Minutes of the 4th Meeting of the Steering Committee of the UN Multi-Partner Human Security Trust Fund for the Aral Sea Region in Uzbekistan (14 July 2020, Videoconference)

Introduction:

1. The fourth meeting of the Steering Committee of the UN Multi-Partner Human Security Trust Fund for the Aral Sea Region in Uzbekistan took place on 14 July 2020 in the format of videoconference using Zoom virtual meetings platform.

2. The participants list is attached as Annex 1.

3. The Agenda of the meeting is attached as Annex 2.

Agenda Item 1: Welcome remarks by the co-chairs

4. Opening the Fourth Steering Committee meeting, Ms. Helena Fraser, UN Resident Coordinator in Uzbekistan, greeted the participants. In particular, she welcomed Mr. Sardor Umurzakov, Deputy Prime Minister as the new Co-Chair of the Steering Committee. She also welcomed the Government of Finland and the UNODC as new members of the Steering Committee. She noted with warm appreciation the recent contributions to the Fund by the EU and by Finland.

5. Mr. Sardor Umurzakov, welcomed members of the Steering Committee and all other participants of the meeting on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

He reminded that the environmental, climatic, socio-economic and humanitarian consequences of this disaster pose a direct threat to the sustainable development of Uzbekistan and the countries of the Aral Sea region and called for closer cooperation between all development partners, international financial institutions, bilateral and multilateral donors to take effective measures to mitigate the negative consequences of the Aral Sea crisis.

Mr. Umurzakov briefly informed the participants about measures taken by the Government to mitigate the negative consequences of the Aral Sea crisis.

He thanked the EU and the Government of Finland for their contributions to the Trust Fund in the amount of EUR 5 million and EUR 1 million respectively.

Mr. Umurzakov informed the participants that the Government of Uzbekistan is taking measures to meet the increasing demand of the region’s population for modern diagnostic methods and medical care in the field of cardiac surgery, endocrinology, neurology, neurosurgery, traumatology by establishing a Multi-Disciplinary Hospital in Muynak (MDH). In this regard, the Government looks forward to the assistance of the UN agencies on this matter.

In conclusion, Mr. Umurzakov noted that the cooperation between the UN agencies and the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan is very constructive as a whole and within the framework of the Trust Fund in particular, and encouraged all to use the Trust Fund as a platform for the exchange of information, dialogue on various aspects of the development of the Aral Sea region, knowledge sharing and innovative approaches to address the environmental and socio-economic challenges.
Agenda item 2: Brief presentations on the implementation of the PUNOs’ projects approved within the First Call for Proposals

6. **Mr. Sascha Graumann**, UNICEF Resident Representative in Uzbekistan, made a brief update on the implementation of the UNICEF and UNFPA joint project: “Improvement of Quality in Perinatal Care Service to Most Vulnerable Mothers and Newborns” for the period of October 2019 – June 2020. He informed the participants about the key results achieved during this period within two major outputs of the joint project and major challenges and opportunities faced during its implementation.

7. **Ms. Matilda Dimovska**, UNDP Resident Representative in Uzbekistan, made a brief update on the implementation of the UNDP and UNESCO joint project: “Addressing Urgent Human Securities in The Aral Sea Region Through Promoting Sustainable Rural Development”. She informed the participants about the key results achieved in the breakdown of four components so far since the start of the joint project.

8. **Ms. Helena Fraser**, the UN Resident Coordinator in Uzbekistan, thanked the representatives of PUNOs for their updates and reminded that the Annual Progress Report was circulated earlier and endorsed on May 18, 2020, had been fully based on the PUNOs’ narrative reports.

Agenda item 3: Presentation of the MPHSTF Funding Framework (update on financial commitments and resources allocated)

9. **Ms. Mari Matsumoto**, Portfolio Manager of the UNDP MPTF Office, provided through a pre-recorded message the members of the Steering Committee with information on the deposited and committed funds as well as other financial aspects of the Trust Fund as of 23 June 2020. Detailed information is given in Annex 3 of the minutes.

Agenda item 4: Overview of the results of the evaluation of the proposals submitted within the Second Call for Proposals

10. **Mr. Uktam Abdurakhmanov**, Head of the MPHSTF Technical Secretariat provided the members of the Steering Committee with an overview of the Technical Review Panel’s assessment of the project proposals submitted by the Participating UN Organizations under the Second Call for Proposals launched on February 19, 2020. Three proposals were submitted by the Participating UN Organizations to the total amount of USD 12.4 million. All three proposals were oriented towards addressing the human security impacts of the COVID-19 outbreak, in particular from a health and socio-economic perspectives.

The proposals were evaluated by the Technical Review Panel (TRP) created by the MPHSTF Technical Secretariat in accordance with the agreed MPHSTF ToR. The Technical Review Panel consisted of five experts (one Government official, two UN officials, one independent expert, one Technical Secretariat official). The results of the evaluation were submitted to the MPHSTF Steering Committee members.

The details of the evaluation results along with the recommendations of the Technical Review Panel are given in Annex 4 of the minutes.

Agenda item 5: PUNOs’ feedbacks to the evaluation results

11. **Ms. Helena Fraser**, before giving the floor to representatives of PUNOs to provide their feedback on the evaluation results and recommendations of the Technical Review Panel, reiterated that the proposals had been developed considering the consequences of the COVID-19 epidemic in Uzbekistan.

She said that the TRP had suggested rejecting the WHO proposal at this stage. However, in a letter received on 13 July, the Government had requested the Steering Committee members to consider allocating resources for an in-depth assessment of needs of the health system in the Republic of Karakalpakstan with the specific focus on health facilities including in Muynak. She requested the members to bear this in mind while making decisions.

12. **Ms. Matilda Dimovska** provided feedback on behalf of the joint UNDP/UNFPA/FAO proposal: “Unleashing young people’s and vulnerable citizens’ creativity and innovation by strengthening their
adaptive capacity to address the economic and food insecurities in the exposed communities of the Aral Sea region”. She indicated that the proposal was about addressing the digitalization, agricultural, and job creation issues in Karakalpakstan while taking into consideration the COVID-19 consequences. She agreed with the results and recommendations of the TRP and to consider them while developing the full-fledged project document if the proposal were approved by the Steering Committee.

13. **Mr. Sascha Graumann** provided feedback to the evaluation results presented by the Technical Secretariat regarding the joint UNICEF/UNODC/UNFPA proposal: “Investing in a resilient future of Karakalpakstan by harnessing the talents of youth and improving water, sanitation, hygiene, and nutrition during and after COVID-19”. He said the main objective of the joint proposal is to strengthen human capital and resilience of youth in Karakalpakstan in the face of health and socio-economic consequences of COVID-19. He agreed with the evaluation results and recommendations of the TRP and to incorporate them while developing the full-fledged project document.

14. **Ms. Elena Tsoyi**, representative of WHO CO in Uzbekistan, and **Mr. Christopher Fitzpatrick**, Health Policy Advisor, WHO CO in Uzbekistan, briefly presented the proposal regarding the Government’s request on Multi-Disciplinary Hospital in Muynak. The proposal, entitled “Leaving No One Behind from the Universal Health Coverage in the Republic of Karakalpakstan”, is in line with the UNDAF and National SDG goals. The total budget of the project is about USD 400,000. The assessment of the Healthcare system in Karakalpakstan and the feasibility study for a possible multi-disciplinary hospital in Muynak are expected to be carried out within the proposal.

**Agenda item 6: Discussion and decisions on the project proposals**

15. **Ms. Helena Fraser** gave the floor to the SC members to share their perspectives on the proposals submitted. She reminded the members that the current available funds of the MPHSTF is about USD 7 million. The proposals submitted, however, requires USD 12 million.

16. **Mr. Shakhruh Sharakhmetov**, Deputy Minister of Health of the Republic of Uzbekistan, supported the WHO proposal presented earlier by Ms. Elena Tsoyi and Mr. Christopher Fitzpatrick on healthcare system assessment. He also expressed support towards the feasibility study for the construction of the MDH in Muynak. He supported the findings and recommendations of the Technical Review Panel regarding the other two PUNOs’ proposals.

17. **Mr. Eduards Stiprais**, Head of the EU Delegation to Uzbekistan, partially supported the joint UNDP/UNFPA/FAO proposal and the WHO proposal on the feasibility study. He suggested that the feasibility study should be broader, not only concentrating on a stand-alone hospital. He expressed reservations about the unrealistic budget of the joint UNICEF/UNODC/UNFPA proposal. He proposed the members of the Steering Committee to wait until the PUNOs develop the joint proposal with clear delimitation of activities and complementarity with the UNDP/UNFPA/FAO joint proposal and only after then make a decision on the joint proposal. In general, he called upon PUNOs to develop proposals that address systematic issues rather than “plugging leaks” of the system.

18. **Mr. Yoon Jiwan**, First Secretary, Embassy of the Republic of Korea in Uzbekistan, at the beginning of his speech reassured the members that the Government of the Republic of Korea would very soon sign the Standard Administrative Arrangements with the MPTF Office in New York on contributing USD 1 million to the Trust Fund. Regarding the PUNOs proposals, he fully agreed with the TRP assessments and recommendations and called upon to use the limited resources of the Trust Fund effectively. He also advised the WHO and Ministry of Health to take into consideration the expertise of the projects implemented by the Republic of Korea’s development organizations jointly with the Government of Uzbekistan in the health sphere.

