

C4. Annual / Final Report Template

Migration MPTF Annual / Final Report

- Please refer to Operations Manual Section 5.3 Reporting
- All submissions should be in the English language.
- In all narrative inputs, please use “Calibri” font size 11 (apply “Normal” style)
- Please delete the instructions (in blue) in the final submission

PROJECT INFORMATION	
Joint Programme Title:	Empowerment of ‘Families Left Behind’ for improved Migration Outcomes in Khatlon, Tajikistan
Country(ies)/Region (or indicate if a global initiative):	Two districts in Khatlon region, Republic of Tajikistan
Project Identification Number:	00124506
Start and Planned End Dates	Start: 1 October 2020 End: 28 May 2023
Convening Agent (Lead PUNO):	IOM
PUNO(s) (PUNOs):	FAO, IOM, UNICEF, UN Women
Key Partners: <i>(include Implementing Partner)</i>	The Ministry of Labour, Migration and Employment of Population (MoLMEP), Committee on Women and Family Affairs under the Government of Republic of Tajikistan (CoWFA), Ministry of Health and Social Protection of the Population (MoHSPP), Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Justice (MoJ), Migration Services (MS), Department of Women and Family Affairs (DoWFA), and Department of Health and Social Protection (DoHSP). College on Disabilities, Local Authorities, Media Partners, National Association of Small and Medium Business, Selected Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)
Project Period (Start – End Dates):	1 October 2020 - 28 May 2023
Reporting Period:	1 January – 31 December 2022
Total Approved Migration MPTF Budget: (breakdown by PUNO)	PUNO 1: FAO USD 600,000 PUNO 2: IOM USD 600,000

	PUNO 3: UNICEF 500,000 PUNO 4: UN Women 500,000 Total: USD 2,200,000
Total Funds Received To Date: <i>(breakdown by PUNO)</i>	PUNO 1: FAO USD 420,000 PUNO 2: IOM USD 420,000 PUNO 3: UNICEF USD 500,000 PUNO 4: UN Women USD 350,000 Total: USD 1,540,000
Report Submission Date:	30 April 2023
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Executive Summary

The Empowerment of ‘Families Left Behind’ for Improved Migration Outcomes in Khatlon, Tajikistan project (hereafter referred to as the “Project”) is a multi-sectoral and multi-partner initiative aimed at reducing the vulnerability of families adversely affected by migration in two districts of Khatlon region of Tajikistan through the four components. They include improvement of well-being of women and children, increasing economic resilience, protecting rights and developing and implementation of evidence based national policies to address vulnerabilities of families left behind.

During the reporting period, the project carried out several activities, including (i) organization of the Project Steering Committee Meeting; (ii) conducting of situational analysis/baseline assessment/research; (iii) capacity building of service providers on prevention of child abandonment, case management, protection of rights of families left behind and prevention of violence against women; (iv) conducting of awareness raising events and community consultation meetings. However, due to several reasons associated with late launch of the project, increase of the COVID-19 cases in the country and a lengthy procurement procedure, not all activities were carried out as planned.

Coordination and partnerships

On September 13th, 2022, PUNOs conducted the second Project Steering Committee Meeting (PSCM) co-chaired by the Ministry of Labour, Migration and Employment of Population (MoLMEP) and UNRCO. The members of the PSCM were representing the government structures, MoLMEP, national and local Migration Services, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Education and Science, Committee for Youth and Sport, National Bank of Tajikistan, local hukumats of the Kulob city and Dusti district and civil society organizations. During the PSCM, the participants were presented with the progress of the project and encouraged to participate in a discussion how to scale up the project beyond the two regions covered. The PSCM members also emphasized the importance of the project’s response to multidimensional problems of families left behind and provision of the essential support to overcome the problems faced due to migration.

UN Women in Tajikistan built a strong partnership with state and non-government service providers in this matter in 2022 in its pilot districts. To meet one of recommendations of the UN CEDAW Committee, made to Tajikistan in 2018, the UN-Women Team with the support and close collaboration of Committee of Women and Family Affairs (CoWFA) developed a comprehensive response mechanism that includes key state and non-state partners, and also catalyzed the strengthening of coordination and cooperation between NGOs and crisis centers. The UN-Women localized the **referral mechanism for SGBV cases** and made it widely disseminated among all actors to ensure that all women and girls have access to an effective, confidential and gender-sensitive complaint mechanism.

Baseline studies

Within the reporting period, PUNOs finalized the baseline assessment to measure the situation of the families left behind before the project’s start and inform the project’s further M&E framework and activities. Conducted by the UN Women, the baseline assessment comprised of the two research studies: (i) the study on the conditions and behaviours associated with families left behind by IOM and (ii) the study on the Ukraine crisis’s impact on the households with labour Migrants. The results, findings and recommendations of these studies were presented to the government officials at the meeting held in July

and October 2022. During the meeting, all participants agreed that constant awareness of the population of the migration processes and outcomes is vital to address challenges and seek for support opportunities.

During the reporting period, UNICEF carried out three studies:

- Situation analysis of families left without care to improve migration outcomes in Khatlon oblast.
- Rapid training needs assessment for stakeholders at the local level.
- Assessment of the families, whose children are placed in the Residential Childcare Institutions or are at risk of placing children in such institutions.

In 2022, UNICEF completed a **Situation Analysis of families left behind due to migration in Khatlon oblast**. The analysis looked at the psychosocial and economic situation of Tajik women and children left behind in Dusti and Kulob. Additionally, the analysis assessed the availability of community care support services with a specific focus on psychosocial, emotional, healthcare, livelihood, educational, and social support. A total of 385 interviews were conducted with women, 20 in-depth interviews with men, and 4 focus group discussions (2 groups for each gender). According to the analysis, 18 per cent of respondents believe that women are the cause of sexual violence, while 51 per cent think that it is necessary to investigate whether the victim of sexual violence has a "bad reputation." Additionally, 68 per cent of women think that only men can prevent or stop sexual violence. The responses differed slightly between women residing in Kulob (15 per cent) and Dusti (22 per cent), but there was no difference among women of various age groups. less than 40 per cent of women who experienced violence knew where to seek support in case of violence. Furthermore, 61 per cent of women in both districts reach out to family members and relatives as their first resort to seek help or support. However, as women get older, the level of requests for support reduces, with only 48 per cent of women over 49 seeking support as opposed to 68 per cent of women aged between 20-35 years.

Capacity and resources

PUNOs hired four new project staff: IOM – Senior Program Assistant, Project Assistant, UN Women: Project Manager and Finance Assistant and UNICEF hired a Project Manager. They also recruited National Monitoring and Evaluation and Communication Consultants, who provide project related support to all four PUNOs, considering the cost-sharing nature of the consultancy positions.

PUNOs also hired an International Baseline Consultant after several attempts with re-announcement. The project also recruited an International Researcher to conduct research to understand the attitude and behaviour pattern of Tajik migrant workers contributing to family's abandonment as well as a research company for conducting of situational analysis among project beneficiaries.

Annual (or End-of Project) Progress

1. Summary and Context

Despite the complex context of the project implementation and some limitations, (late launch, increase of COVID-19 cases, mobility restrictions lengthy process of procurement procedures) the project made a significant progress.

During the reporting period, the FAO completed the recruitment of the project national experts and speeded up the implementation of the planned project activities. The project beneficiaries were identified and grouped into 19 abandoned women groups. This permitted to deliver capacity and training on how to utilize their land and water resources and to raise awareness and capacity development on how to improve their incomes through farming, small scale processing initiatives, retail and marketing. A series of agricultural training workshops were delivered and benefited more than 537 women left behind. Training manuals and materials were prepared by the project team to establish the Farmers Field Schools (FFSs) and the Junior Field Schools (JFSs). Out of the 50 JFFSs to be established and 1 000 schoolchildren (including kids from families left behind) to be trained on agriculture and nutrition, 50 JFFS were settled during the reporting period, engaging and training more than 451 secondary school teachers and more than 194 school students.

In November 2022, the representatives of the 19 women groups were trained on how to develop “business project profiles” and how to run agri-business initiatives that are socio-economic and environmentally sustainable. Then, the project team developed a “A Call for Proposals/Applications” to implement the grants scheme of the project. Due the limited project resources, the beneficiary of the grants will be competitively selected based on eligibility criteria and feasibility of the business profile proposed by the applicants. Grants will be issued in agriculture and agri-processing activities and will be individual or group grants.

To distribute the goods, equipment and services for individual and group processing activities, the FAO developed the Technical Specifications supporting materials. Despite of a complex logistics situation and the rising of inputs and food prices, FAO started procurement of seeds, solar driers for fruit and vegetable. The tenders for procurement of greenhouses and other agriculture inputs are under finalization. The upcoming several months will be diverted to (i) finalise the capacity-building events planned for women left behind and schoolchildren (i.e. theoretical and practical training sessions, cross visits; etc); (ii) implement the remaining activities in the FFS/JFS on promoting best agricultural practices and nutrition; (iii) implement the grant scheme by distributing within the competitively selected women the agricultural and agri-processing inputs; and (iv) monitor performance and impact of the FAO project activities.

Gender-responsive budgeting (GRB), a fiscal innovation that translates gender-related goals into budgetary commitments to help Tajikistan to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals on gender equality, has been piloted in Tajikistan. Based on the outcomes of the pilot, the Government has committed itself to further advance the GRB in Tajikistan. This is an important milestone for the promotion of GEWE in the country. The GRB is one of the important objectives of the National Development 2030 and Mid-Term Development Programme 2025, the Strategy on Public Financial Management reform 2030 on reforms in budget planning process. Through the results made by UN Women Project on "Financing

SDGs", the UN Women established itself as a key actor on advancing GRB in Tajikistan and was included in the national working group under MOF on mainstreaming GRB, CRB and SDG marker. This working group reviewed and consolidated inputs to relative documents (with inclusion of inputs from UN Women), namely: order from MOF on developing indicators of the state budget for 2024-2026 and the draft Law of the Republic of Tajikistan "On the State Budget of the Republic of Tajikistan for 2024", and instruction on the development of indicators of the State Budget of the Republic of Tajikistan for the years 2023-2025 (Phase 1).

In the frames of Joint programme on 'Empowerment of the Families Left Behind in Khatlon the UN Women Project team will proceed piloting gender responsive budgeting (GRB) in 2023 through accomplishing: i) development of the "Gender analysis of the budgetary expenditures of the 2 pilot districts of Khatlon region (Dusti and Kulyab) plus oblast level"; ii) updating and testing of 'Practical Guide on GRB Implementation in Ministries and Institutions of the RT'; iii) updating the GRB Training Module and conduct Training Programme for Civil Servants' in national and local levels; iv) localization of the knowledge product by activating District Task Forces and their cooperation with CoWFA's Information Consultative Centres (ICCs) and local NGOs, including GRB in context of C-19.

UNICEF organized and conducted a series of capacity building sessions has been provided to 80 para-social workers, nurses, teachers, and other service providers to improve their outreach services. Along with training and mentoring, these sessions aimed to implement case management, refer vulnerable families to existing services, and provide positive parenting and psychosocial support to caregivers.

At the community level, 15 schools have been targeted in Kulob and Dusti. Introductory meetings were conducted with school principals, teachers, parents and students. Good Neighbours Tajikistan, in collaboration with school administrators, established a Student Council in each of the 15 schools, consisting of a total of 902 members (337 boys and 565 girls), to encourage greater participation of children in decision-making.

UNICEF organized a summer camp for children as a logical continuation and addition to the aforementioned event to provide in-depth training on SGBV prevention to Student Council members. The camps took place on August 2-5 in Shirkent/Tursunzade, and August 11-14, 2022 in Madagascar/Romit. The children reinforced their knowledge, shared experiences, and learned from each other. Within the camps, UNICEF organized thematic games, sports games like football, volleyball, chess, checkers, swimming, and other tournaments. The 269 summer school participants actively participated in new initiatives with the implementation of complaint boxes in schools and internal class discussions with other classmates.

The right to identity is stipulated in Article 8 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), which recognizes the child's right to preserve his or her identity. To ensure that children affected by migration enjoy their basic rights, the project provided legal counselling services. These services aimed to support children without identity in obtaining birth certificates. During the reporting period, 28 children received birth certificates and passports. Moreover, with the support of legal counsellors, 201 applications for birth certificates were submitted Office of Civil Status Registration

Since April 2022, a monthly coordination meeting took place in two targeted districts, involving representatives of state authorities in the area, representatives of PUNOs, NGOs, implementing partners as well as the beneficiaries of the project. During the meeting between representative of Khukumat, PUNO with involved NGOs, shared information on the achievements and plans of the project for certain period, discussing the challenges and barriers of project implementation and finding the ways for overcoming these challenges as well as suggestion to improve the delivery of the project.

1. Results

Outcome 1: Families left behind enjoy improved wellbeing. *Women and children 'left behind' will have improved access to better-coordinated psychosocial services with improved professional capacity (Output 1.1) through interventions supporting research into mental health within 'families left behind'; advocacy and capacity building activities, and work to encourage Government actors to invest in service provision and work with field-level para-social workers and maternity healthcare professionals to address the impacts of child abandonment on poor mental health.*

Activities:

1.1.1 Support country situation analysis on health status of abandoned families and support national health policy advocacy and dialogue to improve health care provision to abandoned families in selected areas, particularly with regards to psychosocial health (IOM/UNICEF)

The given activity directly contributes to achieving the outcome 1 of the project. By providing a comprehensive understanding of the current health status of families left behind. This, in turn, facilitates targeted and evidence-based policy advocacy and dialogue with relevant stakeholders to improve health care provision to these families.

The relevant Sustainable Development Goal for this activity is Goal 3: Good Health and Well-being. Specifically, the target is 3.8: Achieve Universal Health Coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable medicines and vaccines for all. The activity aligns with target 3.8 by supporting country situation analysis on health status of abandoned families and supporting national health policy advocacy and dialogue to improve health care provision to abandoned families in selected areas, particularly with regards to psychosocial health. Additionally, the activity also relates to Goal 10: Reduced Inequalities by addressing the health needs of a vulnerable group (abandoned families).

UNICEF collaborated with the Research Institute of Labour, Migration, and Employment of Population to conduct a **Situation analysis of families left without care to improve migration outcomes in Khatlon oblast**. The aim was to assess the psychosocial and economic situation of women and children left behind by Tajik migrants in Dusti and Kulob, as well as the availability of community-based care support services, with a specific focus on psychosocial, emotional, medical, livelihood, educational, and social support. The study involved 385 interviews with women, 20 in-depth interviews with men, and four Focus Group Discussions (two groups of each sex).

