



UN Multi-Partner Human
Security Trust Fund
for the Aral Sea Region
in Uzbekistan

UNICEF, UNFPA and UNODC Joint Programme

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

MPTF OFFICE GENERIC ANNUAL PROGRAMME NARRATIVE PROGRESS REPORT

REPORTING PERIOD: 1 JANUARY – 31 DECEMBER 2021

Provided by the UN Multi-Partner Human Security Trust Fund for the Aral Sea Region in Uzbekistan (MPHSTF) with the generous financial support of its donors and development partners.



The Government of the
Republic of Uzbekistan



The Government
of Norway



European Union



The Government
of Finland



The Government of
the Republic of Korea



Alwaleed
Philanthropies

UNICEF, UNFPA and UNODC Joint Programme
'Investing in a resilient future of Karakalpakstan
 by improving health, nutrition, water, sanitation, hygiene and wellbeing of adolescents
 and by harnessing the talents of youth during and after COVID- 19'

MPTF OFFICE GENERIC ANNUAL PROGRAMME NARRATIVE PROGRESS REPORT

REPORTING PERIOD: 1 JANUARY – 31 DECEMBER 2021

Programme Title & Project Number	Country, Locality(s), Priority Area(s) / Strategic Results
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programme Title: Investing in a resilient future of Karakalpakstan by improving health, nutrition, water, sanitation, hygiene and wellbeing of adolescents and by harnessing the talents of youth during and after COVID- 19. • Programme Number: Not applicable • MPTF Office Project Reference Number: 00125228 	<p><i>Country /Region</i></p> <p>Uzbekistan / Karakalpakstan</p> <p><i>Priority area/ strategic results</i></p> <p>UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) (2021-2025):</p> <p>Outcome 1. By 2025 all people and groups in Uzbekistan, especially the most vulnerable, demand and benefit from enhanced accountable, transparent, inclusive and gender responsive governance systems and rule of law institutions for a life free from discrimination and violence.</p> <p>Outcome 3. By 2025, youth, women and vulnerable groups benefit from improved access to livelihoods, decent work and expanded opportunities generated by inclusive and equitable economic growth.</p> <p>Outcome 4. By 2025, the most vulnerable benefit from enhanced access to gender-sensitive quality health, education and social services.</p> <p>Outcome 5. By 2025, the most at-risk regions and communities of Uzbekistan are more resilient to climate change and disasters, and benefit from increasingly sustainable and gender-sensitive efficient management of natural resources and infrastructure, robust climate action, inclusive environmental governance and protection.</p>

Participating Organization(s)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organizations that have received direct funding from the MPTF Office under this programme <p>UNICEF UNFPA UNODC</p>	
Programme/Project Cost (US\$)	
Total approved budget as per project document:	US\$ 3,550,273
MPTF /JP Contribution:	US\$ 3,498,784
by Agency:	
UNICEF:	US\$ 3,098,027
UNFPA:	US\$ 200,250
UNODC:	US\$ 200,507
Agency Contribution <i>UNICEF in kind contribution:</i>	US\$ 51,489
Government Contribution	US\$ 0
Other Contributions (donors)	US\$ 0
TOTAL:	US\$ 3,550,273

Implementing Partners	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Ministry of Health of the Republic of Uzbekistan and Karakalpakstan The Ministry of Public Education of the Republic of Uzbekistan and Karakalpakstan The Youth Affairs Agency of the Republic of Uzbekistan and Karakalpakstan 	
Programme Duration	
Overall Duration (months):	24 months
Start Date:	21/12/2020
Original End Date:	31/12/2022
Current End Date:	31/12/2022

Programme Assessment /Review /Mid-Term Evaluation
<p>Assessment/Review – Not applicable <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>Mid-Term Evaluation Report – Not applicable <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p>

Report Submitted By
<p>Name: Munir Mammadzade</p> <p>Title: Representative</p> <p>Participating Organization (Lead): UNICEF</p> <p>Email: mmammadzade@unicef.org</p>

CONTENTS

CONTENTS.....3

LIST OF ACRONYMS.....4

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY5

I. PURPOSE7

II. RESULTS8

 i) Narrative Reporting on Results

 OUTCOME 1. By 2022 adolescents (boys and girls) in three districts of the Republic of Karakalpakstan, especially those most vulnerable, have improved health and nutrition status.....8

 OUTCOME 2. By 2022 the population of selected districts of the Republic of Karakalpakstan, especially those most vulnerable, have improved access to and have received safe, quality healthcare service.....14

 OUTCOME 3. By 2022 the Government and the Youth Union in Karakalpakstan support, empower and engage young people, including the most vulnerable, as productive citizens and positive agents of change in their communities and the region.....18

 ii) Indicator Based Performance Assessment22

 iii) A Specific Story30

LIST OF ACRONYMS

BLS	Basic life skills
GoU	Government of Uzbekistan
HCF	Health Care Facilities
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HLS	Healthy Lifestyle
IPC	Infection Prevention and Control
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MCH	Maternal and Child Health
MoH	Ministry of Health
MoPE	Ministry of Public Education
MPHSTF	Multi-Partner Human Security Trust Fund for the Aral Sea Region in Uzbekistan
OB/GYN	Obstetrics and Gynaecology
PD	Presidential Decree
PHC	Primary Health Care
RoK	Republic of Karakalpakstan
RoU	Republic of Uzbekistan
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
STI	Sexually Transmitted Infections
SWASH	School water, sanitation and hygiene
TOT	Training of Trainers
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNSDCF	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
WASH	Water, sanitary and hygiene
WHO	World Health Organization

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The following report summarizes the key achievements of the Joint Programme 'Investing in a resilient future of Karakalpakstan by improving health, nutrition, water, sanitation, hygiene and wellbeing of adolescents and by harnessing the talents of youth during and after COVID- 19', achieved throughout 2021. Implemented since December 2020 with a focus on the target districts of Muynak, Kungrad and Bozatau, this Joint Programme has sought to achieve the interrelated objectives of strengthening the health and nutrition of adolescents, improving access to and quality of health care facilities, and empowering young people to be productive citizens and positive agents of change in both their communities and in the broader region. The programme works to assist the most vulnerable children, adolescents and young people within the three targeted districts.

This programme has been implemented in partnership between and jointly funded by UNICEF, UNFPA and UNODC. Key national partners include the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Public Education, and the Youth Affairs Agency of the Republic of Uzbekistan and Karakalpakstan. This following report details the direct positive impacts the joint programme has achieved over the past year. Likewise, it elaborates on the challenges faced during the project's implementation over the past year, the best practices applied, and key lessons learned. Some of the project's major accomplishments to date are outlined as follows.

