

Joint SDG Fund
 Joint Programme Evidence-based Final Narrative Report
KAZAKHSTAN INFF PROGRAM

Date of Report: 24 / 02/ 2023

Program Title and Country																				
<p>Country: Kazakhstan Joint Program (JP) title: Aligning policy and financing with SDGs towards an Integrated National Financing Framework in Kazakhstan MPTF Office Project Reference Number¹:00122141</p>																				
Program Duration																				
<p>Start date² (day/month/year): 01/07/2020 Original End date³ (day/month/year): 31/12/2022 Actual End date (day/month/year): 31 December 2022</p> <p>Have agencies operationally closed the Program in its system: Yes/No Expected financial closure date⁴:</p>																				
Participating Organizations / Partners																				
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Program Budget (US\$)																				
<p>Total Budget (as per Program Document, without co-funding): Agency/Other Contributions/Co-funding (if applicable):</p> <p>Joint SDG Fund Contribution⁵ and co-funding breakdown, by recipient organization:</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 25%;">Agency/others</th> <th style="width: 25%;">Joint SDG Fund contribution</th> <th style="width: 25%;">Co-funding</th> <th style="width: 25%;">Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>PUNO1 UNDP</td> <td style="text-align: right;">652.710</td> <td style="text-align: right;">172.536</td> <td style="text-align: right;">825.246</td> </tr> <tr> <td>PUNO2 UNICEF</td> <td style="text-align: right;">220.400</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">220.400</td> </tr> <tr> <td>PUNO 3 ESCAP</td> <td style="text-align: right;">126.890</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: right;">126,890</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">1.172.536</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Agency/others	Joint SDG Fund contribution	Co-funding	Total	PUNO1 UNDP	652.710	172.536	825.246	PUNO2 UNICEF	220.400		220.400	PUNO 3 ESCAP	126.890	-	126,890	Total			1.172.536
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External Consultant Details																				
<p>Name: Dr. Peter Middlebrook Title and organization (if applicable): CEO / Geopolicity Inc. Email: ceo@geopolicity.com</p>																				

¹ The MPTF Office Project Reference Number is the same number as the one on the Notification message. It is also referred to as "Project ID" on the project's factsheet page on the [MPTF Office GATEWAY](#).

² The start date is the date inserted in the original ProDoc submitted and approved by the Joint SDG Fund.

³ As per approval of the original project document by the relevant decision-making body/Steering Committee.

⁴ Financial Closure requires the return of unspent balances and submission of the [Certified Final Financial Statement and Report](#).

⁵ Joint SDG Fund Contribution is the amount transferred to the Participating UN Organizations – see [MPTF Office GATEWAY](#).

Table of contents

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	5
1. CONTEXT.....	6
JOINT PROGRAMME RESULTS	7
1.1. OVERALL ASSESSMENT	7
1.2. KEY RESULTS ACHIEVED	7
1.3. RESULTS ACHIEVED ON INFF / SDG FINANCING BUILDING BLOCKS	8
1.4. CONTRIBUTION TO SDG ACCELERATION	10
1.5. CONTRIBUTION TO SDG FINANCING FLOWS	11
1.6. RESULTS ACHIEVED ON CONTRIBUTING TO UN DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM REFORM	12
1.7. RESULTS ACHIEVED ON CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES	14
1.8. RESULTS ACHIEVED ON COVID-19 RECOVERY	14
1.9. STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS	15
1.10. ADDITIONAL FINANCING MOBILIZED	15
2. RESULTS BY JP OUTCOME AND OUTPUT.....	15
2.1. RESULTS ACHIEVED BY FUND'S GLOBAL RESULTS	16
2.2. RESULTS ACHIEVED BY JOINT PROGRAMME OUTCOME	16
2.3. RESULTS ACHIEVED BY JOINT PROGRAMME OUTPUT	18
3. CHALLENGES AND CHANGES.....	23
3.1. CHALLENGES FACED BY JP	23
3.2. CHANGES MADE TO JP	23
4. SUSTAINABILITY AND COUNTRY OWNERSHIP	24
4.1. SUSTAINABILITY AND COUNTRY OWNERSHIP	24
5. COMMUNICATIONS	24
5.1. COMMUNICATION PRODUCTS	24
5.2. EVENTS.....	25
6. LESSONS AND BEST PRACTICES	25
6.1. KEY LESSONS LEARNED, BEST PRACTICES, AND RECOMMENDATIONS	25
6.2. KEY LESSONS LEARNED, BEST PRACTICES AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON JOINT PROGRAMMING	26

Tables

Table 1.	Primary Results of the SDG Fund Joint Program	8
Table 2.	Indicator Performance Scorecard.....	8
Table 3.	Overall INFF Building Block Assessment in Kazakhstan	9
Table 4.	Key SDGs Targeted by the Joint Program	10
Table 5.	JP Operational Performance Indicators Contributing to UNDS reform.....	13
Table 6.	Expected Sources of New Financing Over the Medium Term	15
Table 7.	Assessing the Attainment of Results for Outcome 1.....	16
Table 8.	Assessing the Attainment of Results for Outcome 2.....	17
Table 9.	Assessing the Attainment of Results for Outcome 3.....	17

Abbreviations

AAAA	Addis Ababa Action Agenda
B4SDG	Budgeting for the SDGs
DFA	Development Finance Assessment
ERI	Economic Research Institute
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
FfD	Financing for Development
INFF	Integrated National Financing Framework
JP	Joint Programme
LNOB	Leave No One Behind
MSME	Micro-Small to Medium- Enterprise
RIA	Rapid Integrated Assessment
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNRCO	United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office
UNSDCF	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
VNR	Voluntary National Review

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 30-month United Nations Joint Program Aligning policy and Financing with SDGs towards an Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF) has delivered valued support to the Government of Kazakhstan in meeting their obligations under the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA). Despite being implemented during a period where the COVID-19 pandemic and war in Ukraine undermined prospects for sustainable development, **the program delivered core analytical outputs as per the original brief** laying the foundation for new financing flows in the future.

With 2023 being the half-way point in the implementation of Agenda 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the findings, lessons learned and recommendations detailed here provide a springboard for future actions, particularly in relation to mobilizing innovative and sustainable financing to support climate action and children and gender, as well as Budgeting for the SDGs. With the completion of the Development Finance Assessment (DFA) and all other actions, **this report stocktakes what was achieved, what were the primary challenges faced, how were obstacles overcome and what are the durable impacts.**

At the outcome level, so far additional financing has not been leveraged, however, in the context of COVID-19 and dealing with the inflationary impacts of Ukraine, the program has helped provoke a mind-set shift that will certainly see **new financing instruments being introduced in the years ahead.** By introducing a **Child Wellbeing Index** however, the targeting of state spending in the interest of children is a core success.

At the policy, institutional and capacity development levels, partnership with the Ministry of National Economy, Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Education have provided the primary focus of support, in addition to the agricultural region of North Kazakhstan, industrial region of Karaganda and Almaty City. The evaluation has identified core lessons and recommendation for the next phase support, and a range of findings including:

- The joint program has done a **commendable job during a difficult period**, delivering the majority of outputs originally planned, with a number of considerable successes, including establishing and institutionalizing the Child Wellbeing Index. Where actions were scored as Partially Met, largely reflects lack of awareness of, capacity for and ownership of the Financing for Development (FfD) agenda.
- The program was planned prior to the emergence of COVID-19 in 2020 and the war in Ukraine in 2022, with both shocks **distracting government attention**, increasing social spending against a declining revenue base, negatively impacting government's macro-fiscal situation, and further eroding already limited fiscal space.
- Given the time it takes to scale new financing instruments, to **deepen capital and financial markets**, the need for **enabling policy and regulatory reforms**, this context severely undermined the potential for using the INFF to mobilize new sources of financing within the program period.
- The central role played by the Economic Research Institute (ERI) has been critical to securing government buy in and installing long-term capacities.
- The availability and diversified structure of relevant sector-specific institutions responsible for pre-school education development effectively supported the policy dialogue and SDG costing exercise. The costing methodology adopted for SDG 4.2 provides a useful model for other countries.
- Joint Program activities have strongly contributed to consultative discussions and better engagement with stakeholders, identification of funding gaps and relevant expenses in ECE sector, capacity development and knowledge sharing amid different ministry departments.
- The work conducted shows that there is considerable **potential to** (i) **accelerate sector financing instruments** to be scaled within existing systems (ii) **deepen and accelerate SDG localization** with a focus on local finances (iii) **improve sustainable debt management and medium-term revenue mobilization** (iv) strengthening progressive tax systems as well as gender responsive budgeting and tax policies and (v) digital skills and literacy.
- The DFA undertaken in three pilot regions documented financial flows and identified funding gaps, laying the foundation for SDGs localization.

1. CONTEXT

This report constitutes the final narrative report of the 30-month Joint Program Aligning policy and financing with SDGs towards an Integrated National Financing Framework. The Joint Program was initiated to strengthen Financing for Development (FfD) to address the lack of long-term investment financing, dependence on traditional sources of funding, lack of innovation and awareness of sustainable financing instruments, policy and institutional challenges and constrained access to financial markets.

Although Kazakhstan's economic trajectory since the 1990s has been defined by its shift from a centrally planned economy to a market-based system, the rate of reform has slowed and growth has waned, particularly in light of recent tumultuous economic conditions.⁶ Kazakhstan appears to have reached the limits of economic growth driven by natural resource rents, and despite ambitions of high-income status, for now the country remains stuck in the upper middle-income bracket. As of 2021, to go forward to mobilize new sources of sustainable financing, structural constraints need to be overcome. Poorly functioning labour and capital markets, financial exclusion, low access to capital by enterprises, and weak competition are core constraints.

Ultimately, reforms that expand economic freedom, such as actively reducing the large share of state-owned or connected enterprises, must be championed in order to overcome the legacy of central planning. While these have been reasonably identified in Kazakhstan's medium-term development plan Kazakhstan 2025, as well as the long-term strategy of Kazakhstan 2050, (e.g., including addressing spatial inequalities, simplifying business conditions, developing special economic zones & industrial clusters, etc.) commitment to this reform agenda remains a work in progress. It is in this context, that the UN Joint Program set out to introduce innovative and sustainable financing practices from around the world. The program has opened up new prospects.

The Joint Programme, formally entitled "*Aligning policy and financing with SDGs towards an Integrated National Financing Framework in Kazakhstan*" commenced in July 2020 to align with (i) Government of Kazakhstan vision, policy and planning (ii) the UNSDCF 2021-2026 and previous UNDAF and (iii) Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA) and Agenda 2030 SDGs. The JP introduced the AAAA theory of change into this framework. Namely:

- **Alignment with the Kazakhstan 2050:** Given the onus of national ownership, the JP also closely aligns with the national priorities of the Kazakhstan 2050 Strategy primarily targeting two objectives. These include building a strong human capital base with equal access to employment opportunities, and enhancing the strength, transparency and inclusivity of economic and political institutions, for improved management of the economy.
- **Alignment with the previous UNDAF:** The JP was informed by and aligned with specific outputs of the outgoing United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), e.g., improving national policies and legislation, increasing the capacity of civil society and making national institutions more responsive and capacity development for specific government agencies to monitor the SDGs;
- **Alignment with the UNSDCF:** Likewise, the Joint Programme was designed to contribute to the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) through the selection of specific outcomes and outputs, e.g., ensuring equal access to quality and gender-responsive social services and the design/implementation of gender-responsive and rights-based public policies.

As noted above, the period of implementation occurred during a period not conducive to such a complex reform agenda. Mobilizing new and sustainable financing requires reforms. After returning 4.3% growth in 2021, following a 2.5% decline in 2020, growth in 2022 is only expected at 2.5%. At the same time, turbulence in the global economy resulted in inflation running as high as 17.7% in September 2022, drawing government's attention given its impact on poverty, spiralling cost of living and need to increase social spending. This context has been referred to as the 'lost decade'

The Joint Program – and the lessons learned and recommendations for action outlined here - have the potential to lead to significant reforms downstream, upon which new sources of financing can be mobilized to close the SDG financing gap. The results of this evaluation therefore (i) provide a stocktaking of results delivered over the program period (ii) outlined lessons learned (iii) key recommendation and (iv) options for future engagement. The need for financing for development does not stop, and compiling all work undertaken to provide a clear road map going forward will be critical for the Government, UN, private sector and international partners.

⁶ While Kazakhstan's averaged growth of 10 percent per year during 2000–2007 and by nearly 6 percent during 2010–14, in the years preceding the COVID-19 Pandemic, growth had already fallen to 3 percent per year.

JOINT PROGRAMME RESULTS

1. Overview of Strategic Final Results

1.1. OVERALL ASSESSMENT

The extent to which the JP has achieved its overall objective to unlock financial resources towards the SDGs is difficult to estimate at this stage. However, its success in catalysing the way government and its partners seek to finance the SDGs in Kazakhstan is notable with nationalisation and SDG localisation contributing towards mind set change. The program has increased awareness and fostered coalitional building, strengthening the business case and value proposition for sustainable financing in the future, to assist Kazakhstan in overcoming a number of sustainable financing challenges, a number of which are provided below:

- **Limited access to financing:** Although Kazakhstan is a middle-income country, its financial markets are still developing and access to financing can be limited, particularly for small and medium-sized enterprises.
- **Lack of awareness and understanding of new financing instruments:** There is still a lack of awareness and understanding among investors, companies, and the general public about the benefits of sustainable financing and the importance of environmental, social, and governance (ESG) factors in investment decisions.
- **Policy and regulatory barriers:** There are a number of policy and regulatory barriers that can impede sustainable financing, including weak legal and institutional frameworks, a lack of transparency and accountability, and inconsistent or conflicting regulations.
- **Capacity building:** Building the capacity of financial institutions and other stakeholders to effectively incorporate ESG factors into investment decisions can be a challenge, particularly in more remote or less-developed areas.
- **Data availability and quality:** There is often a lack of reliable and consistent data on SDG financing and ESG factors, which can make it difficult for investors to assess and compare the sustainability performance of different companies and investments.