19. **Ms. Marja Liivala**, Ambassador of Finland to Uzbekistan, said that sustainable development policy is an important component of Finland’s foreign policy and that the objectives of the Trust Fund are in line with Finland’s priorities. She supported the UNICEF/UNODC/UNFPA and UNDP/UNFPA/FAO joint proposals, especially Outcome 1 on water access and ensure safety of women and girls of the UNICEF-led
proposal and Outcome on creating enabling environment through digitalization, promoting new practices and initiatives of the UNDP-led proposal. She also supported the WHO proposal on healthcare system assessment and feasibility study for MDH, if the resources in the Trust Fund allowed. She highlighted that the systemic approach is very important on this matter. Finland carries out health reform system and understands that it is important to evaluate the whole system, as well as understands the importance to show to population that the measures in this direction are taken. In general, she agreed with the TRP evaluation results and recommendations presented by the Technical Secretariat.

20. **Ms. Sholpan Asanova** from the Regional Department for the Republic of Karakalpakstan of the Association of Support to Children and Families supported the TRP evaluation results and recommendations. She welcomed the thematic areas and geographical coverage of the proposals.

21. **Ms. Natalya Abdullaeva** from the Karakalpakstan branch of the Public Information Center “Istiqbolli Avlod” agreed mostly with Ms. Sholpan Asanova and welcomed the PUNOs’ approach in dealing the problems in the context of youth, as many young people are returning from abroad because of COVID-19. She noted that it is necessary to support the healthcare system. She supported the need to conduct overall healthcare system assessment in Karakalpakstan with special focus on support of institutional capacity of healthcare facilities. She also supported, conditionally, the UNICEF/UNFPA/UNODC joint proposal: “Investing in a resilient future of Karakalpakstan by harnessing the talents of youth and improving water, sanitation, hygiene and nutrition during and after COVID-19” and UNDP/UNFPA/FAO joint proposal: “Unleashing young people’s and vulnerable citizens’ creativity and innovation by strengthening their adaptive capacity to address the economic and food insecurities in the exposed communities of the Aral Sea region” subject to modifications to be made to them.

22. **Mr. Jusipbek Kazbekov**, First Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Karakalpakstan, outlined that the Karakalpakstan authorities at both regional and local levels have regularly informed the SC Members and Technical Secretariat about the real needs of the local population. In addition, the independent Needs Assessment Survey had been conducted in 2017 to identify and prioritize the real needs of the population across the districts. Unfortunately, the 2nd Call for Proposals shows that PUNOs did not sufficiently analyze the current situation and develop evidence-based solutions. The number of activities proposed by PUNOs is high (for example, to engage young people in decision-making processes, delivering the family skills training programme, development, and delivery of life/transferrable, health and entrepreneurial skills programmes), and their deliverables are not clearly described in terms of sustainability of these efforts and cost-effectiveness.

23. **Mr. Badridдин Abidov**, Deputy Minister of Investments and Foreign Trade, indicated that the MIFT had reviewed the proposals submitted within the 2nd Call of Proposals and suggested the following comments that would lead to effective use of available funds within the 2nd CFP:
   - Reduce the management cost;
   - Reduce the scope of project coverage (from 4-5 districts to 2-3): this would allow projects to:
     - increase their impact in selected areas and increase the number of beneficiaries targeted districts;
     - efficiently use the limited funds to achieve comprehensive results within the selected districts;
   - Reduce the funds for the involvement of international consultants;
   - Avoid duplication.

He supported the joint WHO and MOH proposal regarding the MDH in Muynak. In general, he supported the results and recommendations of the TRP.

24. Helena Fraser summarized the feedback by the members on the PUNOs’ proposals and suggested the following decisions regarding the proposals:

   a) Joint WHO and MOH proposal with a tentative budget of USD 400,000 for health system and health facility assessment.
Ms. Helena Fraser suggested to approve the proposal subject to a full review of the concept on a health system and health facility assessment with a special focus on conducting a feasibility study for MDH in Muynak, and provide one month period to finalize the submission in line with the comments made by the members in close consultation with the Council of Ministers of Karakalpakstan, MOH of Uzbekistan and Technical Secretariat to ensure that the proposal meets the Fund’s criteria. She also proposed to do the final review of the proposal by the Steering Committee members online.

**Decision:** The members of the Steering Committee supported the conditional approval of the joint WHO and MOH proposal on a health system and health facility assessment and provided one month period to finalize the proposal considering the comments and recommendations of the members in consultation with the Council of Ministers, MOH of Uzbekistan and Technical Secretariat and submit for online approval.

b) The joint UNICEF/UNODC/UNFPA proposal: “Investing in a resilient future of Karakalpakstan by harnessing the talents of youth and improving water, sanitation, hygiene and nutrition during and after COVID-19” and the joint UNDP/UNFPA/FAO proposal: “Unleashing young people’s and vulnerable citizens’ creativity and innovation by strengthening their adaptive capacity to address the economic and food insecurities in the exposed communities of the Aral Sea region”.

Ms. Helena Fraser suggested to PUNOs to revise the proposals taking into account recommendations and comments by the Ministry of Investments and Foreign Trade (MIFT), the Council of Ministers (CoM) of Karakalpakstan, which would be provided later in written form, as well as feedback made by other members of the Steering Committee, and by the Technical Review Panel. She also suggested reviewing their budget envelopes based on those recommendations.

**Decision:** The members of the Steering Committee recommended that PUNOs revise their proposals and reduce the budgets of the proposals based on the recommendations by the MIFT, CoM, and TRP.

c) WHO proposal: “Leaving no one behind from universal health coverage in the Republic of Karakalpakstan”

Ms. Helena Fraser noted that the proposal was supported only by the MOH of Uzbekistan, and that the TRP had outlined a number of weaknesses. She recommended to reject the proposal at this stage and propose that it be considered at the next Call for Proposals.

**Decision:** The WHO proposal: “Leaving no one behind from universal health coverage in the Republic of Karakalpakstan” was rejected.

**Agenda item 7: Decision on Technical Secretariat Budget**

25. **Ms. Helena Fraser** thanked the members of the Steering Committee for an electronic endorsement of the MPHSTF Technical Secretariat project document (Annex 5). She suggested reflecting the electronic endorsement in the minutes of the meeting.

**Decision:** The members of the Steering Committee once again endorsed the Technical Secretariat project document and instructed the Technical Secretariat to prepare the relevant follow up documents to initiate the MPHSTF funds transfer in consultation with the MPTF office in New York for the signature of the co-chairs.

**Agenda item 8. Updates on resource mobilization: current efforts and prospects**

26. **Mr. Abidov**, Deputy Minister of Investments and Foreign Trade, briefly informed the participants about results achieved so far within the resource mobilization efforts. He said on February 24, 2020, the Government of Uzbekistan had transferred its second tranche in the amount of USD 1.5 million to the Trust Fund account, and the Government’s total contributions to the Trust Fund reached USD 3.5 million. In addition, on March 12, 2020, the EU contributed USD 5.5 million to the Trust Fund.

He also mentioned parallel efforts within the MPHSTF. In particular, the Government of Japan transferred grants in the amount of USD 3.2 million for the implementation by the UN agencies of a project to ensure
public access to drinking water and medical services in Karakalpakstan. The UAE funds in the amount of USD 10.7 million had been mobilized to support forest plantation activities on the dried bed of the Aral Sea with necessary agricultural machinery.

He informed participants about forthcoming contributions and perspective efforts. The Government of the Republic of Korea is planning in the very nearest future to conclude a Standard Administrative Agreement with the UN MPTF Office on transfer of USD 1 million.

The Abu Dhabi leadership had approved the project concept of a new clinic for maternal and child health in Nukus for 100 beds with a total estimated cost of USD 20 million and the parties are currently working on approving the project documentation.

KfW Bank (Germany) had agreed to provide additional grants in the amount of EUR 1.53 million for the development of project documentation for a concessional loan in the amount of EUR 30 million for the modernization of primary health care and hospitals in the Aral Sea region.

Depending on the epidemiological situation, the visit of representatives of the European Investment Bank to Uzbekistan is going to be organized in order to complete the development of projects on integrated water resources management in the Amudarya river basin, irrigation master plan, land use planning and forest planting in Karakalpakstan.

In order to coordinate efforts and expand the coverage of potential donors to the Trust Fund and depending on the epidemiological situation, the visit of the leadership of the World Association of Muslim Youth will be organized to Uzbekistan to study the possibility of mobilizing financial assistance to social projects to support youth in the Aral Sea region. In addition, there are plans to organize a joint visit of the diplomatic corps and UN agencies to the Aral Sea region to review the implementation of measures aimed at mitigating the negative consequences of the Aral Sea disaster.

**Agenda item 9: Discussion and decisions on the meeting of the Advisory Committee and other business**

27. **Meeting of the Advisory Committee on Sustainable Development of the Aral Sea region:**

Mr. Abidov briefly informed the participants on the goals and objectives of the Advisory Committee on Sustainable Development of the Aral Sea region. He noted that due to the worsening of the COVID-19 related epidemiological situation in the world and, in particular, in Uzbekistan, the Advisory Committee meeting, initially scheduled for the first half of this year, had been postponed to a later period. He said that the tentative Agenda of the Advisory Committee’s first meeting had been sent to the SC members’ consideration prior to the meeting. He proposed to approve the Agenda and tentative date of the Advisory Committee’s meeting (Annex 6).

The first meeting of the Committee was proposed by him to be held in September 2020 pending the confirmation from potential members is received. In connection with the above said, Mr. Abidov asked the SC members to make a decision on the endorsement of the tentative date, format, and the agenda of the first meeting of the Advisory Committee.