In terms of improving the health and wellbeing of young people, over the past year the programme has:

- Assessed 15 schools and 20 healthcare facilities requiring immediate actions to improve water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) infrastructure, and enhanced the capacity of 326 teachers (221 women) and 82 parents (63 women) in WASH, nutrition, and preventing soil-transmitted helminthiasis (STH) and anaemia. 481 students (247 girls) were taught best hand hygiene practices on Global Hand Hygiene Day.
- Trained 3,503 parents and educational professionals, and 27 volunteers, on teaching young people about reproductive health, healthy lifestyles, HIV and STI prevention, and basic life and family skills. This information was passed onto more than 5,300 adolescents.
- Trained 30 teachers, psychologists and methodologists through UNODC's 'Family UNited' evidence-based family skills training programme, who then subsequently trained members of 60 families (7th grade adolescents and their caregivers).
- Delivered deworming and iron/folic acid supplements intended for 170,000 children and adolescents aged 7-17.

- Established a digital 'Knowledge Hub', which has given 199 healthcare workers access to online learning materials on evidence-based and gender-sensitive health education information and practices for adolescents and youth. Development of information content in Uzbek, Russian and Karakalpak languages will be completed by the end of the third quarter of 2023.

In the direction of improving the quality and accessibility of health services, over 2021 the programme has provided 224 units of telecommunication/distance learning equipment (28 lots of 8 types of equipment) to all 28 healthcare facilities of the three target districts (supporting a total of 181,200 residents). Additional equipment on telemedicine will be delivered to 3 target district and 2 regional health centers by May 2022. 170 healthcare workers have increased their capacities in Infection Prevention and Control, while more will be trained in 2022 on organizing distance learning and conducting tele-consultations for patients.

Lastly, in collaboration with the International Innovation Center for the Aral Sea (IICAS), the gender-sensitive UPSHIFT programme has been launched to equip youth with social and entrepreneurship skills. 88 people aged 15-25 years (45 girls and women) have been trained through this programme. 17 youth-led projects have been provided with mentoring and seed-funding, some becoming standalone enterprises creating job opportunities for rural youth. UNICEF has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Karakalpakstan Board of the Ministry of Innovative Development, to continue upscaling youth-led social and entrepreneurship projects under the UPSHIFT programme.

The joint programme will continue reaching key milestones through 2022. UNICEF intends to finish constructing WASH infrastructure at 15 schools and 20 healthcare facilities while completing related trainings for an additional 400 healthcare workers. Deworming medication and micronutrient supplementation will be provided to 40,000 children aged 7-14 and to 130,000 adolescent girls aged 10-17, respectively. Additional telemedicine equipment will be delivered to and installed at hospitals. Within the programme over the coming year, UNFPA will train 25 teachers and 75 volunteers on healthy lifestyles, reproductive health and related matters, all information to be passed onto 5,000 adolescents. Likewise, UNFPA will develop and translate knowledge materials and programmes on peer education, making them available to schoolteachers, students and parents. Last but not least, UNODC will continue to further expand piloting the 'Family UNited' programme to cover 1,500 family members.

I. PURPOSE

The Government of Uzbekistan (GoU) has been making efforts towards improving adolescent/youth health in regions affected by environmental concerns, including Karakalpakstan, by addressing immediate social and health security issues faced by the population.

The overall goal of the Joint Programme (JP) is to address the immediate needs of vulnerable populations, including adolescents, in terms of safe and clean schools and health care facilities, and other health and nutrition needs, and to strengthen human capital and the resilience of youth by expanding opportunities for social innovation skills development in three districts (Muynak, Kungrad and Bozatau). The implementing UN agencies are taking a gender-sensitive, integrated and complementary approach intended to cover multiple dimensions of health and social security of adolescents and youth in target districts.

The programme interventions are in line with the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) (2021-2025) Outcome 3, which is 'By 2025, youth, women and vulnerable groups benefit from improved access to appropriate work and expanded opportunities generated by inclusive and equitable economic growth' and Outcome 4, which is 'By 2025, the most vulnerable benefit from enhanced access to gender-sensitive quality health, education and social services'. The programme contributes to SDG 1 End Poverty in all its forms everywhere, SDG 3 Good Health and Wellbeing, SDG 4 Quality Education, and SDG 6 Clean Water and Sanitation.

The expected outcomes of this Joint Programme include safe and clean schools and health facilities, improved accessibility, and quality of healthcare systems in rural areas (through introducing telecommunication and telemedicine), the promotion of gender-sensitive and inclusive healthy lifestyles and enhanced socio-emotional skills, and better human security of the Aral Sea region with a particular emphasis on adolescents and youth. These outcomes are in line with the MPHSTF Results Framework Outcome 4: Overall health of the local population is improved, and healthy lifestyle is promoted.

II. RESULTS

i) Narrative Reporting on Results

OUTCOME 1. By 2022 adolescents (boys and girls) in three districts of the Republic of Karakalpakstan, especially those most vulnerable, have improved health and nutrition status.

Output 1.1. Adolescents in 15 schools in three target districts have sustainable access to water, sanitation, and hygiene services

According to the Ministry of Public Education (MoPE), only 36 per cent of schools in Karakalpakstan have access to running water, 2 per cent of schools have indoor toilets, and only 20 per cent are connected to the sewage system.

To address these issues, UNICEF introduced the water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) programme in 15 public schools in the Bozatau, Muynak and Kungrad districts. Jointly with the district representatives of the Ministry of Public Education of the Republic of Karakalpakstan, the programme team assessed the current situation of WASH facilities in 82 schools of three target districts and selected the 15 most vulnerable schools requiring immediate action for construction and reconstruction works. With the intention of fostering an integrated area-based approach, all PUNOs agreed to make their interventions in those selected schools.

Currently, the Terms of Reference on WASH assessment in 15 schools and a Knowledge, Attitude, and Practices (KAP) study on WASH, Nutrition, Menstrual Health and Hygiene were developed with a contract signed with the research institute ITA Fact. An Inception Report with assessment tools has been developed. Data collection, analysis and reporting are planned for the next reporting period.

A bidding was conducted among WASH construction project design companies for the design and project estimation documents for WASH facilities at 15 schools. Two WASH construction project design companies have been contracted, and defective acts have been developed by engaging construction specialists from district education departments and school administrations. Project documents for the construction of WASH facilities, including drawings and project estimation documents, are currently being completed by WASH construction project design companies. Project design works are considering climate-resilient, gender and age sensitive, inclusive, accessible and innovative solutions for the construction of WASH facilities. These solutions include the use of solar panels as alternative energy sources, the use of reverse-osmosis systems to purify underground water, and the creation of water reservoirs in

rural areas with limited water supply. It is anticipated that construction works for these initiatives will begin in the second quarter of the next reporting period.

Moreover, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed with the non-government organization (NGO) Zamin Foundation to improve WASH standards in schools. The Service for Sanitary and Epidemiological Welfare and Public Health, and the Ministry of Health (MoH) are jointly compiling an inventory of existing documents on sanitary policies and norms for updating.

