



Enhancing Human Security in the Former Nuclear Test Site of Semipalatinsk

Annual Progress Report #3

Covering the period of 01 January 2010 – 31 December 2010

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Brief overview of the project

Benefiting country	Kazakhstan
Location	East-Kazakhstan, Pavlodar and Karaganda Oblasts
Title of the project	Enhancing Human Security in the Former Nuclear Test Site of Semipalatinsk
Duration of the project	01 January 2008 – 31 December 2010
UN organization responsible for management of the project	UNDP Kazakhstan (Administrative Agent)
UN executing partners	UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNV
Non-UN executing partners	Semey city Akimat
Total project cost	\$1,978,698
Reporting period	01 January 2010 – 31 December 2010
Type of report	Annual Progress Report #3
Date of submission	30 January 2011

Abbreviations and Acronyms

Akim	Village/district leader, town/city mayor, provincial governor
Akimat	Council/Administration (of village, town, city or province)
BP	Better Parenting
CBO	Community-Based Organisation
CFC	Child-Friendly City
ECD	Early Childhood Development
EKO	East-Kazakhstani Oblast
FSC	Family Support Center
HBR	Healthy Baby Room
HRBAP	Human Rights-based Approach
IUD	Intrauterine Device
IUNV	International United Nations Volunteer
KZT	Kazakhstan tenge
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
MoES	Ministry of Education and Science
MoH	Ministry of Health
MoLSP	Ministry of Labour and Social Protection
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NUNV	National United Nations Volunteer
Oblast	Province
PHC	Primary Health Care
PMPC	Psychological, Medical and Pedagogical Consultation
Rayon	District
RBB	Results-based Budget
RBM	Results-based Management
RK	Republic of Kazakhstan
SME	Small and Medium Size Enterprises
SMUS	State Medical University of Semey
SSMC	Semey State Medical College
SSPI	Semey State Pedagogical Institute
TWG	Technical Working Group
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNV	United Nations Volunteers
UN CT	United Nations County Team
WHO	World Health Organization
YFS	Youth-Friendly Services

Executive Summary

This report covers the period of 01 January 2010 to 31 December 2010 and is compiled in joint cooperation of UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA and UNV. During the period under report the overall objectives set by four organizations for implementation in 2010 have been met, and all components of the project being on track. The report outlines the activities and achievements in 2010 in the results section. In 2010 two Project Board (PB) meetings took place in June and in November for regular monitoring and quality assurance of the project progress. The Project Board Members (PBM) reviewed and commented on projects' progress/achievements and challenges and provided guidance to ensure efficient and timely execution of the projects' activities. The outcomes of the project were also discussed with the Government as a successful model of joint UN programme in a selected geographical area.

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

UNFPA

78 health professionals of Semey region under the leadership of national consultant from South-Kazakhstan oblast were trained in the seminar - master - class "Effective perinatal care" (on the work place) and are ready to provide quality perinatal care. Software based questionnaires to assess how well obstetricians and midwives are aware of evidence-based technologies of perinatal care have been developed by national consultant. Recommendations to improve implementation of the perinatal care regionalization in Semey region were adopted by the meeting with participation of international consultant and specialists of the Departments of Healthcare of Semey, East-Kazakhstan, Karagandy and Pavlodar oblasts. On the basis of those recommendations programme of implementation of the perinatal care regionalization in Semey was drafted by national consultant. The revised curricula for undergraduate and postgraduate training of secondary and tertiary medical schools students of Semey was prepared by international consultant and operationalized. 22 volunteers of Youth Health Centers from Semey and Ust-Kamenogorsk cities were trained through three-days duration workshop on family planning and prevention of STI/HIV transmission. 50 local specialists from Semey region trained on master - class (on the work place) to introduce logistics management information system to insure reproductive health commodity security through implementation of CHANNEL software.

UNICEF

In 2010 UNICEF continued its long-term collaboration with Semey city and Eastern Kazakhstan region Aimats targeting the most vulnerable groups and strengthens the state statutory protective systems and services (newborns, 0-3 year-old children, children with special needs, young people, families in difficult life situations, children without parental care and children in contact with law). The main purposes are to ensure sustainable access to quality health and social services at the local level for decreasing infant and child mortality and morbidity rates, prevention of family dysfunction and support child inclusion. The region is eager to develop the model of multi-sectoral approach to support the most vulnerable population and to budget the models that have been set up with UNICEF technical and financial assistance.

During the project implementation within health, educational and social welfare sectors UNICEF contributed to the improvement of medical and social services provided by local partners at two healthy baby rooms, Semey and Ust-Kamenogorsk maternity hospitals, a family support centre, six child development rooms and two centers providing youth-friendly services (including within the promoted and realized by UNICEF the 'Child-Friendly City' Initiative).

With regard to the system response strengthening, knowledge and capacity of 150 local experts have been increased on improvement perinatal care; early children care and development; building child-friendly cities, services supporting families in difficult circumstances and technologies of inclusion of children with special needs into pre-school settings.

Approximately 800 children benefited from the inclusion models established in 2010; the same year more than 6,500 young people counseled on reproductive health and healthy life style habits; children's and young people's opinions took into consideration within the mapping child-friendly/unfriendly city environment exercise in EKO.

Specific recommendations for Semey and EKO have been developed and discussed at the local level regarding:

- Regionalization of perinatal care;
- Establishing multidisciplinary mechanism preventing child abandonment;
- Setting up the integrated child protection system at local level and scenarios for transformation of state child care system into child and family oriented alternative care;
- Support the implementation of the 5-year territorial development programmes of Semey, Ust-Kamenogorsk cities and Beskaragai based on analyzed budget in terms of its effectiveness at local level in the best interests of children, youth and women.

Semey inclusion models for children with special needs into pre-schools were tested and presented at the international and national conferences for scale up. Moreover, EKO CFCI (CFC Initiative) experience was presented at the national CFC workshop in Pavlodar; many local Akimats are interested to visit EKO to learn the experience.

A tool for the collection of disaggregated data on children in institutions was adopted to the local context and pre-tested in East Kazakhstan region. CFC Action Plan for 2011-2015 developed jointly with the key local departments, being finalized and will be attached to the new Memorandum of Understanding with the Eastern Kazakhstan region within the framework of Child-Friendly Oblast.

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

UNDP

UNDP conducted 5 seminars and trained 80 Project beneficiaries, including rural and city businessmen, employees of local administrations, farmers, and households, unemployed. Besides the main topics on entrepreneurship issues, the seminar participants were trained on cattle-breeding and crop-raising. The focal points of the Fund for Financial Support of Agriculture (FFSA) have provided 254 businesses consultations to rural entrepreneurs on microcrediting and microleasing, business planning and management. On 14 October 2010 the concluding Round Table on "Development of Entrepreneurship in East-Kazakhstan Oblast: achievements and perspectives" was organised in Semey city for 38 participants. Among them being the representatives of partner organizations, donors, government, business entities, local administration of Semey city, village okrugs and rayons, as well as the Project beneficiaries - rural entrepreneurs. The purpose of the Round Table was to present the results of implementation of Economic Component of the Project on support to building capacities for rural entrepreneurship and elaboration of recommendations for further development of business activity of rural population in the East-Kazakhstan Oblast. The recommendations of the Round Table are elaborated and available at UNDP.

The monitoring of the microcredit loaners revealed the following results: out of 33 borrowers 15 repaid their microcredits, 12 microcredits are to be repaid in the first quarter of 2011, 6 borrowers did not succeed to repay the loans in time; however the borrowers do plan to pay back as soon as possible.

The microleasing programme was realized through 18 microleasing projects of 25 borrowers, including individual and group applications of 2-3 borrowers. Totally, 5 Credit Committee meetings to approve microleasing projects were conducted during the period from end 2009 till July 2010. The grant amount of \$ 100,000 was totally disbursed for the acquisition of the agricultural equipment (such as tractors, tricle-irrigation, and expanding plant cultivation), mini-bakery, and refrigeration equipment for shops. The monitoring results showed that the funds were used by its purpose; the equipment is acquired and serves for the benefit of the entrepreneurs.