**Decision:** September 2020 was approved as the tentative date of the first meeting of the Advisory Committee and the Technical Secretariat was instructed to launch organizational activities and submit proposals to the Steering Committee on the preliminary list of participants, the agenda and definitive date of the meeting by the end of August 2020.

28. **Update by UNDP on work on green innovation concept in the Aral Sea region**

Ms. Matilda Dimovska made a brief update on UNDP’s support to the Government on green innovation concepts for the Aral Sea region. She noted that the UNDP is committed to contributing to the critical agenda - the initiative of the President of Uzbekistan to transform the Aral Sea region into “A Zone of Ecological Innovations and Technologies”. Ms. Dimovska noted that in March 2020, UNDP had piloted a new financing instrument for the Aral Sea – the crowdfunding initiative #GreenAralSea was launched jointly with national partners to test alternative financing instruments and engage stakeholders around mitigating the negative consequences of the Aral sea catastrophe. In addition, she informed participants
that on July 15, the UNDP would sign a document to start the preparation for the issuance of green Sukuk in Uzbekistan. She expressed hope that the Aral Sea region might be a good candidate for that.

**Ms. Fraser** suggested that in view of these important activities, UNDP be closely involved in the preparation for the Advisory Committee meeting.

**Decision:** Technical Secretariat to closely engage UNDP in the preparation for the Advisory Committee meeting.

29. **No-cost extension of the UNICEF and UNFPA joint project: “Improvement of Quality in Perinatal Care Service to Most Vulnerable Mothers and Newborns”**

Mr. Sascha Graumann in his speech justified the request for a four-month no-cost extension of the project with the movement and other restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic in Uzbekistan and abroad (Annex 7). Almost three months of strict lockdown with the travel restrictions and social distancing measures caused delays in the implementation of the programme’s key activities as well as additional deployment of the necessary resources.

However, the procurement component is still lagging behind because of COVID-19 and it is highly likely that not all procurement items will be delivered and installed by the end of 2020. He noted, that UNICEF/UNFPA are proposing the four-month no-cost extension with amendments to the programme workplan and budget. The changes proposed will focus on the following main areas:

- Deferring $120,193 to 2021 for UNICEF part and $ 96,735 for UNFPA respectively;
- Budget amendments for UNICEF.

Taking into account these details, Mr. Sascha Graumann requested the SC members to consider UNICEF/UNFPA request on the no-cost extension of the joint project.

**Decision:** The decision was made to approve UNICEF/UNFPA request on the no-cost extension of the joint project “Improvement of Quality in Perinatal Care Service to Most Vulnerable Mothers and Newborns” and instruct the UNICEF/UNFPA to amend the project document (work plan and budget) accordingly and submit the Amendment to the Steering Committee within a month period. Technical Secretariat is instructed to send a notification to the Fund’s Administrator (UN MPTF Office).

30. **Any other issues and proposals raised by the members**

There were no other issues or proposals raised by the members.

**Agenda item 10: Closing remarks**

31. Mr. Abidov thanked Ms. Fraser for organizing and facilitating a very constructive meeting. He also thanked members of the Steering Committee for the fruitful work during the meeting and PUNOs for the development of project proposals.

For the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan

Sardor Umurzakov
Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Uzbekistan

For the United Nations

Helena Fraser
UN Resident Coordinator in the Republic of Uzbekistan
ANNEX 1
Participants List – 4th Meeting of the Steering Committee

Co-Chairs of the Steering Committee
- Mr. Sardor Umurzakov, Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Co-chair
- Ms. Helena Fraser, UN Resident Coordinator in the Republic of Uzbekistan, Co-chair

Government Members of the Steering Committee
- Mr. Badriddin Abidov, Deputy Minister of Investment and Foreign Trade of the Republic of Uzbekistan
- Mr. Jusipbek Kazbekov, First Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Karakalpakstan
- Mr. Shakhruh Sharakhmetov, Deputy Minister of Health of the Republic of Uzbekistan

Donor Members of the Steering Committee
- Mr. Eduards Stiprais, Head of the EU Delegation to Uzbekistan
- Mr. Yoon Jiwan, First Secretary, Embassy of Republic of Korea in Uzbekistan
- Ms. Marja Liivala, Ambassador of Finland to Uzbekistan

Participating UN Organizations Members of the Steering Committee
- Ms. Matilda Dimovska, UNDP Resident Representative in Uzbekistan
- Mr. Sascha Graumann, UNICEF Representative in Uzbekistan
- Ms. Ashita Mittal, UNODC Regional Representative

Civil Society Members of the Steering Committee
- Ms. Sholpan Asanova, Regional department for the Republic of Karakalpakstan of the Association of Support to Children and Families
- Ms. Natalya Abdullaeva, Karakalpakstan branch of the Public Information Center “Istiqbolli Avlod”

Ex-Officio members
- Mari Matsumoto, Portfolio Manager, UNDP MPTF Office (remotely off-line)

Other Participants:
- Mr. François Begeot, Head of Cooperation Section, EU Delegation to Uzbekistan
- Mr. Doniyor Kuchkarov, Project Manager, EU Delegation to Uzbekistan
- Mr. Marjo Ahvenainen, Programme Officer, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland
- Ms. Rusyan Jill Mamiit, Development Coordination Officer, Partnerships and Development Finance, UN RCO
- Ms. Sufang Guo, Chief of Health and wellbeing, UNICEF Uzbekistan
- Ms. Yulia Oleinik, Chief of Social Policy, UNICEF Uzbekistan
- Mr. Koen Marquering, International Programme Coordinator, UNODC Regional Office
- Mr. Borikhan Shaumarov, Senior Programme Officer, UNODC Regional Office
- Mr. Bakhadur Paluaniyazov, Programme Specialist on Environment and Climate Action, UNDP in Uzbekistan
• Ms. Elvira Izamova, Programme Associate, UNDP in Uzbekistan
• Ms. Elena Tsoyi, NPO on Noncommunicable diseases/Health system strengthening, WHO CO in Uzbekistan
• Mr. Christopher Fitzpatrick, Health Policy Advisor, WHO CO in Uzbekistan
• Mr. Jamshid Gadoev, NPO, Joint Tuberculosis, HIV and viral Hepatitis Programme, WHO CO in Uzbekistan
• Mr. Kamolkhon Inomkhodjayev, Assistant Representative, UNFPA Uzbekistan
• Mr. Bekhzod Teshabaev, Head of Department, Ministry of Investment and Foreign Trade of the Republic of Uzbekistan
• Mr. Uktam Abdurakhmanov, Head of MPHSTF Technical Secretariat
• Mr. Tulkun Karimov, External Relations and Outreach Specialist, MPHSTF Technical Secretariat
• Mr. Shukrat Umarkhojaev, Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist, MPHSTF Technical Secretariat
ANNEX 2

Agenda of the 4th meeting of the Steering Committee of the Multi-Partner Human Security Trust Fund for the Aral Sea Region in Uzbekistan

Date and time: July 14, 10:30 – 12:45, Tashkent time (tentative)
Format: Videoconference using Zoom virtual meetings platform

10:30 – 10:40 Welcome remarks by the co-chairs
Sardor Umurzakov, Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Uzbekistan
Helena Fraser, UN Resident Coordinator in the Republic of Uzbekistan

10:40 – 11:00 Brief presentation on the implementation of the PUNOs’ projects
Ms. Matilda Dimovska, UNDP Resident Representative in Uzbekistan.
Mr. Sascha Graumann, UNICEF Resident Representative in Uzbekistan.
UNICEF and UNFPA joint project: “Improvement of Quality in Perinatal Care Service to Most Vulnerable Mothers and Newborns”

11:00 – 11:05 Status of the MPHSTF Funding Framework (Video message)
Mari Matsumoto, Portfolio Manager, UNDP MPTF Office

11:05 – 11:20 Overview of the results of the evaluation of the proposals submitted within the Second Call for Proposals
Uktam Abdurakhmanov, Head of MPTF Technical Secretariat

11:20 – 11:35 PUNOs’ feedbacks to the evaluation results
Representative of UNDP
Representative of UNICEF
Representative of WHO

11:35 – 12:00 Discussion and decisions on the project proposals
Steering Committee members

12:00 – 12:05 Decision on Technical Secretariat Budget
Helena Fraser, UN Resident Coordinator in the Republic of Uzbekistan

12:05 – 12:15 Updates on resource mobilization: current efforts and prospects
Badriddin Abidov, Deputy Minister of Investment and Foreign Trade

12:15 – 12:30 Discussion and decisions on meeting of Advisory Committee and other business:
- Meeting of the Advisory Committee on Sustainable Development of the Aral Sea region
- Update by UNDP on work on green innovation concept in Aral Sea region
- No cost extension of the UNICEF and UNFPA joint project: “Improvement of Quality in Perinatal Care Service to Most Vulnerable Mothers and Newborns”
- Any other issues and proposals raised by the members

12:30 – 12:45 Concluding remarks
Sardor Umurzakov, Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Uzbekistan
Helena Fraser, UN Resident Coordinator, in the Republic of Uzbekistan
**Introductory Notes**

The Funding Framework is periodically submitted to the Aral Sea Region Fund the Steering Committee by the Executive Coordinator of the Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office.