While the full study report is available on request in Russian and provides a detailed analysis, several areas of concern are highlighted below. Firstly, the interviewed women demonstrated a poor understanding of the various types of available services and support schemes, such as legal, financial, psychological, and social support. The majority relied on informal networks, such as family, relatives, and neighbours, for assistance. Only a small proportion reached out to formal institutions, including the police, healthcare facilities, and local authorities. The majority of women (73 per cent) did not receive any childcare services from either formal organizations or informal networks. Additionally, only 15 per cent of women indicated that their children had received social benefits or pensions. Furthermore, only 39 per cent of women knew where to go for help or shelter in case of violence or violation of their rights.

The Situation Analysis also gathered data on economic opportunities and income-generating activities for women, which are seen as key coping mechanisms. However, the analysis revealed that 63 per cent of women are not involved in any economic activity. There are five major reasons behind this:

- taking care of small children (38 per cent);
- lack of employment opportunities (18 per cent), although no further information is provided;
- limited skills/education (18 per cent);
- lack of available time (16 per cent);
- household chores (15 per cent).

Of the women who are employed (34 per cent of overall women), the majority work in the agriculture (22 per cent) and education (20 per cent) sectors. In terms of sources of income, women indicated four main sources: salary (28 per cent), remittances (26 per cent), social benefits and allowances (24 per cent), and support from family members and relatives (22 per cent).

Secondly, the majority of women (78 per cent) reported having limited or no time for education or other skills training activities. The primary reason for this was the need to care for children (59 per cent). Similarly, a significant proportion of women reported that their children did not have time to attend school, university, or other extracurricular educational activities due to financial difficulties. As a result, only 10 per cent of the target families had children involved in extracurricular educational activities.

Thirdly, the study revealed that a significant proportion of the target women were depressed. Only 14% of the women were not depressed during their interviews. Despite the high rate of depression among women, only 15 per cent were aware of psychological help services, and only 8 per cent had received specific support.

These findings were presented and discussed during the roundtable dedicated to the International Date of Migrants on 16 December 2022.

UNICEF completed an assessment of families, whose children are placed in residential childcare institutions or at risk of being placed in such institutions, as one of the internal project activities in addition to the below-mentioned situation analysis. **The Assessment** was one of the internal activities of the Project. This assessment was carried out in two districts with the aim to describe the socio-demographic characteristics of children in residential care and those at risk of being placed in such institutions. At the same time, the assessment enabled well-informed decision-making process for Good Neighbours Tajikistan while implementing the project.

Major findings of assessment include the following:

- 14 children placed in childcare institutions had both parents, and at least 21 children were semi-orphan (one parent only alive);
- If the family has 6 or more children, they tend to give up their new children into the child care institution;
- Financial issues (75 per cent, n=30), poor living conditions of families (70 per cent, n=28), followed by being single mothers (58 percent, n=23) and not having a father (43 percent n=17) were the most common reasons of children being in institutions.
- Majority of the surveyed households (86 per cent, n=32) reported that they do not have plan of returning their children from the institutions. Of those, 34 per cent (n=11) of responded that this is because they don't have anyone to look after the child, 28 per cent (n=9) cited the living

environment of the institutions were relatively better, and 25 per cent (n=8) stated that having poor living environment does not allow them to return the children from the institutions.

The project also assessed the basic needs of the 254 children in the target districts (54 children living in institutions and 200 children living at home). As a result, the project provided wheelchairs to 30 children with disabilities in Dusti (12 children) and Kulob (18 children).

1.1.4 Train maternity ward staff on prevention of child abandonment and referral of children to Residential Childcare Institutions through family counseling and family support (UNICEF)

The activity will contribute to achieving the Outcome 1 by improving the professional capacity of healthcare professionals to provide better-coordinated psychosocial services. By providing training on prevention of child abandonment and referral of children to Residential Childcare Institutions through family counseling and family support, maternity staff can help identify families who need support and refer them to the appropriate services.

This activity aligns with United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 1: No Poverty, and Goal 10: Reduced Inequalities. It aims to prevent child abandonment and referral of children to Residential Childcare Institutions through family counseling and family support. This helps to ensure that children are raised in a family environment and do not become institutionalized. By keeping families together and providing them with the necessary support and education, the activity contributes to reducing poverty and inequalities, as well as promoting social inclusion and overall wellbeing.

UNICEF, in collaboration with Good Neighbors Tajikistan, conducted an assessment of families who had already placed their children or were considering placing them in residential care institutions. To gather information, a questionnaire was developed and administered to 54 individuals who supported the idea of institutionalization for their children.

A total of 40 households with 52 children were surveyed in two cities, Kulob and Dusti. Out of these, 37 families had already placed at least one child in residential childcare institutions. Three families had not placed their children in such institutions, but expressed their intention to do so. In the majority of cases (22 households), the decision to institutionalize a child was made collaboratively by family members, while in others (17 households), uncles, aunts, and grandparents played a critical role in making the decision.

Predictably, financial constraints (75 per cent) and poor living conditions (70 per cent) were the primary reasons for institutionalizing children, followed by single motherhood (58 per cent) and the absence of a father (43 per cent). Parental divorce, lack of housing, unemployment, mother's death, and a child's special educational needs (25 per cent) were other common causes of placing children in institutional care. It was discovered that the composition and number of family members residing in a household was directly linked to the institutionalization of children, with households of six or more people being more likely to place a child in a care institution.¹

1.1.5 Build the capacity of para-social workers to provide outreach services through provision of equipment and training and mentoring on case management and referral, including a rapid assessment of capacity and development of a training plan. (UNICEF)

¹ The full report is available upon request.

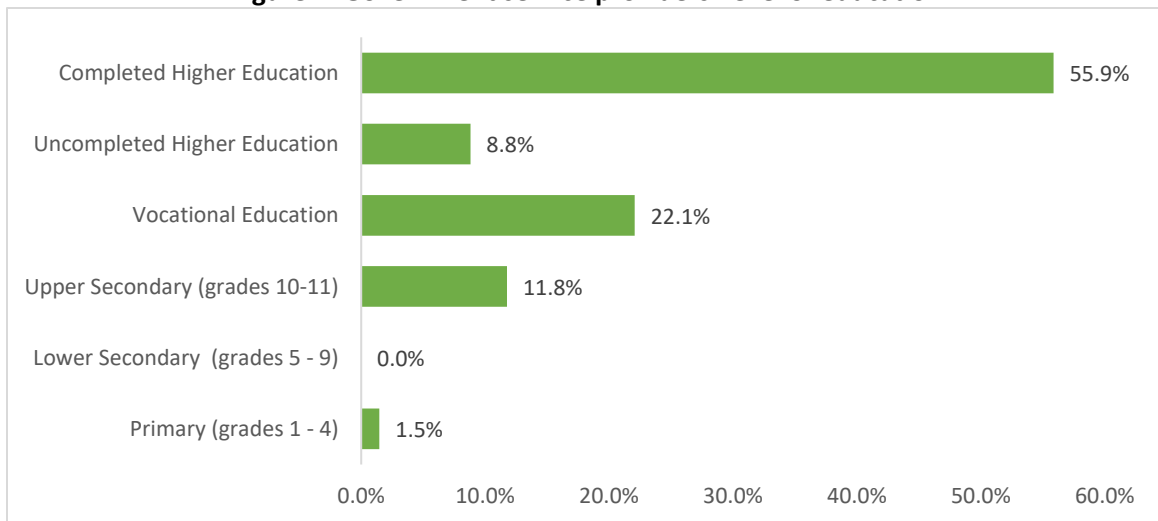
The given activity contributes to the achievement of Outcome 1 by improving the professional capacity (Output 1.1) of para-social workers who are the primary point of contact for families left behind. By providing them with necessary equipment, training, and mentoring, they will be better equipped to identify and address the psychosocial needs of women and children left behind.

The activity aims at achieving several SDGs: Goal 3: Good Health and Well-being - the provision of training and equipment to para-social workers will improve access to healthcare services and ensure that communities receive appropriate care and support when needed. Goal 4: Quality Education - the capacity-building aspect of the activity will provide para-social workers with the necessary skills and knowledge to effectively provide outreach services, which contributes to improving the quality of education for children in the communities they serve. Goal 5: Gender Equality - para-social workers can help address gender-based disparities in healthcare access and ensure that women and girls have equal access to healthcare services and education opportunities. Goal 10: Reduced Inequalities - this activity will contribute to reducing inequalities in healthcare access by providing targeted training and equipment to para-social workers who are often the first point of contact for vulnerable and marginalized populations.

The availability of a qualified workforce is vital in supporting families affected by migration to overcome everyday vulnerabilities. In order to fulfill their duties successfully, the workforce needs to be equipped with relevant skills and knowledge. To identify the needs of capacity building among governmental service providers, Good Neighbors Tajikistan conducted a Rapid Training Needs Assessment.

During the reporting period, Good Neighbors Tajikistan assessed and analyzed the needs of 68 service providers. The majority of respondents (55.9 percent) had completed higher education. However, 11.8 percent of respondents had only completed upper secondary education (grades 10-11), and 1.5 percent had only completed primary education. Figure 1 below illustrates the educational attainments of the respondents.

Figure 1. Government service providers' level of education



Regarding the need for capacity building, the most in-demand training sessions were on social and legal services (92.6 percent), followed by first aid (23.5 percent), and psycho-social support (14.7 percent).

Figure 2. Preferred sessions is presented in



The provision of psychosocial support to caregivers is an essential aspect of ensuring the well-being and mental health of both caregivers and care recipients. In recognition of this, UNICEF took the initiative to collaborate with Good Neighbours Tajikistan and the Faculty of Psychology of the Tajik National University to develop a training manual on psychosocial support. This training manual was designed to enhance the capacity of caregivers to provide adequate and effective psychosocial support to care recipients.

The training module was developed to equip para-social workers with the necessary knowledge and skills they would need to provide basic psychosocial support. This group of para-social workers included social service workers, nurses, education specialists, migration specialists, and local authority representatives. A total of 80 para-social workers were selected and trained through the program.

The training program consisted of four different courses, each designed to provide specific and practical skills to the para-social workers. The courses included competency-based training, case management, child rights, and psychological support for women and children. Through these courses, the para-social workers were able to develop a better understanding of psychosocial support, its importance, and the various issues that caregivers and care recipients may face.

Overall, this partnership between UNICEF, Good Neighbours Tajikistan, and the Tajik National University's Faculty of Psychology highlights the importance of collaboration in developing effective solutions to complex societal problems. The training program and manual developed demonstrate how investing in the professional development of para-social workers can improve the quality of psychosocial support provided to caregivers and care recipients.

1.1.6. Provide counselling and emotional support to distressed caregivers and children (UNICEF)

The activity will contribute to achieving Outcome 1 by offering psychosocial support to distressed caregivers and children, this activity will help address the impacts of child abandonment on mental health. This activity serves to align with UN Sustainable Development Goal 3: Good Health and Well-being, which is established to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all individuals across all ages. Providing counselling and emotional support to distressed caregivers and children who have been affected by migration can potentially promote good mental health and well-being while reducing stress and helping individuals develop effective coping mechanisms. As such, it can positively affect the overall quality of life for children who may be facing difficult circumstances. Ultimately, this activity can help towards achieving the objective of ensuring healthy lives and well-being for all. Additionally, this activity holds the capability to contribute to the accomplishment of Goal 10: Reduced Inequalities - by providing much-needed support to vulnerable populations, it can help reduce inequalities and ensure equal access to opportunities, thereby promoting fairness in society.

The need for access to psychosocial support and the importance of providing such services were emphasized by both beneficiaries and service providers, which was further supported by the results of the Situational Analysis and Rapid Training Needs Assessment. Consequently, a series of workshops were conducted for 266 caregivers from targeted communities, comprising 12 male and 254 female participants. These workshops aimed to enhance the caregivers' knowledge and skills in creating a harmonious family environment, raising children with consideration to their age-specific needs, and promoting child participation in decision-making.

The pre-test questionnaire revealed that the majority of caregivers had limited knowledge and skills on positive parenting, child rights, and violence. Following the capacity building workshops, caregivers demonstrated an increase in their level of knowledge from 42.6 percent to 85 percent.

Migrants have been proven to be a source of prosperity and innovation for countries of origin, transit, and host countries alike. Their financial contribution through remittances serves as a lifeline for families, and their invaluable role in the labour market cannot be overstated. On December 18th, 2022, PUNOs partnered with the Ministry of Labour, Migration, and Employment of the Republic of Tajikistan to organize a roundtable dedicated to International Migrants Day. As part of the MMPTF project, UNICEF presented a Situational Analysis conducted in the Dusti and Kulob districts of Khatlon Province. The analysis focused on the psychosocial and economic status of women and children from migrant-sending families who remained behind, as well as the availability of community-based support services. This includes a particular focus on psychosocial, emotional, medical, livelihood, educational, and social services. The roundtable highlighted the critical importance of migration for realizing the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Outcome 2: Families left behind have increased economic resilience and address gender related barriers to economic inclusion. *Families left behind [will] have increased capacity to utilize their land and water resources (output 2.1) and have access to increased/improved value chains through farming, small scale processing initiatives, retail and marketing (output 2.2). Women will have 'improved vocational skills to better access alternative employment' (output 2.3). Skills development and vocational training programmes, including 'learnership' courses, will be used to upskill unemployed or under-skilled women so that they are better positioned to access existing opportunities and gain long-term employment. A government engaged gender assessment and mobilization process supports women to plan for livelihoods*

and dedicate more time to economic activity and community projects (output 2.4). Families left behind have improved financial inclusion and increased skills and knowledge to manage debt (2.5).

Activities:

Assembling the project team to implement Outcome 2: At the beginning of the 2022 FAO key team members including (i) National Project Coordinator, (ii) National Agronomist specialist in Farmers Field School (FFS) (iii) National Agronomist specialist in Junior Field Schools (JFS) and (iv) National Community Mobilizer have been recruited. The National Agro-Economist Specialist in Grant Schemes was hired in September 2022 due to re-announcing the Vacancy Announcement (VA). The National Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist was hired to support all 4 PUNOs to track project activities progress and outcomes impacts. Also, the National Technical Coordinator, Land and Water support project activities implementation on part-time bases. Moreover, two short-term national consultant trainers on Mushroom production and backyard nursery establishment were recruited. Team's project activities were guided and supervised by the Project Lead Technical Officer (LTO) based in the FAO Sub-Regional Office for Central Asia and Turkey.

Activity 2.1.1. Develop the capacity of women left behind to carry out farming activities.