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

UNDP/UNV

In the framework of the tender announcements for small grant projects 74 grant applications were considered at the Grant Appraisal Committees, consisted of representatives of independent NGO, local government bodies, National Project Director and UNDP. 29 grant projects were approved, benefiting 177 325 members of local communities; 112 initiative groups and 784 volunteers were actively involved in the implementation of these 29 projects. The grants were mainly directed to acquisition of medical, sport, musical equipment, recreation of culture parks, development of national arts and crafts, equipment for sawing shops, children rooms, etc. The monitoring results showed that all the grant funds were used by its purpose and the projects are sustainable.

2 two-day trainings on social project development were organized for 63 participants from local government, initiative groups, NGOs in the Semey city and Egendybulak village of Karaganda oblast in February 2010. In August 2010 2 two-day seminars on volunteer mobilization and fund-raising were conducted for 45 representatives of NGOs and initiative groups of Pavlodar, Karaganda and East-Kazakhstan oblasts.

In the year 2010 the UN Volunteers provided 297 day-to-day consultations on various social issues for NGOs, initiative groups and entrepreneurs. On 19-20 May 2010 the second seminar on village development plan/strategic planning was conducted in Shulbinsk village. Representatives of local Akimat, representatives of the state and business structures, from education and medical sphere, NGOs and initiative groups, developed the "Social and economical strategy plan for development of Shulbinsk village", which was presented to the villagers and then sent for approval to the local budget financing.

The seminars on "Social Procurement Law" and on "Access to the information in the framework of Social Procurement" took place on 29 September 2010 in Ust-Kamenogorsk city for 32 representatives of NGOs and journalists. The purpose of the seminars was to improve the knowledge of the participants about directions of the social policy of the society, to discuss the ways to distribute the funds of Social Procurement among NGOs, the inter-relations between state bodies, civil society and mass media.

On 30 September 2010 the concluding Round Table on "Partnership aiming the development of civil society in East-Kazakhstan Oblast" took place in Akimat of EKO with the participation of a Deputy of Mazhilis of Parliament of RK, members of Republic Civil Alliance, representatives of NGOs and mass media of Pavlodar, Karagandy and East-Kazakhstan Oblasts. The purpose of the Round Table was to discuss the actual issues of development of NGOs and elaboration of recommendations for further improvement of interaction of the government and institutes of civil society in the framework of Civil Society Development Concept and Social Procurement Law. The recommendations are elaborated and are available at UNDP.

Purpose

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

- Vulnerable families to benefit from raised living standards and quality health and psychosocial support services
- Decrease infant, child and maternal mortality and improve health status of young people
- Enhance and empower civil society and local ownership in order to prioritize people's needs and implement sustainable community initiatives

- Enhance community and resource mobilization and volunteerism to form self-help groups and associations in conjunction with local authorities to undertake small scale projects for improved living standards
- Create markets in rural areas to benefit the poorest through indirect support, namely empowerment and expanded access to financial services

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

Health Component (UNICEF and UNFPA):

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

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

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

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

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

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

Expected outputs:

- 1.1 A pool of obstetricians, gynaecologists, midwives, neonatologists and respective health managers (at least 67%) is enabled to provide quality perinatal services
- 1.2 Sustainable regulatory framework for provision of quality perinatal services is in place
- 1.3 At least 900 primary health care workers (doctors and home visiting nurses) are able to counsel families with children at 0-3 in respect to early childhood development
- 1.4 Enabling regulatory environment for strengthening existing home visiting system for families with children at 0-3 is established
- 1.5 Managers and staff of youth-friendly psychosocial and health services are able to provide quality counselling in respect to young people's sexual, reproductive and psychosocial issues
- 1.6 Regulatory framework for provision of quality youth-friendly psychosocial and health services is in place
- 1.7 The results of piloting in the Semipalatinsk region are used as evidence-based advocacy for nation-wide replication of youth-friendly services
- 1.8 Service providers/social workers effectively support families and enable children to grow up in the family environment
- 1.9 Local government are able to effectively apply Human Rights Based Approach and Results-Based Management in assessment, planning and delivery of social services, taking into account special needs of vulnerable families
- 1.10 Local government will have knowledge and instruments on the management of effective approaches to convergent services improvement (health, social protection and education) and monitoring of the Convention on the Rights of Child
- 1.11 NGOs are able to monitor the quality of service delivery and advocate equity access
- 1.12 Local authorities will ensure the delivery of social sector services according to the developed standards

Beneficiaries:

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

Economic Component (UNDP):

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

OBJECTIVE 2.1 By end 2010, 30% rural entrepreneurs are better able to understand and exploit economic opportunities through access to financial markets, information and training

OBJECTIVE 2.2 By end 2010, 150 rural households will benefit from microcredit and microleasing services

Expected outputs:

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

Beneficiaries:

- Rural entrepreneurs, women, vulnerable households, unemployed

Social Component (UNDP and UNV):

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

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

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

Expected Outputs:

- 3.1 Transparent grant mechanism for NGOs/CBOs established in cooperation with local authorities
- 3.2 Volunteerism-based mechanisms mobilized to contribute to community goals

Beneficiaries:

- NGO/CBOs, vulnerable households, local government

Relevance on attainment of human security

The international community and the UN General Assembly highlight the priority of interventions in the region. The project is complementary to the Government Programme for Semipalatinsk. In the Government's Semipalatinsk Relief and Rehabilitation Programme, it is recommended that 78 per cent of total resources donated by the international community focus on longer-term efforts such as building

capacities and empowering institutions and civil society groups that are dealing with the humanitarian and social effects of the nuclear testing.

Strengthening human security in the most vulnerable parts of the country requires a multi-sectoral approach including improved health services to promote universal access to basic health care, realization of minimum living standards and enhanced local capacity and promotion of partnerships with civil society groups and NGOs. A broad range of interconnected issues, namely Health and Social Services, Economic Development and Social Infrastructure are addressed by this project.

The beneficiaries of the Project are newborn children, young people, and women of reproductive age, health workers, rural entrepreneurs and vulnerable households. Along with directly benefiting those particularly vulnerable families by improving living standards and better quality health and psychosocial support services, the project aims at building the capacity of local authority and civil society to identify and monitor the indicators on development. Key milestones to foster the good governance and participatory development are the improved knowledge and skills on results and human rights-based management in planning and delivery of social services.

Main implementing partners

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

Results

Main activities undertaken

UNFPA

- Technical assistance to integrate reproductive health technologies in Semey and Kurchatov cities maternity houses and maternities of Abay and Beskaragay districts with the involvement of the national consultant from Southern-Kazakhstan oblast;
- Development of software on examination of the level of awareness of health professionals on the modern reproductive health technologies;
- Technical support to draft programme on perinatal care regionalization with the involvement of international and national consultants and specialists of the Departments of Healthcare of East-Kazakhstan, Karagandy and Pavlodar oblasts;
- Review of obstetrics-gynecology curriculum for medical students developed by specialists of Department for Obstetrics and Gynecology of the State Medical University and Medical College in Semey within enabled 20% changes to improve trainings for medical students and intern-doctors;
- Three-day duration workshop on family planning and prevention of STI/HIV transmission with the involvement of volunteers of youth health centers established by UNICEF with participation of national consultants from SKO;
- Technical assistance at the sites to introduce logistics management information system to enhance reproductive health commodity security through implementation of CHANNEL software in Semipalatinsk region with the involvement of national consultants from Southern-Kazakhstan oblast.