*Table 1* provides information on deposits received, transfers made to Participating UN Organizations and funds available for the programming. *Table 2* presents more detailed information on amounts pledged, contributions received. *Table 3* presents more detailed information on amounts transferred to recipient UN Organization.
Table 1: Fund Status

as of 23 June 2020, values in US$

This table highlights: (a) total funds received by the MPTF Office as Administrative Agent; (b) funds transferred to Participating UN Organizations; and (c) the current fund balance, which is segregated into amounts un-earmarked or earmarked by donors.

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<td>Contributions from donors</td>
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<td>8,188,877</td>
<td>11,306,642</td>
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<td>Fund Earned Interest and Investment Income</td>
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<td>Interest Income received from Participating Organizations</td>
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<td>Refunds by Administrative Agent to Contributors</td>
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<td>Fund balance transferred to another MDTF</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Income</td>
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<td><strong>Total: Sources of Funds</strong></td>
<td>3,152,741</td>
<td>8,188,877</td>
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<th>Use of Funds</th>
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<td>Transfers to Participating Organizations</td>
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<td>Refunds received from Participating Organizations</td>
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<td><strong>Net Funded Amount</strong></td>
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<td>Administrative Agent Fees</td>
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<tr>
<td>Direct Costs: (Steering Committee, Secretariat...etc.)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bank Charges</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Expenditures</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>55,655</td>
<td>55,655</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total: Uses of Funds</strong></td>
<td>3,114,771</td>
<td>81,889</td>
<td>3,196,660</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Change in Fund cash balance with Administrative Agent  | 37,969  | 8,106,988 | 8,144,958  |
| Opening Fund balance (1 January)                      | 0       | 37,969   | -          |
| **Closing Fund balance (31 December)**                | 37,969  | 8,144,958 | 8,144,958  |
| Net Funded Amount (Includes Direct Cost)              | 3,083,566 | -       | 3,083,566  |
| Participating Organizations’ Expenditure (Includes Direct Cost) | 77,523  | 64,726  | 142,249    |
| **Balance of Funds with Participating Organizations** |         |         | 2,941,317  |
Table 2: Donor Commitments and Deposits
as of 23 June 2020, values in US$

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contributor/Partner</th>
<th>Currency</th>
<th>Commitments 1</th>
<th>Total Gross Deposit USD</th>
<th>Net Deposit 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GOVERNMENT OF NORWAY</td>
<td>NOK</td>
<td>9,500,000</td>
<td>1,117,765</td>
<td>1,106,588</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GOVERNMENT OF UZBEKISTAN</td>
<td>USD</td>
<td>6,500,000</td>
<td>6,500,000</td>
<td>3,465,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GOVERNMENT OF FINLAND</td>
<td>EUR</td>
<td>1,000,000</td>
<td>1,123,367</td>
<td>1,112,133</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EUROPEAN UNION</td>
<td>USD</td>
<td>5,565,510</td>
<td>5,565,510</td>
<td>5,509,855</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>14,306,642</strong></td>
<td><strong>11,306,642.41</strong></td>
<td><strong>11,193,576</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 Commitments refer to funds where the Standard Administrative Arrangement with the donor has been concluded.

2 Net Deposits refer to the funds deposited by the donor to the bank account of UNDP/MPTF Office and adjusted for 1% Administrative Agent fee.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector / Project No. and Project Title</th>
<th>Participating Organization</th>
<th>Project Status</th>
<th>Total Approved Amount</th>
<th>Net Funded Amount</th>
<th>Total Expenditure</th>
<th>Delivery Rate %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3 Food &amp; Water</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>117259 Aral Sea MPTF-Human Insecurity</td>
<td>UNDP</td>
<td>On Going</td>
<td>1,312,414</td>
<td>1,312,414</td>
<td>110,733</td>
<td>8.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>117259 Aral Sea MPTF-Human Insecurity</td>
<td>UNESCO</td>
<td>On Going</td>
<td>151,487</td>
<td>151,487</td>
<td></td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Food &amp; Water: Total</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1,463,900</td>
<td>1,463,900</td>
<td>110,733</td>
<td>7.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Health</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>117258 Aral Sea MPTF-Perinatal care</td>
<td>UNFPA</td>
<td>On Going</td>
<td>639,322</td>
<td>639,322</td>
<td>2,150</td>
<td>0.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>117258 Aral Sea MPTF-Perinatal care</td>
<td>UNICEF</td>
<td>On Going</td>
<td>980,344</td>
<td>980,344</td>
<td>29,367</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Health: Total</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1,619,666</td>
<td>1,619,666</td>
<td>31,517</td>
<td>1.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Total</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3,083,566</td>
<td>3,083,566</td>
<td>142,249</td>
<td>4.61</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ANNEX 4
Proposals Evaluation Summary

Joint UNDP, UNFPA and FAO Proposal

Unleashing young people’s and vulnerable citizens’ creativity and innovation by strengthening their adaptive capacity to address the economic and food insecurities in the exposed communities of the Aral Sea region

Proposed Goal
To increase the efficiency and innovations in agriculture, promoting smart and digitalized communities, with favourable infrastructures and facilitating active labour market initiatives.

Budget Requested and Details

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Components/Objectives</th>
<th>Budget Requested (in USD)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Component 1. Reduce the vulnerabilities of unemployed, unskilled youth and women and returning migrants through the empowerment and promotion of essential entrepreneurial skills, and youth-led innovations in the region</td>
<td>790,016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Component 2. Create an enabling environment for income generation for rural communities (with a focus to youth and women) through promoting innovative agriculture practices and piloting new agriculture initiatives</td>
<td>928,550</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Component 3. Enable the development of smart communities through digitalization, better access to social infrastructure, and community engagement with a focus on youth.</td>
<td>601,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project management</td>
<td>287,411</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indirect support cost 7%</td>
<td>182,523</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,790,000</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNDP</td>
<td><strong>2,390,000</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNFPA</td>
<td>200,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FAO</td>
<td>200,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Evaluation by the Technical Review Panel
The Technical Review Panel (TRP) found the proposal as strategically relevant to the MPHSTF framework and the thematic areas of the second call for proposal. The proposal showed strong alignment with gender mainstreaming and women’s empowerment. There is also a good monitoring and evaluation plan included in the proposal.

Consolidated Evaluation Scores:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Evaluation Criteria</th>
<th>Mean Scores</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strategic relevance</td>
<td>17.2/20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programmatic relevance</td>
<td>41.7/50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mainstreaming of gender and women’s empowerment</td>
<td>4.4/5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sustainability</td>
<td>7.4/10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Risk and assumptions</td>
<td>4.0/5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monitoring and evaluation</td>
<td>8.3/10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>83.0/100</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Key Comments:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Strengths of the Proposal</strong></th>
<th><strong>Areas for Improvement</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- The goal and objectives align with the policies and strategies of the Government of Uzbekistan on the mitigation of the negative consequences of the Aral Sea crisis. The proposed activities are also consistent with and based on the results of the Needs Assessment Survey conducted in Karakalpakstan in 2017.</td>
<td>- While the proposed approach clearly aligns with the MPHSTF Theory of Change and the project's proposed theory of change was able to articulate the cause-and-effect, the main causes/problems and problem drivers are not clearly described in sequential order. For example, the situation regarding the activities of training centres, start-ups, home-based entrepreneurship, etc. is not described. Thus, problems in the project intervention areas are not disclosed in detail.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Alignment of the proposal with the SDGs, UNDAF, and MPHSTF's Programmatic Framework are strong, which are comprehensively detailed in the proposal.</td>
<td>- The selected project level outputs and indicators are not logically linked. Further, the targets seem not commensurate with the budget proposed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- The proposal has been prepared considering the possible consequences of COVID-19.</td>
<td>- According to the narrative, there are ~1.88 million people in the region and about 30% are youth (~564,000), yet the targeted number of youth beneficiaries per logical framework is less than 500, which is not even 0.125% of the youth. As such, the cost must be commensurate to the impacts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- The proposal contains innovative and multisectoral approaches that are well-described.</td>
<td>- The proposal targeted youth and women but further disaggregation by age, location, and status would help provide a better picture of the beneficiaries.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### General Recommendations to the Steering Committee

Based on the scores, feedback, and overall recommendations of the TRP as well as taking into account the compliance of the proposal with the main criteria for the Second CFPs and guiding principles of the MPHSTF, the Technical Secretariat recommends to **APPROVE** this proposal conditionally and instruct the PUNOs to develop full-fledged document with further improvement of the proposal taking into account the areas for improvement mentioned above and the following general recommendations:
• Objective 1 is relevant and should be implemented taking into account the specific budget recommendations in Annex A;
• Objective 2 is relevant and should be implemented taking into account the specific budget recommendations in Annex A; and
• Objective 3 is relevant and should be implemented taking into account the specific budget recommendations in Annex A.

Additional Considerations for the Steering Committee

1. The Second Call for Proposals Guidelines

   • Section 5. Amount of funds and duration of proposals says, “[i]n the case of insufficient funding available of the MPHSTF, strong proposals may either be advised to scale down the budget and interventions or postponed for consideration and implementation in the next round of call for proposals” (page 4).

   Recommendation: Given the fact that the results of the evaluation resulted in two proposals receiving the same scores and that the total budget of two proposals exceeds the available financial resources in the MPHSTF’s ledger account, the Technical Secretariat proposes to the Steering Committee to instruct the PUNOs to reduce the project budget accordingly. The Technical Secretariat suggests improving the proposal and adjusting the budget based on the MPHSTF fundamental documents’ principles - in accordance with MPHSTF ToR.