Output 1.2. School children in three districts have universal access to deworming treatment and micronutrient supplementation

Baseline assessment of the prevalence of helminthiasis and micronutrient deficiencies has been conducted among 2,128 school children (including 1,098 boys and 1,030 girls from grades 1-4), at 15 selected schools of the three target districts. The assessment results showed that the average incidence of intestinal helminthiasis was 12.6 per cent with a higher incidence in the Kungrad district (15.6 per cent) and a lower incidence in the Muynak (11.5 per cent) and Bozatau (5.5 per cent) districts. Out of 268 infected cases, 205 cases (76.5 per cent) were diagnosed as enterobiasis, and 63 cases (23.5 per cent) were hymenolepiasis. Based on the assessment outcomes, healthcare workers from target districts have been instructed to undertake mass deworming among children of grades 1-4, as well as diagnostics and treatment of contacts at home.



Practical session during “Laboratory Diagnostics of Soil-Transmitted Helminthiasis” training for laboratory technicians from target districts

Regarding micronutrient supplementation, a set dosage of micronutrients was agreed with the Ministry of Health of Karakalpakstan. A procurement order was subsequently processed through the Supply Division of UNICEF in Copenhagen, and supplements arrived in Tashkent by the end of December 2021. Currently the MoH of Uzbekistan is undertaking a customs clearance process whereby the supplements will be delivered to the MoH of Karakalpakstan for further distribution among target beneficiaries, namely children and adolescent girls.

Output 1.3. Adolescents in Karakalpakstan can access information on evidence-based health education information and practices in Karakalpak, Uzbek, and Russian languages from an online web portal, social media and mobile app

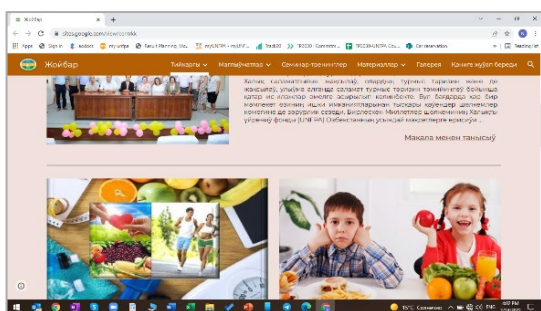
UNICEF is using a global online platform (<https://www.internetofgoodthings.org>), the Internet of Good Things (IoGT), to provide access to information on evidence-based health topics. IoGT is a UNICEF-led initiative that aims to bridge the digital divide and build knowledge on health topics in societies. IoGT deployment started with multi-sector involvement, whereby the Ministry of Innovative Development (MoID), MoPE, MoH and the Association of Medical Students of the Youth Agency of Uzbekistan developed a road map for members of the Inter-Agency Task Force to use. The UNICEF team is currently working on developing gender-sensitive and age-appropriate content and video materials in local languages, in accordance with the IoGT promotion plan.

In order to promote programme interventions in communication for development, UNICEF had an agreement with the Regional Center on Advanced Training for Teachers of the Republic of Karakalpakstan to develop training materials on WASH, Soil-Transmitted Helminthiasis (STH) infections, and Anaemia Prevention. Modules for teachers and parents have been developed in the Karakalpak language. A core team of trainers have enhanced the capacity of 408 teachers and parents (124 men (30.4 per cent) and 284 women (69.6 per cent)) from 82 schools in three target districts, on the afore-mentioned health topics. All educational materials will be uploaded to IoGT, and made available for both teachers and adolescents. In addition, on 14-15 October 2021, the programme conducted awareness raising sessions for 481 (234 boys and 247 girls) school children of target districts on hand hygiene practices, in celebration of Global Hand Hygiene Day.



WASH trainings for teachers and parents in Muynak district

Additionally, a special online platform is under development which will provide gender-sensitive information and video materials for teachers and youth leaders about reproductive health, HLS and HIV/STI prevention. This platform is embedded on the website of the Republican Center of Advanced Training for Teachers under the Ministry of Public Education of the Republic of Karakalpakstan. A digital forum, allowing for the submission of messages and raising questions, is included in the platform. Ob&Gyn experts, and specialists from the Reproductive Health Center and the Dermatological Center, are engaged in responding to these questions.



Template of resource web page for teachers on reproductive health, family planning, healthy lifestyle, HIV and STI prevention

Output 1.4. The Ministry of Public Education in Karakalpakstan has an enhanced capacity to deliver a family skills training programme

The UNODC team has developed materials for the 'Family UNited' programme, specifically a manual for facilitators and supplementary materials, which have been translated into Russian, Uzbek and Karakalpak languages.

A working group has been established to adapt the materials of the programme, considering the traditions, customs, foundations, gender roles and local culture of the region. The group has included representatives of the Ministry of Public Education and the Center for Vocational Guidance and Psychological and Pedagogical Diagnostics of Students under the Ministry of Public Education. The Working Group reviewed the training manual and supplementary materials for the UNODC evidence-based family skills training programme 'Family UNited', and made recommendations accordingly. These recommendations were considered in preparing the final versions of the programme materials.



Training manuals on 'Family UNited' programme



Training 'Family UNited' programme for facilitators

On 12-14 October 2021, a three day-training on implementing the 'Family UNited' programme was held in Nukus, in the Republic of Karakalpakstan. This training was attended by 24 specialists (teachers and psychologists) from the Muynak, Bozatau and Kungrad pilot districts, as well as six methodologists of the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Karakalpakstan. The training objectives were to equip participants with the skills and materials needed to implement the programme in their respective organizations and communities. This

training was conducted in a hybrid format, in which participants had the opportunity to undergo training delivered by UNODC international trainers from Austria and Great Britain. The event's work was widely covered in local media, as well as on UNODC social networks.

Subsequently in November 2021, UNODC in collaboration with the Ministry of Public Education of the Republic of Karakalpakstan piloted the 'Family UNited' programme. Some 60 families (including 7th grade adolescents and their caregivers), from six selected schools in the Muynak, Bozatau and Kungrad districts of Karakalpakstan, were able to benefit from the programme for learning about family skills as conducted by a team of facilitators.



Piloting 'Family UNited' programme among families

Assessment of the implementation of the 'Family UNited' programme in pilot schools will be completed by the end of March 2022. The evaluation is being carried out using the Parent and Family Adjustment Scales (PAFAS) designed to assess changes in parenting practices and parental adjustment, and the Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ), which is a brief behavioural screening questionnaire, the Child and Youth Resilience Measure questionnaire, and the Adult Resilience Measure. These forms are being processed through the use of applications for creating documented data structures and analysing quantitative data. The evaluation report will be presented at an upcoming roundtable.