Though the program has ended, it will be possible to continue to monitor the JP's progress based on intended goals. Efforts to expand regional DFAs and strengthen the capacity of civil society need to be maintained, ensuring that the underlying themes of the JP have lasting impact. If these steps are taken, and a longer-term road map developed, it is highly likely that the JP will contribute towards unlocking future significant financial flows for the Kazakhstan SDGs.

- Above expectations (fully achieved expected JP results and made additional progress)
- In line with expectations (achieved expected JP results)
- Satisfactory (majority of expected JP results achieved, but with some limitations/adjustments)
- Not-satisfactory (majority of expected JP results not achieved due to unforeseen risks/challenges)

The JP has had to be adaptive to its context and undeniably, complex challenges to the original implementation of the JP arose; as stated above. However, the evaluation considers that the JP has met most of its anticipated results and produced a wide range of valuable deliverables; laying the foundation for further progress. Where certain results were not met, it is worth noting that in other areas the JP has gone beyond the initial envisioned scope of engagement. This evens out the final results and allows the review to suggest that the JP has (as a whole) performed in line with the high expectations set for it, with the body of work providing the direction for future travel.

1.2 KEY RESULTS ACHIEVED

In line with its initial intended impact, to make contributions to the development of a comprehensive SDG financing plan, the Kazakhstan Joint Programme (JP) appears to have impacted funding for the SDGs, primarily through improved SDG alignment at the national and regional levels. To advance the SDG agenda, this included (i) identifying a wide coalition of SDG financing champions (ii) improving SDG considerations in medium- to long-term planning and budgeting (iii) supporting planning agencies in estimating total resource requirements

for SDG aligned goals (primarily primary education service delivery), and (iv) strengthening national capacities necessary for Government to own the next steps of the INFF initiative (e.g. including monitoring and review of the INFF, expansion of regional DFAs, etc.).

The primary strategic success of the JP has been to **drive collaboration, pool resources** and **combine expertise** of the several UN agencies **at a far lower cost**. In addition to this, the program complemented and reinforced earlier institutional changes that had been sponsored by IFIs (such as WB tax administration reforms). The JP broad scope also saw crucial engagement with other organisations, notable civil society and sub-national government entities around commonly identifiable challenges (e.g., climate change adaptation and the rights and entitlements of children).

The JP formalised the relationship between state expenditure and the attainment of SDGs, particularly through the nationalisation of SDG indicators throughout the state planning system. While this has yet to be formally ratified, national ownership of the SDGs have been elevated, resulting in more transparent and accountable methods for tracking progress and allocating funds. Since December 2021, several workshops and meetings of the Coordination Council for the SDGs, the Committee for Monitoring the Achievement of the SDGs and interdepartmental working groups have supported this process, including organising regional events to provide information on Agenda 2030 and the VNR and strengthening the capacity of civil society to monitor progress towards achieving the SDGs. In summation therefore, the JP delivered on the following important outputs (See Table 1 below):

Table 1. PRIMARY RESULTS OF THE SDG FUND JOINT PROGRAM	
▪ Kazakhstan Development Finance Assessment	▪ Climate Finance Strategy
▪ Rapid Integrated Assessment (RIA) Budgets	▪ Three RIA Pilot Regions
▪ Child and Gender focused on Rapid Integrated Assessment Matrix	▪ SDG Budgeting for Child-Related Dimensions
▪ Instrument for Targeted Child Welfare Spend	▪ Budget Program Analysis for Child Development
▪ B4SDG Feasibility Study	▪ Support Mind-Set Change

The final narrative presented here reports the performance of 43 indicators established by the program, all of which can be seen as outputs (See Table 2 below). The summation of all outputs contributes towards two Joint Program outcomes (i) additional financing leveraged to accelerate SDG achievement and, (ii) integrated financing strategies for accelerating SDG progress implemented. At the output level, this assessment shows that **46.5 per cent of key performance indicators were met**, 27.9 partially met, 11.6 per cent did not meet targets and 13.9 per cent of indicators had no data. In the context of COVID-19 and dealing with the inflationary impacts of the war in Ukraine, these results constitute a significant performance.

Table 2. INDICATOR PERFORMANCE SCORECARD		
Indicator Status	Number of Indicators	% of Total
Indicator Met	20	46.5
Partially Met	12	27.9
Indicator Not Met	5	11.6
Data Unavailable	6	13.9
Total	43	100.0

1.3 RESULTS ACHIEVED ON INFF / SDG FINANCING BUILDING BLOCKS

The INFF is established around 4 core building blocks, all of which contribute towards establishing the national approach to closing the SDG financing gap, through the adoption of new instruments, better aligning budgets and crowding in private capital to key sectors. However, the JP in Kazakhstan did not follow the normative approach, and the DFA (for example) did not include a road map, and there is no INFF governance and coordination or monitoring and review process agreed. Instead, there was an agreement to focus on specific more targeted sector deliverables and on SDG localization, through three sub-national DFAs. As a consequence, the normative four building-block approach of has been partially delivered, as a result of agreement with the Ministry of Finance to refocus efforts. As a result, in summary, and in relation to the international approach established for the INFF, the following overall results have been achieved from a building block point of view:

- **Inception Phase:** The inception phase was completed to the extent that agreement was reached with the government to focus efforts on the national DFA, sub-national DFA in pilot regions, climate financing

strategy, SDG budgeting in relation to child-related dimensions and a national instrument for targeted spending of the state budget in the interests of children, a Budgeting for the SDGs assessment and related road map, among other elements. Rapid Impact Assessment was also developed of national budgets across newly adopted state programs, medium-term (3 years) Republican budget, budgets of 3 pilot regions (1 agricultural region, 1 industrial region, 1 city of republican significance), territorial development plans of 3 mentioned pilot regions budgets of regions attributable to 3 pilot regions”

- **INFF Road Map:** Where no formal INFF Road Map has so far been developed, a roadmap was developed to implement gender-focused SDGs budgeting in Kazakhstan for the B4SDG assessment. Both of these provide elements that can be incorporated into a more formal INFF-wide Road Map.
- **Assessment and Diagnostics:** A Full National DFA and three pilot sub-national DFA’s were undertaken providing a rich understanding of all financing flows across domestic public and private and international public and private domains.
- **Financing Strategy:** No formal INFF financing strategy has so far been developed though this would be initiated in 2023, building from the climate financing strategy and road maps for gender-focused SDGs and climate financing. As a result, government is not using an SDG financing strategy as originally intended, though the key elements could easily be deployed.
- **Monitoring & Review:** Monitoring and review processes are fully integrated into core government functions and since May 2021, an SDG Implementation Monitoring Committee has provided a consultative and advisory structure under the Ministry of National Economy. In 2022, the process of nationalization and localization of the SDGs was deepened with the National Statistics Bureau of ASPR RK monitoring the SDG indicators. In addition, extensive work was carried out to discuss the draft of the second Voluntary National Review of the Republic of Kazakhstan on the implementation of the SDGs, which was presented by the Government of Kazakhstan at the UN High-level Political Forum in July this year. No dedicated tools have so far been introduced to monitor INFF flows, though SDG outcome indicators are of course used.
- **Governance & Coordination:** While there is no formal write up on the INFF Governance and Coordination approach, as a mainstreamed program the INFF is led by the SDG Coordination Council operating under the leadership of the First Deputy Prime Minister and supported by an SDG Secretariat. The council works across five main areas of the SDGs - People, Planet, Prosperity, Partnership and Peace. The Council coordinates with civil society, non-governmental organizations, and the business sector. Since December 2021, workshops and meetings of the Coordination Council for the SDGs, the Committee for Monitoring the Achievement of the SDGs and interdepartmental working groups have been supported. Building core capacities for governance, the JP ran a Seminar Program on Nationalization and Localization of SDGs, presentation on the nationalization and localization of SDGs in Kazakhstan for the regions, micro-group participants to discuss the Voluntary National Review and presentation on the occasion of the launch of the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) in Kazakhstan amongst many other actions undertaken.

The following overall assessment results are reported, based on intentions as per the normative approach, though it must be acknowledged that government decisions changed the focus and priorities set.

Table 3. OVERALL INFF BUILDING BLOCK ASSESSMENT IN KAZAKHSTAN						
Implementation stages	Planned (0%)	Emerging (1-49% progress)	Advancing (50-99% progress)	Complete (100% progress)	Previously completed	Not applicable
1. Inception phase	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Assessment & diagnostics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Financing strategy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Monitoring & review	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Governance & coordination	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

1.4 CONTRIBUTION TO SDG ACCELERATION

The Joint Programme has been instrumental in promoting progress towards the SDGs by creating an optimal environment for open and productive discussions. The results (as well as some of the challenges encountered the programme) have contributed to the UN's understanding of key constraints and entry points for further engagement, with particular progress made towards the achievement of results under SDGs 1, 4, 5, 13, 16 and 17 (No Poverty, Quality Education, Gender Equality, Climate Action, Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions & Partnerships for the Goals, respectively). First and foremost, the JP has been a catalyst for the UN in pushing forward the dialogue around Agenda 2030. This has allowed the UN agencies to build valuable partnerships with the government and other key stakeholders, and to identify preferred partners for the implementation of specific SDG initiatives. UN Engagement in high-level coordination forums and/or thematic/sectoral forums, have further advanced SDG integration into Kazakhstan's budgeting and planning processes and reinforced the UN as Kazakhstan's primary partner for Agenda 2030.

In addition to providing a platform for collaboration and increased leverage for the UN, the JP has also made significant strides in improving SDG localisation and nationalisation, which are likely to have a lasting impact. An exemplary engagement of the JP here, recognising that Kazakhstan is still in the early stages of incorporating the SDGs into its budgeting & planning, was the Rapid Integrated Assessment (RIA) tool, which was applied to the national budgets across newly adopted state programs, the medium-term Republican budget, as well as the budgets and territorial development plans of 3 pilot regions (Karaganda, North Kazakhstan, and Almaty). In mapping existing budget allocations to the SDGs, the RIA assessed budget allocations across the SDGs, showing a coverage of more than 79.9% in 2019, Although with high variance. While the top 3 funded SDGs (SDG 1, 4 and 9) received budget allocations of 21%, 13.8% and 11.1% respectively, many received as little as 0.1% allocation (SDGs 5, 7, 10 and 13 of particular note).

RIA results have multiple uses, including to i) assess the consistency of the national and local budgets with the SDGs, ii) assess the national and local readiness and institutional capacity to integrate the SDGs into its development planning programs, iii) identify underfunded SDGs requiring greater public finance attention or orientation towards other financing sources (private and international), iv) conduct various trainings under the RIA to build the capacity of the ERI and Government bodies to expand the initiative, v) pioneer the use of RIA in the Central Asian region for expansion into neighboring countries.

The outcome of the RIA will allow the government of Kazakhstan to take the necessary measures to prioritize and align policies towards SDGs, ensuring that the budget policy is transparent, efficient, and in line with the Agenda principles for the period up to 2030. These results, and others, made through the JP have been substantial, and they are expected to significantly support progress towards the SDGs in the long term. In 2021, for example, nationalized SDG goals and indicators were approved, which are used as key development indicators for national projects. Similarly, a roadmap for the formal completion of RIAs in remaining Kazakh regions is planned for 2023. Through the JP's various initiatives, it has provided significant assurance of the UN's commitment to continue supporting Kazakhstan to achieve Agenda 2030 in line with national priorities, among which the following SDGs have been identified:

- Goal 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure
- Goal 4: Quality Education
- Goal 3: Good Health and Well-being
- Goal 13: Climate Action
- Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities

These SDGs have been identified based on Kazakhstan's national development priorities, as well as the country's commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The government of Kazakhstan has taken steps to align its national development plans with the SDGs, and has established a number of policies and initiatives aimed at achieving these priority goals. For example, the government has launched initiatives to promote innovation and technological development, improve the quality of education, and address environmental challenges, such as climate change. Additionally, the government has sought to promote sustainable urban development, through the construction of eco-friendly housing and the improvement of public transport systems. JP SDGs targeted are provided in summary in Table 4.

Table 4. KEY SDGs TARGETED BY THE JOINT PROGRAM

SDGs indicators	Baseline (2018)	Expected target	Actual results achieved/to be achieved in the near future	Reasons for deviation from targets, if any
SDG indicator 1.3.1	Number of beneficiaries (unemployment benefits) 47.7%	70%	Data for SDG 1.3.1 puts this figure at 99.1%.	N/A
SDG indicator 4.2.1.	Total average: 85.5 Boys: 84.8 Girls: 86.3	End of project increase compared to baseline	No data available. Early Childhood Development Index is measured by Multiple indicator cluster survey (MICS). It will be conducted in 2023-2024.	N/A
SDG Indicator 10.b.1.	39%	End of project increase compared to baseline	Data for SDG indicator 10.1.b suggested the figure stands at 30.2%.	It is pertinent to note that the JP corresponded with a turbulent period for the global economy, and resource flows between 2020-2022 will not be reflective of the performance of the JP.
SDG Indicator 17.3.1	5.7%	20.3%	Up to date data is not available for this indicator.	N/A
SDG Indicator 1.a.2	59.3%	End of project increase compared to baseline	Data for 2020 on Kazstat shows an increase in government spending on health and education between 2018-2020, with a marginal reduction in social protection. While available data for 2018 does not correspond with the baseline figure it does show an increase during the implementation of the JP.	N/A
SDG indicator 5.4.1	Average 12.3%; female 17.7%, male 5.9%	End of project increase compared to baseline	Data is not available as this review is conducted only once every five years.	N/A
SDG Indicator 16.6.2.	National Average: 0.81%	End of project increase compared to baseline	Data is not available for SDG 16.6.2.	N/A
SDG Indicator 17.17.1.	Unsure of final baseline selected	TBD	Data has not been updated since 2018.	N/A
SDG Indicator 17.14.1	79.9%	End of project increase compared to baseline	Up to date data is not available for this indicator.	N/A

1.5 CONTRIBUTION TO SDG FINANCING FLOWS

Mobilizing new financing instruments for the SDGs can be a complex and challenging process. While there is significant interest in financing the SDGs in Kazakhstan, the scale of the challenge is enormous, and there are many competing demands on financial resources. Some of the key challenges in mobilizing new financing instruments for the SDGs in Kazakhstan include:

- **Limited understanding:** There is often a limited understanding of the SDGs and the impact that they can have on sustainable development, making it difficult to mobilize the necessary support and resources.
- **Regulatory barriers:** There are regulatory barriers to the development of new financing instruments, including restrictions on cross-border investments, the need for a green taxonomy of sustainable activities, the need for divestiture, and new supporting regulations, all of which take time to agree upon and adopt.