2. The Concept of Human Security

   • In such an environment of inter-related complex challenges faced by individuals and communities, adopting traditional sector-specific or vulnerable group-tailored approaches is not sufficient. A more comprehensive and holistic approach is required that will address the root causes of the risks and challenges affecting the individuals and communities. The approach should be able to create positive linkages between multiple sectors (i.e. economic, social, political, health, environmental, etc.) and address the complex and interlinked challenges in a holistic way.

   • In order to operationalize human security into programmes and policies, four key principles need to be applied, both to the process and outcome of programmes and policies. Within a protection and empowerment framework, human security promotes people-centred, comprehensive, context-specific, and prevention-oriented measures that seek to reduce the likelihood of crisis, help overcome the obstacles to development and promote human rights for all. Comprehensive measures ensure coherence, eliminates duplication and advances integrated solutions that give rise to more effective and tangible improvements in the daily lives of people.

   • Mitigating the consequences of the Aral Sea disaster in Karakalpakstan and tackling some of the root causes of existing human security challenges require an integrated and multi-sectorial approach. UN agencies, “Delivering as One”, capitalizing on their specialized knowledge and complementary expertise in the areas of health, education, livelihoods, local governance, family planning, women and youth, tourism and culture could provide a firm basis for designing, implementing and monitoring integrated programs in the region with the direct participation of beneficiaries and in close cooperation with the Government and other development partners (pages 10-11).

   Recommendation: Considering overlapping activities with other proposals, the lead PUNO should consult with UNICEF/UNFPA/UNODC on the consolidation of duplicate activities, such as piloting WASH programme, development of necessary infrastructure to ensure the access to internet for the selected communities, strengthening social cohesion through youth engagement in community planning, decision-making and rehabilitation process etc. As an integrated platform, the MPHSTF suggests development actors under the Fund to tackle the Aral Sea catastrophe problems in an integrated way. Thus, the PUNOs should serve as an example of such an approach and by applying the UN “Delivering as One” principle combine their efforts to a maximum extent possible.
3. Proposed programmatic solutions.

- “The MPHSTF will focus more on the programmatic approach than on stand-alone projects in order to strengthen the interconnection and reduce transaction costs, allowing the government and partners at different levels to work in a coordinated and committed manner” (page 14).

- **2.4.3. Eligibility of Projects.** “The MPHSTF funds will be directed towards developing and piloting new and innovative methods of solving problems, and the piloting of economic and business projects. Successful pilot projects will be presented to the Government, the donor’s community and the business sector for further replication, not only within the Aral Sea region but also in other regions (page 16).”

- “To be considered by the Fund, interventions need to be people-centred, context-specific, integrated solutions, and innovative criteria” (page 16):

  **Recommendation: People-centred** - despite the fact that some components of the project state that community representatives will participate in the implementation and monitoring of activities, nevertheless, it is quite difficult to clearly evaluate the role and participation of community representatives in identifying problems and community needs; **Integrated solutions** - in accordance with the proposal, the interventions are planned to be implemented in 5 districts of Karakalpakstan (Muynak, Bozatau, Shumanoy, Kegeyli and Chimbay districts). In line with the principle of integrated solutions of the MPHSTF indicated above, it is recommended that the proponents concentrate project activities in one or two related areas. This approach allows the project to increase the number of beneficiaries in one district (rather than the minimum of beneficiaries in each of the five districts). It will also allow for efficient utilization of the funds by achieving maximum results within an integrated approach to resolving problems. It is better to solve the problem in an efficient way by concentrating the scarce resources of the Fund in a limited area, pilot the solution and get maximum results possible, rather than disbursing funds in a number of areas but get, in this case, the limited effect from the interventions. In the case of proof of the positive impact of the project on the situation in a specific area, pilot results can be presented to local and regional partners to apply this approach in other areas, which is the main goal of the MPHSTF.

The Technical Secretariat proposes to hold separate and bilateral meetings within the project development team to discuss the best options for budget cuts so that the reduction does not negatively affect the overall quality and logical structure of proposals.
WHO Proposal

Leaving no one behind from universal health coverage in Republic of Karakalpakstan

Proposed Goal
To support the Ministries of Health of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Republic of Karakalpakstan to conduct comprehensive health system assessment with a focus to COVID-19 but also on other diseases and establish an action plan to fill identified gaps, to establish operational AMR strategy, to ensure access of population of the dedicated pilot districts to universal access to Hepatitis C case management and free of charge treatment, improving the coverage of vaccine-preventable diseases and enhancing of the training capacity of the educational institutions.

Budget Requested and Details

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Components/Objectives</th>
<th>Budget Requested (in USD)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Component 1. Conducting an overall health system assessment of the health care system in the Republic of Karakalpakstan with a focus to COVID-19 to receive a realistic overview about capacities, strengths, and weaknesses, which will be summarized in an action plan for the MoH</td>
<td>40,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Component 2. Improving clinical care for patients in accordance with evidence-based medicine by establishing of antimicrobial resistance surveillance in Republic of Karakalpakstan</td>
<td>351,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Component 3. Eliminating Hepatitis C and reducing the mortality by strengthening of case management and introduction of innovative and high effective treatment strategies in pilot districts of Republic of Karakalpakstan</td>
<td>1,320,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Component 4. Enhance training capacity of newly established Chair of GP’s pre- and post-diploma education of Karakalpak Medical University in the field of Safe, Intime and Effective vaccination of children under the supervision of WHO</td>
<td>322,250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project management</td>
<td>516,750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indirect support cost 7%</td>
<td>178,577</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,729,677</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Evaluation by the Technical Review Panel
While recognizing that health insecurity is a top priority in the Aral Sea region, the Technical Review Panel (TRP) found the proposal is not strong enough to qualify for funding under the MPHSTF framework. The proposal does not sufficiently align to the Fund’s human security approach as well as to the overall terms of reference of the Fund and the current call for proposal. Further, the proposal needs to have a strengthened evidence-based assessment of the actual human security needs in the Aral Sea region.

Consolidated Evaluation Scores:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Evaluation Criteria</th>
<th>Mean Scores</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strategic relevance</td>
<td>14/20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programmatic relevance</td>
<td>34.4/50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mainstreaming of gender and women’s empowerment</td>
<td>3.2/5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sustainability</td>
<td>6.9/10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Risk and assumptions</td>
<td>3.4/5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monitoring and evaluation</td>
<td>7.1/10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>69.0/100</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strengths of the Proposal</td>
<td>Areas for Improvement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| The proposal contains information on the compliance of the proposed measures with the adopted decisions of the government, as well as in achieving the SDGs and UNDAF. The proposal describes the contribution of the project to the achievement of the MPHSTF Outcome 4. | • The problems that the proposal are seeking to solve are not strongly aligned with the Human Security Concept, cause-and-effect relations are not described in sufficient detail, and the alignment of the proposal with the results of the crises and Needs Assessment Survey is unclear.  
• There is insufficient statistical analysis of the current situation and causal relationships led to a weak statement of the problem, especially in relation to the Aral Sea region. The presented arguments about the need to implement the proposed project strategy are more global in nature. There is also no analysis of similar projects already implemented in the region. For example, in the period 2016-2019 the Ministry of Health jointly with UNICEF implemented GAVI grants to strengthen the health system, but the successes and failures of the projects have not been analysed.  
• There is also no analysis of the healthcare system itself as part of the objective of the project. Therefore, the proposed measures for institutional support of the system do not have adequate evidence and/or justification. It is not justified why it is necessary to assess the healthcare system to clarify the number of primary health care facilities, hospitals, staffing, equipment, and other parameters. The Ministry of Health, as a national project partner, could prepare information in advance to strengthen this block of the project proposal.  
• The issues identified are very health-specific and it would be good to show how the socioeconomic security will improve if the problems related to AMR, Hep-B/C, and immunizations are addressed. Per the above, the proposal mentioned all the health-related government policies but failed to include other policies and strategies that may support their argument that the proposal also addresses social security in the region.  
• The proposal falls under the health theme of the 2nd Call for Proposals. Compared to other proposals, the current proposal failed to account for innovations in the interventions and approaches proposed. This is an area that the proposal should improve on.  
• The connection with the MPHSTF Theory of change, needs to be strengthened. Because of the absence of a clear articulation of a Theory of change for the project, it is not very easy to follow the logical sequence of cause and effect. The proposal will benefit from an illustrative presentation of their Theory of Change. The cause and effect presented in the logical framework also need enhancement.  
• The description of the Coordination and Governance arrangements needs significant improvement, the roles and responsibilities of the partners should be expanded as well. The proposal should pay attention to the participation of local communities in the project implementation, the gender angle is missing.  
• The section on gender mainstreaming needs to be strengthened. It does not clearly explain how gender mainstreaming will be achieved. There is a need to connect this section to the logical framework.  
• Measures on ensuring project sustainability should be strengthened and include among others supporting local capacity building aspects. |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strengths of the Proposal</th>
<th>Areas for Improvement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>There is a need for the proposal to show how the projected impacts and targets can be financially, institutionally, and programmatically sustained after the project closure.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• The budget of the proposal is about USD 2.7 million and mainly focused on capacity development. For objective 1, for example, once all the assessments are conducted, what is next? Does reaching 30% mean that the health insecurities in the region will be addressed?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**General Recommendations to the Steering Committee**

Based on the scores, feedback, and overall recommendations of the TRP, the Technical Secretariat recommends **REJECTING** this proposal because the strategic relevance and alignment of the proposal to the MPHSTF’s Programmatic Framework is not clearly demonstrated:

- Considering the COVID-19 crisis in Uzbekistan and the TRP members’ comments, it is recommended to **revise Objective 1 and incorporate it into one of the other proposals recommended proceeding under the second CIP.**
- Considering the poor strategic relevance and non-alignment of Objectives 2-4 to the MPHSTF’s Programmatic Framework and issues of the cost-effectiveness of the proposed activities, it is recommended to **drop Objectives 2-4 as further expounded in Annex A.**

Conducting an overall health system assessment of the health care system in the Republic of Karakalpakstan with a focus to COVID-19, can support health programs to be streamlined and targeted in this context, and enable more effective usage of available resources while also providing an excellent evidence-based information for future calls for proposals.