Training 'Family UNited' programme for facilitators

Output 1.5. Secondary school staff (biology teachers, Adolescent Union leaders, etc.) and adolescents have increased capacity to develop and deliver life/transferrable, health and soft skills programmes

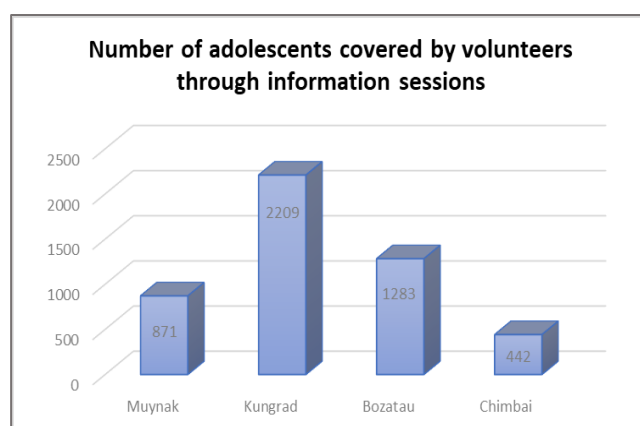


Training for teachers on how to conduct extra curricula classes about reproductive health, family planning, HIV/STI prevention, healthy lifestyle

Seventy-five schoolteachers have improved their knowledge and skills on teaching topics about reproductive health, HLS, HIV and STI prevention at three 5-day trainings organized by UNFPA. More than 2,400 teachers of both genders attended sessions on these topics during a mandatory course of advancing professional skills at the Republican Center of Advance Training for Teachers in the Republic of Karakalpakstan. Around 300 teachers, deputy school principals and youth leaders learned about key objectives of the project during orientation meetings conducted at the beginning of the project.

Twenty-seven volunteers including youth leaders and school psychologists (16 women) have improved their knowledge and skills on how to share information on reproductive health, healthy lifestyles, prevention of HIV and STIs, family planning and other matters, through a peer-to-peer approach. Each volunteer received a tablet with an uploaded thematic video and guiding materials to be used at information sessions with adolescents at schools and communities. As a result, 5,003 adolescents (2,744 girls) learned about these topics from youth leaders during peer-to-peer sessions at three selected districts.

A series of methodological and informative brochures in three languages for teachers, students and parents were developed and approved to be part of 'extra-curricular hour' topics supported by UNFPA. Video materials and guidelines were uploaded to tablets, and these were distributed among trained volunteers for conducting gender-sensitive information sessions for peers in schools.



Graph 1. Number of adolescents learned about health topics during information sessions conducted by the trained volunteers per district

Output 1.6. Adolescents/youth, specifically those most in need, are equipped with socio-emotional skills to manage life in a healthy and productive manner

In partnership with the 'Tashxis' Republican Center, UNICEF has conducted an assessment of the training needs of school psychologists and regional methodologists in 15 pilot schools. The curriculum has been contextualized, including gender and age sensitivity, with all teaching and learning materials being translated into the Karakalpak language. Subsequently, 20 school psychologists and regional methodologists, mainly women, were trained to deliver the curriculum. In November-December 2021, school psychologists piloted the programme in schools by equipping 307 school children (185 girls) with socio-emotional skills.

The results of the pilot and its impact on adolescents are being assessed by the national UNICEF consultant through a quantitative survey and focus group discussions. Based on the assessment results, recommendations for the integration of the BLS curriculum into school educational programmes will be developed.

OUTCOME 2. By 2022 the population of selected districts of the Republic of Karakalpakstan, especially those most vulnerable, have improved access to and have received safe, quality healthcare service

Output 2.1. Healthcare facilities have improved water supply, sanitation, hygiene materials and appropriate waste segregation

Prior to the JP interventions, healthcare facilities in the three target districts lacked a regular water supply, sanitation, and hygiene facilities inside buildings. Through the WASH programme, UNICEF aims to improve access to a regular supply of water within the selected healthcare facilities. This improved water access will be complemented with sanitation and hygiene supplies.

Jointly with representatives of District Medical Associations, the programme team studied the situation of healthcare facilities in terms of access to WASH facilities, and selected 20 healthcare facilities for WASH facility construction and reconstruction works. The programme organized training on WASH FIT assessment tools for six healthcare workers from the Karakalpakstan Republic Children's Hospital. Trained specialists conducted baseline assessment of all 28 healthcare facilities in the three target districts. Assessment findings are being analysed, and a report will be provided by the first quarter of the next reporting period.

A tendering process has been conducted among WASH construction project-design companies, for design and project estimation documents for project sites. Two WASH construction project design companies have been contracted and they have developed defective acts of construction sites in healthcare facilities, by engaging construction specialists from District Medical Associations, and the heads of Rural Healthcare Points and multi-profile polyclinics. Project documents for the construction of WASH facilities at 20 healthcare facilities, including drawings and project estimation documents, are currently being completed by WASH construction project design companies. The project design works are considering innovative climate-resilient, gender-sensitive, and accessible solutions for constructing WASH facilities. For example, solar panels are being introduced as alternative energy sources, while reverse-osmosis systems are being used to clean underground water, and autoclaves with shredders are being installed for improved medical waste management. It is anticipated that construction works will commence in the second quarter of the next reporting period.

The JP team has organized a series of consultations with representatives from the Service for Sanitary and Epidemiological Welfare and the Public Health of Uzbekistan, on existing WASH standards and necessary revisions. Experts of the Sanitary and Epidemiological Service are creating an inventory of existing documents that need updating.

Jointly with the Tashkent Medical Academy, the JP has organized a series of trainings on Infection Prevention and Control for 170 district and primary healthcare facilities staff (132 women), from three target districts. During these trainings, healthcare workers have enhanced their knowledge on internal infection control mechanisms, prevention of nosocomial infections, management of epidemiological situations with acute intestinal infections including water-borne infections, diarrhoea, typhoid fever and shigellosis, and the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. The trainings also included practical sessions on the proper wearing of personal protective equipment, measuring body temperature, and disinfecting premises. WASH trainings for healthcare workers have been planned for the next reporting period.

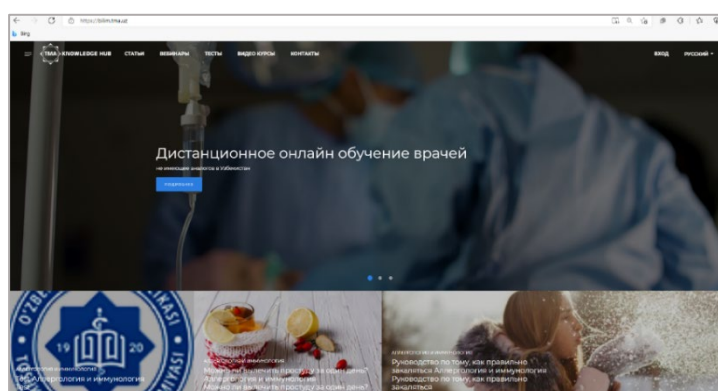
Output 2.2. Telemedicine and distance learning system between primary, secondary and tertiary level facilities has been established

In consultation with regional MoH representatives, the programme team has formulated a list of distance learning and telecommunication equipment required to enhance the distance learning system, and process the related bidding. In October a set of telecommunications equipment were delivered and installed at 28 healthcare facilities in the three target districts. The project experts assessed internet connectivity, and recommended that MoH Karakalpakstan representatives upgrade the internet speed to 10 mb/s from the current 4 mb/s, in order to improve quality of telecommunication between primary, district and regional healthcare centres.