- **Risk perception:** Investors may perceive investments in the SDGs as being too risky, which can make it difficult to attract the necessary funding. Moreover, the principal on bond repayments can be higher than other instruments such as panda bonds, or concessional loans.
- **Lack of coordination:** There is a lack of coordination between national and sub-national actors and initiatives working on the SDGs, which makes it difficult to mobilize resources effectively. Lack of direct support from the Ministry of Finance, which has a lead mandate with the Central Bank, also undermined the potential for identifying short term instruments for scaling.

Despite these challenges, there is also significant momentum and progress being made in mobilizing financing for the SDGs in Kazakhstan. A number of innovative financing instruments have been developed in Central Asia, such as SDG and green bonds, which have been successful in mobilizing significant amounts of capital; i.e., Uzbekistan. In order to mobilize new financing instruments for the SDGs in Kazakhstan, it will be important to address these challenges, deepen awareness of the SDGs and their importance, and develop a coordinated approach to financing that involves all stakeholders, including the private sector, and civil society.

While the mobilisation of financial resources for SDGs is difficult to gauge at this stage of the evaluation –some estimation can still be made. The B4SDG initiative made strides towards financial mobilisation, creating a foundation to improve alignment of public finance with Agenda 2030. Under the JP B4SDG feasibility study and roadmap were developed, the former identifying limitations in regards to taking account of the interests of vulnerable groups in the allocation of budget funds, the latter identifying a list of actionable tasks to conduct further research and ensure the budgeting process is amenable to SDG considerations. Vis-à-vis financial mobilisation, the B4SDG initiative could:

- Increase alignment of existing resources to the SDGs.
- Lead to the incorporation of the SDGs into government budgets, becoming an explicit priority;
- Promotes transparency and accountability in budgeting processes, improving monitoring;
- Involve a greater number of stakeholders in the budgeting process;
- Encourages the use of more innovative financing mechanisms and promote cross-sectoral cooperation.

Other activities under the Joint Programme, geared towards raising awareness and the provision of training for the nationalisation and localisation of the SDGs are also expected to lead to improved financial mobilisation for the SDGs. These included i) interdepartmental working groups on SDGs (structured around People, Partnerships and Planet), ii) a workshop on tracking the financing of climate-relevant activities using climate labelling of the budget,⁷ iii) a 2-day capacity-building workshop on SDG costing, based on the costing model applied to SDG 4.2, and iv) various information sessions and training seminars with civil society and sub-national governments on the above issues and SDG localisation.

While financing flows to the SDGs have not formally been measure since 2020, the JP's efforts to raise awareness and provide training will help empower central government, local government bodies and broader civil society to take ownership of the SDGs, in turn encouraging greater investments and resources to be directed towards SDG achievement. The JP's emphasis on localizing the SDGs, should allow solutions to be tailored to local challenges and opportunities, attracting new sources of financing and investment, and to making better use of existing resources. Overall, the JP's efforts on these fronts are expected to lead to more effective and sustainable financial mobilization for the achievement of the SDGs.

It is important to note that due to the adverse global economic conditions caused by first the COVID-19 pandemic and later the conflict in Ukraine, the effects of these activities on financial mobilisation for the SDGs may not be fully realized or represented during the implementation of the Joint Programme between 2020 and 2022. Despite this, the long-term impact of the JP's engagement activities on financial mobilisation for the SDGs is expected to be positive.

1.6 RESULTS ACHIEVED ON CONTRIBUTING TO UN DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM REFORM

While new sources of financing are still to be raised, the program is central to the execution of the UNSDCF.

⁷ Held in December 2021, participants included employees of the Ministry of National Economy of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Ministry of Ecology, Geology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Kazakhstan, International Center for Green Technologies and Investment Projects NJSC and Economic Research Institute JSC.

For example, many of the results outlined in the UNSDCF – such as the ‘*establishment of an integrated policy/strategy/plan providing adaptation to the adverse impacts of climate change, and foster climate resilience and low greenhouse gas emissions development in a manner that does not threaten food production*’ – have been aided by the Climate Financing Strategy. Moreover, the Child Wellbeing Index also speaks to a large number of child-related issues in the UNSDCF, providing considerable progress in financing for children’s needs.

This UN Joint Programme is a collaborative effort between UNDP, UNICEF and UN ESCAP, working together to achieve an INFF as a common goal. This collaboration lead to a more efficient and effective approach to achieving the SDGs, with lower transaction costs compared to a single agency's intervention. Examples of how the joint program added value include:

- **Shared resources:** Resources such as human capital, expertise, and technology were shared between participating agencies, leading to more efficient use of resources, as agencies leveraged each other's strengths and avoid duplicating efforts.
- **Reduced transaction costs:** Transaction costs were likely reduced, as each UN agency shared the costs associated with program design, monitoring, and evaluation.
- **Improved coordination:** Coordination between agencies was strengthened by working together, ensuring that efforts were aligned and complementary, avoiding the risk of working in silos and potentially duplicating efforts.
- **Enhanced impact:** The collaborative approach led to greater impact on the ground, by pooling expertise to achieve the program goal, leading to a more comprehensive and integrated approach than might otherwise have been achieved.

At the outset of the Joint Program, a set of operational performance indicators (See Table 5 below) were also established to monitor its successful implementation, including level of coherence, reduced transaction costs, and other indicators indicative of effective UNDS collaboration. These are summarized below and are indicative of the value of contribution of the Joint Program in drawing on collective UN Agency specialization and minimizing duplication efforts.

Table 5. JP OPERATIONAL PERFORMANCE INDICATORS CONTRIBUTING TO UNDS REFORM			
#	Indicator	Means of Verification	Assessment Result
1.	Level of coherence of UN in implementing programme country	KIIs	UN displayed a high degree of coherence in administering the programme, with all contributing agencies (UNDP, UNICEF, UN ESCAP) collaborating in a coordinated manner to overcome emergent challenges and maximize impact.
2.	Reduced transaction costs for participating UN agencies in interaction with national and regional and local authorities and/or public entities compared to other joint programmes in the country in question	KII with UNDP	UN engagement with national and particularly regional/local authorities supported implementation of the JP, reducing bilateral communication channels and improving collaborations, resulting in a more efficient and cost-effective implementation of the joint programme.
3.	Joint programme operationally closed within original end date	Original End Date	Joint programme was operationally concluded within its intended end date, December 31 st 2022.

4.	Joint programme facilitated engagement with diverse stakeholders (e.g., parliamentarians, civil society, IFIs, bilateral/multilateral actor, private sector)	KIIs + Joint Program Deliverables	The JP was demonstrated effectiveness at promoting interaction with multiple stakeholders throughout its deliverables, many of which were included within its results framework. Engagement with civil society, private sector and regional governments are of particular note. However, engagement with both the Ministry of Finance and Parliament faced greater difficulties.
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The Joint Programme also achieved value for money through both, (i) reducing entry costs for UN engagement, and (ii) identifying interventions which offer a significant return on investment for Government of Kazakhstan. In regards to the former, the JP represented a cost-effective approach to combine the expertise of multiple UN agencies and leveraging existing resources. It minimized start-up costs by building upon the earlier implementation of a DFA and RIA, allowing the JP to focus on the operationalization and expansion of these previous diagnostics. The JP also emphasized alignment with the efforts of other IFIs (for example OECD’s engagement on results-based budgeting), providing a cost-effective opportunity to integrate SDG perspectives into these reforms. Additionally, the integrated approach of the JP strengthens state capacity to align public investment with development outcomes across all sectors, reducing the risk of duplication and coordination failures of reform initiatives.

1.7 RESULTS ACHIEVED ON CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

Since the JP’s inception, the context analysis has placed heavy considerations in gender analysis and responding including the underlying causes of gender inequality and discrimination in line with SDG 5. Not only is Gender mainstreamed across program interventions but gender was included as a core consideration in Outcome 3, “National SDG financing architecture which takes into account gender dimensions is strengthened”. The emphasis on anchoring SDG 5 into the roadmap for SDG informed budgeting goes a long way to this end, with activities under the roadmap including, but not limited to, the i) introduction of gender analysis of social sectors by NGO representatives through state demand ii) development and approval of the database form for gender analysis, iii) audit of current budget planning regulations for gender responsiveness, iv) implementation of gender analyses of sub-regions within Kazakhstan (e.g. Akmola region), v) identifying entry points for the inclusion of a gender perspective into Chapter 2 of the National Planning System of Kazakhstan, and vi) workshops for working groups and training for civil servants on methods and approaches of gender analysis. Partnerships with the ERI, Ministry of Finance and National Commission for Women, Family and Demographic Policy were identified through these actions.

Similarly, the program has maintained a strong focus on supporting children and youth. With the significant outcome of the eventual formal adoption of a Child Wellbeing Index in February 2022, now made mandatory for all government ministries. The Index, consisting of as many as 50 indicators, was designed to assess child well-being and degree of alignment of national policies to create favourable conditions for children, and developed through national and regional level dialogue, including dialogue with parents and children. Within the framework of this index, a separate indicator on the budget for children has been provided, and the methodology of the budget for children is being discussed with the relevant central state bodies. Additionally, the selection of SDG 4.2 on universal primary education further indicates the JP’s commitment to adopting child-centred implementation.

1.8 RESULTS ACHIEVED ON COVID-19 RECOVERY

With its initiation in July 2020, the JP was designed to take into account the anticipated effects of COVID-19 and complement the government’s response, focussing on three sets of measures, namely i) specific developing financing strategies to safeguard social spending, increase available finance, and improve targeting to those most in need, as part of the Government’s response, ii) alignment of public spending across different levels of government to optimize national and local budgets during a period of fiscal constraints, and iii) adoption of an SDG Financing Strategy to improve policy coherence and strengthen the Government’s anti-crisis action plan. Similarly, the JP was designed to respond to the uncertainty of the pandemic placing an emphasis on flexibility to adaptation in its risk management strategy.

1.9 STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

The Joint Program’s demonstration to establishing partnerships and undertaking broad and multi-stakeholder engagement was one of its strongest facets. Throughout its deliverables, the JP worked closely with central government, municipalities, civil society organizations, regional government offices, and the general population (including targeted vulnerable groups) to draw on a considerable breadth of knowledge. The program aimed to increase partnerships and engagement by implementing a mix of approaches, including support for policy formulation, capacity building, piloting initiatives, dissemination of best practices and lessons learned through seminars and workshops, multi-level partnerships, and citizen consultation. The UN’s well-established experience, complementary expertise, and know-how in collaborating with a diverse set of actors played a key role in the JP’s implementation.

Obstacles were certainly met in this regard, including hesitancy from the Ministry of Finance and other public bodies, such as Parliament. However, the JP adapted to these challenges by building strong relationships directly with specialised line ministries (Education for example) and collaborating closely with municipal and local governments. Stakeholder involvement and consultation in the design and implementation of the programme has gone some way to promote a sense of ownership and encourage national rollout and expansion of certain activities (e.g., commitment to rollout the RIA across remaining regions).

Within itself, the UNDS was effective at coordinating various agencies and delegating responsibilities for specific tasks within the JP. The UNRCO is designated to lead political engagement at the highest level, the UNDP with technical engagement with the Ministry of Finance, and UNICEF in analysing policies affecting child well-being and ESCAP in offering analytical expertise and capacity-development materials. Non-beneficiary agencies, such as UN Women, were also engaged in dedicated elements of the JP, such as support gender-responsive budgeting. In leveraging the expertise of different agencies coupled with support from the global and regional expertise from UNDP’s finance sector hub, the workplan mobilized comprehensive technical support in an efficient and coherent manner.

1.10 ADDITIONAL FINANCING MOBILIZED

In the context of a worsening economic and fiscal crisis caused by COVID-19, no new financing has so far been raised, though changes resulting from the Child Welfare index use has led to changes in the alignment of public resources to critical SDGs. This is a great success. Going forward, the B4SDG assessment, pilot sub-national DFAs, Climate Financing Strategy and gender review have provided the foundation for changes to public spending to be achieved over the medium term. Table 6 provides an overview of new sources of financing expected over the medium term, should a fully INFF Financing Strategy be agreed and adopted by the government.

