

Annual Progress Report Template

Migration MPTF

ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

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 PROJECT Number:	00124506
Convening UN Organization:	IOM
Participating UN Organizations (PUNO):	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):	<i>24 Months, 28 October 2020</i>
Reporting Period:	<i>1 January – 31 December 2021</i>
Total Approved Migration Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) Budget: (breakdown by PUNO)	<i>PUNO 1: FAO USD 600,000 PUNO 2: IOM USD 600,000 PUNO 3: UNICEF 500,000 PUNO 4: UN Women 500,000</i>

	<i>Total: USD 2,200,000</i>
Total Funds Received To Date: <i>(breakdown by PUNO)</i>	<i>PUNO 1: FAO USD 420,000</i> <i>PUNO 2: IOM USD 420,000</i> <i>PUNO 3: UNICEF USD 350,000</i> <i>PUNO 4: UN Women USD 350,000</i> <i>Total: USD 1,540,000</i>
Report Submission Date:	<i>28 February 2021</i>
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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-partner and multi-sectoral initiative aimed at reducing the vulnerability of families adversely affected by migration in two districts of Khatlon Oblast of Tajikistan through 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 intended to carry out several activities related to project launch, conducting of Project Steering Committee, conducting of situational analysis/baseline assessment/research, capacity building of service providers on prevention child abandonment, case management, protection of rights of families left behind, prevention of violence against women as well as advocacy events and consultation meetings. However, due to late approval and launch of the project as well as increasing COVID-19 cases in the country, not all activities were carried out as planned. The project was officially approved by the Government on 15 June 2021. Despite this, PUNOs awaited a final decision of Migration Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MMPTF) for project funding, which must be taken at the Steering Committee of MMPTF. The PUNOs received an official approval from MMPTF at the end of June 2021 considering the positive development by the Government of Tajikistan. Due to late project approval, the MMPTF granted a seven month no cost extension, with a project end date - 28 May 2023.

The kick-off meeting was held in August 2021 with the participation of 30 representatives from government structures, MMPTF, UN Agencies, civil society organizations, and research institutes. During this key meeting, project objective along with the projects components, budget, key partners and main beneficiaries were presented and discussed among participants. The press release about the kick off meeting was posted on the UN Resident Coordination Office (RCO), PUNOs websites and social media, including Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn.

PUNOs convened their first Project Steering Committee (PSC) in 20 August 2021, which was co-chaired by the Ministry of Labour, Migration and Employment of Population (MoLMEP) and RCO. The members of the PSC 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 and civil society organizations. Since it was the first PSC meeting, it was focused on presenting of Project Workplan for six month and Terms of Reference of PSC, including its purpose, structure, functions and responsibilities of Secretariat, which are IOM and MoLMEP to ensure the day-to-day operations and follow up on the decision taken by the PSC. The meeting was informative and engaging, which invited all members of the PSC to provide their support during project implementation. The meeting resulted with approval of the ToR and Project Workplan for July-December 2021.

PUNOs hired three new project staff: IOM – Project Assistant (Legal issues), UN Women: Project Manager and Finance Assistant and UNICEF is in the process of recruiting 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 baseline assessment is a critical element of the project to measure changes before project start and inform the Project's broader M&E framework and activities. The project also recruited an International Researcher to conduct a 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.

Furthermore, UNICEF finalised study tools and recruitment of the research company to conduct a situational analysis of families who were left behind with the objective to assess psychosocial and economic situation of women and children left behind by Tajikistan migrants in Dusti, Kulob, and Panj districts as well as availability of community care support services with specific focus on psychosocial, emotional, healthcare, livelihood, educational and social support.

Additionally, 104 staff of the Maternity Wards in two districts and Centre for Family and Child Support in Kulob (this service does not exist in Dusti) have been capacitated by UNICEF. These trainees were sensitised on the importance of the child growth in a safe and protective family environment. A self-learning manual is developed for maternity wards to carry out training sessions that was disseminated among all staff.