In order to get a realistic overview of the capacities and gaps of the existing health system in the region a comprehensive assessment has to be undertaken to be able to coordinate and streamline the numerous health programs in the area for sustainability and long-term benefits for the population, as well as to advise and support the health system with targeted training, an update of medical equipment and effective use of capacities. Based on the outcome of the assessment, health programs of the Government and international organizations could be streamlined, and targeted, and available funds more effectively used. This is particularly important in the COVID 19 outbreak, to provide the best possible support to the population.

The Technical Secretariat recommends WHO to consider submitting the revised proposal with sticking to Objective 1 and taking into account the areas for improvement mentioned above in the next Call for Proposals.
Joint UNICEF, UNFPA and UNODC Proposal

Investing in a resilient future of Karakalpakstan by harnessing the talents of youth and improving water, sanitation, hygiene and nutrition during and after COVID-19

Proposed Goal
To strengthen human capital and the resilience of youth in Karakalpakstan in the face of the health and socio-economic consequences of COVID-19 by expanding opportunities for participation and social innovation skills development.

Budget Requested and Details

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Components/Objectives</th>
<th>Budget Requested (in USD)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Component 1. By 2022 adolescents and youth (boys and girls) in four districts of the Republic of Karakalpakstan, especially the most vulnerable have improved health and nutrition status</td>
<td>1,415,060</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Component 2. By 2022, the population in districts of RoK, especially the most vulnerable, has improved access to quality health care service</td>
<td>2,268,214</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Component 3. By 2022, the Government and the Youth Union in Karakalpakstan support, empower and engage young people, including the most vulnerable, as productive citizens and positive agents of change in their communities and the region</td>
<td>1,238,460</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Component 4. By 2022, through school-based programmes, adolescents build resilience and obtain life skills for a successful transition to adulthood and employment.</td>
<td>1,561,662</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indirect support cost 7%</td>
<td>458,837</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>6,937,232</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNICEF</td>
<td>5,094,948</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNFPA</td>
<td>518,843</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNODC</td>
<td>1,323,442</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Evaluation by the Technical Review Panel
The Technical Review Panel (TRP) found the proposal as strategically relevant to the MPHSTF framework and the thematic areas of the second call for proposal. The proposal showed strong alignment with gender mainstreaming and women’s empowerment. There is also a good monitoring and evaluation plan included in the proposal.

Consolidated Evaluation Scores:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Evaluation Criteria</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strategic relevance</td>
<td>17.1/20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programmatic relevance</td>
<td>41.1/50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mainstreaming of gender and women’s empowerment</td>
<td>4.2/5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sustainability</td>
<td>8.2/10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Risk and assumptions</td>
<td>4.2/5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monitoring and evaluation</td>
<td>8.2/10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>83.0/100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Key Comments:
- The goal and objectives of the project are aligned with the
- The coordination and management arrangements are provided, although could be strengthened by specifying
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strengths of the Proposal</th>
<th>Areas for Improvement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>policies and strategies of the Government of Uzbekistan on mitigation of the negative consequences of the Aral Sea crisis. The proposed activities are fully aligned with and based on the results of the Needs Assessment Survey.</td>
<td>more clearly the role and contributions from the partners, including the local community and authorities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• The approach proposed clearly aligns with the MPHSTF Theory of Change, the project's proposed theory of change was able to provide a logical cause-and-effect.</td>
<td>• The sustainability aspects are adequately covered and addressed. But at the same time, there are some questions about the stability of certain activities, for example, the purchase of folic acid and drugs for deworming, as well as infrastructural type of activities, because a one-time action will not give the desired sustainable result.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Linkages and contributions to the SDGs, UNDAF outcomes and MPHSTF Programmatic Framework are clearly indicated.</td>
<td>• Further, 18% of the budget (USD 1.2 million) is planned for contractual services – the main part of which is an educational campaign, which the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Public Education and Youth Union of the Republic of Karakalpakstan are at a better position to conduct and lead. As such, a close coordination with these organizations is necessary to better ensure efficient utilization of limited resources.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• The Risks and Assumptions are identified in detail with a specification of the probability, impact, and planning of mitigation measures.</td>
<td>• A solid part of the budget (USD 2.9 million) is planned to engage young people in decision-making processes, for delivering the family skills training programme, for development and delivery of life/transferrable, health and entrepreneurial skills programmes. While this emphasis on youth engagement aligns closely to UN Youth 2030 strategy and national youth policies, and is therefore relevant, it would be important to show clearer sustainability of these efforts after the project closure.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• The M&amp;E framework is also in placed and is costed.</td>
<td>• About 12% (USD 0.85 million) of the budget is planned to be allocated for the project staff. The proposal did not fully justify the recruitment of an International Coordinator for already piloted activities in the region. In addition, a strong justification is needed for hiring project staff with such high salary levels.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**General Recommendations to the Steering Committee**

Based on the scores, feedback, and overall recommendations of the TRP as well as taking into account the compliance of the proposal with the main criteria of the proposal for the Second CFPs and guiding principles of the MPHSTF, the Technical Secretariat recommends to **APPROVE** this proposal conditionally and instruct the PUNOs to develop a full-fledged document with further improvement of the proposal taking into account the areas for improvement mentioned above and the following general recommendations:

- **Outcome 1** is relevant and should be implemented taking into account the specific budget recommendations in Annex A;
- **Outcome 2** is relevant and should be implemented taking into account the specific budget recommendations in Annex A;
- Considering that **Outcome 3** is peripherally covered in another proposal and other parts of the existing proposal as well as cost-effectiveness, it is recommended to **drop Outcome 3** as further expounded in Annex A; and
- Considering that the specific outputs and activities of **Outcome 4** support similar areas covered in other outcomes of the same proposal and of another proposal and there is the issue of the cost-effectiveness of the proposed activities, it is recommended to **drop Outcome 4** as further expounded in Annex A.
Additional Considerations for the Steering Committee

1. The Second Call for Proposals Guidelines

- **Section 5. Amount of funds and duration of proposals** says “In the case of insufficient funding available of the MPHSTF, strong proposals may either be advised to scale down the budget and interventions or postponed for consideration and implementation in the next round of call for proposals” (page 4).

  **Recommendation:** Given the fact that the results of the evaluation resulted in two proposals receiving the same scores and that the total budget of two proposals exceeds the available financial resources in the MPHSTF’s ledger account, the Technical Secretariat proposes to the Steering Committee to instruct the PUNOs to reduce the project budget accordingly. The Technical Secretariat suggests improving the proposal and adjusting the budget based on the MPHSTF fundamental documents’ principles - in accordance with MPHSTF ToR.

2. The Concept of Human Security

- In such an environment of inter-related complex challenges faced by individuals and communities, adopting traditional sector-specific or vulnerable group-tailored approaches is not sufficient. A more comprehensive and holistic approach is required that will address the root causes of the risks and challenges affecting the individuals and communities. The approach should be able to create positive linkages between multiple sectors (i.e. economic, social, political, health, environmental, etc.) and address the complex and interlinked challenges in a holistic way.

- In order to operationalize human security into programmes and policies, four key principles need to be applied, both to the process and outcome of programmes and policies. Within a protection and empowerment framework, human security promotes people-centred, comprehensive, context-specific, and prevention-oriented measures that seek to reduce the likelihood of a crisis, help overcome the obstacles to development, and promote human rights for all. Comprehensive measures ensure coherence, eliminates duplication, and advances integrated solutions that give rise to more effective and tangible improvements in the daily lives of people.

- Mitigating the consequences of the Aral Sea disaster in Karakalpakstan and tackling some of the root causes of existing human security challenges require an integrated and multi-sectorial approach. UN agencies, “Delivering as One”, capitalizing on their specialized knowledge and complementary expertise in the areas of health, education, livelihoods, local governance, family planning, women and youth, tourism and culture could provide a firm basis for designing, implementing and monitoring integrated programs in the region with the direct participation of beneficiaries and in close cooperation with the Government and other development partners (pages 10-11).

  **Recommendation:** Considering overlapping activities with other proposals, the applicants should consult with UNDP/UNFPA/FAO on the consolidation of duplicate activities, such as piloting WASH programme, development of necessary infrastructure to ensure the access to internet for the selected communities, strengthening social cohesion through youth engagement in community planning, decision-making, rehabilitation process etc. As an integrated platform, the MPHSTF suggests development actors under the Fund to tackle the Aral Sea catastrophe problems in an integrated way. Thus, the PUNOs should serve as an example of such an approach and by applying the UN “Delivering as One” principle combine their efforts to a maximum extent possible.

3. Proposed programmatic solutions

- “The MPHSTF will focus more on the programmatic approach than on stand-alone projects in order to strengthen the interconnection and reduce transaction costs, allowing the government and partners at different levels to work in a coordinated and committed manner” (page 14).