Table 6. EXPECTED SOURCES OF NEW FINANCING OVER THE MEDIUM TERM					
Source of funding	Yes	No	Type of co-funding/co-financing	Potential Amount (USD)	Comments
Government	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Budgetary re-alignment, improved sub-national spending and potential for climate and green bonds</i>	<i>Likely significant in the range of US\$ 300 plus million</i>	<i>Depends on government financing decisions going forward</i>
Donors/IFIs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Catalytic first loss finance and guarantees</i>	<i>Changing nature of ODA financing likely to see an increase in support for private financing</i>	<i>ODA is in decline with pressures for re-purposing to support Europe.</i>
Private sector	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Private equity, PPPs, commercial bank operations etc.</i>	<i>Potentially considerable in the climate financing space, though public spending was the primary focus</i>	<i>SME financing was prioritized, though no new instruments have so far been deployed</i>

2. RESULTS BY JP OUTCOME AND OUTPUT

2.1 RESULTS ACHIEVED BY FUND’S GLOBAL RESULTS

The Kazakhstan Joint Program adopted one Outcome level target and one Output level target from the Global Joint SDG Fund results framework. In the initial design of the JP it was envisioned that Output 1.1 (in-depth assessments of MSME and the adoption of a climate centered financing strategy) would contribute to the Global SDG Fund Outcome 2 while the collective outputs 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3, would contribute to SDG Fund Output 4. The following presents a brief assessment of the status of implementation.

Joint SDG Fund Outcome 2 is comprised of 2 core indicators, namely i) Ratio of financing for integrated multi-sectoral solutions leveraged in terms of scope (i.e. mobilisation through new sources) and ii) Ratio of financing for integrated multi-sectoral solutions leveraged in terms of scale (scaling mobilisation through existing sources). While it is not evident that the JP had a direct impact on the raising of additional financing during the life of the programme, the RIA, B4SDG and MSME inclusion components of the JP made contributed towards improving the performance of identifying new domestic public and private resources (at both a national and local level) for Agenda 2030. Greater analysis is also required for the second indicator, although it is worth noting that JP initiatives to improve public financing alignment with the JP meets this indicator.

Joint SDG Fund Output 4, is comprised of 3 indicators revolving around the #of integrated financing strategies that were tested and eventually implemented, as well as the partnership frameworks developed for these. While the JP oversaw the completion of a holistic climate finance strategy aligned with the SDGs, this financing strategy is still delayed on formal national implementation. Additionally, no evidence of functioning partnership frameworks established within the climate financing strategy.

2.2 RESULTS ACHIEVED BY JOINT PROGRAMME OUTCOME

Achievements for Outcome 1

The expected results (at the design phase) for Outcome 1. ‘A holistic SDG Financing Strategy and its core institutional components are developed and implemented’ are provided in Table 6 below:

#	Anticipated Results During JP Design	Assessment of Achievements
1.	Promotion of evidence-based dialogue, at the national and sub-national levels, to facilitate experience-sharing and guide appropriate policies and institutional reforms.	Throughout the JP several seminars, workshops and other open dialogue for a were organized, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National Cup of Student and School Entrepreneurship ENACTUS Kazakhstan National EXPO; - Discussions with the public on the draft Voluntary National Review and SDG attainment; - Various seminars on the nationalization and localization of the SDGs; - Launch of a Telegram channel by ERI; and, - Various others. Regions included North Kazakh Region, Almaty, Kostanay, Kyzylorda, East Kazakhstan Region, Zhambyl, and Zhetysu, among others.
2.	Identification of new tools aimed at modelling future policy scenarios and integrating funding schemes	The national DFA and sub-national DFAs in 3 pilot regions identified numerous tools to improve future-ready planning and financing, while the climate-aligned SDG finance strategy builds on this. Additionally, Various seminars in the format of a business game "Mission 2030" are aimed at envisioning future trends and identifying important policy decisions.
3.	Strengthen national capacity to analyze financial flows and develop strategies for mobilizing new resources to achieve the SDGs more effectively.	Capacity support to enable government to operationalize a DFA dashboard represents an important and forward-looking tool that can develop improve financing scenarios integrated into the State Planning System. The RIA and B4SDG initiatives under the JP (and associated dissemination of methodologies

	and best practices to government) also talk to this result.
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Broadly, Outcome 1 represents some significant achievements under the JP, driving forward the DFA initiative, to including an expansion of sub-national focus, developing the climate-aligned financing strategy and B4SDG methodology (coupled with their socialization into Government) were all developed with a strong focus on local collaboration and future ownership.

Achievements for Outcome 2

The expected results (at the design phase) for Outcome 2. 'Planning and finance policy functions, processes and systems are better integrated and aligned with SDGs' are assessed in Table 8 below.

Table 8. ASSESSING THE ATTAINMENT OF RESULTS FOR OUTCOME 2		
#	Anticipated Results During JP Design	Assessment of Achievements
1.	Completion of RIAs of national budgets at national and subnational level	RIAs were completed for the national budget and for 3 pilot regions. While not expanded beyond that during the life of the JP, GoK has committed to scaling up the RIAs across remaining regions.
2.	Determine the readiness of the existing public finance management system to adopt gender-responsive SDG budgeting	A feasibility study of SDG budgeting that accounts for the gender dimension and the principle of LNOB was conducted, drawing further insights from relevant case studies. Based on identified gaps and limitations, a roadmap to implement gender-focused SDGs budgeting in Kazakhstan was developed.
3.	Establish and disseminate lessons learned and good practices to feed into the Replication of RIAs in other CAREC Countries	Un sighted – perhaps UNDP can comment.
4.	Strengthen national capacity to analyze financial flows and develop strategies for mobilizing new resources to achieve the SDGs more effectively.	A series of seminars and workshops to socialize the findings and techniques to undertake the RIAs, B4SDG and SDG costing were undertaken. Government ownership of the forthcoming SDG financing dashboard is tribute to this.

Achievements for Outcome 3

The expected results (at the design phase) for Outcome 3. 'National SDG financing architecture, which takes into account gender dimensions, is strengthened' are assessed in Table 9 below:

Table 9. ASSESSING THE ATTAINMENT OF RESULTS FOR OUTCOME 3		
#	Anticipated Results During JP Design	Assessment of Achievements
1.	Familiarization of diverse national stakeholders with development financing mechanisms	Socialization of the DFA, Gender Budgeting exercise, RIA and costing exercise at both the national and sub-national level all included a diverse range of national stakeholders, including civil society.
2.	Improve national capacity to ensure SDG/ gender-sensitive alignment of public finance	Gender focused B4SDG Roadmap identified numerous interventions to improve national capacity to ensure SDG/ gender-sensitive alignment of public finance.
3.	Formalization of a financing flow dashboard to monitor funding policies	A DFA dashboard has yet to be formally developed, however plans are in place to complete this during 2023.
4.	Nationalization of the SDG indicators to improve citizen awareness	Various participatory events around JP initiatives as well as the forthcoming VNR included citizens, as highlighted previously.

5.	Capacity building across state and non-state actors to ensure ownership and effective implementation of priority financing solutions	National capacity building was at the heart of the JP, e.g. A two-day capacity-building workshop on the SDG 4.2 costing model. Similarly, assistance in strengthening the capacity of civil society to monitor progress towards achieving the SDGs was provided in various ways.
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2.3 RESULTS ACHIEVED BY JOINT PROGRAMME OUTPUT

Output 1.1. Assess resource gaps on financing national development plans and priority financing strategies

Several activities under Output 1.1 made reasonable progress under the Joint Programme, although there were some notable shortfalls. While the 2025 Strategic Development Plan was not formally costed under the Joint Programme, the costing of SDG 4.2 on the enrollment of children in quality preschool education had linkages to the 2025 Development Plan. Particularly given that the third national priority under the strategy is aimed at improving the quality of education, with the national project "Quality Education, Educated Nation" placing a strong emphasis on universal access at the preschool level, the costing undertaken undeniably contributes to the 2025 strategy.

Nonetheless, under the ambition of assessing resource gaps for the financing strategy, the SDGs are an obvious focus point. As such, the significant steps taken towards the development of an SDG costing methodology through the exercise of costing SDG 4.2 should be noted. The exercise developed a methodology to calculate the funding and investments needs necessary to fulfill the pre-school education targets, thereby feeding into the identification of effective measures to better prioritize critical investments and optimize available spending. The microdata set on SDG 4.2 has been developed based on the data collected from national and administrative data owners for 2016-2021 (included in SDG costing model, see Costing model, sheet 7 "Data") with a deeper disaggregation by sex and age, urban/rural, type of ownership - public/ private, and expenditure types). It was submitted alongside Model User Guide, Costing methodology and analytical report. It is worth noting that the costing exercise was coupled with a training of ERI staff (a total of 11 members) in the SDG Secretariat and government officials from the Ministry of Education and under-ministerial state agencies working on pre-school education planning, monitoring and child development statistics and analytics aspects who went through several training sessions with technical guidance on simulation model provided by UNESCO BKK team, along with complementary workshops related to assessing financing needs to implement SDG 4.2. Exploring the possibility of further costing exercises, based on the costing model and national priorities (such as 'National Development Plan 2025') can move forward with the costing of SDG 4.2 as a foundation.

Additionally, progress under the 5th Indicator for Output 1.1, focused embedding SME financial inclusion within the framework of the emerging Kazakhstan INFF, with a particular focus on increasing access to affordable credit to women through a targeting of sectors disproportionately led by or employing women. A Field study has been conducted in three geographical areas in Kazakhstan to reveal the main challenges and conditions for better financial inclusion and strengthening women entrepreneurship in regions. Field study methodology has been validated during the Expert Group Meeting organized in August 2022 and covered focus group discussions and expert interviews with relevant state and non-state stakeholders, including engagement with private finance, and a strong focus on qualitative data collection through gender lens. The outcome of the research provided recommendations on strengthening SME finance throughout the remaining INFF processes, from further assessment and diagnostics, to the designing and implementing a financial strategy that is representative of SME challenges to the development of monitoring and governance architecture that is responsive to SME financing. BB1 in particular, including stocktaking and next steps for identifying financing needs for the SME sector and an assessment of how best to fill them, in line with the objective of Output 1 under the JP.

Finally, in line with initial design of Output 1.1, progress was made towards developing a climate financing approach and encouraging national ownership. In December 2022 two workshops on development a Climate Budget Tagging methodology were arranged for the Ministry of Ecology, Geology and Natural resources and it is understood that adaptation opportunities for discussion will take place in 2023. However, the introduction of climate finance requires changes to the country's Budget Code. The results of the study were submitted to the relevant ministries, and a series of discussions were held in the course of the study. A more detailed discussion may be envisaged as part of the budget reform in Kazakhstan in 2023-2024.

Output 1.2. Monitoring trends in development finance flows at subnational level

Under the JP, the expansion of the DFA across Kazakhstan's regions through three 'light DFAs' was concluded within the timeframe of the project. While the initial JP Results Framework identified a target of 5 regional light DFAs by the close of the program, this was revised to 3 regions with a focus on developing a roadmap for the expansion to remaining regions across Kazakhstan. In the end, the regions of Karaganda, North Kazakhstan, and Almaty were selected for the pilot regional DFA Assessment. For each region, the light DFA included an assessment of Sub-National Public Financing (Regional budget revenues, regional budget expenditures, State borrowing of the region, and State-Owned Enterprises), Sub-national private financing (Access to credit, Investments in fixed assets, Public-Private Partnerships, & Non-commercial private finance) and International Financing (Foreign Direct Investment).

The pilots have helped in gaining a better understanding of the financial flows and funding gaps at the subnational level for each region, and the information gathered alongside analysis conducted are in the process of contributing to the formulation of effective policies and strategies of regional governments to address these gaps. Lessons learned in the process of executing the regional DFAs included:

- Management and coordination in the regions should be carried out by local executive bodies, as well as by the highest bodies of state financial control;
- The pilot assessments were carried out remotely during COVID-19. A key lesson which emerged is the important to engage regional representatives in person at multiple points in the assessment;
- Integration of capacity development activities into the DFA process to improve recommendations; and,
- Lesson learned on streamlining processes to increase the efficiency and quality of the data collection through local sources.

Finally, and in accordance with Output 1.2, a formal roadmap and timeline for the expansion of the pilot regional DFAs was approved at the 6th SDG Coordination Council meeting DFA, with the ambition of completing regional DFAs for the remainder of Kazakhstan's regions in 2023.

Output 1.3. Holistic SDG financing strategy is equity based and child focused

In line with the components of Output 1.3 selected in the JP design phase, in 2021 UNICEF led on i) an analysis of the budget policy implementation with a focus on children's indicators of well-being, and ii) the development of a national tool for targeted spending of the state budget in the interests of children. Both elements were completed in a timely manner.

The tasks of work for the first element of (analysis of budgetary policy implementation) included:

- Undertaking an analysis of international experience on the formulation of a children's budget, including a review of challenges and obstacles;
- Undertaking an analysis of the situation of children in the Republic of Kazakhstan and protection of their rights; and,
- Undertaking an assessment of child financing in the framework of the budget policy of Kazakhstan on the indicators of UNICEF child welfare index.

The corresponding deliverable was well received, presenting set of observations to further inform policy making in developing a responsive children's budget (e.g. lack of a consolidated Children's budget, insufficient funding for childhood, and poorly expressed indicators in the children's budget). One shortfall of this output, however, is that the child-focused assessment of fiscal policy was completed with respect to spending functions only, with no study conducted to assess child-centered implications of domestic revenue policy.

A second deliverable also responded to this outcome, namely the construction of a Children's Budget tool informed by a Children's Wellbeing Index, to calculate the share of budget expenditures aimed at the needs of children. This was completed through the collection and analysis of relevant data on expenditures (republican budget, federal budgets and extra-budgetary funds where relevant) and application of a relevant methodology. The Outcome of the work completed is the actual determining of the share of expenditures directed to the needs of children through Child Well-being Index.

Thus, based on the conducted analysis, the following regions were the leaders in the share of budget expenditures aimed at the needs of children in 2021: Kyzylorda region (47.6%); West Kazakhstan region (44.4%) and Almaty region (42.2%). The lowest figures were recorded in three major donors of the republican budget: the city of Astana (18.7%); Atyrau region (20.2%) and the city of Almaty (20.9%).

