, the Steering Committee will instruct the Administrative Agent to transfer the approved amount to the PUNOs.

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## ELIGIBILITY OF PROJECTS

The MPHSTF funds will be directed towards developing and piloting new and innovative methods to address the most urgent needs of the affected population, including through piloting of business projects. Successful pilot projects will be presented for replication and upscaling by the Government, development partners and the business sector, not only within the Aral Sea region but also in other regions.

Successful proposals need to be people centered, designed based on the conditions of the region and target communities, strategic and multidimensional, focusing on technology transfer and the piloting of new approaches. The detailed description of the eligibility criteria for proposals is provided in the MPHSTF Terms of Reference.

## HOW TO CONTRIBUTE

Contributions to the MPHSTF may be accepted from Governments, bi-lateral and multi-lateral donors, individuals and the private sector.

Contributors are encouraged to make un-earmarked contributions to allow the Fund maximize the benefits of flexibility, risk pooling and coherence. Earmarked contributions by individual donors can be accepted provided that earmarking is at the Fund outcome level and thereby fully aligned to the Fund Strategy.

## CONTACTS:

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