UNICEF

- More than 27,000 young people counseled on reproductive health and healthy life style habits.
- 24 obstetricians and 15 neonatologists from Semey and Ust-Kamenogorsk maternities possess advance knowledge on improvement effective perinatal technologies

- Model of regionalization of perinatal care in EKO developed, proposed and discussed at the local level and in the Ministry of Health; the second level maternity being established in the South of the region (Ayaguz rural area).
- 110 local pediatricians and patronage nurses strengthened their capacity in terms of early children care and development by local trainers from Medical University of Semey and Semey Medical College trained by UNICEF in 2008-2009. Trainings were funded from the local budget as initially planned with the local health authorities: the blocks on ECD/BP introduced by UNICEF into the training curricula (pre- and in-service ones).
- Psychologists and social workers in FSC (Semey) provide regular counseling services for families in difficult life situations.
- 5-year territorial development programmes of Semey, Ust-Kamenogorsk cities and Beskaragai district were analyzed on ensuring effective programme planning and management and budget expenditures at local level in the best interests of children, youth and women
- CFCI EKO experience presented at the national CFC workshop in Pavlodar; many local Akimats are interested to visit EKO to exchange the experience.
- Children's and young people's opinions took into consideration when mapping child-friendly/unfriendly city environment (FSC – Ust-Kamenogorsk).
- CFC Action Plan for 2011-2015 developed. All key departments of EKO, Ust-Kamenogorsk and Semey cities were provided with international expertise on CFCI
- Child protection system has been mapped in EKO and strategic recommendations for the establishment of the local level integrated child protection mechanism and implementation of the Law on Special Social Services have been provided, presented and discussed at the local level. The mechanism has been designed for piloting in EKO and other regions of Kazakhstan during 12 months (establishment or re-structuring the Commission of Minors into a Children's Board under the local Akimat, with different functions and membership, assessment of children's needs in the area, development a range of community based services to meet the needs of children according to the agreed protocols and guidelines, capacity building work etc.)
- Akimats of EKO and Semey were enabled to review effectiveness of establish models for parental/family/child support services. The capacity of 50 personnel engaged in modelling has been identified and strengthened; the key lessons learnt from the models, including recommendations for improvement of these services and their sustainability have been documented. Among the findings are insufficient identification and registration system of families and children in difficult life circumstances, lack of continuous following and monitoring of family and child situation, lack of services to cover all groups; need to strengthen pre- and in-service training of the service providers; it's important to run public awareness campaign in regards to availability of the services in the local community; the decision on budgeting the models is crucial for their sustainability.
- Inclusion of children with special needs into community-based social services and pre-schools in urban area has been tried out and documented; multi-sectoral mechanism of support inclusion of children with disabilities in rural area has been established and will be documented in 2011. Approximately 800 children benefitted from the established models in 2010. International Conference on Pre-school education aiming at discussion pre-school education problems and perspectives, its effective management and support to children with special needs, who don't have access to the education and developmental programmes has been organized at the Semey Pedagogical Institute.
- Main causes of child abandonment of children 0-3 of age have been identified by a multi-sectoral group of local experts; findings and recommendations have been presented at the local level. The study revealed that the number of child abandonment is growing, the main causes are connected to social, economic and cultural characteristics of the region, lack of support services (low living standards, young mothers, lack of specialists trained to support mothers and families in difficult life circumstances). The study recommended to the local authorities to develop a regional programme on prevention of child abandonment considering provisions of CRC; to study the need of young families in services; to follow children and families in difficult life situation; to collaborate with civil society on the issue; to arrange public awareness campaigns

on the issue of family values; to incorporate into the regional developmental programmes blocks on support of children and families in difficult circumstances.

- Data collection on the profile of institutionalized children has been piloted in the region; technical guide has been developed by local expert on sociology. Analysis of these information will contribute to enhancement of data management system. The Exercise is supported by the national and local multi-sectoral working groups and Semey academicians.

UNDP/UNV

- Supporting and building capacity of the organization selected to provide business advisory services and to deliver trainings to rural entrepreneurs;
- Delivering quarterly three-day trainings and one-day workshops in for rural entrepreneurs on business management and business planning; vocational/technological training; quality assessment; use of micro credit and micro leasing;
- Advocacy and awareness raising on microleasing. Monitoring of microleasing and microcredit projects;
- Awarding small grants to registered NGOs/CBOs with parallel funding from local authorities during the public sessions of the Small Grants Committee. Monitoring visits to track the implementation of projects financed with grants by project and programme staff;
- Organizing one-day workshop on Social Procurement Law;
- International UNV to support and conduct training of national UNVs. National UNVs support the creation of self-help groups in selected rural areas through follow-up activities on delivered trainings and day-to-day presence and advice;
- Village development plans that outline possible social, economical and ecological projects are developed by CBOs;
- Organizing quarterly trainings for local NGOs/CBOs at the rayon level on (1) organizational development and technical capacity building; (2) poverty, environment, sustainable livelihoods, gender and human right issues; (3) humanitarian, social mandate of NGOs and CBOs; (4) participatory assessment techniques; (5) practical skills on the new Social Procurement Law and fund-raising; (6) Results based management of social programs and monitoring of local budget implementation (7) Mobilization of volunteers (8) Social project development.

PROGRESS TOWARDS THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE OUTPUTS

Health Component (UNFPA):

Objectives	Outputs	OVI	Progress	Recommendations/ comments
1.1. By end 2010, 50% of women of reproductive age and newborn babies of the Semipalatinsk region will receive quality perinatal care	Local health professionals are enabled to provide quality perinatal services	Number of national obstetricians-gynecologists, neonatologists and midwives trained to implement WHO advocated effective perinatal technologies and to apply evidence-based principles to perinatal care	78 health professionals of Semey region under the leadership of national consultant from Southern-Kazakhstan oblast were trained in the seminar - master - class "Effective perinatal care" (on the work place) and are ready to provide quality perinatal care.	
1.1.1. A pool of obstetricians, gynaecologists, midwives, neonatologists and respective health managers (at least 67%) are enabled to provide quality perinatal services	Database on examination of the level of awareness of health professionals on the modern reproductive health technologies developed and submitted to Semey State Medical University	Availability of questionnaire to assess the knowledge of health professionals	Software based questionnaire to assess how well obstetricians and midwives are aware of evidence-based technologies of perinatal care developed and put into operation.	
1.1.2. Sustainable regulatory framework for provision of quality perinatal services is in place	Draft action plan on implementation of regionalization of perinatal care developed	Availability of draft action plan of regionalization of perinatal care	Recommendations to improve perinatal care regionalization in Semipalatinsk region were adopted by the regional meeting with participation of international consultant and specialists of the Healthcare Departments of Semey, East-Kazakhstan, Karagandy and Pavlodar oblasts. Programme to improve implementation of perinatal care regionalization in Semipalatinsk region developed by national consultant and circulated among healthcare services decision-makers.	
	Draft curriculum for medical	Availability of draft curriculum for medical	Curricula to train medical students of local secondary and tertiary schools was	

	students revised and report with recommendations developed	students to include effective perinatal technologies	reviewed by WHO-prequalified international consultant and now applied to training	
1.4. By end 2010, at least 5,000 vulnerable families in the Semipalatinsk region will benefit from social counselling and family support services	Local volunteers of youth health centres are aware of effective reproductive health technologies and able to advocate family planning focused policies Fully operational reproductive health commodity security system	Number of young people trained on reproductive health and family planning Number of health specialists trained on reproductive health commodity security	22 volunteers of Youth Health Centers from Semey and Ust-Kamenogorsk were trained in the three-day duration workshop on family planning and prevention of STI/HIV transmission. 50 local specialists from Semipalatinsk region trained on the master - class (on the work place) to introduce introduce logistics management information system to enhance reproductive health commodity security through implementation of CHANNEL software.	