The activity contributes to achieving Outcome 2 by focusing on Output 2.1, which aims to increase the capacity of families left behind to utilize their land and water resources. By providing training and support to women, who often play a crucial role in farming activities, they will be better equipped to manage their farms and increase their productivity. This will not only lead to economic resilience for the families left behind but also address gender-related barriers to economic inclusion by empowering women to take on leadership roles in their communities. Additionally, improved vocational skills and other training opportunities will support women to access alternative employment options and improve their financial inclusion, contributing to Output 2.3 and 2.5. Overall, this activity will play an integral part in achieving Outcome 2 by building the capacity of families left behind to participate in the economy and support women's empowerment.

The given activity aligns significantly with Goal 1: No Poverty - By developing the capacity of women left behind to carry out farming activities, they will be empowered to create a sustainable livelihood for themselves and their families. This will alleviate poverty and reduce the socioeconomic gap between men and women. Goal 2: Zero Hunger - Women farmers play a vital role in ensuring food security and reducing hunger. By training and empowering women left behind in farming activities, they can contribute to the production of nutritious and diverse crops, improve food access and security in their communities. Goal 5: Gender Equality - Empowering women left behind in farming activities is a crucial step towards promoting gender equality. Women will be given the opportunity to acquire knowledge, new skills, and resources necessary to participate in agricultural work, gain economic independence, and reduce their dependence on men. Goal 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth - Developing the capacity of women in farming activities can lead to increased productivity, income, and improved agricultural systems. This, in turn, can create more job opportunities and improve economic growth in local communities. Goal 12: Responsible Consumption and Production - Empowering women in farming activities can lead to more sustainable farming practices that protect the environment, promote biodiversity, and reduce waste and emissions.

At the beginning of 2022, the FAO project team met with all project beneficiaries in each community of Dusti and Kulob districts. This was important to learn about the beneficiaries' needs and ensure a right and effective response, and to save time on the organization and the logistics arranging project activities and trainings. Consequently, the list of beneficiaries was updated after cross-checking against the project selection criteria. The updated list of beneficiaries consisting of 537 women (see Annex 1. Table 1. List of

project women groups) was compiled into the project data base and shared with other PUNOs. According to the joint discussion of PUNOs, the list will be regularly updated in case of need.

As a result of the arranged meetings, the abandoned women living in the neighbouring communities were grouped into a total of 19 women groups. Out of 19 groups, 9 women groups with an average of 30 members per group are based in Dusti districts and 10 women groups with an average 26 members per group in Kulob area. As depicted in the data provided in Table 1 of Annex 1, 273 women (9 groups) were enrolled in the list of beneficiaries in the Dusti district and 264 abandoned women (10 groups) did in the Kulob area.

Farmers Field Schools. During the reporting period, FAO project team developed the curricula (Guidelines and training content and material) for the Farmers Field School (FFS) for conducting a series of capacity-building theoretical and practical workshops to increase the capacity of abandoned women to utilize their land and water resources (refer to Annex 2). The Guidelines consists of a brief description of measures, schemes, work plans, and budget estimation.

The training Guidelines covers the following agriculture topics requested by the project beneficiaries:

- 1) Technology for growing potatoes;
- 2) Technology for growing carrot;
- 3) The application of organic fertilizers to enhance crops productivity;
- 4) The integrated plant protection methods to control pests and diseases;
- 5) Technology for drying and storage of fruits and vegetables (Processing of the fruits and using solar driers);
- 6) Production of vegetables in the greenhouses;
- 7) The backyards nursery;
- 8) Prevention of soil erosion and degradation;
- 9) Rainwater harvesting drip irrigation;
- 10) Canning and preserving the vegetable.

A total of 16 Farmers' Field Schools (FFSs) were established during 2022 to address the women farmers' problems and promote best agriculture practices.

The project Agronomists and mobilizer have delivered a total of five trainings to the 19 women groups representatives in Dusti and Kulob areas from September to December 2022. The topics of the five training were: (i) Technology of growing potato; (ii) Technology of growing carrot; (iii) Technology of drying and storage of fruits and vegetables; (iv) Technology of growing tomato and cucumber in the greenhouses and (v) Production of mushrooms. Annex 1. Table 2. "Agricultural Trainings provided to representatives of 19 groups abandoned women" gives further details of the number of participants per training, time schedule and results of the training evaluation. An average of 522 women benefited per each training, except for the training on mushroom that were specifically target to 31 women.

The Focal Points from the Ministry of Agriculture and The Ministry of Labour, Migration and Employment of Population were engaged in the process of organization of capacity-building activities and monitoring project activities. The FAO experts procured seeds and other tools to initiate practical trainings and activities. The training was evaluated very positively. The process of arranging agricultural training is ongoing. Currently, the modules for the establishment and operation of backyard nurseries are under finalization.

Establishment of demo-plots. The FAO project team conducted a mid-term field mission in July 2022 in the two-targeted districts, i.e. Kulob and Dusti. The project team members had meetings with project beneficiaries (abandoned women). During the meetings, discussions were focused on the main challenges farmers faced. The following main problems listed by women farmers:

- Low yield due to the heat and drought during growing season
- Lack of knowledge of the technology, terms and norms for the application of mineral fertilizers.

- Absence of the high-quality certified seeds and other inputs such as fertilizers (potash fertilizers during the growing season)
- Poor extension services with low awareness of crop cultivation technologies and their agro-technical measures, lack of access to information (not participation in training seminars)
- Not enough knowledge of farmers on the correct selection of high-quality planting material, the time and norms of sowing, as well as the agro-technical work of potatoes, carrots and vegetables in the main and second growing season,
- Low income from not enough knowledge of product value chain, from low-quality products and higher cost of purchase of necessary seeds and fertilizers during the season inputs.
- High prices for chemicals for plant protection.

The project beneficiaries from the different targeted communities scored as most prioritized agricultural topics for learning the following:

1. Use of organic manure/compost (according to norms) as the main feeding and traditional method during the growing season of potatoes; lack of knowledge for low cost methods and Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) measures (3 villages of jamoat G. Gulmurodov of Dusti district)
2. Lack of farmers' knowledge on the correct selection of high-quality planting material; time and norms of sowing; and agro-technical work of potatoes, carrots and vegetables in the main and second growing season (4 villages of 20-solagii istiqloliya tof Dusti district)
3. Lack of knowledge of the technology, terms and norms for the application of mineral fertilizers (2 villages of Nuri Vakhsh of Dusti district).

The FAO team identified the 8 most active women farmers (refer to Annex 1. Table 3 **List of active female farmers**) in 8 women groups for enhancing their potential via engaging in the arrangement of practical trainings, the establishment of demonstration plots and the realization of innovation activities on FFSs. In total 8 plots were prepared in each district for the establishment of demonstration sides, procurement of materials, seeds and fertilizers are pending. To procure the agriculture inputs project' experts developed the Technical Specifications for the agricultural inputs under the framework of the FFS scenario and obtained all clearances. Initiated procurement of the goods and seeds for the establishment of the 8 demonstration plots on different topics.

The above activities were aimed at empowering the women left behind to train women in the practical application of innovative approaches and technologies for sustainable agriculture focused on improving water and land resource management and ensuring improved livelihoods of the valuable project beneficiaries.

Activity 2.1.2. Build interest in agriculture and in nutrition of schoolchildren including kids from families left behind:

The activity contributes to achieving several SDGs including: SDG 2: Zero Hunger - This activity aims to build students' interest in agriculture and nutrition, which ultimately contributes to achieving the goal of zero hunger. SDG 4: Quality Education - The activity focuses on schoolchildren, aiming to provide education and awareness about agriculture and nutrition, which aligns with SDG 4's objective of making education inclusive and effective for all. SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities - By including kids from families left behind, the activity addresses the issue of inequalities and aims to reduce them by providing access to education and awareness about important topics such as agriculture and nutrition.

The FAO project team have also established the Junior Field School (JFS). First, project experts developed selection criteria to identify secondary schools in 2 targeted districts which consist of (i) willingness of the

school management to actively cooperate with the project, ii) availability of the school yard close to the school building, iii) access to irrigation water, iv) engagement of school girls in the trainings and activities of JFFS, v) engagement of at least 20 schoolchildren to capacity building activities in JFFS, vi) having experience of cooperation with other projects, vii) cooperation of schools with other PUNOs (for instance, summer camp arranged by UNICEF). Totally 50 secondary schools have been selected for establishing JFFSs based on joint visits with representatives of Educational Departments in both districts. Annex1.

Based on the FFS Guidelines, the project Agronomist on JFS and Mobilizer developed the JFS Training Guide for the establishment of the Junior Farmer Field Schools (JFS). The Annex 3 provides with the JFS Training Guide for the establishment of the Junior Farmer Field Schools. A total of 1,049 schoolchildren (523 in Dusti and 526 in Kulob) from the 50 secondary schools will be benefited from the JFFS training.

Consequently, fifteen trainings **in the secondary schools** (ten in Dusti and five in Kulob) directed to **teachers and technical personal nominated for management of JFSs were delivered from mid-October to mid-December 2022**. The training topics were as follow: (i) Methods of preparing of Bio-compost, (ii) Cultivation technology of vegetables in the greenhouse, (iii) Growing technology of potato, (iv) Growing technology of carrot and (v) theoretical and practical ToT workshops on the Cultivation technology of Mushroom under the controlled artificial conditions. A total of 451 (271 in Dusti and 180 in Kulob) schoolteachers and technical personnel nominated for JFSs management directly benefited from the training. The Annex 1 Table 5. List of trainings arranged in secondary schools for school teaches and technical personal nominated for management of JFFSs provide further details of the above-mentioned trainings.

From October 12 to December 25, 2022, the project specialists provided a total of 8 practical trainings for school students in the Dusti district, which benefited 194 students including 66% of girls (Refer to Annex 1 Table 6. **List of the school students attended in agriculture trainings**).

The project team is continuing with the delivery of the trainings. To procure the agriculture inputs for establishing the first activities in JFFSs Agronomists developed the Technical Specifications for the agricultural inputs and obtained all clearances. Procured seeds, drip irrigation kits with water tanks, and vertical agriculture kits and handed them over to the management of secondary schools # 3, 10, 14, 16 and 45 in Dusti district.

Output 2.2. Families left behind [will] have access to increased/improved value chains through farming, small scale processing initiatives, retail and marketing

To implement output 2.2., the MPTF project will provide grants to co-finance investments found technically and financially feasible. During the reporting period, the FAO team developed the Guidelines and Call for Proposals (CfP) document. The target audience of this CfP is the **women beneficiaries of the MPTF project**, as potential beneficiaries of the grant scheme to promote agricultural and agri-processing income generation initiative. The CfA will be expected to be launched on January 2023 and will be closed at the beginning of February 2023. The Guidelines and CfP include the eligibility criteria for both individual applicants and groups to be considered in the project grant scheme.

At the beginning of 2023, FAO team will arrange meetings for 19 women groups and local partners to explain the terms and conditions the CfP, assist the potential beneficiaries to fill in the application form and arrange joint selection commission in both districts with the engagement of national/regional partners and PUNO representative.

The task of this specific activity is to improve the practical capacity of the women left behind to increase their incomes by increasing crop yields on small plots of land and diversifying their cropping patterns and sources of income. The women will be provided with quality seeds and seedlings and will practically start the production of non-traditional foods for the target districts of the project, such as mushroom production.

Activity 2.2.1 Implement small plot agricultural production and small-scale models of self-sufficient farming.

Overall, implementing small plot agricultural production and small-scale models of self-sufficient farming aligns well with several UN SDGs, including those related to poverty reduction, hunger, sustainable agriculture, sustainable consumption, and economic growth. SDG 1: No Poverty - By implementing small plot agricultural production and small-scale models of self-sufficient farming, individuals and communities can cultivate their own food and improve their livelihoods. This contributes towards eliminating poverty, hunger, and malnutrition. SDG 2: Zero Hunger - This activity directly targets SDG 2 by promoting sustainable agriculture and increasing the production of local food. It also promotes food security and improved nutrition. SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth - The promotion of small plot agricultural production and self-sufficient farming can create job opportunities and stimulate economic growth in rural areas. SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production- By promoting small-scale, self-sufficient farming models, this activity promotes responsible consumption and production. It encourages people to rely on locally sourced and sustainable food alternatives, reducing their carbon footprint and promoting a sustainable food system.

Potential beneficiaries will be through the competitive selection process above-mentioned described. Table 1 shows the agricultural inputs to be provided competitively to implement the small plots.

Table 1: Agriculture Grants for small-plots production and models of self-sufficient farming

#	Type of grants	Estimated number of grants	Type of beneficiary
1	Seeds (corn seeds, white bean) and fertilizer	200 households (100 per each district)	Individual
2	Greenhouses	20 (10 per each district)	Individual
3	Materials for rainwater harvesting and small-scale irrigation	17 households	Individual
4	Backyard nursery	20 (10 per each district)	Individual
5	Construction of a mushroom production facility at home	4 (2 per each district)	Individual

To promote best practices on the rooftop rainwater harvesting and drip irrigation established in homesteads, the FAO team arranged 2 cross visits on 31 August and 1 September 2022 to the driest communities of Temurmalik district for 11 abandoned women from Dusti district and 13 abandoned women from Kulob area. During cross-visit contact farmers presented rooftop rainwater harvesting systems installed in kitchen gardens for collecting rainwater and effective use for domestic, animal husbandry and crop irrigation purposes. The owner of the demo field shared information about the advantages and weaknesses of using a rainwater harvesting system. Before the FAO procurement and distribution of agriculture inputs and equipment for competitively selected individuals, project experts conducted a benefit analysis of the activities based on collected information from the beneficiaries and local partners.

Activity 2.2.2 Enhance home-based processing activities and farming value addition: With regards to processing activities, the Call for Proposals Table 2 provides information about grant types and planned numbers.

Overall, this activity supports sustainable agriculture and promotes economic and social development in rural communities, making it relevant to multiple UN Sustainable Goals. Mainly SDG 1: No Poverty - Enhancing home-based processing activities and farming value addition can increase income and reduce

poverty for small-scale farmers. SDG 2: Zero Hunger - By adding value to farming products, farmers can increase their food security and contribute to reducing hunger. SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth - Promoting value addition in agriculture creates new job opportunities and generates economic growth in rural areas. SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production - Value addition can reduce food waste and improve sustainability in agriculture.

Table 2: Agri-processing - value addition activities

	Type of grant	Estimated number of grants	Type of beneficiary
1.	Milk cream separator	16 (for two target districts)	Individual
2.	Apricot stone breaker	12 (for two target districts)	Individual
3.	Grain crusher (separating grain from the maize cob)	12 (for two target districts)	Individual
4.	Solar dryer	20 solar dryers (up to 5 groups, 4pcs to each group for two target districts)	Group
5.	Preservation of fruits and vegetables	3 set of equipment and tools (up to 3 groups for two target districts)	Group

Based arranged tenders FAO signed PO for procurement of 20 solar dryers and technical evaluation of offers for procurement of other agriculture inputs is pending.