Meanwhile, the COVID-19 situation, along with difficulties for hiring of International Consultants and civil society organizations, caused a delay to project implementation. As a result, it was not possible to agree and discuss project activities related to policy work. It was also challenging to collect data on women left behind, especially those who were not in contact with their husband for one year and more since such data is not officially available.

Annual Progress

1. Summary and Context

Taking into consideration the complex context in which the project implementation was initiated (late project approval, increasing cases of COVID-19 and resulting mobility restrictions and planning many activities in short time starting from MMPTF's final approval and lengthy process of procurement procedures, the progress made is not insignificant. The official project launch was in August 2021, which brought together all project stakeholders, including government structures, donor agency, UN, civil society organizations and research institutes and present project objectives, components and partnership. The meeting was chaired by the Deputy Minister of MoLMEP and UN Resident Coordinator in Tajikistan, which showed a strong commitment of the Government of Tajikistan towards project implementation. The project also conducted its first Project Steering Committee Meeting to present project workplan for six months and ToR, which was according to the project workplan.

Preparations to conduct situational analysis on women left behind has been completed. Based on the pre-testing, the tool was revised and finalised after series of discussion among PUNOs in three languages. A ToR to conduct a situational analysis of families who were left behind has been developed. The situational analysis will take place in the between March - April 2022.

After several discussion on the baseline assessment by PUNOs, involving M&E experts from Regional Offices, the project recruited an International Consultant to conduct a baseline in December 2021, though

the plan for recruitment of International Baseline Consultant was in October 2021. It also managed to hire an International Researcher in December 2021 with a slight delay for recruitment due to low interest of international consultants to apply for research and consultancy positions. Initially, the project intended to hire both international consultants, who could be involved in whole process of baseline assessment and research, starting from developing of methodologies and tools and ending with report writing and presenting outcomes of baseline and research. However, considering the COVID-19 situation globally, PUNOs decided to involve International Consultants for developing of methodologies, data analysis and report writing while government structures and national consultant to engage for data collection. This decision increased the interest of international consultants to apply for baseline and research and do their part of the work online. Though not initially planned by the project, the involvement of a research institute, a government entity or branch of the MoLMEP and national consultants will improve the capacity of government partners on conducting of interviews/surveys/focus group discussion among respondents, who are women left behind and raise their awareness about vulnerabilities of this group of population and ensure ownership. This change may contribute in reconsidering of government priorities on migration and allocate budget for supporting of women left behind since such kind of assessment has never been conducted by the government before.

In addition, the project also conducted a beneficiary listing starting from October 2021 in two target districts of Khatlon region as initially planned. As it was predicted from the beginning, the process with data collection was challenging because data on women left behind, specifically those who lost their contact with their husband for one year or more and did not receive remittances is not officially available. During the meeting with MMPTF, PUNOs raised this issue as well as a suggestion for including women whose husbands died as a result of their work experience during migration resulting in terminal illness or severe accidents . However, when the local Migration Services through partnership with head of villages in targeted areas started collecting data, they also came up with a new list of women who were affected by migration: those whose husbands became disabled during their migration experience, and thus cannot provide financial support to the family, divorced women who left for migration and left their children in home country with their relatives, women whose husbands were in migration however cannot provide financial support to their family in Tajikistan due to not finding a job in the destination country, sickness and poor wages. Instead of targeting women whose husbands left them in Tajikistan as their number is not so big as initially expected, the project will cover new beneficiaries whose social, economic and psychosocial well-being is almost similar to women who were totally left behind. This change to be introduced to the project will be positive since it will expand the list of vulnerable migrant families impacted by migration in one or other ways.

A database of potential beneficiaries has been created to ensure equal access to and provision of packaged services to women and children. This database will also allow PUNOs to conduct real-time monitoring of activities and make any changes in due course. The platform is hosted by UNICEF, while PUNOs are granted access to enter and constantly update the list.

All personal information related to beneficiaries is protected according to UNICEF Policy on Personal Data Protection¹ and stored accordingly. The data is secured and kept confidential for internal use only for the

¹ <https://www.unicef.org/supply/media/5356/file/Policy-on-personal-data-protection-July2020.pdf.pdf>

purposes defined by the project. No personal data will be revealed, apart from general number of beneficiaries and types of services received.