A needs assessment for telemedicine equipment was held on 27–28 September 2021 with the participation of MoH and MoID representatives to Karakalpakstan, and a finalized list of equipment was subsequently agreed upon by parties. Technical specifications have been developed, and bidding for procurement of telemedicine equipment is in process. The delivery and installation of telemedicine equipment is planned for the second quarter of the next reporting period.

UNICEF has developed a knowledge hub (www.bilim.tma.uz), which will serve as a one-stop digital platform for communication, information sharing, and a repository for training materials and resources on health topics for the country's healthcare workers.

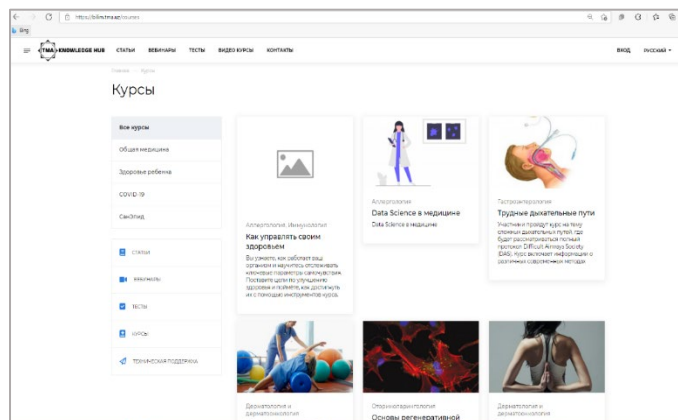
The Online Knowledge Hub for Health Care Workers is an initiative to leverage digital



Knowledge hub based on the Tashkent Medical Academy's platform

technologies for healthcare workers, to provide:

- *Access to relevant continuous professional development opportunities, including online and blended-learning courses, conferences, face-to-face workshops and self-study resources, which meet specific needs.*
- *Up-to-date information and policies, including access to the latest legislation, policies, guidelines, standard operating procedures, reference materials, and best practices.*



UNICEF has contracted a local company to develop a web-based platform which was completed in November 2021. UNICEF has reached an agreement with the Tashkent Medical Academy to host and maintain the platform in the future. In 2022, a team of faculty members and students will develop online courses, write articles, and enhance online courses with graphics and visual aids. All courses will be translated into Uzbek,

Russian and Karakalpak languages, to ensure equitable access for all healthcare workers in the country. The development of the content phase will be finished by the end of the third quarter of 2023.

Furthermore, UNICEF has partnered with the Tashkent Medical Academy (TMA) to adapt training packages on Infection Prevention and Control (IPC), as developed by WHO and the MoH of Uzbekistan in 2021, to an online modality. The course development team from TMA has developed a curriculum for the training that was endorsed by the MoH in December 2020, as an official in-service professional education course. This enabled healthcare workers to earn credits upon completing the course, and count them towards fulfilling the mandatory 288 credit hours to be completed every five years. Following the endorsement process, the training team developed video lectures, presentations, tests, infographics, practical assignments, and other related content.

The training package covers the principles of IPC. These include: 1) risk management for infectious agents and diseases; 2) cleaning, disinfection and sterilization practices; 3) screening and immunization of healthcare workers; 4) management of occupational exposure; and 5) surveillance and quality improvement.

The package will provide the fundamentals of microbiology and multi-resistant organisms, outbreak investigation and management, renovation, repairs and redevelopment risk management, and basic epidemiology/statistics.

The training was launched on the online learning platform of the Tashkent Medical Academy in May 2021. This platform is based on the Moodle Learning Management System (LMS), and is officially recommended by the MoH for online education. The course was administered both at pre-service and in-service levels, through which approximately 100 undergraduate students and 100 healthcare professionals have been trained. The major constraint for accessing this course has been the technical unavailability of free registration at the TMA's online platform. This registration was accessible only to students currently enrolled in the school, faculty members, and healthcare workers of the TMA clinic. Everyone else outside of TMA had to obtain logins and passwords directly from IT administrators. Thus, this course will be fully transferred to the online knowledge hub (bilim.tma.uz) in the second quarter of 2022.

In addition, 99 doctors (76 women) participated in four online courses on 'COVID-19 infection diagnostics, treatment and prevention amongst children', 'Counselling on Breastfeeding', 'The Growth and Development of Children under Five', and 'Infants' and children's nutrition'. These courses were developed jointly with the Tashkent Paediatric Medical Institute, and the Republican Specialized Scientific and Practical Medical Center for Paediatrics.

Output 2.3. PHC facilities in three districts have improved diagnosis and treatment of intestinal infection

The JP has conducted a needs assessment of PHC facilities in target districts. The list with quantities of laboratory equipment and consumables was agreed upon by administrations of beneficiary healthcare facilities, and the procurement order was processed. Thirty-one healthcare facilities, including 28 PHC and 3 District Laboratories of the Republican Center of Sanitary and Epidemiological Welfare, have been provided with binocular microscopes for STH diagnostics.



Training on "Laboratory Diagnostics of Soil-Transmitted Helminthiasis" for laboratory technicians from target districts

Additionally, a set of laboratory consumables and reagents have been procured and delivered to all laboratories of the 28 healthcare facilities. Jointly with the Service for Sanitary and Epidemiological Welfare and Public Health of Uzbekistan and Karakalpakstan, UNICEF organized two-day trainings on 'Laboratory Diagnostics of Helminthiasis' for 18 laboratory technicians (all women) from three target districts.

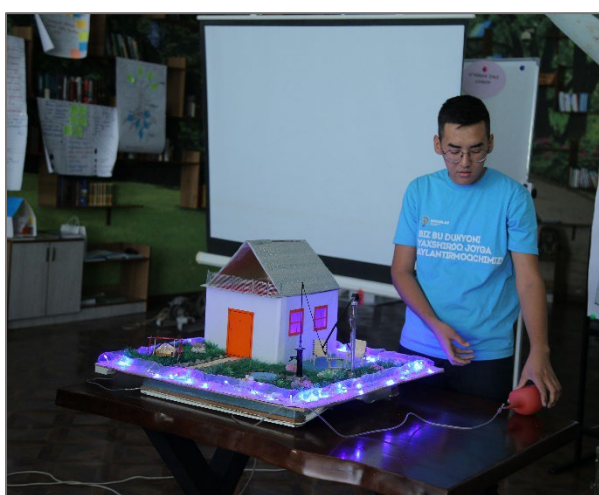
OUTCOME 3. By 2022 the Government and the Youth Union in Karakalpakstan support, empower and engage young people, including the most vulnerable, as productive citizens and positive agents of change in their communities and the region

Output 3.1. Equipping young people, especially the most vulnerable and marginalized, with social innovation and life skills, as well as social and entrepreneurship support

In order to strengthen their innovative presentation skills, all trained volunteers were equipped with tablets, with uploaded information and video materials, so that they could conduct information sessions for their communities. Each tablet had information for training sessions, including brochures, leaflets, and video materials.