Activity 2.2.3 Disseminate best practices through fairs and awareness raising campaigns.

The project team have taken part in a regional conference as part of EXPO 2022 - Development of Women's Entrepreneurship "International Women's Entrepreneurship Day," which was organized by order of the Executive Office of the President of Tajikistan on November 11, 2022, November 18 at 09:00 am at the hotel "Hayat Regency.

The above activities were designed to help the women left behind to increase their income through home-based individual and group processing activities. The value chain addition initiated, based on financial analysis and business plans, will help to move towards self-employment and increase the income of rural women.

Output 2.3 Women left behind have improved vocational skills to better access alternative employment

Financial literacy and inclusion training. Training on "Business Profile" was conducted for representatives of 19 women's groups, organized on 8-9 November 2022 by the team members and FAO Lead Technical Officer in two pilot districts of Kulyab and Dusti. Sixty-eight women attended, 30 participants from Dusti district and 38 participants from Kulyab district. Participants received very detailed information on the development of business plans, calculation of project profitability and other very useful information.

2.3.1. Train women on vocational skills (UNICEF)

The activity will contribute to achieving Outcome 2 by providing women with improved skills that can help them access alternative employment opportunities.

This activity aligns with several UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including: Goal 5: Gender Equality - this activity aims to empower women by providing them with vocational training, enabling them to become self-sufficient and contribute to the local economy. Goal 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth - by providing vocational training, this activity helps women acquire the skills needed to secure employment or start their own businesses, leading to economic growth. Goal 10: Reduced Inequalities -

this activity helps reduce inequalities by providing vocational training to women who are left behind and may not have access to the same opportunities as others. Goal 12: Responsible Consumption and Production - vocational training in areas such as agriculture and gardening promotes sustainable practices and responsible production.

UNICEF jointly with its implementing partner, Good Neighbours Tajikistan, has signed an agreement with department of Labour, Migration and Employment in Bokhtar to provide vocational training for women left behind. Providing women with professional vocational training programs can equip them with the necessary skills and knowledge to secure employment or start their own businesses, such as bakeries, or clothing ateliers. By offering these opportunities, women can become self-sufficient, reduce their dependency on remittances, and contribute to the local economy. Ultimately, empowering migrant wives can have a positive impact on their families and communities, improving the well-being of their children and creating favorable opportunities for healthy growth and development.

During reporting period, 45 women have successfully completed vocational development and skill building workshops and received state-recognized diplomas. Another 30 women are enrolled in different training courses such as national tailoring method as chakanduzi (embroidery), gardening, carpet weaving, sewing, confectionery, baking, and agricultural professions. All of the women enrolled will receive their diplomas upon completion of the training cycle. Women also indicated interest in gaining knowledge in such areas as greenhouse management, rug weaving, etc. UNICEF jointly with PUNO and other partners explores possibility of arranging additional courses that are not part of the regular curricula.

Output 2.4 A government engaged gender assessment and mobilization process supports women to plan for livelihoods and dedicate more time to economic activity and community projects.

The activity aligns with several SDGs. SDG 5: Gender Equality - The activity aims to promote the rights of women, including abandoned wives and women with disabilities, and to address gender inequalities. SDG 4: Quality Education - Abandoned women often miss out on education opportunities. The activity can help women to benefit from lessons and best practices shared during the training sessions and awareness rising campaigns. SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities - The activity aims to address inequality and discrimination faced by abandoned women, particularly those with disabilities. Goal 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth - by providing trainings, this activity helps women acquire the skills needed to secure employment or start their own businesses, leading to economic growth.

2.4. The project team made a significant progress in the output 2.4. by implementing and integrating the GALS (**Gender Action Learning System**) in Tajikistan. The UN Women in partnership with PO “Gender and Development” piloted GALS – introducing the gender transformation household methodology in 2 targeted localities with **22 GALS Champions** (18 women and 4 men) trained to use and facilitate the **5 basic GALS tools** (Vision, Vision Journey, Happy Family Tree, Income Increase Tree, Gender Justice Diamond to eliminate violence) during the 9-day GALS catalyst workshops with the Training of Trainers (TOT) elements. Positively impacted by the GALS process, 22 GALS Champions, that conducted **28 2-day workshops, 350 individuals** including abandoned wives of migrants, local activists, representatives of public organizations and representatives of mahalla committees, established **14 community active groups**, conducted **Public thematic fairs for 400 citizens, the awareness of 1000 people had been raised, 85% of selected community mobilizers** have increased their knowledge through the GALS implementation and exploring 5 basic GALS tools. All of them became more active, open, observant, and attentive; they developed own creative talents and acquired positive attitude, enriched general outlook, have got new ideas and learnt new methods and tools. Moreover, they have developed own financial literacy for future income-generation activities.

43 participants, representatives of local governments (from the district and jamoat levels, CoWFA local branches, departments on education, social protection and health, and institutions of work with women and youth), CSOs, and local community leaders engaged in gender assessment and mobilization process developed interventions to support women to plan for livelihoods and dedicate more time to economic activity and community projects.

The gender assessment was conducted in the frames of the **2-days training/workshop on care work on gender responsive services**, incl. in context of COVID-19 and reflection exercise in 2 pilot districts of Khatlon. The **gender assessment** was focused on women's problems related to control over their time and work, how to recognize unpaid care work, reduce its burden on women, and redistribute unpaid care work. The jointly conducted gender assessment and mobilization process helped participants find a way out on livelihood planning and how to devote more time to economic activities. Based on the assessment and introduction with the concept of unpaid care work, participants developed a variety of care solutions: on the level of household, community, and district.

Five (5) civil society organizations, those working on women's rights, gender equality and women's empowerment in two pilot districts participated in the analysis and priority setting training on unpaid care work. Community and local government priorities to address the issue were jointly developed, new skills acquired, enhanced knowledge, learning, and expertise related to gender equality in access, use, and provision of essential services, goods and/or resources. CSOs are equipped with practical tools, such as implementation guidance and knowledge products on unpaid care work. Also, staff of CSOs strengthened their capacity to exercise their leadership role towards the achievement of gender equality and women empowerment including on governance and participation in public life, economic empowerment, ending violence against women, community resilience.

The **Women's Economic Empowerment Symposium** discussed and offered economic solutions to address women's vulnerabilities. The Symposium was held in the framework of Migration Project in close partnership with the State Committee on Investment (SIC) and Women's Entrepreneurship Task Force under the Government of Tajikistan with the involvement of representatives of relevant ministries and departments, business associations, private sector, development partners, experts, and media representatives. UN Women partnered with UNDP, USAID, local financial institutions and CSOs to provide a platform for over 120 women, especially from vulnerable groups, youth and people with disabilities, to exchange information and develop specific recommendations in order to create opportunities for promoting women's entrepreneurship and discuss ways to overcome problems and obstacles in these areas. The Government of Tajikistan, the SIC, the Secretariat of the Advisory Council under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan, the CoWFA recognized the role of UN Women for organizing the Symposium and contributions to development of women's businesses. Report and recommendations from the Symposiums presented to the Government by the SIC in its annual report for 2022.

Activities still in progress and will be finalized in 2023

All the above-mentioned activities are align with several SDGs. SDG 5: Gender Equality - The activity aims to promote the rights of women, including abandoned wives and women with disabilities, and to address gender inequalities. SDG 4: Quality Education - Abandoned women often miss out on education opportunities. The activity can help women to benefit from lessons and best practices shared during the training sessions on recognition, reduction and redistribution of unpaid care work.. SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities - The activity aims to address inequality and discrimination faced by abandoned women, particularly those with disabilities. Goal 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth - by providing trainings, this activity helps women acquire the skills needed to secure employment or start their own businesses, leading to economic growth.

500 families will benefit from support of mahalla developed micro-activities to encourage Recognition of unpaid care work, Reduction of difficult care work and inefficient tasks and Redistribution of unpaid care

work. Such mini-projects will give women more control over their time and labour, UN Women and PO 'Gender and development' will encourage Recognition of unpaid care work, Reduction of difficult care work and inefficient tasks and Redistribution of unpaid care work. Over 500 families will benefit from selected community 'mini-projects' modelling care work recognition and redistribution. Implementing Partner PO "Gender and Development" jointly with Project team continues to build the capacity of civil society gender activists and leads the process of selecting consultants for the implementation of this component. The grant program, grant agreement, the vacancy announcements, as well as applications have already been developed. All documents are attached. Within this component, the project will ensure Adolescents in families left behind have support and knowledge of life competencies. This activity is ongoing and will be completed before May 2023.

2.5. The activity is in line with SDG #8: "Decent Work and Economic Growth" on Strengthening the capacity of domestic financial institutions to encourage and expand access to banking, insurance and financial services for all. It also aligns with GCM #18 "Invest in skills development and facilitate mutual recognition of skills, qualifications, and competencies".

The project has finalized the financial education manual developed within IOM project on climate change with a small change introduced. The financial education manual covers the following sessions: defining of income and expenses, effective use of remittances, savings habits, debt management and different services provided by financial institutions to population. Thus, two training of trainers on the base of this manual was conducted by hired Financial Consultant to the staff of selected public organizations.

In May, the Global Money Week events, with involvement of school children in Kulob and Dusti were organized. The raising awareness event for children and youth comprised of series of competition and quizzes on financial education was conducted within the abovementioned period. Through conducting these competitions youth had a chance to express their opinions and demonstrate their knowledge of financial education ... The aim of the quiz was to find out the basic knowledge of WLB and based on that prepare the future materials, which will be used during upcoming workshops. To understand the basic level of their understanding and prepare the training materials or handouts accordingly to enhance their financial education.

The community workshops which brought together the representatives of local commercial banks, families left behind and community leaders were organized during June in Kulob and Dusti. The banks presented their available products to community and face to face communication brought to answers to the beneficiaries' questions. These workshops were accepted with great interest by both bank representatives as well as community, as the banks found out the main concern of the FLB related to banking service and showed their willing to fix and consider the existing problem. This type of workshops is useful for both sides as the community/WLBs can get more updated information on available banks products in their district and for banks it is good promotion and marketing as by presenting their products and offers can get more interests and clients. At the end of the community workshop, the awareness of International Families Remittances Day was raised to participants by showing power point presentation. In total 32 participants benefited from these workshops.

The International Organization for Migration, the National Bank of Tajikistan, and the commercial banks and micro-finance organizations gathered on 11 August in Dushanbe to address challenges with provision of financial services to families left behind as a result of migration. Earlier, at numerous meetings the families of migrants have shared their requests from the banks on low percentage credits, more branches in the area, faster card issuance and better service and communication. At the round table in Dushanbe, organized within the project, the banks were requested to further analyse needs of their customers in remote areas and from prone communities according to feedback received, as well as consider them in

their work planning for upcoming years. The photos were processed and with a short text were posted on IOM Tajikistan Facebook.

With involvement of two public organizations “Mayram” in Kulob and “Akhtari Bakht” in Dusti district, the project conducted 36 two-days trainings on financial literacy for 720 beneficiaries of the project in September-October months. Each training was attended by 20 women left behind in target districts. The training covered effective use of remittances and making savings, definitions of income, expenses and budget. In the end of October IOM and the National Bank of Tajikistan (NBT) arranged two activities under the framework “world-saving day” in two targeted areas of the project in Kulob and in Dusti. This activity aimed to present information to the project beneficiaries about world-saving day together with representatives of the NBT and also to check if the beneficiaries remembered passed training on financial literacy about finance, budgeting, revenue, expenditure (long and short term), and deposit through quizzes.

During the year, project staff had regular meetings with a team from Consumer Protection and Financial Services Department of National Bank of Tajikistan (NBT), which is responsible for financial education. The NBT expressed their interest on financial education, because it is well aligned with a National Strategy of Financial Inclusion, with a special focus on financial Literacy and improvement of financial education of migrants and their family members. The strategy for 2022-2026 was developed through financial support of the international community and was officially launched on 20 September.

As per outcome indicator 2f, financial providers (banks and/or micro-finance organizations) should develop and offer 3 specific products with low interest rate for the beneficiaries of the project and beneficiaries awareness should be raised through sms distribution. After several meetings of the financial Consultant with different banks and micro-finance organizations, it seemed that they were not so interested to develop and offer mentioned specific products with low interests, even so distribution through sms will not bring effective result, as per our observation women in rural area don't pay attention and even can't read the sms. Therefore, as per request of local community and authorities during monthly coordination meetings, the project has come to the mind as a reinforcement of provided trainings on financial literacy to the beneficiaries, to conduct such trainings for the representatives of local authorities, community members, local government authorities dealing with these vulnerable people, thus to cover more beneficiaries and strengthen the sustainability of provided knowledge.

Project staff met regularly with a team from Consumer Protection and Financial Services Department of National Bank of Tajikistan (NBT), which is responsible for financial education. During the meetings, project activities related to financial education were presented and ways for cooperation in this area were discussed. The NBT expressed their interest on financial education, because it is well aligned with a Strategy of NBT on Financial Inclusion for 2022-2026 launched on 20 September, with a special focus on migrants and their family members. The strategy was developed through financial support developed with support from International Finance cooperation (IFC), to facilitate access to financial services for individuals and small businesses. It is a five-year strategy, with a clear focus on migrants and their family members. The financial education interventions were also proposed in the government in January 2023, focusing increasing cashless payments. The project hired financial education Consultant, based in BNT, in order to increase NBT and the MPTF project cooperation and support financial literacy components of the project. In this regard, in March 2023 the project plans to organize ToT training on financial literacy for NBT Staff, thus enable them to provide the trainings to the commercial banks and micro-finance organizations in the related topic.

Outcome 3: Women and children left behind are protected and seek to protect their rights. Government and NGO services have increased capacity to provide access to information and legal services on issues of family violence, access to land, civil status, migration and family tracing (output 3.1). Women and girls left behind have increased individual and community support and knowledge of their rights (output 3.2). Adolescents left behind have support and knowledge of life competencies (output 3.3)

The activity aligns with several SDGs. SDG 5: Gender Equality - The activity aims to promote the rights of women, including abandoned wives and women with disabilities, and to address gender inequalities. SDG 4: Quality Education - Abandoned women miss out on education opportunities. The activity can help abandoned women promote access to education opportunities. SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities - By including women from families left behind, the activity addresses the issue of inequalities and aims to reduce them by providing access to information and awareness about important topics such as SGBV mechanism and access to legal services on issues of family violence, access to land, civil status, migration and family tracing. SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions, as it aims to provide access to legal and support services related to civil status, migration, family tracing, and birth registration. This helps to ensure that people have a legal identity and are able to access their rights under the law. Goal 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth - by providing the support of micro-activities, this activity helps women acquire the skills needed to secure employment or start their own businesses, leading to economic growth.