According to the workplan, the project announced a tender for hiring of civil society organization to assist with community mobilization on gender equality and prevention of violence against women and girls in Tajikistan. However, due to the small participation of civil society organizations, this was re-announced.

Results

The actions taken by PUNOs during the reporting period were mostly preparatory, such as recruitment of staff and consultancy positions, civil society organizations and research institutes for baseline assessment, research, situational analysis, M&E and communication. PUNOs met with different government and non-government partners in person to discuss the project activities, approaches and joint cooperation. More details about actions taken under each output and outcome level are highlighted below.

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:

A quantitative survey questionnaire was developed to analyse the psycho-social and economic situation of the women and children left behind by migrant workers from Kulob, Dusti and Panj, as well as to assess care support services available to these individuals in the community in regard to their psychosocial, emotional, health, economic, and educational wellbeing. Questions were grouped into five topics – i) Personal and family situation, ii) Formal and informal support services, iii) Economic activity and livelihood, including professional/occupational characterization, iv) Protective and right-based services (i.e. access to legal remedies, property, land, etc, and v) Barriers, challenges and opportunities for the women left behind to have income – will be given to respondents. The questionnaire has been tested and is ready to be implemented as a full situational analysis among at least 600 women.

In addition to the quantitative survey the situational analysis foresees qualitative component to have a deeper look at the economic and psychosocial well-being situations of women. Therefore, at least three focus group discussions (FDG), and 21 in-depth interviews (IDI) are planned to be carried out. In each target district, it is planned to conduct one FDGs with targeted women, and six IDIs with government officials, CSOs and experts/specialist, whose activities are directly related to migration, gender, social protection, care support services, emotional, healthcare, livelihood, educational and social support.

The research company will carry out the situational analysis.

After a series of meetings were held with the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of the Population the agreement was achieved that capacity building initiatives should be of sustainable nature and be provided on regular basis.

Academy of Public Administration (APA) will jointly with UNICEF develop short term and long- term training modules that touch upon different aspects of child rights and this module will be used for capacitating staff working at local level. The issues of the family support and managing each case in a child-friendly manner will be integral part of training module. The staff of the local government going through these training sessions will have knowledge and skills to provide support to parents, hence preventing children from being placed in the residential childcare institutions. In short term the APA will carry out 3-4 days training sessions for the members of the Commission on Child Rights from districts levels. Additionally, training needs assessment will be carried out, where based on feedback from short-term trainings and outcomes of the training needs assessment, long term training module will be developed. This training module that covers family support will be delivered in pre and in-service trainings at APA regularly.

To prevent placement of left behind children into residential care facilities, 104 staff (101 women and 3 men) of the Maternity Wards in two districts and Centre for Family and Child Support in Kulob (this service does not exist in Dusti) were sensitised on the importance of the child grow in a safe and protective family environment. The sessions included topics on importance of attachment, support to mothers after delivery of a child and support required to mother under depression, existing services to support parents and the role of the child protection statutory bodies to support families in need.

Additionally, the self-learning manual is developed for maternity wards to carry out training sessions that was disseminated among all staff.

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: Despite the efforts of the FAO team to assemble the project team before the end of the 2021, the recruitment of consultants has faced several challenges. Vacancies Announcements for the positions of (i) National Project Coordinator, (ii) National Agronomist specialist in Farmers Field School and Junior Field Schools and (iii) National Agro-economist specialist in Grand Schemes processes to support agriculture and agroprocessing development, were announced in September 2021.

For the Agronomist, a shortlist of 3 candidates was pre-selected based on the evaluation of the applicants' CVs. The on-line interviews took place on 26 November 2021. All the three candidates faced internet connectivity problems, and after many attempts, the members of the panel agreed to conduct physical

interviews in Dushanbe, assuming that it was feasible. This did not happen at the end, and the selection process for this VA was closed without success.