Health Component (UNICEF):

Objectives	Outputs	OVis	Progress	Recommendations/comments
1.1 By end 2010, 50% of women of reproductive age and newborn babies of the Semipalatinsk region will receive quality perinatal care	1.1.1. A pool of neonatologists and respective health managers (at least 64%) are enabled to provide quality perinatal services	Increased number of newborn babies of the Semipalatinsk region receiving quality perinatal care support services	60 health workers and health managers capacitated in: WHO advocated effective perinatal technologies; Monitoring and evaluating progress of the implementation of effective perinatal technologies – application of BABIES methodology as a total quality management tool; Training curricula for future neonatologists and practicing ones contain blocks on effective perinatal technologies and essential newborn care and resuscitation;	Capacity building seminar on improvement effective perinatal technologies has been organized at the Center of Maternal and Child health of Ust-Kamenogorsk city. 24 obstetricians and 15 neonatologists from Semey and Ust-Kamenogorsk maternities.
	1.1.2. Sustainable regulatory		Model of regionalization of perinatal care in EKO developed, proposed and	

	framework for provision of quality perinatal services is in place		discussed at the local level and in the Ministry of Health. Technical support provided to the regional Health department in the area of development plan of actions aimed at improvement of perinatal care quality; 6 beds neonatal intensive care unit and 8 beds special care unit for preterm newborns organized in Semey Perinatal Centre; a special care neonatal unit with additional beds available for sick newborns established at the Regional Hospital	South of the region (Ayaguz rural area)
1.2. By end 2010, children of 0-3 years of age from 20,000 families living in rural areas of the Semipalatinsk region will benefit from better early childhood development practices	1.2.1. At least 900 primary health care workers (doctors and home visiting nurses) are able to counsel families with children at 0-3 in respect to early childhood development	Number of families with children of 0-3 age living in rural areas of the Semipalatinsk region benefiting from better early childhood development practices	2 healthy model baby rooms (HBR) established and equipped in Semey outpatient clinics; health care workers monitor growth and development of infants/0-3 children and counsel parents on child care and development; the 691 order approved at national level according to which healthy baby rooms established throughout the country; ECD/BP module was introduced in SSMA and SSMC training pre- and in-service curriculum for pediatricians and nurses. 110 local pediatricians and patronage nurses strengthened their capacity in terms of early children care and development by local trainers from Medical University of Semey and Semey Medical College trained by UNICEF in 2008-2009. Trainings were funded from the local budget.	

	1.2.2. Enabling regulatory environment for strengthening existing home visiting system for families with children at 0-3 is established		WHO Child growth and development standards were adopted for Kazakhstani context and submitted to the Science Department of the Ministry of Health for final approval prior to its printing and distribution among health workers.	
1.3. By end 2010, 10,000 young people of the Semipalatinsk region will enjoy youth-friendly psychosocial and health services	1.3.1. Managers and staff of youth-friendly psychosocial and health services are able to provide quality counselling in respect to young people's sexual, reproductive and psychosocial issues	Number of young people of the Semipalatinsk region enjoying youth-friendly psychosocial and health services	More than 6,500 young people counseled on reproductive health and healthy life style habits in 2010. The following specialists counseled the young people on the above mentioned issues: 817 (consultations) by psychologist 362 by gynecologist 84 by dermatologist 168 by social worker 37 by urologist. Staff of Semey YFSs increased their knowledge on development & implementation of YFS strategy involving volunteers. YFS in Ust-Kamenogorsk established, staffed and funded the regional Healthy Life style promotion center.	
	1.3.2. Regulatory framework for provision of quality youth-friendly psychosocial and health services is in place		Specialists of Semey YFS in 2010 were funded by Regional healthy life style center.	
	1.3.3. The results of piloting in the Semipalatinsk region are used		37 workshops were conducted for almost 500 young people, their parents on healthy life style issues.	

	as evidence-based advocacy for nation-wide replication of youth-friendly services		520 people were interviewed in regards to YFS public awareness and results are being processed.	
1.4. By end 2010, at least 5,000 vulnerable families in the Semipalatinsk region will benefit from social counseling and family support services	1.4.1. Service providers/social workers effectively support families and enable children to grow up in the family environment	Number of vulnerable families in the Semipalatinsk region benefiting from social counselling and family support services	<p>Psychologists and social workers in FSC (Semey) provide counseling services for families in difficult life situations.</p> <p>Technical assistance has been provided to Akimats of EKO and Semey in reviewing parental/family/child support services delivered by the established models. The capacity of 50 personnel engaged in modelling has been identified and strengthened; the key lessons learnt from the models, including recommendations for improvement of these services and their sustainability have been documented.</p> <p>Inclusion of children with special needs into community-based social services and pre-schools in urban area has been tried out and documented; multi-sectoral mechanism of support inclusion of children with disabilities in rural area has been established and will be documented in 2011. Approximately 800 children benefitted from the established models in 2010.</p> <p>250 pre-school experts and university students discussed progress in developing pre-school education, inclusion of children with special needs through the establishment of child development rooms, and exchanged the experience from different regions of Kazakhstan as well as built the links with the United Kingdom, Russia, Belorussia and Armenia.</p>	<p>Among the findings are insufficient identification and registration system of families and children in difficult life circumstances, lack of continuous following and monitoring of family and child situation, lack of services to cover all groups; need to strengthen pre- and in-service training of the service providers; it's important to run public awareness campaign in regards to availability of the services in the local community; the decision on budgeting the models is crucial for their sustainability.</p> <p>International Conference on Pre-school education aiming at discussion pre-school education problems and perspectives, its effective management and support to children with special needs, who don't have access to the education and developmental programmes has been organized at the Semey Pedagogical Institute.</p> <p>Semey inclusion models for children with special needs into pre-schools were tested and presented at the international and national conferences for scale up.</p>

			<p>Main causes of child abandonment have been identified by a multi-sectoral group of local experts; findings and recommendations have been presented at the local level. The study revealed that the number of child abandonment is growing, the main causes are connected to social, economic and cultural characteristics of the region, lack of support services (low living standards, young mothers, lack of specialists trained to support mothers and families in difficult life circumstances).</p> <p>Data collection of institutionalized children has been piloted in the region; technical guide has been developed by local expert on sociology; at present time the data are being collected in other Kazakhstani regions. Analysis of this information will contribute to enhancement of data management system. The Exercise is supported by the national and local multi-sectoral working groups and Semey academicians.</p>	<p>The study recommended to the local authorities to develop a regional programme on prevention of child abandonment considering provisions of CRC; to study the need of young families in services; to follow children and families in difficult life situation; to collaborate with civil society on the issue; to arrange public awareness campaigns on the issue of family values; to incorporate into the regional developmental programmes blocks on support of children and families in difficult circumstances.</p> <p>A tool for the collection of disaggregated data on children in institutions was adopted to the local context and pre-tested in East Kazakhstan region.</p>
	<p>1.4.2. Local government are able to effectively apply Human Rights Based Approach and Results-Based Management in assessment, planning and delivery of social services, taking into account special needs of vulnerable families</p>	<p>Local Government and NGOs of the Semipalatinsk region is able to better plan family-based and child-focused social policies at local level</p>	<p>Child protection system has been mapped in EKO and strategic recommendations for the establishment of the local level integrated child protection mechanism and implementation of the Law on Special Social Services have been provided, presented and discussed at the local level.</p>	<p>The mechanism has been designed for piloting in EKO and other regions of Kazakhstan during 12 months (establishment or restructuring the Commission of Minors into a Children's Board under the local Akimat, with different functions and membership, assessment of children's needs in the area, development a range of community based services to meet the needs of children according to the agreed protocols</p>

			and guidelines, capacity building work etc.) Besides, since the local universities don't have a viable social work course that combines the theory and practice of social work and staff is lacking of experience and knowledge base required to teach the subject a set of recommendations have been made regarding development of social work curriculum.
1.5. By end 2010, local Government and NGOs of the Semipalatinsk region will be able to better plan family-based and child-focused social policies at local level	1.5.1. Local government will have knowledge and instruments on the management of effective approaches to convergent services improvement (health, social protection and education) and monitoring of the Convention on the Rights of Child.	<p>Analysis of public expenditures in the social sector (health, education and social protection) commissioned to identify the gaps in the local budgeting system and to advise on the corrective actions, policies and mechanisms to achieve more specific outcomes for children</p> <p>Capacity building seminars on performance-based planning, management, monitoring and evaluation and results-based budgeting conducted to enhance the capacity of local public administrators and NGOs to better plan and budget programmes for children</p> <p>Capacity building seminar on child-friendly city organized for all key departments of EKO, Ust-Kamenogorsk and Semey cities; international experience of building the child-friendly cities shared; CFC Action Plan for 2011-2015 developed and being finalized;</p> <p>CFC EKO experience presented at the national CFC workshop in Pavlodar; many local Akimats are interested to visit EKO to exchange the experience</p>	
	1.5.2. NGOs are	Children's and young	

	able to monitor the quality of service delivery and advocate equity access		people's opinions took into consideration when mapping child-friendly/unfriendly city environment.	
	1.5.3. Local authorities will ensure the delivery of social sector services according to the developed standards		5-year territorial development programmes of Semey, Ust-Kamenogorsk cities and Beskaragai district analyzed on ensuring effective budget expenditures at local level in the the best interests of children, youth and women.	