Activities:

3.1. The UN Women made a strong progress through designed, piloted and disseminated Localized SGBV Referral Mechanism on response to violence against women and girls for services providers, specialists and CSOs of 2 pilot districts.

23 state and non-state Institutions have acquired enhanced knowledge, learning, and expertise related to gender equality in access, use, and provision of essential services, goods and/or resources. Institutions are equipped with practical tools, such as implementation guidance or knowledge products to guide the provision of essential services, goods and resources for women; state structures: branches of 6 ministries and government committees of Health and social protection; Education and Science; Interior; Justice; Labor Migration and Employment of Population; Committee on Youth and Sport; CoWFA, 2 local branches of the Prosecutor Office, 2 district-level courts, 2 district level branches of Agency on migration 2 district level offices of the Ombudsperson on Child Rights and 2 district offices of the Ombudsperson on Human Rights improved their knowledge on how to provide essential services and response to sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), including development and implementation of the evidence-based programmes that prevent and respond to violence against women and girls (VAWG). UN Women provided a specially tailored training and facilitated establishing SGBV referral system in two pilot districts. Women's Crisis Centers equipped with new skills on referral and response to the violence against women and girls; improved their knowledge on how to provide essential services and response to sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), including development and implementation of the evidence-based programmes that prevent and respond to violence against women and girls (VAWG). The project team provided a specially tailored training for them to establish, jointly with the above state structures, the localized SGBV referral system in two pilot districts.

The UN-Women **localized the referral mechanism for SGBV cases** and made it widely disseminated among all actors to ensure that all women and girls have access to an effective, confidential and gender-sensitive complaint mechanism. The mechanism is active and over the past 5 months around 520 women/girls (an average of 80 per month) have applied to the local Department of the CoWFA and were referred in accordance with their case. **20 state and non-state service providers and CSOs** enabled to run an effective, confidential and gender sensitive SGBV response mechanism. The mechanism has been developed in the frames of the Spotlight Programme and proved successful tool to provide client-centered services to the women and girls. The mechanism is now active in two pilot districts of the Migration

Programme. The project Team designed and installed **8 metallic and information stands** in 2 piloted localities. These stands were installed in such a way that people affected by gender violence has access to them can find necessary informational brochures on SGBV related services; the stands were installed in the departments of the **Committee of Women and Family Affairs, local hukumats, migration service, in the police department and in the Kulyab city court**. On this component, the UN Women team actively worked jointly with the IOM assistance.

47 staff of the public institutions and services, as well as local civil society organizations in two pilot districts of the Migration Programme increased and strengthened their knowledge and potential on interagency cooperation to expand access to services for people affected by gender violence.

The CoWFA recognized the role of UN Women in capacity building of state and non-government service providers, SCOs in the issue of prevention of VAWG and in developing the concrete tool for SGBV cases. During the Annual meeting of all CoWFA departments, all district departments received an instruction from the Gender Department of the CoWFA to develop the same localized mechanism for their own districts, considering presence of relevant institutions and services to response SGBV, as it is proved being practical.

Since a part of materials on the localized VAWG reference mechanisms is intended for a wider audience, the CSOs actively disseminate them during campaigning activity for help and protection-seeking behaviour change (brochure “Where to sick help in case of violence?”).

Importantly, a strategic synergy can be traced on cooperation between the UN Agencies themselves on the localized mechanisms. Initially developed by UN Women, the concept was verified by UNICEF, UNDP and UNFPA for embracing of all categories of beneficiaries; and recommendations of the sister agencies were duly taken into account for the product finalization (protection of a girl-child; minorities; issues of sexual violence and protection of reproductive health); in 2022 UNDP updated the mechanisms and UN Women arranged a printing of the materials for all engaged agencies; the UN Agencies and CWFA acted as one influencer in bringing the local authorities and public service providers of target districts to understanding of an integrated response mechanism.

3.1.3 Provide access to legal and support services on civil status, migration and family tracing, access to birth registration and preventing the placement of children into institutions (IOM/FAO/UNICEF)

The activity will contribute to achieving Outcome 3 by increasing the capacity of government and NGO services to provide information and legal services on issues of family violence, access to land, civil status, migration, and family tracing, which ultimately leads to protecting the rights of women and children left behind.

This activity aligns with several UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Firstly, it aligns with SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions, as it aims to provide access to legal and support services related to civil status, migration, family tracing, and birth registration. This helps to ensure that people have a legal identity and are able to access their rights under the law.

Secondly, it aligns with SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities, as it aims to prevent the placement of children into institutions and ensure that all children have access to birth registration. This helps to ensure that all children have the same opportunities in life and are not discriminated against based on their legal status.

Finally, it aligns with SDG 1: No Poverty, as ensuring that people have legal identities and access to their basic rights can help to break the cycle of poverty and improve their economic prospects.

The project focused on addressing the issue of children without identity who have been affected by migration. Many of these children face significant barriers in accessing basic services, such as education and healthcare, due to not having proper documentation. The legal counselling services provided by the

project were aimed at empowering these children to obtain their birth certificates and preserve their identity. Throughout the reporting period, the project made great strides in supporting these children, as evidenced by the fact that 28 children were able to obtain their birth certificates and passports. Additionally, legal counsellors were able to assist in submitting 201 applications for birth certificates to the Office of Civil Status Registration, which will further contribute to the protection of these children's rights. By ensuring that these children have access to their basic rights and can establish their identity, the project is playing a vital role in improving their overall wellbeing and quality of life.

3.2 Design and conduct advocacy campaigns to empower women and girls to claim for their rights, access to services for registration of land, business and property, and child support in target districts (IOM/UNICEF/FAO)

Withing Activity 3.2. PUNOs jointly conducted advocacy and awareness campaigns to ensure women and girls left behind have increased individual and community support and knowledge of their rights. Campaigns included **Public Thematic Fairs on Migration, inclusion, Women's Rights and EVAW issues and HeforShe Campaign events.**

The results of the Situational Analysis revealed many useful information about experience and access of women to various services. It also demonstrates level of awareness of women in relation to healthcare, psychosocial support, benefits, etc. One of the most concerning result was level of tolerance to violence and limited information that coping mechanism. For example, over 60% of women do not know where to ask for support in case of the violence. As the result, a cycling parade in Dusti (on 27 November) and mural painting in Kulob (on 10 December) were arranged by applying whole-of-society approach. An ultimate goal of these events was to raise awareness of the communities, local government, women, children about violence, recognizing early signs and ways to address it. A media report about coverage, events, photos, and video is presented in a short media report below.

Results of the study were presented on the round table dedicated on International Migrant Day on 16 December 2022.

Over **1400 individuals**, reached through awareness campaigns on rights and protections, social inclusion, SGBV, received and improved their knowledge on the issue of rights and protection, social inclusion, etc. Out of them, **400 individuals of the communities in 2 pilot localities (Dusti and Kulyab)** took part in different events (**HeforShe campaign, Public Thematic Fairs, and 16 days of activism against gender-based violence**) aimed at increased individual and community support, and knowledge of their rights, organized by UN Women and the Responsible Partner PO "Gender and Development". **HeForShe campaign was also conducted in Dushanbe.** At least 50% of **Public Thematic Fairs'** participants, mainly abandoned wives of migrants and families of migrants received free consultations from local government specialists on legal, social, economic issues. Booklets, leaflets, and publications from PUNOs, and other GTG members were disseminated during Fairs. **Around 1000 people have raised their awareness** through the Mass Media channels.

Activities still in progress and will be finalized in 2023

600 individuals will benefit from support of mahalla developed micro-activities to prevent VAWG and shift gender-based stereotypes in 2023. The grant program, grant agreement, the vacancy announcements, as well as applications have already been developed. All documents are attached. Implementing partner jointly with Project team continues to build the capacity of civil society gender activists and leads the process of selecting consultants for the implementation of this component. Within this component, the project will ensure Adolescents in families left behind have support and knowledge of life competencies.

3.2.2 Host community consultations (thematic fairs) and meetings on the rights of abandoned women and children, including those with disabilities and abandoned wives. (UN Women/UNICEF)

The activity aligns with several SDGs. SDG 1: No Poverty - The activity aims to support abandoned women and children who are often among the poorest and most vulnerable members of society. SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being - Abandoned women and children, particularly those with disabilities, often face health challenges and inadequate access to healthcare. The consultations and meetings aim to address these challenges and promote better health and wellbeing for these groups. SDG 4: Quality Education - Abandoned children often miss out on education opportunities. The activity can help promote access to education for these children and promote equal opportunities. SDG 5: Gender Equality - The activity aims to promote the rights of women, including abandoned wives and women with disabilities, and to address gender inequalities. SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities - The activity aims to address inequality and discrimination faced by abandoned women and children, particularly those with disabilities. SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions - The activity supports the promotion of human rights and strengthens institutions to address issues related to abandoned women and children.

UNICEF, through its partner Good Neighbours Tajikistan, facilitated the establishment **of Local Response and Referral meetings mechanism (LRRM) in Kulob and Dusti**. The LRRM mechanism aims to identify and assist vulnerable migrant families facing challenges such as violence, exploitation and abuse by involving existing service networks, relevant government agencies, and civil society at the local level. The primary objective of the LRRM is to address issues related to access to protection and other welfare services for children and families left behind. During the period under review, five LRRM meetings were conducted in Kulob and Dusti, with members representing civil society organisations, schools, community leaders, and local government engaged in planning and provision of health, education, social care services, and benefits.

To promote the empowerment of communities, particularly women, four self-help groups were established, with two in Dusti and two in Kulob. The groups consist of leaders from mahallas and jamoats, as well as women. The main goal of the initiative is to provide training to community members on identifying and prioritizing challenges and finding collective solutions. The groups were trained using a socioecological framework, which allows for a multidimensional approach to examining such issues. This framework looks at challenges from five different dimensions, namely intrapersonal, interpersonal, organizational, environmental, and public policy factors. The socioecological framework recognizes that behaviors are influenced by multiple contextual factors. Throughout the reporting period, each group held four meetings to discuss and select the most pressing challenges within their community to address.

1. To enhance **children's participation**, the group aimed to involve them in decision-making processes, not just as passive attendees at events. They developed two initiatives: organizing small informative events within the community, and gathering all children in the city for a collaborative activity in order to put a spotlight on children's needs. At the community level, educators could work with students to showcase their diverse talents to the community, including singing, dancing, and drawing. During meetings, participants noted that many children don't have the opportunity to show their families their abilities, given that parents are often busy with work. Encouraging the community's involvement in these cultural-educational opportunities could help install pride in children, and ensure they have the support they need. For activities at the district level, children who are able to travel to the city could engage in activities such as drawing on the ground, dancing, or singing. The group didn't settle on one collective activity, as they had many ideas, but did decide on a combination that would include both the Mahalla and district levels. The group, known as Children's Friends in Dusti, aimed to support children's participation and involvement in their communities.

2) **Inter-mahalla's support** – Mahalla chiefs are discussing the possibility of working together to identify and address common issues. They propose a Mahalla Day to tackle problems and celebrate their community. Laghmon-1 (mahalla) will hold the first Mahalla Day as a pilot initiative, before expanding the concept to other mahallas with mutual support. UNICEF helped with developing a Concept Note, but mahallas preferred to do it themselves. The day would involve meetings, training, and recreational activities for children, parents, and community leaders, with further possibility for the event to take place at schools on weekends. Through a festive approach, they proposed to address the problems by the community.

3) **A peer-to-peer strategy for mother's groups** was developed after observing that women who were "left behind by their migrants" husbands did not only define themselves by what they lacked. In fact, during conversations, they emphasized their ability to overcome challenges and their roles as mothers. UNICEF began to visualize a peer-to-peer intervention project, guided by an ecological model, that focused on topics such as self-esteem, health, children's education, and skill development. Women from the group suggested these topics and, as they began to see themselves as a group defined by their motherhood and their strengths rather than their husbands' absence, they spontaneously planned future meetings. During an activity in Dusti, the women discussed what should be done to ensure children in the community were healthy, nourished, and educated. They wrote down their ideas on small pieces of paper that they put around a child's drawing on the wall, which damaged the external wall of a house. Nilufar's idea to use a carpet to protect the wall worked as an insight for the UNICEF team to develop a tool, called Nilufar's carpet, based on the typical Tajik carpet brought by Nilufar, to support the women's group to escalate that discussion in their own communities.

3.3.1 Train abandoned female caregivers on parenting skills (UNICEF)

This activity aims at improving the capacity of children caregivers and creating a favorable environment for children. Besides, it also serves to achieve several SDGs. By providing parenting skills training, this activity supports the SDG 1 "No Poverty" as it empowers abandoned female caregivers to care for their children effectively and improve their economic status. It also contributes to SDG 3 "Good Health and Well-being" as both caregivers and their children can benefit from effective parenting skills training. Moreover, it helps in reducing child mortality and promoting maternal health. Providing parenting skills training also supports SDG 4 "Quality Education" and increases access to education for children while improving the caregivers' literacy.

To support mothers and caregivers Good Neighbours Tajikistan conducted series of workshops on "Positive Parenting" in targeted districts. Total of 266 parents and caregivers participated in the Dusti and Kulob, 12 men and 254 women. The workshops were designed to help mothers and caregivers enhance their parenting skills and provide them with the necessary tools for dealing with various situations in a positive and constructive manner. The workshops were held over a period of several weeks, allowing participants to fully grasp the concepts taught and practice the new skills in a supportive environment. The curriculum covered a range of areas, including child development, effective communication, and discipline techniques. As a result of the workshops, participants reported an increase in confidence and a better understanding of their children's needs. Parents also reported a more enjoyable and fulfilling relationship with their children, resulting in a more positive home environment. Additionally, the training helped reduce stress and improve parents' mental health, enhancing their overall well-being. Overall, the

workshops were a resounding success in achieving the goal of supporting mothers and caregivers in their parenting journey.

3.3 The activity aligns with GCM #3 “Provide accurate and timely information at all stages of migration”. In July, IOM with involvement of supreme court experts organized capacity building trainings for state authorities and NGOs in the field of preventing and responding to violence against women, implementation of the rights of citizens to property, land and economic reserves. The main purpose of the three-days trainings were promotion of international and national legislation practice related to the prevention and response to violence against women, rights of citizens and families of migrant workers to property, land and economic reserves, combating domestic violence. During the trainings, the knowledge level of relevant representatives of state structures and non-governmental organizations were improved in terms of the procedures and considering applications, complaints and other appeals from these categories of citizens, associated with violations of their rights and interests and also providing high-quality legal assistance to the families left behind. Observation and analysis show that the mechanism of redirecting persons and families of labor migrants to other legal support specialists for assistance does not work sufficiently, therefore the project support on this field were accepted positively by the government authorities and participants. The training covered 25 participants in Dusti and 22 participants in Kulob.