For the position of Agro-economist, only one candidate was suitable. He has working level of English (a minimum requirement of the VA) and had previously worked for FAO. The panel recommended to proceed with the recruitment of the candidate. Actions need to be taken by the Hiring Unit.

With regard to the position of National Project Coordinator, the Hiring Unit assessed the applicants and pre-selected a total of 6 candidates, which were further evaluated by the Lead Technical Officer (LTO). The LTO recommended to proceed with the interviews of three strongest candidates, which could very well fix not only the position of National Project Coordinator, but also those of Agronomist and Agro-economist. The selection process has not yet finished and it is foreseen to be completed at the beginning of 2022.

The FAO team has also developed the TOR for the Farmers Field Facilitators and Community Mobilizers. A potential experienced candidate was identified for the position of Mobilizer and it is expected to complete her recruitment by early in 2022

2.1. During the reporting period, the progress toward this Output was limited by the challenges encountered with the recruitment process. As Farmer Fields Schools (FFS) should be conducted before the planting season in March and April 2022, the recruitment of the national Agronomist and the Agro-economist is key to conduct the relevant value chain analysis and select the crops and commodities focus of the FFS. FAOKG has made progress in collecting information and the FAO training guidelines for FFS establishment, and drafting the Technical Specifications for the agricultural inputs to be procured under the framework of the FFS. The Agronomist and Mobilizer will adopt and adjust the training guide for the establishment of the Junior Farmer Field School (JFFS). They will form JFFSs after joint UNICEF and FAO preselection of the secondary schools in the targeted districts.

2.2. During the reporting period, the FAO team has discussed the activities needed to set up the two matching grants mechanisms for seeds, greenhouses, Family Farm Drip Irrigation Kits and backyard nurseries, etc. Based on close cooperation with colleagues from the UN Women, the Community Mobilizer will finalize women groups' establishment and will begin with institutional and technical CB events to launch implementation of the small-scale models of self-sufficient farming to ensure greater food security, improve value addition and additional incomes for abandoned families

2.3. FAO Lead Technical Officer has established contacts with the FAO Division that have conducted trainings on agricultural cost-benefit analysis and feasibility of agricultural investments and business plans. The methodology to be used to improve the financial capacity of the women groups will be Rural Invest, and guidelines have been translated into Russian.

During the reporting period, the FAO team has tried to link the project with related FAO initiative to build on synergies and have a bigger impact. Those FAO initiatives are "One Commodity One Country" and the FAO-UNIDO Programme on Value Chain Development (3ADI+). FAO team has also followed-up to the Agriculture Fair (May 25th, 2021), where value chains were to be extensively discussed with the international community, government representatives and local producers.

2.4. The project team developed TOR on Gender Action Learning System (GALS) for an International Consultant, conducted recruitment process and selected the International Consultant, who will adopt GALS methodology to the context of Tajikistan and train local experts and CSOs on GALS Module and conduct nine days TOT in Dushanbe or Khatlon District from/in two selected districts (10 community 14 Jamoats). It also developed and announced call for proposal for selection of the Implementing Partner (IP) for “Community mobilization on gender equality and prevention of violence against women and girls”. By set deadline five NGOs submitted their proposals. The evaluation process is almost finished.

Upon selection of the Implementing Partner, the IP is expected to start in 2022 and fulfil the assignment with the view of promoting favourable social norms, attitudes and behaviours at community and individual level to prevent Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) and harmful practices. One of the key tasks of this assignment are focusing on the following key areas: establish community platforms for communication and collaboration in two districts in form of 14 community members’ groups, galvanize at least 280 community members by 20 GALS facilitators to act together across gender borders against VAWG and VAWG and prepare at least 14-20 GALS Champions. The IP will also support financially and technically the implementation of at least seven initiatives per district (14 in total) grassroots activities/actions on recognition and redistribution of unpaid care work, with engagement in the planning process of ‘new’ social norm holders (community Core Group). Over 500 families will benefit from community “mini-projects” to model the recognition and reallocation of care work; and from grassroots activities that generate a need in communities and individuals to end impunity for violence and encourage protection-seeking behaviour.