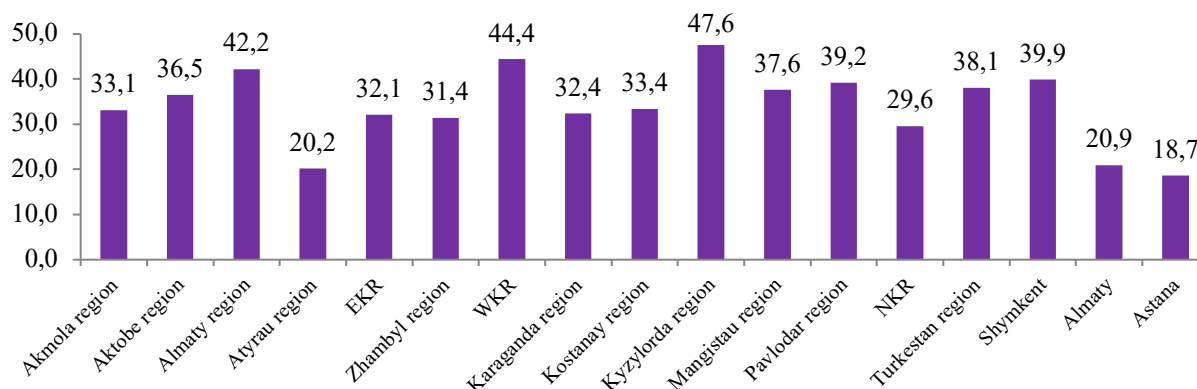


Figure – The share of budget expenditures directed to the needs of children, in %, 2021
Source: Calculation of ERI experts according to Local executive bodies data

It is important to note that when calculating the share of budget expenditures, budget expenditures in the amount of 1 child were also analyzed, where the leaders are regions with a lower level of demography of the child population. Thus, in the North Kazakhstan region, 802.8 thousand tenge is spent on the 1st child; in the Pavlodar region - 708.7 thousand tenge and in the West Kazakhstan region - 687.8 thousand tenge.

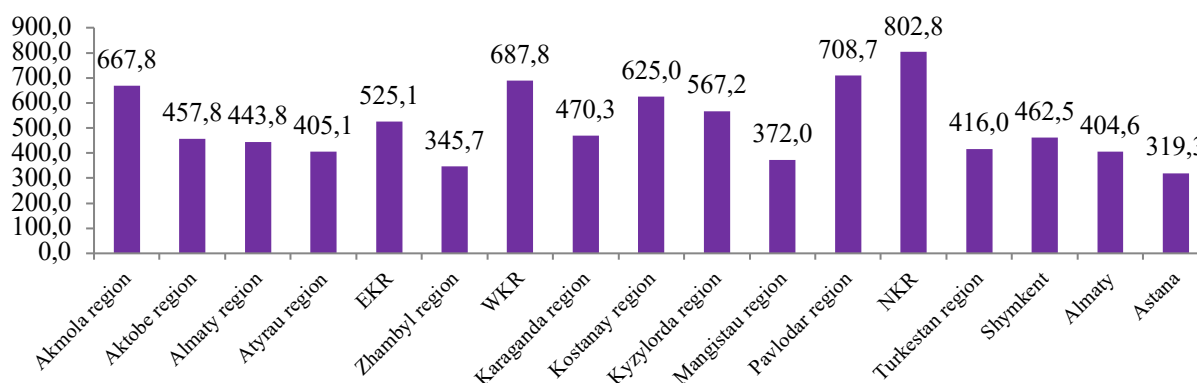
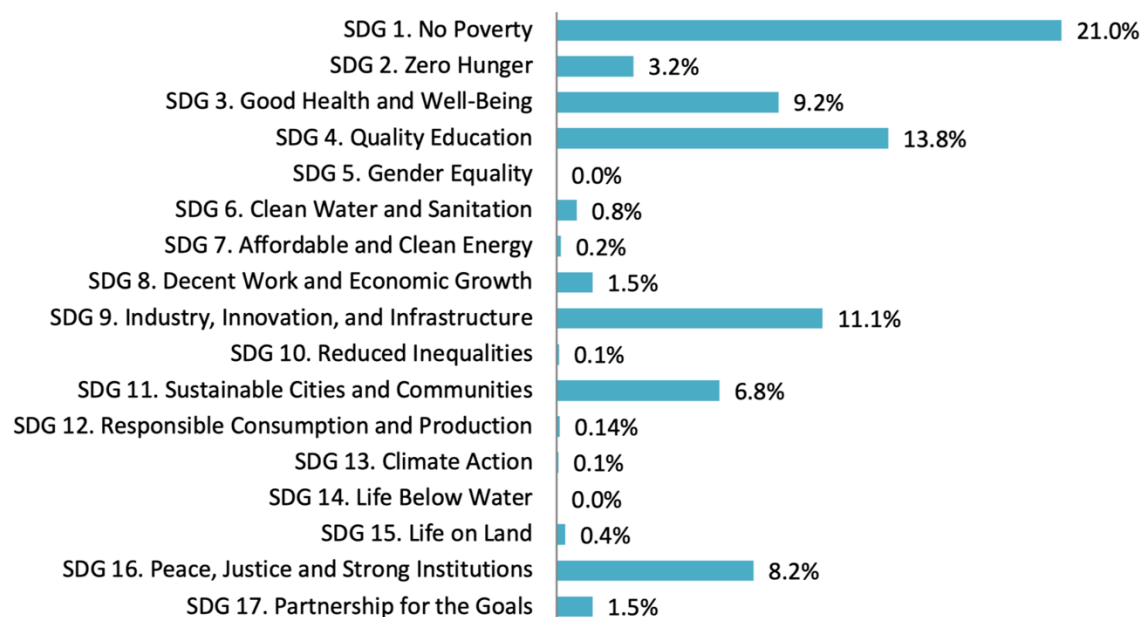


Figure 1 – The budget expenditures for the 1st child, in thousand tenge, 2021
Source: Calculation of ERI experts according to Local executive bodies data

Output 2.1. Annual RIA of republican, subnational and city level budgets, including a focus on child and gender dimensions

Output 2.1 saw most indicators satisfactorily met, particularly with the conclusion of a Rapid Integrated Assessment (RIA) of the medium-term republican budget, as well of three sub-national regions, including an agricultural region (North Kazakhstan), an industrial region (Karaganda) and a city of republican significance (Almaty City). The RIA methodology which was adopted, which primarily involved marking budget programs with an appropriate SDG objective and calculating financing for the SDGs based on actual expenditures drew heavily on the guidance of program administrators and local executive bodies, particularly at the regional level. Importantly, for the second core indicator of Outcome 2 under the results framework, the RIA provided a review of the distribution of state budget funds by SDGs for 2019-2021, providing useful insight into SDGs that are underfunded at the national and sub-national level (see below).

Distribution of State Budget by SDGs for 2019-2021 (% of total)



Source: RIA Systematization of the National Budget

Alongside the formal completion of an initial RIA at the national and sub-national levels, a significant training component was included under the RIA to build the capacity of the ERI to conduct RIAs.

Not only did 12 experts from SDG Secretariat of the ERI take part in training on the RIA of national budgets by the end period of the JP (meeting Output 2.1 Indicator 2) but in April, 2021 a wider online seminar was arranged by UNDP jointly with the Ministry of National Economy with participation from government bodies engaged in budget and strategic planning (e.g. Agency for Strategic Planning and Reforms, Ministry of Finance and various line Ministries). The training made suggestions towards aligning unified budget classifications of the Republic of Kazakhstan with the SDG targets based on pre-prepared mapping exercise with special attention to women and child-specific SDG targets (among other predominant vulnerable groups). It is worth noting that while the JP fell short of conducting an RIA for all 17 Territorial Development Plans, a formal roadmap for the completion of an RIA for the remainder of the regions is planned for 2023.

Finally, under Output 2.1, steps were taken towards the final indicator, with a child-focused PFM measurement methodology and integrated into the Child Wellbeing Index as a specific indicator. Approval for this PFM measurement methodology is being discussed with the relevant central state bodies.

Output 2.2. Implement SDG budgeting that accounts for the gender dimension and the principle of LNOB

In 2021, UNDP conducted an important piece of work through the feasibility study of SDG budgeting, accounting for gender dimensions and the principle of LNOB. Both the DFA and the Rapid Integrated Assessment (RIA) of national and sub-national budgets highlighted Kazakhstan's increasing dependence on domestic public revenue for development finance (with an emphasis on taxes and oil revenue) as well as Kazakhstan's difficulties to finance SDG results at scale (e.g. across a range of development areas, geographic areas or demographic groups). In particular, certain SDGs such as climate change, gender equality and reducing inequalities have faced a significant funding gap, as outlined in the RIA.

The findings called for strengthening budgeting and public financing processes in order to improve alignment of budgeting outcomes with the SDGs. The Feasibility Assessment for B4SDG undertook a 5 step process, from a review of the sustainable development context and PFM system alongside an institutional mapping, to eventually modelling a suggested B4SDG approach, culminating in a suggested roadmap for implementing the proposed B4SDG reforms (completed as a separate deliverable). It concluded that despite challenges, the

budgetary process was not only a logical starting point but the right platform for housing nationalized SDGs if it could achieve full implementation of a B4SDG approach.

In 2021, the SDG Coordination Council took an important step towards achieving the full implementation of a B4SDG approach by establishing an 'Action Committee' to review and operationalise the recommendations as well as execute a country-specific and realistic roadmap for SDG budgeting in Kazakhstan. The Roadmap, also launched in 2021 as logical sequel to the feasibility assessment, presented a timeline of actions across 2022. While some of these targets have since been delayed, the roadmap has moved forward in its execution. This has included a focus on necessary training to improve national understanding of and capacity to implement B4SDG approaches. On 30 June 2021 an online workshop was organized on "SDG and gender-oriented budgeting approaches in Kazakhstan" supported by the experts from the UNDP Regional Hub in Istanbul. The workshop provided an analysis of Kazakhstan's current budgeting system with comparative case studies, with an introduction to the main principles and approaches of SDG budgeting and responsibilities of core government stakeholders within the budget system.

It is worth noting, however, that this component of the JP has not been without its limitations. For example, while Indicator 4 for Output 2.1 intends for a training of at least 10 senior members of Ministry of Finance on B4SDG, this has not been conducted under the JP. Likewise, the process of formal nationalisation of SDG targets across planning and budgeting performance monitoring frameworks (with gender disaggregation) has been slower than planned. As it stands, from the list of Government prioritized 87 SDG indicators 16% are integrated into State Planning Documents and on average up to 20% of SDG indicators are included to the local programs.

Output 3.1. Strengthen transparency and accountability mechanisms, with a focus on gender dimensions and SDGs principle "leaving no one behind"

Output 3.1 placed an emphasis on capacity building and knowledge transfer to government transparency and accountability mechanisms for full ownership of the INFF process and its components. This included i) completion of the full DFA and ownership of the DFA process by government, ii) Further integration of SDGs into national and local planning processes, iii) Capacity building of Parliament's Budget Committee, and iv) Preparation of the Second Voluntary National Review. While the results of this output have been mixed, it is clear that national ownership of the INFF process has been furthered.

To start, the Kazakhstan DFA was satisfactorily completed, covering Assessment and Diagnostic, Monitoring and Review as well as Recommendations for INFF implementation. Recommendation included, i) addressing remaining knowledge gaps (e.g. developing financing scenarios and targets), ii) mobilizing public finance (e.g. tax system or subsidy reform), and iii) mobilizing private finance (e.g. financial inclusion for MSMEs and FDI alignment with SDGs). However, while DFA recommendations have been integrated into a financing strategy roadmap, the extent to which these have led to regulatory and legislative reforms is limited at this stage.

Under the JP, development of the DFA also foresaw progress towards national ownership, including training on the DFA as well as the establishment of an updatable and nationally owned DFA dashboard. Here progress has been mixed. While a training of ERI SDG Secretariat consisting of 11 staff members was conducted in November 2020, providing a full breakdown of the DFA methodology and how it should be implemented, progress towards the establishment of an SDG Finance Dashboard (ideally to be integrated in the annual Forecast for Socio-Economic Development) has been slower. This being said, an SDG financing dashboard is being currently finalized and likely to be launched on the ERI website as early as January 2023

Other elements of Output 3.1 included the provision of technical support to the Ministry of National Economy and capacity-building activities for working groups to improve alignment of national/sectoral development strategies with the SDGs. This was provided by the ERI at the 5th and 6th meeting of the Coordinating Council and during the first two meetings of the SDG Monitoring Committee chaired by Ministry of National Economy. ERI also supported 5 inter-governmental groups through the provision of analytical materials and expertise regarding relevant SDG indicators under the process of localization. While these was satisfactorily completed, there no training was conducted for the Parliamentary Budget Committee on conducting an SDG aligned budget review.

Finally, Output 3.1 also made progress against SDG localization across various regions. Between March and May 2021, UNDP implementation of the "Big Almaty project" provided expert and analytical support to the Almaty city administration in aligning local territorial programs and strategies with the SDGs, generating

relevant recommendations. Lessons learned from this exercise fed into further capacity-building activities in 2022 during visits to regions as part of Mission 2030. This exercise also collected crucial data for the [Second Voluntary National Review](#), another important milestone under Output 3.1, which was launched in 2022.

Output 3.2. Strengthen contribution of non-state actors to financing policies

The final output under the JP, Output 3.2, related to advancing the contribution of non-state actors (with a focus on civil society organization and international development partners) to the INFF agenda. While steps were taken towards this, broadly these made less significant progress than Output 3.1 and the strengthening of national ownership through government. In regards to international partners, a Development Partners Roundtable was held on 16 July 2021 with wide participation of various stakeholders, however to date there has been limited progress in the development of data portal for housing relevant and up-to-date ODA data (preferably with disaggregation by sector, aid modality, financing instrument, SDG, etc.).