Throughout 2021 three interviews about project activities were broadcast on local radio, and a related article was published in a local newspaper. Posters for school students on HIV and STI prevention and healthy nutrition were developed in three languages by the AIDS centre specialists and paediatricians. These have been approved by the Ministry of Health, and will be printed and distributed in schools. Ten different brochures on these topics have been prepared for parents and school students, and are ready for printing in three languages.



Presentation of social innovation project by UPSHIFT Programme participant

UNICEF together with the International Innovation Center for the Aral Sea (IICAS) has conducted three rounds of the social innovation and social entrepreneurship programme UPSHIFT (locally called 'ImkonLab'), which is targeted at disadvantaged children in the three target districts. Eighty-eight young people, including 45 young women, were equipped with these social and entrepreneurship skills. Seventeen youth-led projects were supported through mentoring and seed-funding. Two projects, particularly related to the production of bio-humus and a women-led bakery, have grown into income-generating

enterprises. The women-led bakery is not considered innovative, but is rather a social project intended to employ women in rural areas. To date a team of three women have been trained, and an additional three women have been employed. One project producing sawdust briquettes for heating has received an additional US\$20,000 for acceleration from the Ministry of Innovative Development. A youth-led project seeking to automate water pumping with the use of wind power has been inserted as a suggestion into the National Programme on the Aral Sea Development for 2022-2026.

Delays in implementation:

- Recruitment of JP staff members took around four months, which delayed the start of programme activities. Delays occurred at the initial stage of the programme, due to the time required for negotiations, development and signing of agreements with partners for project implementation.
- The COVID-19 pandemic and restrictions to conducting public activities, field visits and assessments, resulted in a delay in the workplan's implementation and the achievement of target indicators.
- Due to the movement restrictions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the supply and delivery of items from abroad was delayed, including deliveries of supplements and medical equipment.
- The new wave of COVID-19 in the summer of 2021 temporarily postponed the face-to-face training for volunteers, and further peer-to-peer information sessions conducted by trained volunteers among adolescents in schools. The summer vacation for teachers and mandatory learning courses in August also influenced training activities for teachers intending to prepare them for the fall season.

Challenges:

- Due to the limited capacity of qualified WASH construction project design companies in the region, the programme could contract only two bidders for project design and estimation works of 35 WASH facilities. This delayed the launch of tendering processes for construction works. To avoid such challenges in the future, the programme is adapting bidding for construction companies by dividing this into eight segments for 35 project sites in the three districts, helping to select more companies. In addition, JP staff have been able to disseminate bidding announcements more widely, and organized meeting with construction companies to explain policies and procedures for submitting bids.
- In 2021, youth leaders were part of the management team of each school, making them perfect candidates for using a peer-to-peer approach to share information among adolescents in schools. Starting from 2022 the position of Youth Leaders will be shifted from

schools to communities to increase the initial coverage by peer-to-peer sessions of adolescents in schools, in order to limit youth leaders' time for these activities, due to high workloads at a community level. As a solution, more school psychologists and young teachers will be engaged in peer-to-peer work.

Best practices:

- An integrated approach is applied in the selection of target schools and regional implementing partners, to enhance local capacity from different angles of gender-sensitive health and education promotion. At the same time, PUNOs are organizing periodic joint planning meetings to avoid duplication of efforts, and to complement each other on programmatic interventions. Also, UNICEF is undertaking constant communications with UNDP-led joint programmes in planning social infrastructure projects, in order not to duplicate efforts with regards to schools and healthcare facilities.
- Information and knowledge products prepared for teachers and school students in the framework of this project on reproductive health, family planning, healthy lifestyle, and prevention of HIV and STIs, have been accepted enthusiastically by regional management and beneficiaries. As a result, additional learning hours on relevant topics were included in the mandatory course by the Republican Center of Advanced Training for Teachers of the Republic of Karakalpakstan. More than 2,400 teachers, both female and male, have learned about issues of reproductive health, family planning, healthy lifestyle, prevention of HIV and STI, and the skills needed to talk with school students about these matters.
- These project activities are in line with government priorities for the education sector, as identified during a meeting with the 'Tashkhis' Republican Center of Career-Guidance and Pedagogical-Psychological Diagnostics. A joint work plan has been implemented to encourage the use of developed methodologies and gender-sensitive, age-appropriate information materials by teachers and psychologists at a national level.
- UNICEF is working to systematically engage all key stakeholders, including government partners and local non-governmental organizations (NGOs). UNICEF signed an MoU with the 'Zamin Foundation' NGO to cooperate on updating WASH standards in schools. Another MoU has been signed with the Ministry of Innovative Development to ensure support in accelerating more promising projects incubated within the framework of the UPSHIFT programme. Karakalpakstan has joined the international Youth Innovation Challenge, Generation Unlimited, so that Uzbekistan's youth are able to compete with peers from around the globe and receive additional funds from the UNICEF Innovation Fund.

Lessons learned:

- To ensure the targeted and efficient use of seed-funding for project incubation by young people within the framework of the UPSHIFT programme, it was decided to transfer seed funds in tranches, conditional upon the effective utilization of the previous tranche.
- Business Advisory Boards will need to be established to ensure stronger cooperation between youth and the private sector. With this in mind, UNICEF plans to conduct a Youth Innovation Fair with the private sector's engagement, and then establish a Business Advisory Board among interested businesspeople.
- Legal consultations and mentoring need to be provided to youth after incubation, to facilitate the transition of successful youth-led projects into social enterprises. UNICEF will negotiate the provision of such services with the Business Ombudsmen.
- After being able to contract only two project design companies, the programme has formulated Terms of Reference and bidding documents for construction companies divided by eight lots for 35 project sites (15 schools and 20 healthcare facilities), which will attract more construction companies and avoid possible delays in WASH construction works.