Economic Component (UNDP):

Objectives	Outputs	OVI	Progress	Recommendations/comments
2.1. By end 2010, 30% rural entrepreneurs are better able to understand and exploit economic opportunities through access to financial markets, information and training	2.1.1. Business Advisory services provided to rural entrepreneurs	Increased number of rural entrepreneurs benefiting from access to financial markets, information and training	<p>During the period of January to July 2010, the focal points of 5 rayons have provided about 254 businesses consultations to rural entrepreneurs on microcrediting and microleasing, business planning and management.</p> <p>The provision of business advisory services will be continued by credit officers of the Fund for financial support of agriculture in Abai, Beskaragai and former Zhanasemey rayons after the Project completion.</p> <p>During the period of May-June 2010 UNDP conducted 5 seminars and trained 80 Project beneficiaries, including rural and city businessmen, employees of local administrations, farmers, and households, unemployed. FFSA specialists participated as seminar trainers and they explained rules and conditions of microleasing loans, application procedures and etc. Besides the main topics on entrepreneurship issues, the seminar participants were trained on cattle-breeding and crop-raising.</p> <p>On October 14, 2010 the concluding Round Table on "Development of Entrepreneurship in East-Kazakhstan Oblast: achievements and</p>	
		Availability of recommendations for further development of		

		business activity of rural population	<p>perspectives" was organised in Semey city for 38 participants. Among them being the representatives of partner organizations, donors, government, business entities, local administration of Semey city, village okrugs and rayons, as well as the Project beneficiaries - rural entrepreneurs. The purpose of the Round Table was to present the results of implementation of Economic Component of the Project on support to building capacities for rural entrepreneurship and elaboration of recommendations for further development of business activity of rural population in the East-Kazakhstan Oblast. There was an exchange of experience, achievements and success stories sharing, as well as an active and constructive dialogue between the local administration representatives and rural entrepreneurs/borrowers during the discussion session of the Round Table. The recommendations of the Round Table elaborated and available at UNDP.</p>	
2.1. By end 2010, 150 rural households will benefit from microcredit and microleasing services	2.2.1. Access to microcredit and micro-leasing services expanded into rural areas	Number of rural households benefiting from microcredit and micro-leasing services	<p>Microcrediting</p> <p>In May 2010 the monitoring visits to microcredit loaners were organized. The following results were revealed: out of 33 borrowers 15 repaid their microcredits, 12 microcredits are to be repaid in the first quarter of 2011, 6 borrowers did not succeed to repay the loans in time; they plan to do that as soon as possible.</p> <p>Microleasing</p> <p>The microleasing programme was realized through 18 microleasing projects of 25 borrowers, including individual and group applications of 2-3 borrowers. Totally, 5 Credit Committee meetings to approve microleasing projects were conducted during the period from end 2009 till July 2010. The grant amount of \$ 100,000 was totally disbursed. In September 21-26, 2010, the monitoring visits to assess microleasing projects were conducted. The monitoring results showed that the funds were used by its purpose, the equipment is acquired and serves for the benefit of the entrepreneurs. The microleasing projects were mainly directed to the</p>	

		government and NGOs to ensure sustainability of the NGOs in the region	with the participation of a Deputy of Mazhilis of Parliament of RK, members of Republic Civil Alliance, representatives of NGOs and mass media of Pavlodar, Karagandy and East-Kazakhstan Oblasts. The purpose of the Round Table was to discuss the actual issues of development of NGOs and elaboration of recommendations for further improvement of interaction of the government and institutes of civil society in the framework of Civil Society Development Concept and Social Procurement Law. The recommendations elaborated and are available at UNDP.	
3.2. By end 2010, 60 self-help groups and associations will be engaged in voluntary action to support small-scale local initiatives	3.2.1. Volunteerism-based mechanisms mobilized to contribute to community goals	Number of self-help groups and associations engaged in voluntary action to support small-scale local initiatives	<p>In the year 2010 the Volunteers provided 297 day-to-day consultations on various social issues for NGOs, initiative groups and entrepreneurs. In the framework of presentation of the small grants project "Grandmothers to Children" National UN Volunteer conducted a training on volunteer mobilization for representatives of the orphanages, boarding schools and social workers of State Enterprise 'Center for Children with Disabilities". With the help of National Volunteers the Youth Organization of foster children "Tairlandiya" in Shulbinsk village was registered to solve the problems of the entity and the village.</p> <p>On 19-20 May 2010 the second seminar on village development plan/strategic planning was conducted in Shulbinsk village. Representatives of local Akimat, representatives of the state and business structures, from education and medical sphere, NGOs and initiative groups, developed the "Social and economical strategy plan for development of Shulbinsk village", which was presented to the villagers and then sent for approval to the local budget financing. For the implementation of the Plan activists of initiative groups jointly with the state enterprises and the village Akim undertook different activities, which are successfully being implemented. For instance, one of the presented projects was approved by the Small Grants Appraisal Committee of the Project and is solving one of the problems represented in the plan for further development of Shulbinsk</p>	

			<p>village. Initiative people of the village attracted funds from the commercial organizations and conducted a "Week of the Good". In the framework of these activities there were charitable concerts, exhibition of national crafts. For the money earned they acquired presents for elderly people. Also, for the money from the local budget the sports-ground was built, partially the lighting was established in the village. By the end of 2010, the new Development Plan would be elaborated for the year 2011.</p> <p>2 two-day trainings on social project development were organized for 63 participants from local government, initiative groups, NGOs in the Semey city and Egendybulak village of Karaganda oblast in February 2010. In August 2010 2 two-day seminars on volunteer mobilization and fund-raising were conducted for 45 representatives of NGOs and initiative groups of Pavlodar, Karaganda and East-Kazakhstan oblasts.</p>	
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Implementation constraints and plans for improvement

Due to the delay in the release of the third tranche until mid May 2010, the Project implementation started actively in the second half of the year. Moreover, Medical University of Semey, main implementing partner of UNFPA-supported Project component, had two months duration summer vacations. Therefore, it was asked for no-cost extension of the Project till 31 December 2010. No changes were made in the Annual Work Plans of the Agencies, and all the planned activities were implemented properly.

The UNDP microleasing programme in the region was a new pilot project both for UNDP and the Fund for financial support of agriculture. Being a new microfinance product in the region and not very familiar to the beneficiaries, microleasing projects application was being slow. Therefore, additional trainings and advocacy activities were conducted. Introduction of group microleasing applications allowed financing of significant agricultural equipment to serve the needs of the farmer households.

The unusually very snowy winter resulted in melted flood in spring. This became a reason for disability to drive country roads for conducting trainings for rural beneficiaries in remote villages. In this respect, most of seminars started in May.

General challenges for implementation of health component are as follows:

- Implementation of evidence-based technologies is not yet expanded to 100 percent of maternity houses;
- Adequate performance of regionalization and universal access to EmOC is questionable;
- High maternal mortality due to non-obstetrics causes;
- No sustainability in contraceptives supply;
- Civil society is not properly mobilized, young people awareness is rather low;
- Semipalatinsk region in geographic and geopolitics concept, but not administrative-territorial formation;
- Decisions at local level are made without child, youth and family participation.