Similarly, while civil society engagement has been consistent throughout the DFA and other SDG financing processes under the INFF, there has, to date, been no formal training of CSOs in SDG aligned Budget reviews, gender-responsive budgeting and the SDGs Principle of LNOB, as stated under Indicator 2 of Output 3.2. during the JP, it was deemed too early to conduct detailed workshops, given no formal decision had yet been made at the level of the Budget Legislation.

3. CHALLENGES AND CHANGES

3.1 CHALLENGES FACED BY JP

The INFF is a complex policy, institutional, capacity and financing reform program challenged by the pandemic and more recently by high inflation caused by the war in Ukraine. Against this backdrop, the program has still delivered considerable value and this can be taken forward to increase new financing flows in key sectors.

First and foremost, limited engagement from certain core ministries, including the Ministry of Finance has been a major inconvenience to the implementation of certain deliverables. This is particularly as the Ministry of Finance is considered one of the key stakeholders and the primary beneficiary of the JP, with its involvement critical for the success of B4SDG scaling and implementation in particular. However, MoF participation was hesitant for much of the 2-year period, hindering progress and implicating the overall success of the JP.

This transferred into a limited level of interest among government bodies in implementing and institutionalising core results from JP components, hindering the actualization of JP recommendations. In particular, after two years of implementation, no progress has yet been made in introducing budget reforms. Additionally, relatively low awareness and engagement among the private sector, particularly in rural areas, also presents challenges. Given the central role and knowledge of private sector regarding local economic conditions, greater involvement in the JP at an earlier stage would have helped to ensure that outcomes and recommendations were better localised more widely accepted. It is however, worth noting that all-in-all JP engagement with private sector was assessed as quite reasonable.

The COVID-19 pandemic also had a significant impact on the Joint Programme (JP) at both an operational and strategic level, disrupting its implementation in several ways. Firstly, it forced a change in working arrangements in 2020, requiring JP agencies to work remotely, representing a particular challenge for field work at the sub-national level, which would have benefitted with easier in-person collaboration with local government bodies for data collection and analysis. This placed a significant strain on fiscal priorities and limited the appetite for reform given the shifting national focus on immediate health and economic implications of the pandemic and the Conflict in Ukraine.

3.2 CHANGES MADE TO JP

With regards to changes that the JP underwent to account for these limitations, participants from KIIs noted that switching engagement to deal directly with line ministries and local government bodies improved responsiveness, rather than working primarily through the Ministry of Finance. Other deliverables were altered/scaled back in order to be more reasonably accomplished within the JP's timescale and acceptable to national counterparts. Finally, the JP did a reasonable job of adapting to the conditions of the COVID-19 pandemic although a greater alignment with national fiscal stimulus measures in 2020 could have been achieved.

4. SUSTAINABILITY AND COUNTRY OWNERSHIP

4.1 SUSTAINABILITY AND COUNTRY OWNERSHIP

While there have been positive signs of government ownership of the various components of the JP, this has been an area of weakness, partially explained by government being distracted by the pandemic in particular. Primarily, ensuring better national ownership and sustainability of JP required greater participation from core stakeholders, in particular the Ministry of Finance and National Bank of Kazakhstan. This was accounted for in the JP's initial risk assessment, but the degree of hesitancy from core national counterparts not apparent from programme's outset. It would have been beneficial focus early JP engagements on building awareness of INFF and its associated components, such as the financing strategy, monitoring and review, and governance, both at macro and micro levels. Similarly, a focus on strengthening coordination mechanisms between JP PUNOs and the Ministry of finance would have supported clearer lines of communication and collaboration with other stakeholders.

Given the challenges faced in securing high-level national commitment to the JP outcomes, it is understandable that a focus was paid towards engagement with line ministries, sub-national government bodies and civil society, and it is commendable that these relationships were built successfully. However, for longevity, ownership at the level of the Ministry of Finance or even the PMO is important. On this basis, further engagement under the JP, or through bilateral UN initiatives should consider a greater emphasis on the following entry points:

- **Extension of future JPs to Include a Dedicated Year on Implementation:** An important comment received during Key Informant Interviews pertained to the importance of integration of JP component results and recommendations into government policy. It may be that the extension of future JP engagements includes a period around which a focus is paid to the implementation and nationalisation of results, ensuring adequate time to institutionalize the reforms recommended by the JP during its continued operation.
- **Strengthen Coordination Mechanisms:** The JP should focus on establishing stronger coordination mechanisms to facilitate the implementation of recommendations. While this was admittedly a strong focus of the JP to date, these mechanisms would ideally be institutionalized within existing government structures to ensure their longevity.
- **Secure Prime Minister's Office Ownership:** It is important to re-emphasize the need to secure ownership at the level of the Prime Minister's Office (PMO). This may require greater political engagement from senior UN officials, but would also alleviate engagement constraints with the Ministry of Finance.
- **Attention to Scaling of JP Pilots:** Finally, while government acceptance and commitment towards the implementation of certain JP recommendations has been mixed, it is important to note commitment to scaling certain initiatives in 2023. This includes the development of a DFA dashboard under the ERI, the scaling of the RIA initiative across remaining regions, continued utilization of the Child Wellbeing Index, and considerations into undertaking further costing diagnostics based on the costing model developed for SDG 4.2. As such, a chief priority of any future iterations of the JP, or simply through bilateral UN agency engagements, should be to monitor and ensure adequate resources are provided to these efforts.

5. COMMUNICATIONS

5.1 COMMUNICATION PRODUCTS

JP recommended actions and government reforms have faced significant competition from more immediate government concerns, owing to the turbulent economic conditions of 2020, 2021 and 2022. To address this, the JP needed to pay greater attention towards re-positioning its recommendations as directly relevant to the country's existing and anticipated fiscal constraints (in line with the fundamental purpose of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, and in particular the sustainable debt and revenue enhancement agenda). The JP will need to ensure communication of suggested reforms emphasize evidence-based solutions to alleviate fiscal stress. By highlighting the economic benefits alongside broader equity and human development benefits of its recommendations, the JP would encourage greater support from the Ministry of Finance.

It is also important that the lessons learned under the JP be effectively communicated to the UN Regional Hub and UN offices throughout the CAREC region, to serve as a reference point for other countries and draw the INFF into the topics of discussion South-South exchanges.

5.2 EVENTS

Type of event	Yes	No	Number of events	Brief description and any highlights
JP launch event	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	One	Officially launched on 27 November 2020
Annual donors' event* (mandatory)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Two Day Training on SDG Budgeting	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	On SDG Budgeting	The key objective of the training was to present a potential approach on aligning unified budget classifications of Kazakhstan with SDG targets based on pre-prepared mapping exercise with special attention to women and child-specific SDG targets and those of predominant vulnerable groups such as pensioners, people with disabilities and poor households.
National Seminars	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Multiple including Expert Group Meetings	

6. LESSONS AND BEST PRACTICES

6.1 KEY LESSONS LEARNED, BEST PRACTICES, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Lessons Learned:

- The INFF approach is a highly complex, technical and in the end policy-focused reform agenda that can only be successful once the executive branch fully owns the process and move towards co-identifying reform path and measures with the private sector.
- Of all the Ministries that must lead this process, the Ministry of Finance and Central Bank are key, not just because they allocate public finances and regulate the market, but also because blended financing, fiscal decentralization and greening the banking system are centrally shaped by these agencies.
- In the absence of conducting a readiness assessment across all key partners, including at the local level, the necessary installed capacity to developed the INFF and to execute it could have been better defined. Moreover, given that many instruments require both reforms to capital and financial markets, a key focus will be on the extent to which the INFF can impact SDG financing flows over the medium to longer term.
- Given that the AAAA addresses systemic issues, the INFF would do well to partner with the IMF, World Bank, Asian Development Bank (ADB), USAID, the EU and Germany whose engagement in structural reforms, public finances, revenue and sustainable debt management makes them perfect counterparts in promotion of SDG 17, partnership for the goals.

Recommendation: A full INFF Financing Strategy could usefully be developed alongside a road map to be adopted by government as the basis for future action.

- Unless a financing strategy and road map are put in place, executing the many actions proposed in the body of work will be complex and challenging. Adopting a strategy and drafting a road map will also assist in clarifying actions and roles and responsibilities.

Recommendation: A general set of observations for strengthening the INFF execution are provided below, as a reference point for phase II where it is hoped that a full INFF financing strategy and road map will be developed:

- **Focus Actions on Mobilizing all financing sources:** The Kazakhstan INFF would do well to take a comprehensive approach to financing, with a particular focus on instruments for private capital and blending.
- **Improve data and monitoring:** The INFF should strengthen the comprehensiveness of data and monitoring systems to track progress towards the SDGs including tracking DFA quadrant flows.
- **Strengthen national ownership and coordination:** There is a clear need to develop and implement a road map with the active participation and leadership of the national government, as well as other key stakeholders, including the private sector, civil society, and international partners.
- **Focus on SDG localization:** The sub-national DFAs open the door for a focus on SDG localization, and over the longer term this can link to strengthening fiscal decentralization.

Recommendation: Make the governance system more inclusive, agile and effective through the following actions.

- The Operational Steering Committee (OSC) could be replaced by an empowered and impartial executive head of Fund. If legal and administrative procedures do not allow, the OSC can be given an advisory role.
- The new governance bodies should be inclusive of select RCs to represent country-level views, DCO, technical experts, and other UN agencies as appropriate.

Recommendation: Greater commitment to resource mobilization to strengthen capitalization and improve predictability of funding, through the following actions:

- A stronger focus on identifying financing instruments for scaling.
- More visibility and stronger resource mobilization leadership for the Fund from senior levels of the UN, including the new and impartial executive head of the Fund.
- Improved showcasing by the UN of the value of jointness, demonstrating the added value of investing in collective UN actions through the Fund.
- Frequent and inclusive consultations with existing and prospective donors, in order to strengthen their understanding and confidence in the Fund and broaden the donor base.
- RCs should continue to employ strategies to leverage country level funding to support Joint SDG programmes.

6.2 KEY LESSONS LEARNED, BEST PRACTICES AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON JOINT PROGRAMMING

A number of key recommendations are made for the next phase of support, as provided in brief below:

Recommendation: Review and streamline guidance and procedures in accordance with the improvements being made to programming and value proposition.

Recommendation: Strengthen the value proposition (relevance and additionality) during the next phase of the Fund. The value proposition should be centered in leveraging the UNDS Reform at country level by promoting well designed joint programmes, addressing countries priorities and strategic opportunities identified together by governments and UNCTs, and by bringing out the unique value of UN collective action. The focus of the fund and its thematic priorities are essential part of the value proposition so that fund is the heartbeat of the UN

development system for catalytical and innovative programmes that promotes transformative policy shifts to accelerate achievement of the SDGs during the decade of action.

Recommendation: Conduct a review in coordination with the MPTF-O and the global fund secretariats to improve coherence and synergies at global and country level between pooled funds. The assumption is that finding ways to improve coherence and synergies at the global and country level between pooled funds will help to improve their efficiency and effectiveness.

Recommendation: Clarify the role of the RC in steering and coordination of joint programmes funded by the Joint SDG Fund and through the revision of the Management and Accountability Framework (MAF).

Recommendation: Continue to strengthen monitoring, lessons learned, evaluation and greater visibility of the Fund. The Fund should streamline programme monitoring requirements, while ensuring measurement of catalytical results for policy shifts. The Fund should provide oversight to the conduct of decentralized evaluations under the leadership of RC. At the global level, across the UN system and with external partners, the Fund should facilitate spaces for cross-learning and knowledge generation and sharing, especially through South-South and North-South-South exchanges

Annex 1 below provides the full consolidated results for the program based on the JP Results Framework.

Annex 1: Consolidated results framework

1. JP contribution to global programmatic results (full programme duration)

Meeting Strategic Targets of the Global Joint SDG Fund		
Indicators	Target 2021	Assessment
Joint SDG Fund Outcome 2: Additional financing Leveraged to Accelerate SDG Achievement		
2.1: Ratio of financing for integrated multi-sectoral solutions leveraged in terms of scope (i.e. Additional resources mobilized for other/additional sector/s or through new sources/means)	n/a	While it is not evident that the JP had a direct impact on the raising of additional financing during the life of the programme, the RIA, B4SDG and MSME inclusion components of the JP made contributed towards improving the performance of aligning existing domestic public and private resources (at both a national and local level) to Agenda 2030.
2.2: Ratio of financing for integrated multi-sectoral solutions leveraged in terms of scale (i.e. Additional resources mobilized for the same multi-sectoral solution)	n/a	Greater analysis is required for this aspect of the evaluation, although it is worth noting that JP initiatives were successfully designed to be multi-sectoral in scope.

Meeting Strategic Targets of the Global Joint SDG Fund		
Joint SDG Fund Output 4: Integrated financing strategies for accelerating SDG progress implemented		
4.1: #of integrated financing strategies that were tested (disaggregated by % successful / unsuccessful)	1*	JP oversaw the completion of a holistic climate finance strategy aligned with the SDGs
4.2: #of integrated financing strategies that have been implemented with partners in lead ⁸	1*	However, this financing strategy is still delayed on formal national implementation
4.3: # of functioning partnership frameworks for integrated financing strategies to accelerate progress on SDGs made operational	2**	No evidence of functioning partnership frameworks established within the climate financing strategy.

*Holistic SDG Financing Strategy, including for child-centred SDG acceleration.

** Partnership with the Ministry of National Economy and Ministry of Finance; and partnership with Ministry of Education for child-centred SDG acceleration.