ii) Indicator Based Performance Assessment

Expected Results (outcomes & outputs)	Indicator description	Baseline		Target		Achieved Indicator Targets	Reasons for Variance from Planned Target (if any)	Source of Verification
		Value	Year	2021	2022			
OUTCOME 1								
By 2022 adolescents (boys and girls) in three districts of the Republic of Karakalpakstan, especially those most vulnerable, have improved health and nutrition status	Number of girls aged 10-17 provided with iron and folic acid supplement	0	2020	10,000	10,000	0	Delays in procurement and delivery of supplements. Supplementation will be conducted during April-May 2022.	Project Report/ Semi-annually
	Number of schools providing evidence-based health and nutrition education as part of the school curriculum	0	2020	40	108	82	In all 82 schools, 326 teachers (105 men and 221 women) and 82 parents (19 men and 63 women) trained on WASH, nutrition, and STH and anaemia prevention topics.	Project Report/ Semi-annually
Output 1.1. The Ministry of Public Education, and local school management teams are supported to establish sustainable access to water, sanitation, and hygiene services (WASH)	Number of secondary schools with improved WASH facilities	0	2020	5	15	0	Target will be fully achieved in 2022. Project design and estimation documents for all 15 schools prepared simultaneously. Construction of WASH facilities in all 15 secondary schools shifted to the next reporting period.	Project Report/ Semi-annually
	Number of schools with toilets that ensure privacy and safety for the needs of women and girls	0	2020	5	15	0		
	Number of WASH innovations implemented:	0	2020	1		0		
	Number of investments in local infrastructure with support of the MPHSTF - million USD	TBD after UNDP/U NESCO Project Report submission for 2020	2020	\$0.30 (US\$ 300,000)	\$0.48 (US\$ 480,000)	\$0.024 (US\$ 24,000)	At least 3 innovations included in project design documents. USD 24,000 spent for development of project design and estimation documents for 15 schools.	

Output 1.2. Local healthcare workers have enhanced capacity and resources for universal deworming treatment and micronutrient supplementation of school children in three districts	Percentage of school children who are STH infected	12.6% (baseline is based on JP assessment in Dec 2021)	Dec 2021	12.6%	7% (deworming on STH by half)	12.6% (Baseline is based on the JP assessment in Dec 2021)		MoH stats/ Annually updated Report on STH Lab Diagnostics
	Number of children dewormed	0	2020	26,000	26,000	0	Delivered, with the target to be fully achieved in 2022.	Project Report/ Semi-annually
	Number of health and education workers trained to provide anaemia prevention and adolescent nutrition counselling services	0	2020	100	300	0	Anaemia prevention and deworming drugs delivered. Training programme under approval. Distribution planned for the second quarter of 2022.	Project Report/ Semi-annually
Output 1.3. Adolescents in Karakalpakstan can access information on evidence-based health education information and practices in Karakalpak, Uzbek, and Russian languages from an online web portal, social media and mobile app	Number of videos on health-related topics in Karakalpak/Uzbek/Russian languages for children/adolescents	0	2020	5	10	2	Two videos are ready, while content for eight has been developed, and video production is in process. Target will be achieved in 2022.	Project Report/ Semi-annually
	Number of health-related questions from the public answered by health experts, with responses posted online Baseline: 0 Planned Target: 150	0	2020	150	200	0	IoT platform will be operational in the next reporting period, for the purpose of answering questions publicly. Context development is in process. Health related questions and posts will be published after the launch of IoT.	Project Report/ Semi-annually

	Availability of a web-adapted teacher's manual on healthy lifestyle in Karakalpak language available online	0	2020	1	1	1		URL/A Semi-annually
	Number of teachers and community activists trained on SWASH, micronutrient supplementation and deworming counselling	0	2020	200	400	408, including 326 teachers (105 men and 221 women) and 82 parents (19 men and 63 women)	Additional trainings planned for 2022.	Training Report/ Semi-annually
	Sustainability plan adopted by local authorities	0	2020	1	1	0	WASH Assessment conducted, with needs for improvement identified, and used to direct investments into WASH infrastructure. A Sustainability Plan will be finalized after the completion of construction works.	Project Report/ Semi-annually
Output 1.4. The Ministry of Public Education in Karakalpakstan has an enhanced capacity to deliver a family skills training programme	Number of family members (adolescents and parents) covered by family skills training programme	0	2020	60	1,500	60		Training Reports/Annually
	Number of trained facilitators	0	2020	30	70	32		Training Report/ Semi-annually

Output 1.5. Secondary school staff (biology teachers, Adolescent Union leaders, etc.) and adolescents have increased capacity to develop and deliver life/transferrable, health and soft skills programmes	Number of schoolteachers and adolescent leaders trained to use peer-to-peer methodology	0	2020	60	120	75		Training Report/Annually
	Number of peer educators trained	15	2020	80	160	27 (11 male and 16 female)	Delay occurred due to the COVID-19 wave in summer 2021.	Training Report/ Semi-annually
	Number of adolescents reached by peer educators over two years	0	2020	5,000	10,000	5,003 (2,744 girls) of grades 6-11		Project Report/ Semi-annually
Output 1.6. Adolescents/youth, specifically those most in need, equipped with socio-emotional skills to manage life in a healthy and productive manner	Number of adolescent girls and boys, young women and men aged 15 to 24 years, having completed the socio-emotional skills development programme	0	2020	100 (at least 50% girls and young women)	300 (at least 50% girls and young women)	307 adolescents aged 15-18 (122 boys and 185 girls)	To ensure higher coverage and programme sustainability, a decision was made to work in schools with school psychologists. As such, the target audience was limited to school children aged 15-18.	Field monitoring visits/ Partner reports Reports of the school psychologists, observation by the UNICEF national consultant
	Number of youth workers and psychologists trained to equip young people with socio-emotional skills	0	2020	20	30	20		Training reports/ Semi-annually ToT report of the UNICEF national consultant

Expected Results (outcomes & outputs)	Indicator description	Baseline		Target		Achieved Indicator Targets	Reasons for Variance from Planned Target (if any)	Source of Verification
		Value	Year	2021	2022			
OUTCOME 2								
By 2022 the population of selected districts of the Republic of Karakalpakstan, especially those most vulnerable, have improved access to and have received safe, quality healthcare service	Percentage of the population satisfied with WASH conditions in target healthcare facilities	0	2020	Satisfaction survey conducted in Nov 2021 identified 41% as baseline	Target for 2022 end – 60%	41%	Satisfaction will be measured at the end of the project in Nov 2022, with the target for the end of 2022 being 60%.	Assessment Report/ Semi-annually
	Percentage increase of inpatient visits to primary healthcare facilities	0	2020	100,000 visits in 2020 (administrative data provided by district healthcare authorities)	Increase by 10%	100,000 visits (administrative data provided by district healthcare authorities)	Results will be measured at the end of the project.	Assessment and Project Reports/ Semi-annually
Output 2.1. Healthcare facilities have improved water supply, sanitation, hygiene materials and appropriate waste segregation	Number of investments in local health infrastructure with support of the MPHSTF, million USD	0.25	2020 Project report by UNICEF/UNFPA on the first-round project	\$0.25 (US\$250,000)	\$0.50 (US\$ 500,000)	\$0.036 (US\$ 36,000)	Project design and estimation documents simultaneously prepared for 20 HCFs. Planned in next reporting year. Bidding for construction is in process, while renovation and construction works are intended to be finalized in August 2022. USD 36,000 has been spent on developing project design and estimation documents for 20 HCFs.	Project Report/ Semi-annually
	Number of medical institutions with improved WASH services	0	2020	10	20	0		
	Number of medical institutions with toilets ensuring privacy and safety for the needs of women and girls	0	2020	10	20	0		