Lessons learnt

Working with partners

Good cooperation with project counterparts and beneficiaries is critical for the success of a project. It can be said that the project has established a strong partnership with all the local relevant stakeholders. That with the Semey City Akimat is particularly strong. This is reflected in the high level of participation of Akimat representatives in project events and initiatives. The project also has a webpage on the official website of the Semey city administration, where information about the project and its activities is presented.

UNDP/UNV effective cooperation with local authorities enabled to provide trainings in rural areas with greater numbers of seminar participants and better targeted groups. The local administrations provided information and technical assistance.

The partnership with local NGOs and initiative groups is also very strong. Due to the UNDP/UNICEF previous projects in the region, but also several GEF funded small grants programmes, UN/UNDP/UNV/UNICEF/UNFPA are well known, respected and trusted in the area, including by the local mass media which provide broad coverage to all project activities and events. Another major explanatory factor for the excellent local level partnerships established by the project is the judicious selection of local project staff which provides not only relevant capacity and experience but also strong links with the public, NGO and private sector.

Since EKO authorities are Ust-Kamenogorsk-based, for successful promotion and implementation of UNICEF interventions within the framework of the current project it was crucial to involve EKO authorities into the process of project implementation (MOU signed between UNICEF and EKO Akimat, Perinatal care assessment, Care for development programme evaluation, Budget aspects of formal care study, Gate-keeping mechanisms improvement study etc.) and participation in UNICEF organized events (Round Table on perinatal care, sports tournament for children with special needs etc.).

UNFPA has strengthened further their efficient cooperation with such key project partners as the Semey city Akimat, the Ministry of Healthcare, Semey city Medical University, Health department of East-Kazakhstan Oblast, Kazakhstan Association on sexual and reproductive health and Kazakhstan Association of business women. Local partners provided logistical support for seminars and trainings.

- In this case, ongoing collaboration is a logical outcome of common priorities and mission. Ongoing collaboration with UNDP, for example, can offer benefits in view of the latter's area of expertise in poverty reduction, small business capacity building, governance etc. The UNICEF evaluator learned how UNDP interventions mutually reinforce UNICEF interventions (eg youth of YFS submitting their own grant proposal to request equipment for their center).

According to UNICEF final evaluation report UNICEF is clearly intent on learning from its experiences and has immediately integrated lessons learned where feasible without waiting for a future project phase. Several instances of incorporating lessons learned directly into this project include:

- The project was originally designed to be implemented similar to other UNICEF interventions (eg. technical assistance, training health, education and social protection workers, civil servants and other immediate stakeholders). Results and recommendations of the previous joint programme (JP) implemented by WHO, UNICEF and UNFPA in Southern Kazakhstan (2005) and which had already been structured to involve both practicing workers and academicians – formed a precedent for strengthening partnerships and collaboration with local government entities, particularly the local health department in Semey under the current project.
- Reducing infant mortality is central to the entire long-term development plan, and a key lesson learned is that achievement of project objectives may be best served by planning project activities and implementation in collaboration with government departments at the

regional level (again, so as to foster national ownership and buy in and ensure sustainability) – especially as concerns training health care workers on early child care during critical first 7 days of life. These lessons are also incorporated into the next phase of the project where specific proposals and plans have been developed in consultation with national stakeholders.

- The project was to have been limited to Semey city and its environs but as noted, UNICEF quickly realized that the seat of the regional government is in Ust-Kamenogorsk and buy in from regional government departments was critical to providing access, cooperation and participation of local authorities
- In implementing the project, it was soon realized that Ust-Kamenogorsk itself suffers from similar or comparable health issues as in the Semey region (high infant mortality, lack of knowledge, skills, techniques, problems with children in unhealthy lifestyles, environmental pollution, to name a few) and that ignoring these in an area of such need and especially when developments in the Ust-Kamenogorsk area impacted the entire Semipalatinsk region, was unsustainable. Project activities were also launched in Ust-Kamenogorsk in 2010 with the intention of devoting more focus on this city and surrounding area in the next phase of the project – slated to begin in January 2011.

Good practice/innovation/ project management

This project demonstrates successful piloting and evidence of scaling up; achievements that enhance the potential of long term impact on improving maternal health and wellbeing. For instance, integration of ECD/BP into the education curriculum for students at SSMU and for certification of in- service health workers; the early child development/BP model used as tool for training health workers, specialists and now teachers, including in rural areas not targeted in this project. Another example is the imminent plan to refurbish and open an unused second level Maternal and Child Health Clinic in Ust-Kamenogorsk and to establish a new second level Maternal and Child Health Center south of Ust-Kamenogorsk to serve the immediate surrounding area and take pressure off MCH centers within the city itself.

Also a significant benefit of this project is in opening channels and access to local authorities that had been closed in the past (for information, advocacy and to involve all sectors in a regional effort to address the critical issues at hand). Such access also enables partners to involve stakeholders in the discussion of prevalence of problems, demonstrate successful interventions at the local level which may be scaled up regionally and nationally and which may eventually be incorporated into national guidelines and regulations concerning, for example, special services, social protection and the like (issues currently being tackled include prevention of child abandonment and de-institutionalization). The CFCI in particular provides a unique opportunity to build on successes of this project, provide coherence to interventions, link children's rights to implementation mechanisms, and overall, translate the CRC (Convention on the Rights of the Child) into action.

As the microleasing program experienced low demand due to relatively small amount of \$7,000 per one borrower to purchase the necessary equipment, it was decided to introduce the group requests for microleasing - up to 3 people for one microleasing application to total \$ 21,000. It gave the rural entrepreneurs the opportunity to purchase significant agricultural equipment, such as tractor or irrigating machinery.

After the completion of the agreement between UNDP and the Fund for Financial Support of Agriculture (FFSA) two focal-points will keep working in Abai, Beskaragai and former Zhanasemey rayons. Because project had established revolving credit fund, these focal points will provide control for paying-off process and giving of the new loans for rural entrepreneurs from the Project territory. According to the additional agreement with the FFSA, the FFSA will report on the microcredits given from the revolving credit fund during next three years.

After each training seminar the participants were given a questionnaire to assess the quality of the seminar and to give recommendations/comments for future activities. The questionnaire results revealed a strong interest of the beneficiaries for having seminars on cattle-breeding and crop-raising, as the majority of rural entrepreneurs deal with agricultural sector. These seminars were given a positive feedback.

The experience of implementing the small grants showed, there is a need in mandatory cooperation with local authorities for the future stability of the project and solving problems in the region. When preparing the agreements it is important to include the paragraph about social partnership and monitoring of local government, and the responsibility of using the grant funds appropriately.

In 2010 UNFPA supported activities complimentary to UNICEF by reinforcing sexual and reproductive health component of UNICEF-supported youth health centers through the appropriate training of young volunteers, which is a good example of collaboration between the two agencies.

The experience of joint initiative by the agencies implementing health component of the project (UNICEF and UNFPA) has shown that it allows addressing regional challenges more effectively. After establishing of social services there is a need to strengthen infrastructure of all child protection system and complex revision of its participants functions. Youth-friendly services and family support services established in the course of the project are now partially funded by local budget.

One of good practices was replication in Semipalatinsk region the earlier pilot project interventions conducted in Southern Kazakhstan Those interventions were recognized as effective by UNFPA Executive Board mission to Kazakhstan of 2008. Consultants from among skilled specialists from Southern Kazakhstan were recruited to improve capacities of obstetricians-gynecologists and midwives of Semipalatinsk region. The process was lead by Ministry of Healthcare and owned by local authorities of Eastern Kazakhstan Oblast, which insured sustainability of results achieved. The involvement of academic staff of local secondary and tertiary medical schools on all stages of capacity building exercises insured that trained specialists can now be produced locally.

Through UNFPA trainings, Semey region health specialists enhanced knowledge and exchanged their work experiences with colleagues from Astana and Shymkent.

For successful promotion and implementation of interventions related to perinatal care, care for development, budget aspects in formal care, family support services, youth-friendly services it is crucial to encourage EKO authorities to monitor, document and present their best practices at the national level.