During June – August, IOM with the involvement of implementing partners arranged information sessions to the women left behind. Thirty information sessions with 20 participants in each were organized in Kulob and the same number was in Dusti, in total 1,200 beneficiaries were covered. The information sessions covered such topics as safe migration, labor migration, positive and negative aspects of it, information about human trafficking and violence against women and other related issues to migration. By questions and answers the participants raised their awareness on many aspects of migration.

3.3.2 Disseminate a competence-based resource pack to teachers and education staff to support the development of competencies of adolescents for transition to life and work (UNICEF)

Activities 3.3.2 and 3.3.3 will contribute to achieving outcome 3 by providing teachers and education staff with a resource pack that supports the development of competencies in adolescents for their transition to life and work, thus increasing their knowledge and skills. Will also contribute to achieving outcome 3 by supporting the development of competencies in adolescents for their transition to life and work and their application in practice through various platforms such as student councils in schools, non-formal education in Centres for Additional Education, and summer camps. This will increase the support and knowledge of life competencies among adolescents left behind, which is an important component of protecting their rights and promoting their well-being.

These activities also align with UN Sustainable Development Goal 4: Quality Education. Specifically, it supports Target 4.4, which aims to increase the number of youths and adults who have relevant skills for employment, decent jobs, and entrepreneurship. The activity further aligns with Indicator 4.4.1, which calls for the proportion of youth and adults with information and communication technology (ICT) skills, as well as other technical and vocational skills needed for employment, decent work, and entrepreneurship. By disseminating a competence-based resource pack to teachers and education staff to support the development of competencies of adolescents for transition to life and work, the activity helps ensure that young people have the necessary skills to succeed in an increasingly competitive job market, promoting economic growth and reducing inequality.

Improving the knowledge and skills of children on the issues of family violence, civil status, and migration is crucial to protect them from harm. To this end, the Student Council members in all targeted schools

have been activated, and their capacity has been strengthened through a three-day training that utilized the Competency-Based Education (CBE) manuals developed by UNICEF. The training was facilitated in an interactive manner, encouraging discussions and increasing participants' engagement. As a result, the children's skills in communication, critical thinking, and problem identification and solving have been enhanced, which is essential in the context of violence prevention, gender-based violence, and conflict mitigation. Overall, the project interventions have covered 902 Student Council members (comprising 20-25 members, including students with disabilities and children from different socio-ethnic backgrounds) from 15 targeted schools in Dusti and Kulob, including 337 boys and 565 girls. It is envisioned that the Student Council will assist in addressing the obstacles that hinder access to education for children with physical disabilities and marginalized groups, particularly girls, in targeted areas.

3.3.3 Support the development of competencies of adolescents for transition to life and work and their application in practice through various platforms, such as student councils in schools, non-formal education in Centres for Additional Education and summer camps (UNICEF)

Dedicated to Student Council members, the summer camps provide in-depth training and exchange of experiences on the prevention of violence, including SGBV, in community, family, and school settings across different regions and schools. The impact of the camps was multiplied as school children who received training worked closely with their peers in their own schools, creating a long-lasting impact on human mental and social life.

Two organized summer camps were held during August 2-5 in Shirkent/Tursunzade and August 11-14, 2022 in Madagascar/Romit. These served as a platform where children reinforced their knowledge and had an opportunity to share experiences and learn from each other. UNICEF designed thematic games with questions and answers on children and women's rights and competencies, proper conduct, accurate approaches to authorities, and fundamental human rights. In addition, UNICEF organized various sports and entertainment activities, such as football, volleyball, chess, checkers, and swimming, as well as other tournaments at the summer camp. Children were also exposed to out-of-curriculum activities, gaining knowledge about competencies, soft skills, and child rights, and protection for both children and their family members.

The 269 participants in the summer camps, consisting of 196 boys and 73 girls, actively participated in new initiatives with the implementation of complaint boxes in their schools along with internal class discussions with their classmates. In-site classroom discussions occurred regularly in each school once a month to identify possible cases of violence between classmates and other children, and to discuss ways of prevention and reporting to eliminate violence in their schools and communities.

Outcome 4: National, regional and local government identify and plan to implement evidence-based responses to 'families left behind'. Ensuring that evidence on 'Families Left Behind' is available to guide policy planning (Output 4.1), Fora are available to facilitate policy and implementation planning at National and district levels (4.2) Policy guidance on families left behind is available (4.3).

4.1 In May the project conducted baseline assessment with involvement of international baseline consultant from Kallick Consulting. This baseline assessment focuses on the vulnerable women and families of migrant workers – those who live in the Dusti and Kulob districts and received insufficient or no remittances from their migrant workers in the last 12 months. The objective of the baseline assessment is to conduct baseline measurements of the 15 outcome indicators and 2 output level indicators of the Baseline Indicators Matrix. In addition to the other monitoring and evaluation tools and methods of the

project, the baseline assessment will serve to inform evidenced-based management decisions on the project interventions and its partners in Tajikistan and guide the project's broader M&E framework and activities. As outlined in the project's results framework, the project also foresees other activities to inform its M&E system, such as situation analysis, activity records, project reports and administrative data. The final report was developed and presented to project management and partners in July 2022. In the end of the project, an endline assessment will be carried out.

In June – August the project hired the international consultant to conduct study on the conditions and behaviors associated with Tajik labor migrants' families left behind. The purpose of the study was increase the understanding of the conditions and behaviors of the phenomenon of families "left behind" by labor migrants (LM) when they go abroad. The research targeted different project stakeholders, including local Migration Services, Committee for Women and Family Affairs, Marriage Registration Office, civil society organizations, local authorities on sub-district level, community leaders, Diaspora organizations in Russian Federations and Republic of Kazakhstan, Tajik migrant workers and females left behind. The tools for data collection were questionnaire and focus group discussion. The research involved national consultant to collect data from different group of respondents. The result of the study showed that marriage norms put a greater stress on an already fragile family environment created by labor migration. Participants in this study indicated that arranged marriages and labor migration create problems in the family, often abandonment, and brings financial and emotional challenges. Living conditions of wives left behind vary based on whether they work, with whom they live, or from whom they receive support. Very few have the level of financial security that comes with stable jobs. The results, findings and recommendations of the study was presented to the government officials at the meeting held on 04 October 2022.

4.2. Since April 2022 the project has been conducting monthly coordination meetings in two targeted districts, involving the representatives of state authorities in the area, PUNOs representative, NGOs, implementing partners as well as the beneficiaries. During the meeting the representative of Hukumat, PUNO with involved NGOs share information on the achievements and plans of the project for certain period, discuss the challenges and barriers of project implementation and find the ways for overcoming of these challenges and suggestion to improve the delivery of the project. This platform works in very effective way on regularly bringing all involved stakeholders of the project, thus adjusting project implementation properly. Besides, periodically the participation of respected Ministries and Agencies, such as MoLMEP, MoA, CoWA and NBT in order to raise the high-level authorities about the implementation process of the project.

4.3. The activity aligns with several SDGs. SDG 5: Gender Equality - The activity aims to promote the rights of women, including abandoned wives and women with disabilities, and to address gender inequalities. SDG 1 "No Poverty" it aims to increase awareness of families left behind amongst policy makers and senior officials to be aware of the abandoned families to care for their economic status.

In 2020-2022 UN Women in Tajikistan, on the request from the MoLMEP, provided technical assistance to develop eligibility criteria for targeted assistance from the Government of Tajikistan. In 2022, based on the MoLMEP request, the UN Women supported the Rapid Assessment on the impact of the Ukrainian crisis and coronavirus pandemic on the families of migrants in pilot districts, including impact on the external and domestic processes. The Assessment was conducted by the Monitoring Centre at the MoLMEP. Amid global upheavals of recent years related to the COVID-19 pandemic and the commenced military operations in Ukraine, which have had and continue to have an impact on the political and economic situation at the global level, including the Central Asian countries of the former Soviet republics, this document was aimed at providing up-to-date information to the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan on the impact of the situation on the households in the country. The study, along with the IOM

study on the Conditions, Motivations and Patterns of behaviour that lead to abandonment of migrant's wives and families of migrants was presented to the key stakeholders, state and non-state at the meeting of the Inter-agency working group on Labour Migrants Support Fund and further informed decisions of the government.

In total, the survey covered 600 respondents, three quarters (75.8%) of whom were women. More than half of the women surveyed are wives of heads of households – 55.1%. Of the total number of female heads of households, who made up 12.4%, two-thirds (66.7%) were widows. Despite the efforts being made in the country to ensure gender equality, equal opportunities, including access to education, a situation in which the level of education of women is shifted towards the general secondary education and lower and lack of vocational skills persists. Of the total number of households covered by the survey, 21.0% noted that they have not received money transfers in the last 3 months. Of the most vulnerable households with 9 or more people, including children under the age of 16, almost a quarter (25.5%) of households have stopped receiving money transfers. The risks of increasing the share of poor households are increasing. The share of expenditures on food increased in parallel with a reduction in expenditures on other items, including expenditures on education, health, etc. In general, the analysis shows that the most vulnerable are representatives of extended households in which several generations live. In general, over the past three months, since the beginning of the crisis in Ukraine, the extended households with several generations have had difficulties paying for utilities, they had to borrow to cover daily expenses, costs for receiving medical services have decreased. In April, 62.5% of households were unable to buy sufficient foodstuffs. The more people live in a household, the less possibilities there are to buy food. If the situation with non-receipt of remittances persists, the risks of malnutrition increase, particularly, among extended household.

The MoLMEP recognized the role and expressed its appreciation to the UN Women in assessing the increased vulnerability, suggesting best experiences to assess and address it, and a specific focus on the status of women related to crisis.

UN Women also partnered with IOM, UNICEF, Monitoring Centre at the MoLMEP, local research company Zerkalo Analytics Group, local governments and CSOs. In the course of this work, UN Women has successfully established and strengthened partnership with the above actors.

20 individuals from 3 targeted ministries (MEDT, MoF, MoLMEP), increased technical and managerial capacities on prioritizations for GRB in socio-economic aspects of migration and diagnostic of systemic GRB financing bottleneck by provision of knowledge and data in 2022. The activity shifted to 2023 due to the delays in implementation of the Financing SDGs Programme: the pilot programme for GRB implementation in Tajikistan. Having said that in 2022 the UN-Women, became a member of the working group of the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Tajikistan on the implementation of gender- and climate-response budgeting, as well as the introduction of a marker for measuring the Sustainable Development Goals (Order No. 106 of 09/20/2022) and provides support to the MoF in this direction.

This support included the provision of international experience in the promotion of gender-responsive budgeting, in particular by the sharing best practices of the representative of the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Albania, and the adviser of the UN Women Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia.

Activities still in progress and will be finalized in 2023.

The activity will contribute to achieving Outcome 4 by increasing the capacity of civil servants and high officials on Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB) in Tajikistan. This activity aligns with several UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Mainly it aligns with SDG 5: Gender Equality - The activity aims to promote the rights of women, including abandoned wives and women with disabilities, and to address gender inequalities. SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities - The activity aims to address inequality and discrimination faced by women and girls, particularly those with disabilities. SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions - The activity supports the promotion of human rights and strengthens institutions to address issues related to women and men.

Notably, based on the outcomes of the piloting, the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan has committed itself to roll-out the GRB in Tajikistan in 2023-2024. Based on the piloted products: budget sector analysis, training module, guide on practical GRB implementation, the Project Team is planning to adopt and update them and introduce GRB at the level of local government. In total, 20 civil servants from the relevant ministries and local governments will increase knowledge, skills and competencies in the development and implementation of GRB. The **Academy for Public administration (APA), who is now is the owner of the training module** on "Gender responsive Budgeting (GRB) goals, objectives and prospects", will provide training on gender-sensitive budgets focused on economic efficiency and transparency of budget expenditures, taking into account the needs of women and men, as well as providing information on international experience in implementing gender budgeting and applying gender approaches in the distribution of budgetary resources. 4 knowledge products have been made available to the officials of the Government of Tajikistan - members of the MoF Technical Working Group on Gender and Climate Responsive Budgeting:

- Step-by-Step guidance on gender analysis and methodology of gender analysis
- List of the data needed for GRB
- GRB training module
- GRB practical guide

As part of the Migration Programme, the mentioned knowledge products will be updated with a focus on the socio-economic sector.

The draft of the **National Migration Strategy 2030** has been **gender mainstreamed**. The Government of Tajikistan increased its commitments to gender equality and women's empowerment through policy development, coordination efforts, and practical initiatives to promote women's rights. In particular, these commitments are now reflected in the draft National Migration Strategy. The adoption and implementation of this Strategy 2030 will be an important political step for Tajikistan. With the Office's support the draft Strategy now responds to the needs of women, related to their social protection, support, and economic activities. It should be noted, the initial draft of the strategy was gender-neutral and relevant gender aspects were poorly highlighted in various sections. The UN Women's recommendations included:

- changes into the overall structure of the strategy to better reflect gender issues
- gender analysis of key trends in the fields of labor migration
- suggested gender disaggregated/or gender-specific indicators to the Monitoring and Evaluation Section
- changed text from gender-neutral into gender-sensitive
- introduced gender-specific actions

The Deputy Minister of Labor, Migration, and Employment of Population Minister (MoLMEP) recognized the role of UN Women in supporting the legislation at various stakeholders' meetings. It's expected, the Strategy will be adopted in 2023. Office also partnered with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UNICEF, IOM, FAO to ensure that draft Strategy incorporated the multifaceted nature of women's vulnerability and addressed them in a comprehensive way. Prominent civil society actors provided key recommendations and inputs to the draft Strategy. In the course of this work, Office has successfully strengthened partnership with above state and non-state partners.