	Number of standards and policies for WASH in health care facilities developed/reviewed and having specific gender markers	0	2020	2	3	0	An agreement with the MoH has been reached, and its revision is in progress.	Project Report/ Semi-annually
	Number of healthcare providers trained on WASH, IPC and WASH FIT (disaggregated by sex and residence)	0	2020	400	650	170 (38 men, 132 women)	Another 480 will be trained by mid-2022.	Training Report/ Semi-annually
	Number of WASH innovations implemented	0	2020	2	2	0	Planned for the next reporting period, upon the completion of WASH construction works. Design of four innovations, including: 1) solar panels for water heating; 2) reverse osmosis systems for clean drinking water; 3) autoclaves with shredders for medical waste management, and; 4) three-step sewage systems for water reuse.	Project Report/ Semi-annually
	Number of supportive supervision visits conducted to train health care providers	0	2020	At least 1	At least 2	0	Due to COVID-19 restrictions, at least two visits will be conducted in 2022.	Field visit Reports/ Semi-annually

Output 2.2. Telemedicine and distance learning system between primary, secondary and tertiary level facilities has been established	Number of medical institutions with functioning telecommunication equipment	0	2020	10	35	30	2 MoH departments and 28 HCFs have functional telecommunication equipment.	Project Report/ Semi-annually
	Regulatory framework for telemedicine is developed and approved	No	2020	Yes	Yes	In progress	Under development.	Project Report/ Semi-annually
	Number of developed distance learning courses	0	2020	2	6	1	One course on IPC - six target (five under approval).	Training report/ Semi-annually
	Number of health care professionals educated and retrained through distance learning (disaggregated by gender and residence)	0	2020	200	1300	99 (23 men and 76 women)	99 doctors from three districts took part in distance learning trainings on four topics. Delays are a result of the development of distance learning courses. The target will be achieved in 2022.	Training Report/ Semi-annually
Output 2.3. PHC facilities in three districts have improved diagnosis and treatment of intestinal infection	Number of health care providers trained on STH and infection control	0	2020	100	200	18 (all women)	18 laboratory technicians trained on STH and infection control. The remaining healthcare workers will be trained in the next reporting period. 182 will be trained in the second quarter of 2022.	Training Report/ Semi-annually
	Number of updated clinical STH management standards at PHC level	0	2020	1	1	1		Project Report/ Semi-annually
	Number of investments in local health infrastructure with support of the MPHSTF, in USD	250,000	2020 Project report by UNICEF/U NFPA	60,000	81,000	70,000	Microscopes and supplies for STH treatment procured and delivered.	Project Report/ Semi-annually
	Number of clinics equipped with STH equipment and testing systems	0	2020	20	20	31	3 District Sanitary Epidemiology Service Centers and 28 HCFs equipped.	Project Report/ Semi-annually

Expected Results (outcomes & outputs)	Indicator description	Baseline		Target		Achieved Indicator Targets	Reasons for Variance from Planned Target (if any)	Source of Verification
		Value	Year	2021	2022			
OUTCOME 3								
By 2022 the Government and the Youth Union in Karakalpakstan support, empower and engage young people, including the most vulnerable, as productive citizens and positive agents of change in their communities and the region	Number of young people who participate in or lead civic engagement initiatives (disaggregated by gender and age)	28	2020	200	400	88 (43 males, 45 females)		Field monitoring, reporting by partners/ Annually
Output 3.1. Equipping young people, especially the most vulnerable and marginalized, with social innovation and life skills, as well as social and entrepreneurship support	Number of young people who completed the skills development programme (disaggregated by gender and age)	28	2020	60	120	88 young people aged 15-25, including 43 males and 45 females		Partner reports and monitoring field visits
	Number of projects initiated by participants of the programme, including social business and social initiatives (SCO)	5	2020	20	40	17	Three rounds of UPSHIFT have been conducted instead of the planned four. Thus 15 initiatives (5 projects x 3 rounds) were planned, and 2 additional very promising ones were supported.	Field monitoring, Reporting by partners/ Every cycle
	Number of projects evolved into sustainable social business or social initiatives	0	2020	1	4	2	1. Production of bio-humus in the Bozatau district. 2. Women-led bakery and bakery learning courses for unemployed women.	Monitoring, Reporting by partners/ Every cycle

iii) A Specific Story

Training for volunteers: Zulfiya's Story



A conference room is brimming with cheerful overlapping conversations - young teachers from across Karakalpakstan are eager to answer questions set by the UNFPA trainer Damira. They look curiously at the whiteboards filled with prompts and colourful sticky notes, jumping at any opportunity to participate. Damira gently quietens the participants, and begins a lecture on leadership attributes. Around 25 participants are gathered at this hotel conference room, on a chilly Saturday morning in Nukus, to participate in a training organized by UNFPA Uzbekistan.

"I think that amazing leaders from all over the region are present in this training," says Zulfiya Turabaeva, a 29-year-old English teacher at School No.2 of the Kungrad district. Upon reflecting on the second day of the leadership training for youth she proudly states that "through exchanging thoughts and ideas in this room, I will be able to improve my leadership abilities and teach about volunteering to my students." Zulfiya was one of the 25 teachers taking part in the leadership training for secondary school staff and adolescents, that aims to develop their soft skills, and consequently help them have a positive impact on their communities and schools back home. She reflects on her time volunteering during the COVID-19 pandemic when call centres were opened in her town - "With an honest conscience, when you work hard and you volunteer, the person on the receiving end of your kindness is in turn able to achieve what they want. That way, people in society learn to do good things for each other."

The training consists of four and five-day courses for peer educators, designed to not only develop their personal skills, but also teach them means for leading a successful information session for students and community members, on topics including healthy lifestyle, public speaking, project development and management. This training has been developed based on peer-to-peer methodology, in order to deliver the most effective results, and throughout this training all participants expressed a unanimous agreement on its effectiveness.

Zulfiya was thrilled with the opportunity to participate in this training. "I have always been interested in volunteering and in the future, it is my goal to start new projects just like this one," she noted with a wide smile. "I have actually created a volunteer profile on the international UN volunteer website, since we do not have many opportunities here." She mentioned that on the first day she had many questions for Damira - "I was worried about how I alone could deliver all this crucial information about volunteering back in my village, because it is all so new, and I am very young." However, as the training went on, Zulfiya not only got more motivated but also gained more confidence in her knowledge and abilities.

"Now I am thinking, I should have these types of leadership trainings at my school too – if the children know the things I know, that would be wonderful."

All participants leaving the training were ecstatic about the chance to go back to their towns and schools in their various regions of Karakalpakstan, and to exemplify competent leadership and volunteering practices for their colleagues and students.