Application of human security concept

The project is highly relevant to address the problems of the Semipalatinsk area. While past donor interventions have rightly aimed to deal with the most urgent environmental and medical concerns (this is also the main focus of the Special Government Programme for Semipalatinsk) the project complements these interventions through a long term development approach.

The Semipalatinsk area is one of the poorest of the country. While the area has significant potential for the generation of income and employment out of agricultural activity and micro-business, this potential is largely unexploited due to lack of resources, capacities and access to information. This is coupled with the persistence inadequate economic, social and cultural infrastructure which seriously impacts on the quality of life and makes the area unattractive for investing and living. While the national and local authorities are aware of the persistence of unfavourable socio-economic conditions in the Semipalatinsk area, there is still a chronic shortage of resource to address the problems.

The rural populations in particular seem to be helpless due to limited capacities and passivity to address their socio-economic problems. The project precisely addresses the root causes of the development problems of the Semipalatinsk area, namely: capacity, public service delivery, business initiative,

community mobilization and resources. This is why the UN-supported initiative is highly relevant and timely, although its resources are limited compared to the scale of the problems at hand.

By adopting a long-term developmental and integrated approach, the UN-supported project brings a distinct value-added in comparison with other government and donor-supported initiatives implemented in the Semipalatinsk area.

Actions taken in response to the recommendations of the Project Mid-Term Evaluation

UNFPA

- Inventory of maternity houses was conducted for development of regionalization plan of perinatal care in Semey region;
- Training curricula on perinatal technologies is fully matched with clinical protocols of obstetrics care adopted by Ministry of Healthcare;
- Regular monitoring of implementation of effective perinatal technologies was provided;
- Sequential method to train medical personnel is applied: the trained personnel train their colleagues after coming back to their duty station from training workshop on effective perinatal care and resuscitation of newborn.

UNICEF

A CFC Local Promoting Group – should carry out “umbrella” coordination of all new direction activities:

The Child-friendly city framework consists of “9 building blocks” to follow for the city/region administration if it strives to be a child-friendly. Thus UNICEF has been advocating with EKO government partners and NGOs aiming to address the most crucial for healthy child and its family survival and development issues in the joint collaboration within the current and future work in the region (MoU on CFC implementation, appointing Family support center of Ust-Kamenogorsk as a body responsible for CFCI introduction, CFCI workshop for local authorities, CFC Action Plan developed etc.).

Additional control of data to see how much progress in rural areas as compared to city. Address more attention in rural areas:

In terms of health services rural areas are dependant from the urban health facilities when it comes to specific services and equipment, but prevention activities could be implemented at the primary health care level involving parents and other family members. UNICEF continued to promote early children care and development and better parenting initiatives that help to decrease infant/child mortality/morbidity. Plus spreading the network of child development rooms to the rural area helped to include rural children with special needs into pre-school developmental services.

Make more use of local press, TV to effectively promote services through communication of “success stories” – words of users:

Semey project one-pagers have been developed by UNICEF staff including information about the project main goal, objectives, beneficiaries, directions and results. They have been distributed at the public events (visit of Secretary General, Semey Conference etc.).

The whole component will deal with the information sharing within the frames of the future joint programme in the region.

UNDP

Economic component

Recommendation 1: Opt for a smaller microleasing size in order to better target vulnerable groups (groups that have less business capacities, experience and opportunities), maximize the number of beneficiaries and achieve the project’s target.

The micro-leasing component of the project was being developed by the FFSA with the support of an international consultant. The total funding for micro-leasing was \$100,000. There were discussions

between the project and FFSA on the maximum size of the microleasing. The FFSA seems to be opting for larger size microleasing (\$15,000), whereas the project aim is to give access to financing opportunities to as many as possible vulnerable groups. Larger micro-leasing size presumes that the beneficiaries already have business capacity and experience and can manage to repay such a large sum of money. Or, if they do not have this capacity and experience, then such size of micro-leasing constitutes a risk for the project. With this in mind, it seems more appropriate to go for a much smaller maximum microleasing size. This would at the same time enable the project to support a larger number of rural household entrepreneurs (with perhaps less business capacity and experience) and in this way also achieve its target. In June 2009 the final version of the Rules on giving microleasing was approved. It implied the maximum amount of microleasing project being \$7,000 per one borrower.

The project established a revolving fund for microcrediting and microleasing. As soon as the loans are repaid, the fund will be in a position to grant new loans. It can therefore be expected that the project will achieve its target of benefiting 150 rural entrepreneurs.

Recommendation 2: Strengthen the results monitoring system in relation to the advisory services provided by the focal points, employment generation, training and gender.

The project is able to provide better verifiable information on the results of advisory services provided by the focal points of FFSA. Each focal point maintains a ledger of people who have visited their offices for advisory services or have requested the focal points to visit them to provide such services. The ledger contains the name of the beneficiary, contact information, signature and nature of the requested advice. The project staff systematically collects any data on the employment generation outcomes of the micro-financing activity.

After each training event, the project staff contacts the participants to find out whether there has been any follow up action (outcome) triggered by the training (such as business idea, application for micro-crediting, replication of the training by another institution etc.). The results of the beneficiaries survey conducted in February 2010 revealed the necessity to conduct trainings in the villages and inclusion of study material on cattle-breeding and crop-raising.

The project staff is keeping track of gender aspect among the targeted beneficiaries under goal 2. There is evidence that 24 women benefit from the micro-crediting activity.

Recommendation 3: Request FFSA to provide more detailed and analytical reports for purposes of better project monitoring.

In October 2009 the project staff in collaboration with the FFSA developed more detailed and analytical reporting on activities and outputs, minutes of credit committee meetings, justification for the selection of beneficiaries, brief description of activities funded, difficulties encountered etc. The reports are being filled in properly by the FFSA focal points.

Recommendation 4: Request the focal points to organize meeting with the beneficiaries who have just received funding (micro-credit or micro-leasing) to further discuss their future activities and raise their awareness on the consequences of default.

In October 2009 and May-June 2010 the monitoring visits to assess the microcredit loaners were organized. As a result, the borrowers who face difficulties in repaying of the loans were revealed. The FFSA undertook supporting activities, such as prolongation of the repayment date and additional consulting on business management and marketing.

Recommendation 5: Improve the transparency of the process through which the project calls for project applications.

The project staff announced the availability of micro-financing through the Semey city Akimat, Akimat's website, and advertisements in the local media. All the project activities were highlighted in the local, oblast and Republican newspapers; local TV and radio companies were invited as well.

Recommendation 6: Raise the project's visibility by placing a visible sign with the UN logo and the name of the project on the buildings where the focal points are located.

All the visible signs with the UN/UNDP/UNV logo and name of the project were placed at the working spaces of the focal points.

Recommendation 7: The project should participate and have a voice in the Credit Committee of FFSA.

UNDP representatives and National Project Director took part and had a voice in approval process in five Credit Committees of FFSA.

Social component

Recommendation 1: Take the final decision on the maximum size of the grants on the basis of very clear criteria taking into account various trade-offs.

In April 2009 the final Terms of Reference for social grant projects tender was developed. It includes several different evaluation criteria; and implies \$3,000 as a maximum size for a grant. Co-financing is one of the main criteria to ensure sustainability of the grant project. Thus, water supply projects could cost up to \$6,000 with the condition of co-share of expenses by the NGO, a business entity or local authorities.

Recommendation 2: Consider adding social partnerships as an additional area of training.

The trainings on Social Project Development, Social Procurement Law and practical skills for fund-raising, access to information in the framework of Social Procurement were added in the project activities to strengthen the capacity of NGOs in realization of social projects. It was considered as very important by several NGOs that the mission met due to the fact that it aims to promote dialogue and partnership between NGOs and state institutions. On September 30, 2010, the concluding Round Table on "Partnership aiming the development of civil society in East-Kazakhstan Oblast" took place in Akimat of EKO with the participation of a Deputy of Mazhilis of Parliament of RK, members of Republic Civil Alliance, representatives of NGOs and mass media of Pavlodar, Karagandy and East-Kazakhstan Oblasts. The purpose of the Round Table was to discuss the actual issues of development of NGOs and elaboration of recommendations for further improvement of interaction of the government and institutes of civil society in the framework of Civil Society Development Concept and Social Procurement Law. The recommendations elaborated and are available at UNDP.