2. Selected global operational effectiveness indicators (full programme duration)

- Provide data for aggregation at the global level of the Joint SDG Fund.

2.1. Did your Joint Programme contribute to the improvement of the overall UNCT coherence?

- Yes, considerably contributed
 Yes, contributed

⁸ This will be disaggregated by (1) government/public partners (2) civil society partners and (3) private sector partners

No

Explain briefly:

2.2. Did your Joint Programme contribute to avoiding duplication of efforts for the participating UN agencies in interaction with national/regional and local authorities and/or public entities?

 Yes,

 No

 N/A (if there are no other joint programmes in the country)

Explain briefly:

3. Results as per JP Results Framework

Verification of JP Results Framework				
Result / Indicators	Baseline	End of Period Target	Evaluation Rating	Assessment of Evaluation
Outcome 1. A holistic SDG Financing Strategy and its core institutional components are developed and implemented				
Outcome 1 Indicator 1: Number of recipients of state pensions and benefits, disaggregated by sex, age, region.	Number of beneficiaries (unemployment benefits) 47.7%; female (tbd), male (tbd) (2018)	70%; female (tbd), male (tbd)	Indicator Met	Data for SDG 1.3.1 puts this figure at 99.1%.
Outcome 1 Indicator 2: all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education	Total average: 85.5 / Boys: 84.8/ Girls: 86.3 (2018)	End of project increase compared to baseline year	<i>Data Unavailable</i>	No data available. Early Childhood Development Index is conducted periodically on every five year basis.
Outcome 1 Indicator 3: Total resource flows for development, by recipient and donor countries and type of flow (e.g. official development assistance, foreign direct investment and other flows.	39% (2018)	End of project increase compared to baseline year.	Indicator Not Met	Data for SDG indicator 10.1.b suggested the figure stands at 30.2%. It is however pertinent to note that the JP corresponded with a turbulent period for the global economy, and resource flows between 2020-2022 will not be reflective of the performance of the JP.
Outcome 3 Indicator 4: Foreign direct investments (FDI), official development assistance and South-South Cooperation as a proportion of total domestic budget	5.7% (2018)	20.3%	<i>Data Unavailable</i>	A highlighted in the DFA, up to date is not available for this indicator.
Outcome 1 Indicator 5: A holistic SDG Financing Strategy with appropriate administrative systems and sufficient capacity is developed and ready for implementation	0; No holistic SDG financing Strategy underpinning	A holistic SDG financing strategy has been developed. adopted and is being implemented.	Indicator Met	A climate finance strategy aligned with the SDGs was developed in 2022 along with A Climate Budget Tagging methodology aligned with SDGs allowing to calculate public spending on measures related to climate adaptation and mitigation

Verification of JP Results Framework				
Result / Indicators	Baseline	End of Period Target	Evaluation Rating	Assessment of Evaluation
Output 1.1. Assess resource gaps on financing national development plans and priority SDG financing strategies				
Output 1.1 Indicator 1: Kazakhstan's 'National Development Plan 2025' is costed	No costing of 'Kazakhstan 2025'	Study on financing needs and gaps towards realizing 'Kazakhstan 2025' has been conducted. Systematic annual updates of financing needs and gaps towards realizing Kazakhstan.	Partially Met	While no formal costing of Kazakhstan 2025 was conducted, the costing exercise of SDG 4.2 was an important starting point. Further costing exercises can be done based on the costing model, around which training was provided.
Output 1.1 Indicator 2: Quantitative and qualitative targets (disaggregated by sex, age disability, rural/urban, where relevant) for both public and private finance flows to fund Kazakhstan's 'National Development Plan 2025' have been set.	No quantitative and qualitative targets for different finance flows towards funding Kazakhstan's 'National Development Plan 2025'	ERI completes DFA report, including quantitative and qualitative targets for public and private finance flows towards addressing financing needs of the 'Kazakhstan 2025'. Monitoring progress and systematic annual updates of quantitative and qualitative targets for public and private finance flows towards funding 'Kazakhstan 2025' by the ERI	Partially Met	Quantitative and qualitative funding targets were set for both public and private financing flows for different aspects of Agenda 2030 (e.g. 4.2. Costing, SME financial inclusion component) however clear targets for Kazakhstan's 'National Development Plan 2025' were not set.
Output 1.1 Indicator 3: ERI staff trained in assessing financing needs and gaps, disaggregated by gender, of national development plan and SDG costing.	0 ERI staff trained on assessing financing needs and gaps of national development plan and SDG costing	5 ERI staff trained on assessing financing needs and gaps of national development plan and SDG costing	Indicator Met	ERI and SDG Secretariat staff consisting of 11 people went through several trainings and workshops related to SDG costing as provided by UNESCO & UN ESCAP experts.
Output 1.1 Indicator 4: # of priority SDGs that have been costed	0	Total of 4 priority SDGs costed, including SDG 5 on gender	Partially Met	Only SDG 4.2 was formally was costed.
Output 1.1 Indicator 5: SDG aligned financing strategies, including targets for MSME financing, with a focus on increasing access to affordable credit to women	Awareness of government officials raised and target for MSME financing set, including specifically those targeted at enterprises owned by women or employing a majority of women.	Monitoring progress and systematic annual updates of quantitative and qualitative targets for MSME financing by the ERI.	Indicator Met	SME financial inclusion study with a strong focus on access to credit for women was conducted by UN ESCAP including identification of targets.
Output 1.1 Indicator 6: Technical seminar organized on increasing climate finance in Kazakhstan	No	Yes	Indicator Met	In December 2022 two workshops on Climate Budget Tagging methodology were arranged for the Ministry of Ecology, Geology and Natural resources.
Output 1.1 Indicator 7: # policy recommendations resulting from the climate finance workshop to discuss DFA analysis on climate finance	0	4 policy recommendations	Indicator Met	Recommendations resulting from this workshop were disseminated.

Verification of JP Results Framework				
Result / Indicators	Baseline	End of Period Target	Evaluation Rating	Assessment of Evaluation
Output 1.1 Indicator 8: SDG aligned financing strategy on Climate finance adopted	No climate finance strategy	SDG aligned financing strategy on climate finance adopted	Partially Met	The introduction of climate finance requires changes to the country's Budget Code. The results of the study were submitted to the relevant ministries, and a series of discussions were held over the course of the JP. A more detailed discussion may be envisaged as part of the budget reform in Kazakhstan in 2023-2024.
Output 1.2. Monitoring trends in development finance flows at subnational level				
Output 1.2. Indicator 1: Light DFAs (dimensions 1 and 2) are piloted in 5 regions	No light DFAs are conducted across all subnational regions	Light DFA 'pilots' have been conducted across 5 selected regions	Partially Met	Light DFAs were conducted in 3 pilot regions. Plans are underway to conduct DFAs in all 20 regions of Kazakhstan.
Output 1.2. Indicator 2: # lessons learned on results of pilot initiatives in five regions	No lessons learned light DFAs are conducted across all subnational regions	6 Lessons learned from the pilot initiatives have been identified, documented and disseminated across relevant JP partners	Indicator Met	Lessons have been learned and disseminated.
Output 1.2 Indicator 3: Roadmap designed for scaling up annual light DFAs to all regions upon finalizing the JP	No light DFAs are conducted across all subnational regions	Roadmap for implementing annual light DFAs across all 17 regions and republican cities adopted by MNE	Indicator Met	According to the priority activities plan on SDGs adopted after the 6th SDG Coordination Council meeting DFA will be arranged in all of the rest regions in 2023.
Output 1.3. Holistic SDG financing strategy is equity based and child focused				
Output 1.3. indicator 1: Public expenditure reviews executed (Extended until December 2022)	Lack of equity analysis of current fiscal policies	Child focused assessment of redistributive capacity of Kazakhstan's fiscal policy is completed. Financing strategy for child-centered SDG investment is adopted by authorities and implemented for 3-year budget cycle (2022-2025)	Partially Met	An SDG budgeting assessment that accounts for child-related dimensions was developed as well as a national instrument for targeted spending of state budget in the interest of children (child Wellbeing Index). While this has been adopted across government, a financing strategy focussed on child-centred SDG investment was not developed.
Outcome 2. Planning and finance policy functions, processes and systems are better integrated and aligned with SDGs.				
Outcome 2 indicator 1: Alignment of strategic documents and programs with SDGs in Kazakhstan (link to 17.14.1 (G))	79.9% (2019)	Increase compared to baseline year	<i>Data Unavailable</i>	While a formal figure does not exist, in 2021 changes were made to the state planning system of Kazakhstan based on JP inputs. Further progress expected in 2023.
Outcome 2 Indicator 2: number of SDG that remain unfunded or significantly underfunded in the national budgets.	7 SDGs remain underfunded (SDG 5, 7, 10, 12, 13, 14 and 15)	Increased funding identified (from national budget and/or private finance flows) for minimum four (from national budget and/or private finance flows) underfunded SDGs, of which SDG 5 on Gender.	Indicator Not Met	Based on the outcome of the national RIA, the same set of SDGs (5, 7, 10, 12, 13, 14 and 15) are aligned to just 0.0-0.5% of the national budget. An updated RIA for 2023 may provide alternate date.

Verification of JP Results Framework				
Result / Indicators	Baseline	End of Period Target	Evaluation Rating	Assessment of Evaluation
Outcome 2 Indicator 3: Proportion of total government spending on essential social services (education, health and social protection).	59.3% (2018) of total government spending dedicated to essential social services	Increase compared to baseline year	Indicator Met	Data for 2020 on Kazstat shows an increase in government spending on health and education between 2018-2020, with a marginal reduction in social protection. While available data for 2018 does not correspond with the baseline figure it does show an increase during the implementation of the JP.
Output 2.1. Annual RIA of republican, subnational and city level budgets, including a focus on child and gender dimensions				
Output 2.1 Indicator 1: Revised RIA mapping available, including all new State programs	0	yes	Indicator Met	RIA of national budgets, medium-term republican budget, and budgets of 3 pilot regions were conducted. RIAs planned for 2023 covering all new National projects.
Output 2.1 Indicator 2: #ERI staff trained in RIA of national budgets	0	10	Indicator Met	12 experts from SDG Secretariat of the Economic Research Institute took training on RIA of national budgets in 2021.
Output 2.1 Indicator 3: Technical seminar organized on RIA of national budgets for ERI staff	0	yes	Indicator Met	On 22-23 April, 2021 the UNDP jointly with the Ministry of National Economy of Kazakhstan arranged online practical training on "Rapid integrated assessment of budget and strategic programs alignment in Kazakhstan with SDGs" for government bodies engaged in budget and strategic planning (including the Agency for Strategic planning and Reforms, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Education and Science, Ministry of Health among other key ministries).
Output 2.1 Indicator 4: Conduct RIA of national budgets of the 17 territorial development plans	0	Started the RIA of national budgets for the 17 territorial development plans Finalization and systematic updates of the RIA of 17 territorial development plans	Delayed-performance	RIAs of the national budgets of the other 17 territorial development plans planned for 2023.
Output 2.1 Indicator 5: RIA of national budgets (republican, subnational and city level) conducted annually	0	Annual RIA of national budgets (republican, subnational and city level) conducted systematically	Indicator Not Met	While RIAs of remaining regions are planned for 2023 during the life of the JP RIAs were not conducted and updated annually.
Output 2.1. Indicator 6: Child-focused PFM systems have been implemented (Extended until December 2022)	Lack of child related budget reporting	Child-focused PFM measurement methodology is developed Child-focused PFM monitoring system have been implemented	Delayed-performance	Child-focused PFM measurement methodology has been drafted and integrated to the Child Wellbeing Index methodology.
Output 2.2. Implement SDG budgeting that accounts for the gender dimension and the principle of LNOB				
Output 2.2 Indicator 1: Mainstreaming nationalized SDG indicators across planning and budgeting process, including their disaggregation by gender	0	Nationalized SDG indicators are officially validated and adopted	Indicator Met	From the list of prioritized 87 SDG indicators 16% are integrated into State Planning Documents and on average up to 20% of SDG indicators are included to the local programs.

Verification of JP Results Framework				
Result / Indicators	Baseline	End of Period Target	Evaluation Rating	Assessment of Evaluation
		Nationalized SDG indicators are mainstreamed across planning and budgeting performance monitoring frameworks, ensuring the monitoring process disaggregates by gender.		
Output 2.2 indicator 2: Feasibility study for implementing SDG budgeting in Kazakhstan	0, no feasibility study	Finalization of the feasibility study	Indicator Met	Feasibility study of SDG budgeting that accounts for the gender dimension and the principle of LNOB in Kazakhstan was conducted.
Output 2.2 Indicator 3: Technical seminar organized on implementing gender-responsive SDG-budgeting,	0	Yes	Indicator Met	On 30 June 2021 an online workshop on "SDG and gender-oriented budgeting approaches in Kazakhstan" was organised supported by the experts from the UNDP Regional Hub in Istanbul.
Output 2.2 Indicator 4: # of senior members of Ministry of Finance trained on gender responsive budgeting (Extended until December 2022)	0	10 senior members of Ministry of Finance trained	Indicator Not Met	No training with the Ministry of Finance on gender responsive budgeting has yet been conducted.
Outcome 3. National SDG financing architecture which takes into account gender dimensions is strengthened				
Outcome 3 Indicator 1: Proportion of time spent on unpaid home services for the household and its members, disaggregated by sex	Average 12.3%; female 17.7%, male 5.9% (2018)	End of project increase compared to baseline year	<i>Data Unavailable</i>	Data is not available as this review is conducted only once ever five years.
Outcome 3 Indicator 2: Proportion of population satisfied with their last experience of public services.	National Average: 0.81% (2018)	End of project increase compared to baseline year, in line with government targets	<i>Data Unavailable</i>	Data is not available for SDG 16.6.2.
Outcome 3 Indicator 3: Total amount of grants, government contracts to buy social services from Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs), based on service areas (in millions of tenge).	National baseline will be identified in the final phase of the nationalization of SDG indicators (tbd within first 6 months of the JP)	To be determined by the MNE upon finalization of the nationalization of SDGs	<i>Data Unavailable</i>	Data has not been updated since 2018.
Outcome 3 Indicator 4: Implementation of 'National Action Plan for Gender Responsive Budgeting integration 2020-2025'	0	yes	Partially Met	Despite the initiation of a Gender responsive B4SDG readiness assessment, and an associated roadmap, a formal National Action Plan has not been adopted. This issue will be considered as part of the budget reform in 2023.
Output 3.1. Strengthen transparency and accountability mechanisms, with a focus on gender dimensions and the SDGs principle of "leaving no one behind".				