Results Reporting Framework						
INDICATORS	Target	Results achieved for the reporting period (only provide data for the specified year)			Cumulative Results <i>Note: For Y1 report, this will be the same; For Y2 report, it will be Y1+Y2; and for Y3 report, it will be Y1+Y2+Y3</i>	Notes
		Y1	Y2	Y3		
OUTCOME 1 Families left behind enjoy improved wellbeing						
Indicator 1a: % of targeted women and children left behind who report improved wellbeing as a result of receiving psychosocial support, disaggregated by sex and age.	100 (of 200 WLB)				0	This activity is steel delaying as the process of trainings are going on
Indicator 1b: % of children at risk of being placed in Residential childcare institutions found alternative family-based solutions and were prevented from institutionalization	100 (of 200 children of WLB)		104%			208 children received additional support through social accompany, legal, medical and educational support to children with disabilities and other children at risk of being placed in the residential childcare institutions. Since we planned to support 100 out of 200, which makes 50% target reach, but in reality we could support all, and identified another 8 case at risk, that brings the percentage from 50% to 104% reached.
OUTPUT 1.1 Service providers at local level have enhanced capacity to provide continuum of psychosocial services for women and children left behind						

Indicator 1.1a: # of women and children who have received social services, disaggregated by sex and age	400 200 women 200 children			200 children 290 women	200 children 290 women	A total of 200 children and 290 women received social support services in two target districts.
Indicator 1.1b: # of training participants sensitized on issues of women and children left behind during advocacy events, disaggregated by sex	25	0			0	The activity is in 2023
Indicator 1.1c: Level of awareness, response and coordination of available services between officials dealing with women and children issues at local level (Scale from 0-3: Officials are aware about issues – 1 point; there is a functional coordination mechanism – 1 point; Officials respond to issues – 1 point)	3 points	0		2 points	2 points	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Present two researches to the partners and involved Government Agencies: conditions and behaviors associated with families left behind by IOM and impact of the Ukraine crisis on the households with labour Migrants by UN Women 2. Roundtable on presentation of situational analysis of WLB on psychosocial and economic situation 3. Will be in 2023

Indicator 1.1d: # of maternity ward (in targeted districts) with knowledge and skills to provide family counselling and support to prevent child abandonment and relinquishment, disaggregated by sex	100	0	104 (101 women and 3 men)		104 (101 women and 3 men)	The number of participants exceeds the project target, which was 100.
Indicator 1.1e: # of para-social workers trained who demonstrate increased knowledge on modern methods and techniques of social services, disaggregated by sex	50	0			80 (60 women and 20 men)	A total of 8 training courses were conducted for social workers in Kulob and Dusti. The training program was tailored based on training needs assessment and includes topics related to Child Rights, Case Management, and Psychosocial support.
Indicator 1.1f: # of participants at advocacy events, disaggregated by sex	120	0			150	Advocacy events were conducted
OUTCOME 2 Families left behind have increased economic resilience and address gender related barriers to economic inclusion						
Indicator 2a: % of target families with increased savings	Baseline/End-line 525 (of 700 women)	0			0	Endline Assessment will provide the result indicator

	receive financial literacy training, #480 agricultural support)					
Indicator 2b: % increase in incomes for households participating in agricultural support	Baseline/Endline 96 (of 480=#320 receive agricultural inputs, #160 women are involved in processing	0			0	Endline Assessment will provide the result indicator
Indicator 2c: % Post-harvest losses of projects beneficiaries due to better land and water management, improved farming capacities, access to technology, etc	42% 320 who receive agricultural inputs (also #160 women are involved in processing, #500 women are trained in agricultural skills)	0			0	Endline Assessment will provide the result indicator
Indicator 2d: % of trained women earning income in the area of vocational training	60 (#200 women receive vocational training)	0			0	Endline Assessment will provide the result indicator
Indicator 2e: % of target women reporting additional time free from unpaid/care work	375 (of 700 WLB)	0			0	Endline Assessment will provide the result indicator

for other activity or education						
Indicator 2f: # of financial providers offering new tailored products for 'families left behind or families of migrants'	3	0			0	Partnership was built with National Bank of Tajikistan to support these interventions. Additional financial literacy trainings were provided for reinforcing the targeted indicator
OUTPUT 2.1 Families left behind have increased capacity to utilize their land and water resources						
Indicator 2.1a: # women farmers trained	300	0		300	300	As a result of the arranged meetings, the abandoned women living in the neighbouring communities were grouped into a total of 19 women groups. Out of 19 groups, 9 women groups with an average of 30 members per group are based in Dusti districts and 10 women groups with an average 26 members per group in Kulob area. As depicted in the data provided in Table 1 of Annex 1, 273 women (9 groups) were enrolled in the list of beneficiaries in the Dusti district and 264 abandoned women (10 groups) did in the Kulob area.

						The only problems - the goods are not distributed yet
Indicator 2.1b: % trained women farmers reporting implementing learnt techniques	75%	0			0	The theoretical part is completed and practical part is still in process
Indicator 2.1c: # of children trained, disaggregated by sex	1000	0		851	851	JFS Training Guide for the establishment of the Junior Farmer Field Schools (JFS) developed and the JFFS were established. A total of 1,049 schoolchildren (523 in Dusti and 526 in Kulob) from the 50 secondary schools will be benefited from the trainings.
OUTPUT 2.2 Families left behind have access to increased/improved local value chains (VC) through farming, small-scale processing initiatives, retail and marketing						
Indicator 2.2a: # of small plots established	320	0			0	Technical specifications for the agricultural inputs to be procured under the framework of the FFS was developed. The activity will be completed in 2023
Indicator 2.2b: # of farmers and families benefitting from processing activities	250 (200 farmers / 50 families)	0			0	All the actions on this indicator were done only the process of competition is ongoing. The activity will be completed in 2023

Indicator 2.2c: # of person reached with awareness raising of best practices	1000	0			1000	<p>The project organized awareness raising campaigns on “16 days of activism against gender based violence”</p> <p>Another awareness raising campaign is scheduled in 2023</p>
OUTPUT 2.3 Women left behind have improved vocational skills to better access alternative employment						
Indicator 2.3a: # of women trained and acquired vocational skills	200	0		45	45	<p>vocational courses in two targeted areas were conducted in cooperation with the Centre for Elders’ education under the Ministry of Labour, Migration, and Employment of the Population. As an outcome of the training programs, 45 women obtained a state-recognized diploma</p> <p>The activity will be reached in 2023</p>

OUTPUT 2.4 A government engaged gender assessment and mobilization process supports women to plan for livelihoods and dedicate more time to economic activity and community projects (UN Women)

Indicator 2.4a: # of community mobilizers trained	20	0		22	22	International Consultant was hired for the adoption of GALS methodology to the context of Tajikistan and training of local experts and CSOs on GALS modules.
Indicator 2.4b: % of mobilizers with increased knowledge	85%	0		85%	85%	GALS Champs increased their knowledge
Indicator 2.4c: # of self-help group participants	280 (individuals)	0		350	350	Have been established 14 active Groups consisting 20 person
Indicator 2.4d: # of families benefited from micro-projects and Community actions on the economy of care/unpaid work	500	0			0	The grant procedures have done as well as applications already been developed. Activity is ongoing and will be completed before May 2023

OUTPUT 2.5 Families left behind have improved financial inclusion and increased skills and knowledge to manage debt.

Indicator 2.5a: # of beneficiaries trained	700	0		728	728	The project conducted 36 two-days trainings on
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						<p>financial literacy for 720 beneficiaries (20 WLB involved) in the last quarter of 2022 by IOM Partners in 2 districts.</p> <p>Under this indicator also been conducted trainings on financial literacy (business profile and cost-benefit analysis of agri-processing activities)</p>
Indicator 2.5b: % of trainees improving their financial literacy (knowledge)	85%	0		85%	85%	As per pre and post training evaluation
Indicator 2.5c: # of financial providers (participants) attending workshops	60	0		67	67	Conducted capacity events in each target district
OUTCOME 3 Women and children left behind are protected and seek to protect their rights						
Indicator 3a:% of target women and children reporting increased intention to seek access to rights	525 (of 700 WLB) 975 (of 1300 children)	0			0	The target will be developed as per results of the Endline
Indicator 3b: % of service users reporting satisfactory access to services		0			0	The target will be developed as per results of the Endline

Indicator 3c: % of target beneficiaries who report (i) increased knowledge of rights and (ii) community support for rights	(I) 1900 (of 2000 WLB/ family members) (II) 1400 (of 2000 WLB/ family members)	0			0	The target will be developed as per results of the Endline
Indicator 3d: % of adolescents acquired skills and competencies to transition to work life	180 (of 900 adolescents)	0				
Indicator 3e: % of targeted women seeking psychosocial and emotional support services disaggregated by age.	Baseline/Endline 560 (of 700 WLB)	0			0	The target will be developed as per results of the Endline
OUTPUT 3.1 Women and children left behind are protected and seek to protect their rights						
Indicator 3.1a: # of women and children who received legal, social and protection support service /referrals, including birth registration	2000	0		2263	2263	Indicator is defined by three PUNOs(IOM,UNW,FAO)
Indicator 3.1b: # of women and girls who received integrated community based sexual gender based violence (SGBV) services	200	0		500	500	Individuals applied to dept.of CoWFA in piloted regions on SGBV cases

Indicator 3.1c: # of service providers who are aware of legal issues faced by women left behind	100	0		118	118	Conducted trainings on care work, SGBV refferal mechanism
OUTPUT 3.2 Women and girls left behind have increased individual and community support and knowledge of their rights						
Indicator 3.2a: # of people reached through awareness campaigns on [rights and protections, social inclusion, SGBV]	102,000	0		125750	125750	PUNOs jointly conducted advocacy and awareness campaigns to ensure women and girls left behind have increased individual and community support and knowledge of their rights
Indicator 3.2b: # of activists/advocates active, disaggregated by sex.	20	0		40	40	
Indicator 3.2.c: # of CSOs capacitated	20	0		45	45	The preparatory steps are made on GALS approaches to work with the beneficiaries
Indicator 3.2.e: # of individuals benefited from micro-projects and community activities on Elimination of Violence Against Women	600 (each activity affects at least 100 inhabitants)	0			0	The activity is ongoing. And will be completed in 2023
OUTPUT 3.3 Adolescents left behind have support and knowledge of life competencies						

Indicator 3.3a: # of female caregivers trained on parenting, psychosocial and emotional support	200 direct 400 indirect	0			266 (254 women, 12 men)	The 112 parents and guardians of children were involved in the Dusti district training . From these only 12 were men and 100 women. The 154 parents and guardians of children in the city of Kulyab , and all 154 were women. Indirect beneficiaries will be identified in 2023
Indicator 3.3b: # of adolescents from the grade 8 to 11 from targeted schools will participate in life skills/competencies programme	900 (in 15 schools)	0			902 (337 boys and 565 girls)	.To build a capacity of Student Council members were conducted 2 days training for 902 Student Council members from 15 targeted schools in Dusti and Kulob. The purpose of the training was to build the capacity of Student Council's members to be a local school resources.
Indicator 3.3c: # of adolescents to participate in competency-based education for outdoor learning	240 (in 3 camps)	0			269 adolescents (196 boys and 73 girls)	During the summer season, a summer camp was arranged for children in Varzob, Romit, and the Shirkent gorge.
Indicator 3.3d: # of adolescents supported with psychosocial	80	0			0	Planned in 2023

support, community-based rehabilitation and diverted from justice processes						
Indicator 3.3e: % increase in perceptions and attitudes of adolescents who took part in competency-based and skills development programme (Scale from 0-3: Adolescents are aware about competency-based and skills development programme – 1 point; adolescents took part in competency-based and skills development programme – 1 point; adolescents use acquired skills – 1 point)	20% increase among targeted group	0			0	The theoretical part was conducted and the final assessment will identify the progress
OUTCOME 4 National and regional and local government identify and plan to implement evidence-based responses to ‘Families left Behind’						
Indicator 4a: Existence of policy guidance on families left behind, in line with international standards, developed, approved and implemented. [Developed = 1,	2	0		2	2	PUNOs met with MoLMEP to provide their support with integrating of families left behind in the National Migration Strategy.

submitted =2, approved = 3, implemented =4]						
Indicator 4b: District Task Forces are functional in 2 districts [1= include gender responsive activities in Local development Plans, 2= Activities are budgeted, 3 = Activities are implemented.]	2	0		2	2	The activity is ongoing and will be completed in 2023
OUTPUT 4.1 Evidence on 'Families left behind' is available to guide policy planning						
Indicator 4.1a: # of assessment/ research reports disseminated	3	0		3	3	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Impact of the Ukraine Crisis on the Households with Labour Migrants UN Women. 2. The study on the conditions and behaviors associated with families left behind of Tajik labor migrants. 3. Assessment of psychosocial and economic status of women affected by migration in Dusti and Kulob UNICEF
Indicator 4.1b: # of individuals of related ministries, whose <u>technical and managerial capacities</u> on prioritization for	20 staff of 3 ministries (MoF, MEDT, MoLEM)	0		24	24	The training on GRB implementation was conducted with respective agencies

Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB) in socio-economic aspects of migration and diagnostics of systemic GRB financing bottlenecks are supported by knowledge and data						
Indicator 4.1c: # of knowledge products introduced to the officials of MoF, MoLE, MEDT.	2	0		2	2	1.Assessment of psychosocial and economic status of women affected by migration in Dusti and Kulob. 2.The study on the conditions and behaviors associated with families left behind of Tajik labor migrants
OUTPUT 4.2 Fora are available to facilitate policy and implementation planning at National and district levels						
Indicator 4.2a: # of District Task Force meetings held	7 (quarterly after trainings)	0	9		9	Monthly coordination meetings in Dusti and Kulob with local authorities IOM/UNICEF 4 meetings will be in 2023
Indicator 4.2b: # of senior officials participating in consultation and learning visits [Deputy Minister or above)	45 (25 on GRB)	0		9	9	Participation of the Minister of Labor, Migration and Employment in high level

						<p>event in UN HQ and St. Petersburg</p> <p>The process is ongoing</p>
Indicator 4.2c: # of District Task Forces capacitated on GRB, with focus on migration sector.	2	0			0	The activity will be conducted in 2023
OUTPUT 4.3 Policy guidance on families left behind is available						
Indicator 4.3a: # of stakeholders [orgs/departments] participating in development and review of policy input	20	0				<p>PUNOs met with MoLMEP to provide their support with integrating of families left behind in the National Migration Strategy.</p> <p>The draft of the National Migration Strategy 2030 has been gender mainstreamed.</p> <p>20 individuals from 3 targeted ministries (MEDT, MoF, MoLMEP), will increase technical and managerial capacities on prioritizations for GRB in socio-economic aspects of migration and diagnostic of systemic GRB financing bottleneck by provision of</p>

						knowledge and data in 2023.
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2. Partnerships

Provide information on key partnerships established under the Joint Programme, expanding on: i) Role of the government; ii) Strategic contributions from local government and civil society if applicable; and iii) the ways in which other stakeholders (in particular, migrants and migration affected communities) are involved, including methods for participatory dialogue, co-design, and co-delivery.²

Please provide the following information, using the table below:

Has the Joint Programme entered into implementation agreements (financial or other) with local government and/or related entities (e.g. provincial, municipal, district agencies)? Please provide details (name and type of partner, nature of agreement, etc.).

Has the Joint Programme entered into implementation agreements with non-governmental stakeholder? Implementation agreements are interpreted broadly to include coordination and collaboration partnerships, entailing financial support, or not. Please provide details (name and type of stakeholder, nature of agreement/partnerships, etc.).