Recommendation 3: Consider collecting and publicizing good practices related to past grant funding provided by UNDP.

The good practices were printed in the brochures and were used during the training activities to enhance the usefulness of the training by providing concrete practical examples of success which can "inspire" the participants. For example, in the framework of "Mobilization of Volunteers" and "Fund Raising" training seminars the sustainability of the grant projects was demonstrated in a slide-show and presentation of success stories by the grantees themselves.

Recommendation 4: Refine the project's concept of the grant scheme in the direction of better thematic focus and/or targeting of specific groups in line with the mandate of UNDP/UN.

The Grant Programme identified main selection criteria in the grant distribution aiming the support to the most vulnerable population groups. The directions for funding include: youth initiatives for solving of problems at local level; local initiatives for improving health problems of the population, and for solving of social and economic problems of vulnerable population groups and ecological problems at local level. The priority of the Social component of the Project was given to development of social

infrastructure, mobilization of community, promoting volunteerism, and supporting NGOs/CBOs in providing community services and local initiative.

Recommendation 5: Refine the project's concept with respect to the village development plans.

"Social and economic strategy plan for development of Shulbinsk village" was developed and presented to the villagers in the framework of the Project work plan. For the implementation of the Plan activists of initiative groups jointly with the state enterprises and the village Akim undertook different activities, which are successfully being implemented. It was recommended to establish a link between the village development plans and the project's grant scheme. The project set aside some of the resources of the grant scheme to fund one priority project identified by the village development plan. This provided an incentive for villagers to actively participate in the process. Other projects are being solved by initiative groups and local NGOs. Initiative people of the village attracted funds from the commercial organizations and conducted a "Week of the Good". In the framework of these activities there were charitable concerts, exhibition of national crafts. For the money earned they acquired presents for elderly people. Also, for the money from the local budget the sports-ground was built, partially the lighting was established in the village. By the end of 2010, the new Development Plan would be elaborated for the year 2011.

Recommendation 6: The project should not hesitate to support financially the registration of new NGOs, so long as there are clear signs of commitment on the part of the founders and perspectives for the sustainability of the new organization.

During the Project implementation period 15 NGOs/CBOs were officially registered in the rural areas of the Project territory, namely in Mayskiy, Lebyazhinskiy, Bayanaulskiy rayons of Pavlodar oblast, Egendybulak rayon of Karaganda oblast, former Abraly rayon and village okrugs of Semey city. The registration of the organizations gave an incentive to work with the initiative groups of other villages, who in their turn entered the organization. This event boosted the initiative and active participation of the neighboring villages in solving of problems at local level.

Impact of key partnership and inter-agency collaboration

The project is a collaborative effort of UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA and UNV. These agencies have divided the areas of responsibility for the implementation of the project according to their specific mandates and comparative advantages. UNICEF and UNFPA are responsible for activities related to ensuring quality basic health services (targeting women, children and youth), improvement of health care and social services for health workers, establishing friendly environment for young people, introduction of Safe Motherhood Initiative and improvement of perinatal services. UNDP is working on expanding economic opportunities available for the poor through the provision of rural business advisory services and the expansion of access to finance through micro-credit and pilot leasing services. UNDP and UNV are responsible for developing the social infrastructure through training targeted to NGOs/CBOs and grant disbursements.

UNDP receives UNHSTF funds and channels them to the other agencies. It is responsible for the consolidation of reporting and manages the relationship with UNHSTF and the Government of Japan. In UNDP, UNV, UNICEF and UNFPA focal points for Semipalatinsk are appointed to facilitate coordination. The implementing partner is the Semey City Akimat. A National Project Director (designated official of the implementing national partner) and a Project Coordinator (hired under the project) have been appointed. Both report to a Project Board (PB) comprised of representatives of the Semey City Akimat, Japan Embassy in Kazakhstan, a representative of non-governmental organizations, a business representative and programme staff of the UN agencies. The PB meets at least twice a year to assess the project's progress against planned outcomes and outputs and to give strategic directions to the implementation of the project. The National Project Director chairs PB meetings. The Project Coordinator is responsible for the implementation of PB policies and directions and reporting to the PB.

The coordination of the UNICEF/UNFPA administered components on health and social services is ensured by local project managers and programme offices who are responsible for the supervision of

joint activities, documenting experience, applied process, lessons learned and ensuring a link with ongoing health and social reforms process.

The economic component is managed by a local project manager who is responsible for the supervision of activities, quality assurance, capacity building, relations with public authorities and communication. The micro-finance and business advisory activities have been sub-contracted to the JSC “Fund for Financial Support of Agriculture” (FFSA) which was selected and contracted in line with CGAP and UNCDF standards.

The social component is managed by another local project manager who is responsible for the supervision of activities, including disbursement of grants and the monitoring and evaluation of grant-funded activities, quality assurance, capacity building, relations with public authorities and communication. One international UNV and three national UNVs support the work of the local project manager by interacting with the local NGO community and local initiative groups. The implementation of training activities is outsourced in part to NGOs. Decisions on the selection of projects for grant funding will be taken by a Grants Committee consisting of UN programme staff, civil society and local authorities.

The design of the project took into account the lessons learned from the UNDP/UNICEF-supported Semipalatinsk Programme. This is another positive feature of the project at hand since it enables avoiding the mistakes of the past intervention and integrating positive lessons learned such as the need to ensure a better monitoring of micro-credit support, promote employment generating productive activities rather than commercial activities and rely on existing structures for the provision of support rather than create new structures which are difficult to sustain.

Cooperation among the Agencies is realized on day-to-day practice (coordination issues, preparation and follow-up actions of the project regular meetings, sharing experiences with national and international experts.

A joint UNICEF/UNFPA training on Effective perinatal care, including managing women and infants with HIV/AIDS and STE conducted in August 2009 in Semey resulted in support of the local experts and trainers to transmit their knowledge, commitment of local (and national) authorities and partners to promote, implement and monitor effective perinatal technologies in the region.

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

It is clear that national ownership is greatly enhanced when proposals and implementation plans are developed in partnership and collaboration with national partners - especially at the regional level. The EKO has capable organizations in place that are knowledgeable about local priorities and needs; local authorities are receptive to consultation and collaboration (even though current budgets may not allow them to take the lead). The importance of partnerships is obvious in light of local planning for the 2020 national development and an opportunity to incorporate child health and wellbeing (and means of addressing these) into plans being formulated at the local level. Up-scaling to the national level is also very likely as interest and motivation around these interventions spread.

Percentage of budgeted funds actually spent

UNICEF 100%

UNFPA¹

UNDP 100%

Total²

¹ The delivery rate will be finalized upon receipt of interim financial reports.

² The total delivery rate will be finalized upon receipt of interim financial reports from the Participating UN Agencies.

Resources and financial implementation

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

Table 1: Total approved budget and summary of resources available to the project³:

	Amount (US\$)		
	Previous period (A)	Current period (B) 01/01/2010 to 31/12/2010	Total (C=A+B)
Total approved programme costs (I)	1,832,128.00	1,832,128.00	1,832,128.00
<i>Programme costs received to date (II)</i>	786,484.00	636,089.82	1,422,573.82
Total approved Total approved PSC (III)	128,248.96	128,248.96	128,248.96
<i>PSC received to date (IV)</i>			
AA-fee	18,321.04	-	18,321.04
Total funds received to date (V)			
Total approved budget (VI = I+III)	1,960,376.96	1,960,376.96	1,960,376.96
Estimated total expenditure (VII)			
Balance (VIII = V-VI)			
Expenditure vs funds received (IX = VII/V)			

³ The Resources and Financial Implementation table will be completed upon receipt of interim financial reports from the Participating UN Agencies in February 2011.