Verification of JP Results Framework				
Result / Indicators	Baseline	End of Period Target	Evaluation Rating	Assessment of Evaluation
Output 3.1. Indicator 1: # ERI trained on DFA methodology	0 ERI staff trained on DFA methodology	5 ERI staff trained on DFA methodology	Indicator Met	ERI SDG Secretariat consisting of 11 people have gone through the training on DFA methodology in November 2020.
Output 3.1. Indicator 2: Full DFA (five dimensions) has been completed	'Light' DFA (dimensions 1 and 2) has been completed (2019)	Completed DFA including remaining 3 dimensions DFA recommendations integrated into the roadmap for regulatory and legislative reforms towards implementing a holistic SDG financing strategy	Indicator Met	DFA was completed, alongside a pilot of regional DFAs. The extent to which DFA recommendations were integrated into legislated reforms varies, however it is worth noting that broadly gaps on operationalisation of the DFA methodology exist.
Output 3.1. Indicator 3: Annual "DFA Dashboard" integrated in the 'Forecast of Social and Economic Development' (Extended until December 2022)	No DFA dashboard	SDG Finance Dashboard integrated in the annual Forecast for Socio-Economic Development	Delayed-performance	SDG financing dashboard is being finalized with the intention to launch it on the ERI webpage in 2023.
Output 3.1. Indicator 4: Technical support provided to MNE and 5 Working Groups by providing international expertise in integrating the goals and objectives of the SDGs into the state planning system taking into account environmental issues and gender equality	Process of Nationalization and localization of SDG indicators is on-going	Capacity-building activities for participants in 5 working groups to implement the sustainable development Agenda by adopting national development plans and programs in accordance with the SDGs	Indicator Met	During the reporting period ERI as SDG Coordination Council Secretariat provided expert and analytical support in the meetings of the SDG Coordinating Council and first two meetings of the SDG Monitoring Committee chaired by Ministry of National Economy.
Output 3.1 Indicator 5: Localization of SDGs in 5 pilot regions, including gender disaggregated statistics	Process of Nationalization and localization of SDG indicators is on-going	Capacity-building activities for local administrations, public councils and Maslikhats Expert support provided to local administrations in the pilot regions to review and adjust local plans and programs to bring them into line with the national strategy for implementing the SDGs, considering gender factors.	Indicator Met	Support has been provided to local and municipal governments for the localisation of the SDGs through a range of workshops and seminars. E.g. recommendations on integration of SDG targets and indicators (including a focus on gender dimensions) were provided to the Almaty city administration. It is worth noting that the RIAs also contributes to aligning of local territorial programs and strategies with SDGs.
Output 3.1. Indicator 6: # of Parliamentarians trained on gender-responsive SDG aligned, budget review	0	All Parliamentarians on the Parliament's Budget Committee	Indicator Not Met	No such training for parliamentarians on the Parliament's Budget Committee was undertaken.

Verification of JP Results Framework				
Result / Indicators	Baseline	End of Period Target	Evaluation Rating	Assessment of Evaluation
(Extended until December 2022)				
Output 3.1. Indicator 7: Preparation of the second Voluntary National Review (VNR) of the Republic of Kazakhstan, including gender disaggregated data	First VNR (2019)	10 ERI staff are Preparing the second VNR	Indicator Met	Preparation of the 2022 VNR was conducted in hand with various training for ERI and engagement with local government bodies.
Output 3.2. Strengthen contribution of non-state actors to financing policies				
Output 3.2 Indicator 1: Coordination of development partners around SDG financing,	No coordination of development partners	<p>Launch of the Development Partners' Roundtable.</p> <p>Systematic availability of transparent and up-to-date data of total official support provided by all development partners to Kazakhstan, by sector, aid modality, financing instrument, SDG, etc. and applying the gender and climate marker.</p>	Partially Met	<p>Partners Roundtable was arranged on 16 July 2021 with wide participation of various stakeholders.</p> <p>However, to date, no portal with up-to-date & disaggregated data of total official support has been developed.</p>
Output 3.2. Indicator 2: # of CSOs trained in SDG aligned Budget reviews, gender-responsive budgeting and the SDGs Principle of LNOB.	0	10 CSOs trained on gender-responsive budgeting principles	Partially Met	ERI during the reporting period closely interacted with civil society organizations regarding implementation of SDG financing in Kazakhstan. However, to date, it is too early to conduct detailed workshops on SDG budgeting, as no decision has been made at the level of the Budget Legislation.

Annex 2: List of strategic documents

- Complete the tables by focusing on documents that are of strategic importance for the JP results and for the priorities of the Joint SDG Fund in this portfolio and **attach a copy of all strategic documents to your submission.**

1. Strategic documents that were produced by the JP

Title of the document	Date (month; year) when finalized	Document type (policy/strategy, assessment, guidance, training material, methodology etc.)	Brief description of the document and the role of the JP in finalizing it
UNDP			
Development Finance	April 2021	Policy Assessment	The DFA report addresses critical knowledge gaps around the volume and trends of available development finance in the context of the unfolding COVID-19 crisis. Furthermore, it assesses the country's enabling environment (legal, political, regulatory, etc.) and the supporting ecosystems (institutions and actors) for mainstreaming the SDGs across its public finance system
SDG aligned financing strategy on Climate finance	December 2022	Methodology, guidance	Focused on development of the Climate budget tagging (CBT) tool matching the key priorities of the country set in the Low carbon strategy
Development Finance Assessment in three pilot regions of the Republic of Kazakhstan by monitoring financial flows and identifying funding gaps	September 2022	Assessment	DFA in 3 pilot regions - Almaty (city of republican significance), Karaganda (industrial) and North Kazakhstan (agricultural) of the regions provided comprehensive analysis of trends in finance, integrated planning, and financing approaches in three pilot regions
Systematize RIA of national budgets across newly adopted state programs, medium-term (3 years) Republican budget, budgets of 3 pilot regions (1 agricultural region, 1 industrial region, 1 city of republican significance), territorial development plans of 3 mentioned pilot regions budgets of regions attributable to 3 pilot regions		Methodology, assessment	Methodology makes possible to tag SDG targets with the codes of the Unified Budget Classification (UBC) of Kazakhstan and provide detailed information on budget allocation across all SDGs
Feasibility study for implementing SDG budgeting in Kazakhstan	June 2021	Guidance	The feasibility study provides an advanced illustration of what could be potentially considered and undertaken to adopt SDG budgeting in Kazakhstan

ESCAP			
SDG 4.2 costing model	Nov-Dec 2022	Simulation model	An excel-based model for costing SDG 4.2. It has been developed as a project deliverable
SDG 4.2 costing model User Guide and methodology	Nov-Dec 2022	User Guide and methodology	User guide provides instructions on how to use the Model
Analytical Report on SDG 4.2 costing methodology	Nov -Dec 2022	Analytical report	Report on analysis of pre-school education data, comprising the international experience, practices and possible scenarios to achieve SDG 4.2
Research study on SME financial inclusion	July-Dec 2022	Research study, field survey	Study on SME financial inclusion within the frame of INFF with concrete policy recommendations on enhancing and expanding financial inclusion of smaller SMEs from less developed regions (three regions)
UNICEF			
The Report "Child budget of the Republic of Kazakhstan"	March 2021	Analytical report	Review of international practice in the use of child budgets and features of the national budget system of Kazakhstan, as well as recommendations on the methodology for compiling and monitoring the child budget in Kazakhstan.
The Report "Calculation of the share of budget expenditures aimed at the needs of children"	September 2022	User Guide and methodology of child budget	The document provides methodological guidance for calculating the share of budget expenditures aimed at children's needs within the framework of the Child Well-being Index. It also contains calculated data on the share of budget expenditures for the needs of children

2. Strategic documents to which the JP directly contributed to

Title of the document	Date (month; year) when finalized	Document type (policy/strategy, assessment, guidance, training material, methodology etc.)	Brief description of the document and the role of the JP in finalizing it
Decree of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated February 1, 2022 No. 21-r "On approval of the child well-being index"	February 1, 2022	Policy, assessment, methodology	The document was adopted in order to monitor the effectiveness of the national policy to improve the situation of children in various areas, and describes the methodology for calculating the Child Wellbeing Index

Annex 3. Communications materials

1. Human interest story

- **Attach at least 1 human interest story** that summarizes the background, results achieved, impact made, and beneficiaries reached by the joint programme in line with the objective of the portfolio to support increased SDG financing flows and policy reforms.

2. Communication products

- Fill out the table below and **attach/provide links to articles, news/media items, videos, blogs or other major communication materials developed by the joint programme.**

Title of the document	Date when finalized (MM/YY)	Brief description and hyperlink (if it exists)
UN ESCAP Event Page	23 Nov 2022	Kazakhstan National Seminar: Improving Access to Finance for Small and Medium Enterprises within the framework on INFF ESCAP (unescap.org)
UN ESCAP Event Page	23 Nov 2022	Kazakhstan National Seminar: Presentation of the Results of the SDG 4.2 Costing Program and Practical Possibilities of Using the Model for Kazakhstan ESCAP (unescap.org)
UN ESCAP Event Page	26 Aug 2022	EXPERT GROUP MEETING on discussion of the implementation of the cost calculation approach for Kazakhstan SDG 4.2 ESCAP (unescap.org)
UN ESCAP Event Page	23 Aug 2022	EXPERT GROUP MEETING on Assessment of Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) Financial Inclusion within INFF ESCAP (unescap.org)
SECOND VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEW OF KAZAKHSTAN (UNDP)	20 June 2022	https://hlpf.un.org/countries/kazakhstan/voluntary-national-review-2022
Press release about the launch of Child Wellbeing Index project:	1 April 2021	https://www.unicef.org/kazakhstan/en/press-releases/child-well-being-index-project-launched-kazakhstan
Social media coverage of this launch on UNICEF Kazakhstan official accounts		
Commentary to Atameken Business TV-channel (News about Child Wellbeing Index start from 33rd minute):	8 Dec 2021	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ONh4HYDB27s
Draft Methodology of Budget Formation for Children presented by the SDGs Secretariat	20 Aug 2021	https://economy.kz/en/Celi_ustojchivogo_razvitija/Sobytija_CUR/id=3164
NIS Teaching Staff Conference	23 Aug 2021	https://economy.kz/en/Celi_ustojchivogo_razvitija/Sobytija_CUR/id=3195
Field research in the regions of Kazakhstan	04 Oct 2021	https://economy.kz/en/Novosti_instituta/id=3406
Благополучие детей как стратегический ориентир развития государства и национальной системы образования (The well-being of children as a strategic guideline for the development of the state and the national education system)	8 Sept 2021	https://www.caravan.kz/news/blagopoluchie-detejj-kak-strategicheskijj-orientir-razvitiya-gosudarstva-i-nacionalnoj-sistemy-obrazovaniya-770146/
Parliamentarians for children. Taking stock of collaboration, progress and new opportunities to promote and protect children and youth	15 Dec 2021	https://www.unicef.org/eca/parliamentarians-children
Индекс благополучия детей Казахстана	18 Feb 2022	https://economy.kz/ru/Novosti_instituta/id=4117
ERI организовал семинар для ЦГО и МНО по бюджету для детей	2 Dec 2022	https://economy.kz/ru/Celi_ustojchivogo_razvitija/Sobytija_CUR/id=5551
Актуальные вопросы защиты прав детей обсудили участники международной конференции в Астане	10 Dec 2022	https://www.gov.kz/memleket/entities/bala/press/news/details/474940?lang=ru

(Actual issues of protection of children's rights were discussed by the participants of the international conference in Astana)		
Благополучие детей в Казахстане оценили в лучшем случае на "троечку"	28 Dec 2022	Link is here
Заседание Комитета по управлению проектом Совместной Программы Объединенного фонда ООН по ЦУР	3 Feb 2023	https://economy.kz/ru/Celi_ustojchivogo_razvitija/Sobytaja_CUR/id=5599

Annex 4: Stakeholder feedback

No	Name of entity	Name of Representative	Title	Contact information	Role in the programme	Summary of feedback
1	UNDP	Zaur Ibragimov	Project Expert	Zaur.ibragimov@undp.org		Broad summary of the JP covering all elements in the results framework.
2	UNICEF	Arman Umerbayev	Social Policy Officer	aumerbayev@unicef.org		Summary of UNICEF Engagement in the JP, with a particular focus on child wellbeing index and costing of SDG 4.2.

						General review of JP implementation constraints, lessons and best practices.
3	UN ESCAP	Agapi Harutyunyan	Senior Economic Advisor Financing for Development	agapi.harutyunyan@un.org		UN ESCAP provided input into the specific approach to costing of SDG 4.2 model and methodology, which was adjusted and tailored into the Kazakhstan context
4	ERI	Bakytgul Khambar	Director, Secretariat for SDGs, Economic Research Institute	B.Khambar@eri.kz		Review of all major deliverables under the JP, with a particular emphasis on the implementation of these outcomes and recommendations by government parties, or the lack thereof, and associated constraints.