Implementation Agreements			
Name & Type of Partner	Type of implementation agreement (please specify if any MOU or agreement was formally entered)	Relevant outcome and/or output; PUNO counterpart	Financial value (if any)
Local government and/or related entities			
<i>Name of partner</i>			
<i>Type of partner</i>			
<i>Name of partner</i>			
<i>Type of partner</i>			
Non-governmental stakeholders			
<i>Public Organization "Akhtari Bakht"</i>	Project Implementation Agreement	IOM Outcome 2: Families left behind have increased economic resilience and address gender related barriers to economic inclusion	USD 33,603.94

² Please refer to the Guidance Note on Engagement with Civil Society, Migrants and Communities in Annex D4 (separate PDF document).

		<p>Output 2.5 Families left behind have improved financial inclusion and increased skills and knowledge to manage debt.</p> <p>Outcome 3 Women and children left behind are protected and seek to protect their rights</p> <p>Output 3.1 Government and NGO services have increased capacity to provide access to information and legal services on issues of family violence, access to land, civil status, migration and family tracing.</p> <p>Outcome 4 National and regional and local government identify and plan to implement evidence-based responses to ‘Families left Behind’</p> <p>Output 4.2a # of District Task Force meetings held</p>	
Public Organization “Mayram”	Project Implementation Agreement	<p>IOM</p> <p>Outcome 2: Families left behind have increased economic resilience and address gender related barriers to economic inclusion</p> <p>Output 2.5 Families left behind have improved financial inclusion and increased skills and knowledge to manage debt.</p> <p>Outcome 3 Women and children left behind are protected and seek to protect their rights</p> <p>Output 3.1 Government and NGO services have increased capacity to provide access to information and legal services on issues of family violence, access to land, civil status, migration and family tracing.</p> <p>Outcome 4 National and regional and local government identify and plan to implement evidence-based responses to ‘Families left Behind’</p> <p>Output 4.2a # of District Task Force meetings held</p>	USD 33,603.94
The Branch of Good Neighbors International in Tajikistan	Program Document for the implementation of the Program “Empowering women and children left behind by	<p>UNICEF</p> <p>Outcome 1 Families left behind enjoy improved wellbeing</p> <p>Output 1.1 Service providers at local level have enhanced capacity to provide</p>	<p>TJS 2,077,420.00</p> <p>The approximate amount in USD is 190,415,00</p>

	<p>migrants in Kulob and Dusti”</p>	<p>continuum of psychosocial services for women and children left behind</p> <p>Outcome 2 Families left behind have increased economic resilience and address gender related barriers to economic inclusion</p> <p>Output 2.3 Women left behind have improved vocational skills to better access alternative employment</p> <p>Outcome 3 Women and children left behind are protected and seek to protect their rights</p> <p>Output 3.1 Women and children left behind are protected and seek to protect their rights</p> <p>Output 3.3 Adolescents left behind have support and knowledge of life competencies</p>	
<p><i>PO “Gender and Development”</i></p>	<p>Partner Agreement Signed: 20/04/2022 Expires: 30/04/2023</p>	<p>UN-Women</p> <p>Outcome 2: Families left behind have increased economic resilience and address gender related barriers to economic inclusion</p> <p>Output 2.4. A government engaged gender assessment and mobilization process supports women to plan for livelihoods and dedicate more time to economic activity and community projects (UNWomen)</p> <p>Outcome 3: Women and children left behind are protected and seek to protect their rights</p> <p>Output 3.2. Women and girls left behind have increased individual and community support and knowledge of their rights</p>	<p>TJS 2,009,570 the approximate amount in USD is 160.963,00</p>

Partnerships

The Project utilizes a top-down government approach, engaging different ministries/committees in sectoral activities along with district and jamoat officials and local committees throughout the implementation process. The Project encourages participation of officials at senior levels, embedding learning across the relevant institutions. The lead ministry is the MoLMEP, with the Minister as the signing party of the Project. The Committee on Women and Family Affairs will be closely engaged, given the strong engagement on gender and use of CoWFA structures at field level. However, there are also other government structures, such as Ministry of Health and Social Protection of the Population, Ministry of Agriculture and National Bank of Tajikistan, whose support is essential for project implementation.

For the first, the project brought together all project stakeholders, including government structures, UN, civil society organizations, and research institutes during kick-off meeting, which was held in August 2021. The UN Resident Coordinator and Deputy Minister of MoLMEP called participants for a close partnership to make joint efforts towards addressing vulnerabilities of families left behind by migrant workers. In her speech, UN Resident Coordinator emphasized that project requires a strong recognition and attention of all project partners to this social phenomenon - families abandonment since these families suffer from social, economic and psychosocial hardships and can easily end up with falling under extreme poverty if relevant support is not provided by government and international community on time.

The first PSC meeting, which followed kick-off meeting provided more room for government partners and civil society organizations to raise questions on project activities and discuss joint cooperation. The participants provided useful suggestions to PUNOs regarding approaches to be used to increase impact of project on beneficiaries.

PUNOs conducted the second Project Steering Committee Meeting (PSCM) on 13 September 2022, which was co-chaired by the Ministry of Labour, Migration and Employment of Population (MoLMEP) and UNRCO. The members of the PSCM were the government structures, representing MoLMEP, national and local Migration Services, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Education and Science, Committee for Youth and Sport, National Bank of Tajikistan, local Hukumat of Kulob city and Dusti district and civil society organizations. The project progress was presented to the participants, where highly appreciated by the UNRC and highlighted successful support of families left behind in two target district and encouraged the participants to consider how to scale up this project, as the two regions covered by the pilot are not the only ones that send migrant workers abroad. The Project Steering Committee members emphasized the importance of this project to respond to multidimensional problems of families left behind and providing them with support they need to overcome the problems they face due to migration of their family members.

Each PUNO also met with its government partners separately to discuss joint cooperation in detail since not all project issues can be covered in the PSC. One such meeting was held with National Bank of Tajikistan regarding financial education intervention. The National Bank of Tajikistan, specifically Consumer Protection and Financial Services Department of National Bank of Tajikistan, which is responsible for financial education, supported the project initiative and emphasized its alignment with the National Strategy of Government on Financial Literacy for the period up to 2025, National Development Plan of Tajikistan for 2030 and global frameworks. They mentioned that the National

Strategy on Financial Literacy put its special emphasis on migrants and their family members as remittances senders and remittances recipients to increase their capacity on financial literacy.

The project team invested in building partnerships with the key stakeholders on the topic via the Financing for SDG project: MoF, MEDT, National Development Council, Academy for Civil Servants Training. The Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB) assessment has been well studied and discussed with the stakeholders. Activities under the Outcome 4; Undertake Gender sectorial analysis on GRB (migration / socio-economic sector), and development of a GRB implementation guide according to the workplan were transferred to the Year 2023.

Development and localization of a referral mechanism for sexual gender-based violence (SGBV) cases in two target districts and a three day training "Strengthening cooperation between state sectoral departments on leadership in promoting the principles of gender based violence elimination" (20 people - NGOs and Government Service Providers) in Khatlon Oblast. However, the project learned from the experience of the Spotlight Program and its materials to adapt the localize SGBV response system in the pilot districts.

The project also established partnership with local government since project is being implemented in two target areas of Khatlon region of Tajikistan. During the field trip, the project team, who were accompanied by national level partners, met with Deputy Head of Khatlon Oblast (region), which is an administrative division, covering 21 districts and cities, including Kulob and Dusti districts- targeted project areas. The meeting was also attended by social protection and migration department representatives to keep posted about project initiation in two districts of Khatlon, its goals and objectives and activities. The project team also met with Head of Kulob and Deputy Head of Dusti districts to present the project and get their support for its smooth implementation. Since the field trip was during "16 Days of Activism Against Gender – Based Violence" campaign, which is aligned with project objectives, the local government requested to support this initiative and raise their voices against gender based violence.

The partnership was also extended at the level of sub-district and village to assist with data collection on families left behind. The project also invited civil society organization who were in the Project Civil Society Reference Group (PCSRG) to attend during kick-off meeting and PSC and provide their inputs to project implementation based on their practice with vulnerable groups of society, families left behind.

3. Cross-Cutting Issues

The project covers cross cutting issues through its all four components. Human rights principle, including rights of families left behind for a dignified life is integrated to ensure improved well-being, increased economic resilience and increased access to right based services to raise their concern for a better life. During field visits to project target areas, the local government partners were requested to focus their special attention on gender based violence as a serious violation of human rights, which hampers attain gender equality in the country.

Human right issues were always raised during the meetings, workshops and other activities highlighting social, economic and psychosocial difficulties, which families left behind experience due to not receiving of required support in their community.

The questionnaire, which was elaborated for project situational analysis, integrated questions which are aimed at identifying of vulnerabilities of families left behind, including children in relation to access to different resources, including job skills training, financial products to create small-business, access to legal and psychological consultation, gender based violence etc.

4. Constraints, Adjustments, Lessons and Good Practices

The project integrates several innovations and good practices. The project itself is innovative due to its multi-partner and multi-dimensional nature with a strong gender component. For the first time, the project applied the GALS using ethnographic approach to violence and identification of new social norm holders to create a demand within communities and individuals to stop impunity of violence, formation of a public opinion on illegality of violence and harmful practices and stressing it as crime. The process was driven by the mobilized community members who got training. It was found successful in Kyrgyzstan and Afghanistan, which share the same social norms practices as Tajikistan. The announcement for selection of civil society organization to initiate GALS in Tajikistan was posted.

4.1 Challenges Encountered and Measures Taken

The launch of the Project has been delayed due to receiving of project approval by the Government of Tajikistan in mid June 2021 rather than at the beginning of the year. The data collection process on families left behind was challenging considering lacking of official statistics about this group of population. The project involved local Migration Services, sub-district administration, head of villages, civil society organizations, which women left behind might turn for assistance to help with data collection. As a result, the list of beneficiaries which the project will target will not only include women whose husbands abandoned them for one year or more without keeping contact and sending remittances, but also women whose husbands died as a result of their work experience during migration or became disabled which do not enable them to work and earn income. The list also covers families with a single mother, who migrated and left children with relatives. Another group of women who were added to the list of participants are those whose husband are in migration however they do not provide their family in Tajikistan with required support due to unemployment or sickness. All this group of women are more or less impacted by migration, which put them in a vulnerable situation due to insufficient income to live their lives.

The post-COVID-19 crisis and conflict between Russia and Ukraine affected the economy of the country. Due to sanctions, the logistical network is disturbed and the delivery of goods takes several times longer than before. Moreover, the price of all types of goods and services jumped. It has linked firstly with the increasing price of fuel and consequently transportation costs. The price of mineral fertilizers increased several times since the beginning of the crisis.

Additionally, the project budget prepared before the COVID-19 pandemic time foreseen procurement of agriculture inputs for a much lower price. The increasing unit price of foreseen goods may jeopardize reaching planned indicators related to the procurement of agricultural goods and equipment for women left behind.

All reasons listed above directly or indirectly caused delays in the procurement of seeds, fertilizers and processing equipment for individual and group processing activities.

“UN Women in 2023 as part of Output 4.1. is implementing the GRB component. The component aimed to increase the knowledge, skills and competencies of civil servants on Gender Responsive Budgeting,

introduce the GRB innovative financing instruments, and support in development of gender-sensitive budgets focused on socio-economic aspects of migration. In order to enter the GRB into the country's budget cycle (the country's budget is formed in August), it would be more practical to carry out and bring GRB activities to the formation of the budget in August 2023.”

Due to the seasonality of agriculture activities, and the importance of conducting monitoring of activities implementation within the first months of functioning processing groups, it is important to apply for a non-cost extension of the project for at least 6 months.”

Conclusion and Next Steps

Despite challenges with project approval and its implementation, there is a positive development that project was finally supported by the Government, which reassures Government’s commitment towards addressing vulnerabilities of families left behind. Both national and local level partners are very keen to be a part of the project and collaborate to attain project goals. Especially, with supporting of Global Compact for Migration, this increased Government commitment to make tangible progress through current project.

The project plans to carry out the following action in 2023:

Project Management:

- A detailed work plan for the implementation of activities planned for January-May of 2023 will be developed;
- Continue the regular coordination meetings of PUNOs to discuss and coordinate joint activities and seek support and advise.
- The request for non-cost extension will be submitted.
- Project closure on the base of final evaluation will be conducted in the end of the project.

Outcome 1: Families left behind enjoy improved wellbeing (IOM and UNICEF)

- Administrating of situational analysis among project beneficiaries – families left behind;
- Hiring CSO to provide psychosocial support to families left behind;

Outcome 2: Families left behind have increased economic resilience and address gender related barriers to economic inclusion (FAO, UNICEF, IOM)

- Conducting additional financial literacy trainings for the representatives of Hukumats, jamoats and villages in February-March;
- Organization of financial literacy training for the NBT staff as per adopted National Strategy on Financial Inclusion in March;
- FAO will provide grants to co-finance investments found technically and financially feasible;
- UN-Women will support of mahalla to develop micro-activities to encourage Recognition of unpaid care work for 500 families;

Outcome 3: Women and children left behind are protected and seek to protect their rights (UN Women, UNICEF, IOM)

- **600** individuals will benefit from support of mahalla developed micro-activities to prevent VAWG and shift gender-based stereotypes in 2023, will be organised by UN-Women;

Outcome 4: National and regional and local government identify and plan to implement evidence-based responses to 'Families left Behind' (UNICEF, UN Women, FAO and IOM)

- Running of endline assessment to examine social, economic and psychosocial situation of families left behind;
- Monthly capacity building and coordinating workshops among concerned local government in two target areas will be continued till April 2023;
- **20 individuals** from **3 targeted ministries (MEDT, MoF, MoLMEP)**, will increase technical and managerial capacities on prioritizations for GRB in socio-economic aspects of migration and diagnostic of systemic GRB financing bottleneck by provision of knowledge and data in 2023, will be organized by UN-Women;
- Integrating families left behind in the National Migration Strategy of Republic of Tajikistan for the period up to 2030.

ANNEX

Include the following in the Annex, as relevant:

- Annex 1 – Success Stories
- Annex 2 – Press releases of the activities
- Annex 3 – FAO tables
- Annex 4 – IOM Financial Literacy Training Schedule
- Annex 5 – Communications and Visibility
- Annex 6 - Study on the conditions and behaviors associated with families left behind of Tajik labor migrants
- Annex 7 – Project Baseline Assessment
- Annex 8 - Impact of the Ukraine Crisis on the households
- Annex 9 - Referral mechanism product
- Annex 10 - Unpaid Care Work
- Annex 11 - MMPTF Situational analysis
- Annex 12 - Child Sensitivity assessment
- Annex 13 - Quotes