- **2.4.3. Eligibility of Projects.** “The MPHSTF funds will be directed towards developing and piloting new and innovative methods of solving problems, and the piloting of economic and business projects. Successful pilot projects will be presented to the Government, the donor’s community and the business sector for further replication, not only within the Aral Sea region but also in other regions (page 16)”.

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• “To be considered by the Fund, interventions need to be meet people-centred, context-specific, integrated solutions, and innovative” criteria (page 16):

Recommendation: People-centred (involving and mobilizing communities for problem identification, planning, implementation and evaluation, and ensuring participation) – despite the fact that some components of the project state that community representatives will participate in the implementation and monitoring of activities, nevertheless, it is quite difficult to clearly evaluate the role and participation of community representatives in identifying problems and community needs. Integrated solutions (concentrating all interventions in the same area/with the same community, piloting around the specific geographic area) – in accordance with the proposal, the project is planned to be implemented in four districts of Karakalpakstan (Muynak, Bozatau, Takhtakupir and Kungrad districts). In line with the principle of integrated solution of the MPHSTF, the Technical Secretariat recommends that the PUNOs concentrate project activities in one or two related areas. This approach allows the project to increase its impact in one or two districts (rather than spreading in four districts as proposed), which will allow increasing the impact of the project in the area of the region that can truly benefit from the intervention. It will also help efficiently utilize funds and achieve maximum results within an integrated approach to resolving problems. It is better to solve the problem in an efficient way by concentrating the scarce resources of the Fund in a limited area, pilot the solution and get maximum results possible, rather than disbursing funds in a number of areas but get, in this case, the limited impact from the interventions. In the case of proof of the positive impact of the project on the situation in a specific area, pilot results can be presented to local and regional partners to apply this approach in other areas, which is the main goal of the MPHSTF.

The Technical Secretariat proposes to hold separate and bilateral meetings within the project development team to discuss the best options for budget cuts so that the reduction does not negatively affect the overall quality and logical structure of proposals.
## Project Title:
Technical support to the Steering Committee of the UN Multi-Partner Human Security Trust Fund for the Aral Sea region in Uzbekistan

## Participating UN Organization(s):
The UN RCO in Uzbekistan hosts the Technical Secretariat while the UNDP in Uzbekistan administers the Technical Secretariat project on behalf of the UN RCO.

## Project contact:
**Ms. Helena Fraser**, UN Resident Coordinator to the Republic of Uzbekistan, Co-chair of the MPHSTF Steering Committee

**Ms. Rusyan Jill Mamiit**, Development Coordination Officer, Partnerships and Development Finance, MPHSTF Focal Point at UN RCO in Uzbekistan

## Implementing Partner(s) – name & type (Government, CSO, etc.):
N/A – Secretariat support

## Project location
Tashkent, Uzbekistan

## Project Description:
The Technical Secretariat supports the implementation of the UN Multi-Partner Human Security Trust Fund for the Aral Sea region in Uzbekistan. The UN RCO in Uzbekistan hosts the Technical Secretariat (TS). The TS works in close collaboration with the UN MPTF Office (MPTFO) as the Administrative Agent of the Fund.

This project document details the functions of the Technical Secretariat. This project document includes the budget for the full operational cost of the Technical Secretariat for 4 years from 1 July 2020 to 31 December 2023. The budget includes the operational costs for connectivity, travel, consultants, and office supplies. UN RCO will oversee and manage the proposed budget. Finally, the project document also includes the staffing needs of the TS, which includes four positions: Head of Technical Secretariat, External Relations and Outreach Specialist, Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist, Programme Specialist.

## Total Project Cost
USD 629,588.00

## Proposed Project Start Date: 1 July 2020

## Proposed Project End Date: 31 December 2023

## Representative of the United Nations (Co-chair of the Steering Committee)
*Name and position:*

**Helena Fraser**, UN Resident Coordinator for the Republic of Uzbekistan

*Signature and date: ___________________

## Representative of the Government (Co-chair of the Steering Committee)
*Name and position:*

**Badriddin Abidov**, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Investments and Foreign Trade of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Member of the Steering Committee

*Signature and date: _______________
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Representative of the UNDP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Name and position:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ms. Doina Munteanu, UNDP Officer-in-Charge in Uzbekistan</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Signature and date:</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Introduction

The UN Multi-Partner Human Security Trust Fund for the Aral Sea region in Uzbekistan (MPHSTF), established in November 2018, aims to be transformative, evidence- and human-rights based, and inclusive. The overall goal of the MPHSTF is to catalyse and strengthen a multi-sectoral and people-centred 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, which is consistent with the Busan development effectiveness principles on local ownership, focus on results, partnerships of development partners, and transparency of aid.

Based on a unified Programmatic Framework, that builds on the results of an independent Socio-economic Survey conducted in 2017 in the Aral Sea Region communities most affected by the environmental disaster, the MPHSTF seeks to build the resilience of the communities affected by the Aral Sea crisis through achieving five outcomes that support environmental resilience, income generation, and health of the population particularly those considered vulnerable such as women, children, and the youth.

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

In support of the above outcomes, this project document summarizes the functions of the Technical Secretariat. It also includes the associated direct costs to perform such for the entire operational cycle of the MPHSTF, until December 31, 2023. To reflect the multi-year nature of the Technical Secretariat support and to include appropriate results indicators for the Technical Secretariat against annual reporting, there is a plan to revisit and revise the project document on an annual basis when necessary.
The Technical Secretariat

1. Overall Function

The UN RCO in Uzbekistan oversees and manages the main functions of the Technical Secretariat. The UNDP Country Office in Uzbekistan provides operational support services to the Technical Secretariat. As such, the Technical Secretariat directly reports to the UN Resident Coordinator (RC) in Uzbekistan. An MPHSTF focal point at the UN RCO supports the RC.

The Technical Secretariat provides both technical and operational expertise. Its primary role is to manage the approval of project/programme proposals in accordance with the MPHSTF Terms of Reference and the allocation envelopes as agreed by the Steering Committee. The Technical Secretariat ensures that successful proposals have been developed in accordance with agreed-upon proposals submission guidelines and criteria specified in the MPHSTF Operational Manual.

The Technical Secretariat is responsible for the following:

- Coordination of efforts within MPHSTF, including the implementation of decisions made by the Steering Committee;
- Elaborate an Operations Manual, in accordance with the signed legal agreements, and ensure compliance with it;
- Plan and prepare the meetings of the Steering Committee and hold records of decisions through minutes of the meetings;
- Coordinate projects/programmes eligibility and allocation processes, including any calls for proposals;
- Provide advice and recommendations (in close collaboration with the Administrative Agent) to the Steering Committee on implementation performance, and cash management planning;
- Submit Fund Transfer Requests, approved by the SC, to the Administrative Agent;
- Oversee the design, development and maintenance of one integrated platform for programme design, management and reporting;
- Ensure monitoring and control of operational risks (update the risk monitoring matrix regularly);
- Consolidate the narrative annual and final reports submitted by Participating UN Organizations and present the consolidated report to the Steering Committee for review;
- Support coordination of efforts with the Government of Uzbekistan and other development actors rendering assistance to the Aral Sea region to avoid overlapping and duplication;
- Liaise with the Administrative Agent on MPTF administration issues, including issues related to MPTF extension and closure;
- Within the MPHSTF M&E system, advise the Participating UN Organizations on appropriate performance indicators and data gathering, consolidate the information received from the Participating UN Organizations into a central results-based management system;
- Monitor and evaluate the implementation of projects/programmes against the programmatic framework of the MPHSTF.

1 Operational support services - services provided by the UNDP Operations Units in the area of HR, Procurement, IT, Admin and Finance
2 As per the MPHSTF Terms of Reference
It is important to note that the Steering Committee governs the MPHSTF. The Committee holds periodic meetings to foster cooperation and a shared vision among key donor representatives, and those from the government organizations and civil society networks. During these meetings, the Technical Secretariat provides 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 Technical Secretariat supports the entire programming cycle of the MPHSTF with a work plan and budget reviewed annually by the Steering Committee. The Technical Secretariat also provides advice and quality control over the MPHSTF implementation and coordinates the meetings. It facilitates collaboration and communication between the Government of Uzbekistan, Participating UN Organizations, contributing donors and the co-chairs of the MPHSTF. It develops and implements a resource mobilization strategy to attract investments from other donors. The Technical Secretariat supervises the implementation of interventions that are context-specific and rely on available local assets and resources thereby empowering the participating communities.

2. **Work Plan**

The Technical Secretariat supports the entire programming cycle of the MPHSTF with a work plan and budget reviewed annually by the Steering Committee. The main activities within the programming cycle until the end of 2023 are as follows;

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Activities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Support to the ongoing mobilization of current and potential donors’ financial and technical resources to the MPHSTF</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 2. | Design the Call for Proposals and oversee the proposal development, submission, and approval processes including:  
  * Development and submission of the project proposals by PUNOs  
    - Organization of wide discussions between UN agencies, Government, research institutions and NGO  
    - Joint formulation of the project proposals to be submitted to MPTF  
  * Evaluation of the project proposals submitted by PUNOs  
    - Creation of the independent review panel  
    - Project proposal evaluation  
    - Consolidation of the review results for submission to the Steering Committee  
  * Selection of the project proposals  
    - Organization of the Steering Committee meeting for selection of the proposals for funding  
    - Development of the full-fledged project documents for selected project proposals based on the Steering Committee decision |
| 3. | Development and submission of relevant documents to MPTF Office in New-York for funds transfer to PUNOs |
| 4. | Monitor, review, and evaluate the implementation of projects by PUNOs |
3. **Structure and Roles of Technical Secretariat Staff**

The Technical Secretariat will have four staff under the following organogram:

![Organogram of the Technical Secretariat](image)

The Technical Secretariat operates under an overall management of the Head of the TS (HTS). The HTS will coordinate the implementation of MPHSTF activities and its entire programming cycle. HTS will work under the overall guidance of the MPHSTF Steering Committee and direct supervision of the Head of the UN Resident Coordinator, and in close collaboration with relevant partners and UN agencies.

The External Relations and Outreach Specialist oversees the implementation activities aimed at establishing partnerships, managing external relations and communications for the MPHSTF, and assisting resource mobilization within the Fund.

The Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Specialist provides support for the implementation of activities aimed at establishing and maintaining M&E systems, results-based reporting and evaluation at the Fund-level with appropriate institutional and governance system for the MPHSTF and its results framework. The M&E Specialist will lead the regular M&E missions in the project areas in the Aral Sea region. The Specialist will also provide the necessary support to MPHSTF-funded projects in monitoring their progress and achievements.

The Programme Specialist will work in close collaboration with the MPHSTF Participating UN Organizations and be responsible for programmatic aspects of the MPHSTF, including formulation of the MPHSTF projects portfolio responding to its Results Matrix.

Additionally, the Technical Secretariat will be supported by specialists in communications and other areas on a consultancy basis as required.

4. **The Technical Secretariat’s Budget**

The proposed budget required to perform the functions of the Technical Secretariat throughout the MPHSTF’s lifecycle is summarized below. This proposed budget will be subject to annual review and approval of the Steering Committee. The rule of thumb is that Technical Secretariat costs should not exceed 3% of total fund capitalization.
At the meeting of the Steering Committee in December 2019, the members of the Committee approved the Technical Secretariat’s annual work plan and budget for 2020. Currently, the Technical Secretariat has USD 41,000 available until June 2020. The budget in this document covers the operational cost of the Technical Secretariat from 1 July 2020 to 31 December 2023.

### Budget Summary per UNDG Category, for July 1st, 2020 until December 31st, 2023

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Categories</th>
<th>2020 (July-Dec)</th>
<th>2021</th>
<th>2022</th>
<th>2023</th>
<th>Total (In USD)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Staff and other personnel costs</td>
<td>45,000</td>
<td>95,000</td>
<td>100,000</td>
<td>102,000</td>
<td>342,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Supplies, Commodities, Materials</td>
<td>6,000</td>
<td>7,000</td>
<td>7,000</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>25,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Equipment, Vehicles and Furniture including Depreciation</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>6,000</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>11,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Contractual Services</td>
<td>19,000</td>
<td>34,000</td>
<td>14,000</td>
<td>14,000</td>
<td>81,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Travel</td>
<td>9,000</td>
<td>12,000</td>
<td>12,000</td>
<td>9,000</td>
<td>42,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 General Operating and Other Direct Costs</td>
<td>14,200</td>
<td>24,400</td>
<td>24,400</td>
<td>24,400</td>
<td>87,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sub-Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>93,200</strong></td>
<td><strong>178,400</strong></td>
<td><strong>162,400</strong></td>
<td><strong>154,400</strong></td>
<td><strong>588,400</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Indirect Support Costs (7%)</td>
<td>6,524</td>
<td>12,488</td>
<td>11,368</td>
<td>10,808</td>
<td>41,188</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Costs</strong></td>
<td><strong>99,724</strong></td>
<td><strong>190,888</strong></td>
<td><strong>173,768</strong></td>
<td><strong>165,208</strong></td>
<td><strong>629,588</strong>*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*NB: The amount is indicative and not available. It will be available upon receipt of donors’ contributions.
Notes on the budget of the MPHSTF Technical Secretariat

Staff and other personnel costs

- SC9 Head of Technical Secretariat - recruitment completed.
- SC7 External Relations and Outreach Specialist - recruitment completed.
- SC7 Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist - recruitment completed.
- SC7 Programme Specialist - vacant.

The current UNDP proforma costs for staff for 12 months are as follows: One SC9 level post, USD 28,000; Three SC7 level posts - each USD 21,000.

Supplies, Commodities, Materials

This budget line includes all direct and indirect costs (e.g. transport, delivery, distribution) associated with procurement of supplies, commodities and materials, e.g. publication of relevant materials, stationery supply etc.

Contractual Services

This budget line includes consultants and contractual services in the following areas: professional editing and graphic design of the MPHSTF related reports, organization of presentations and individual events within the framework of donor’s visits, logistic for the Steering and Advisory Committees meetings, filming video-clips on Aral Sea catastrophe and MPHSTF’s activities, evaluation of project proposals, support to annual reporting requirements and communication needs such as website design services, report writing, printing and translation.

Travel

This budget line includes travel and transportation costs for the promotion of MPHSTF abroad and in Uzbekistan, using international negotiation platforms, cooperation formats and internal business trips for M&E visits.

General Operating and Other Direct Costs

Includes all general operating costs for running the Technical Secretariat office (rent office, telecommunication, internet, admin support costs, operational support services costs, miscellaneous expenses, finance charges and other costs).

5. Legal Context or Basis of Relationship

Basis of Relationship

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>UN Organization</th>
<th>Agreement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

3 Operational support services are charged based on corporate cost recovery policy and UNDP Direct Project Cost guidelines
ANNEX 6

Agenda of the first meeting of the Advisory Committee on Sustainable Development of the Aral Sea region of Uzbekistan

Preliminary dates: August (due to closure of quarantine measures)
Participants The National and Local Government, UN Agencies, Donor Countries and IFIs, Private Companies, NGOs and Academia
Goals/Objectives Institutionalization of the Platform for sustainable development of the Aral Sea region, mobilize financial and technical resources to implement joint targeted initiatives

TENTATIVE AGENDA OF THE MEETING

Welcoming Notes:
- The Government of Uzbekistan (Vice-Prime Minister)
- The United Nations (UN Resident Coordinator or High-Level Guest)

Presentation of the Strategy of the Multi-Partner Human Security Trust Fund for Aral Sea and current initiatives (UN Agencies)
- MPTF Institutional Capacities: Effectiveness and Transparency
- Mobilization of financial and technical resources, including pool- and parallel funding from donors
- Mid-term results of current initiatives (1st CFP)
- Presentation of newly selected projects (2nd CFP)

Presentation of current needs and the Government vision (The Council of Ministers of Karakalpakstan, The Ministry of Investment and Foreign Trade)
- Recent trends in environmental and socio-economic situation in Aral Sea Region
- Implications of COVID-19 on health, living standards and private sector development in Karakalpakstan
- Project proposals developed by Inter-Agency Working Group (USD 300 mln projects to be updated)

The role of the Advisory Committee in promotion of innovations and new technologies in the region (The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Donors)
- The experience of EU, Norway, Japan, Finland and Korea in cooperation with MPHSTF
- Commitments from other donors
ANNEX 7

Request for non-cost extension of the UNICEF/UNFPA Joint Program "Improvement of Quality of Perinatal Care Service to Most Vulnerable Mothers and Newborns"

In June 2019, the MPHSTF Steering Committee, in its second meeting, approved the UNICEF/UNFPA Joint Program “Improvement of Quality in Perinatal Care Service to Most Vulnerable Mothers and Newborns”. The total budget of the program $ 1.6 mln., project duration is 26 August 2019 – 31 December 2020.

In June 18, 2020, UNICEF and UNFPA Representatives in Uzbekistan submitted a request to the Steering Committee for non-cost extension of the Joint Program until April 30, 2021.

UNICEF/UNFPA justifies the request for four-month non-cost extension of the project with the movement and other restrictions introduced by the Government due to COVID-19 pandemic in Uzbekistan and abroad. Almost three months of strict lockdown with the travel restrictions and social distancing measures caused delays to the program in implementation of the key activities of the work plan as well as to deploy necessary resources in a complementary manner. Therefore, the program implementation was delayed for at least three months and postponed until the quarantine measures were eased.

However, the procurement component is still lagging behind because of COVID-19 and it is highly likely that not all procurement items will be delivered and installed by the end of 2020. The COVID-19 pandemic has severely impacted global health product supply chains, affecting key materials and ingredients, finished health products, logistics, shipping etc.

The program is currently at the critical point of the implementation. While large part of the “soft component” has been accomplished and could be further expedited, the “hard” component needs additional time to be completed due to the circumstances beyond the programme’s control. In addition, implementing partners need to raise capacity of healthcare providers on how to safely operate new equipment and integrate all newly acquired skills and knowledge into everyday practice upon delivery and installation of all equipment. The proposed amendments of program document are aimed at enabling implementing partners to effectively address these challenges.

The program team is proposing the four-month non-cost extension with amendments to the program workplan and budget (enclosed). The changes proposed will focus on the following main areas:

1. **Deferring $120,193 to 2021 for UNICEF part and $ 96,735 for UNFPA respectively**

   The amounts to be deferred in UNICEF’s budget would mostly cover procurement and installation of the equipment, training on how operate the equipment, four months of staff cost, and monitoring visits. For UNFPA, the amount covers procurement and installation of equipment, a number of follow up capacity building visits, some monitoring visits and four-month staff cost.

2. **Budget amendments for UNICEF**

   Transferring $3,428 from “Contractual services” budget category to “Staff and personnel”, transferring $10,000 from “Contractual services” to “Travel” respectively.