The team managed to hold an online internal introductory workshop on GALS in 15-17December 2020 using UN Women funds, in which staff members participated from PUNOs, RCO and five CSOs. The workshop was conducted by a certified and experienced NGO from Kyrgyzstan, where GALS has already been successfully implemented. GALS helps to enable managers to conduct community consultations, awareness raising, and support activism for women’s leadership; establish ground-level demand for services and a shift in gender norms, and use positive and community-oriented channels to initiate dialogue on gender relations, such as community discussion on gender roles, the prevention of gender based violence, public communication of the value and significance of care work, promotion of “non-traditional professions for women” and male engagement, as well as gender-responsive family budgeting.

This was a preparatory step to raise awareness of PUNOs and CSOs on GALS and its application in Tajikistan. Participants of the introductory workshop received a first-hand knowledge to support the local partners and community mobilizers in the planning and budgeting of the long-term training and mentoring on GALS, GALS initiatives/actions, and monitoring of the related activities in the field. The results of pre- and post test survey showed about usefulness of this initiative and its applicability in the context of Tajikistan. The project team also developed a TOR for a Consultant on Project Documentation and Sustainability, who will work with local communities and stakeholders to collect evidence, provide multimedia content (written, audio, video and photo), develop about eight inspiring stories, portraying, in a visually compelling way, women left behind, their journey for a better life, finding a job, sharing responsibilities with other family members, struggling for live a life free of all forms of violence, and document the project implementation. The consultant will work closely with the communities and local stakeholders to identify best local practices pertinent to strengthened role of women in local communities, their contributions to improved well-being of their communities, and how these practices can be copied and sustained during and after the project completion.

2.5. The project will apply the financial education manual which was developed within IOM project on climate change with introducing a small change. 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.

Project staff met with a team from Consumer Protection and Financial Services Department of National Bank of Tajikistan (NBT) in December 2021, which is responsible for financial education. During the meeting, 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 Literacy, with a special focus on migrants and their family members. The strategy was developed through financial support of the international community. It is now going through approval process. It is a five-year strategy, with a clear focus on migrants and their family members. The financial education interventions were also proposed in one of the meetings of government in December 2021, in which the representative of the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade requested government and non-government agencies to prioritize financial education in their current and future programming.

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)

Activities:

3.1. The ToR to engage CSO to implement activities has been drafted and an announcement is in process. Limited number of CSOs with sufficient experience to deliver on specific activities are present in the target districts which hinders recruitment. To overcome this situation UNICEF is “head-hunting” existing CSOs with specific experience from sub-regional and national levels. It is expected that recruited CSO will start direct service delivery to children and women who are left behind in Q2 2022.

Due to the delay in project approval from the Government, UNICEF established Juvenile Support Services in Kulob and Vose in late 2021. The aim of these services is to prevent and divert children left behind from the formal justice system. During the next reporting period, UNICEF will continue to develop capacity of the newly appointed staff with the aim to institutional sustainability of the services. So far, forty-seven children, including four girls and 43 boys have been served through the service of social reintegration and rehabilitation of children in conflict with the law.

Preparatory work on the elaboration of the training module on positive parenting without discrimination and stigma has been conducted. The module has been tested among teachers and adopted by the Ministry of Education and Science. During the next reporting period, it is anticipated to roll out positive parenting training as well as to conduct sensitisation activities, including on gender sensitisation to ensure child friendly support to families left behind by migration in target districts is in place.

3.2. Based on the plan activities under this output will start by mid-2022. It is planned to organize workshops among target groups of female caregivers in Kulob and Dusti. An Adolescent Competency Framework package is ready and will be disseminated among identified schools.

3.3. The activities under this output will start in 2022.

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. The project hired an international baseline consultant, who will be responsible for conducting baseline measurements of 11 outcome indicators and one output indicator in the project's result matrix. The baseline data will be used to inform management decisions on the project interventions and its partners in Tajikistan. The baseline study results will also be used to inform the project's broader M&E framework and activities. Specifically, the consultant will (i) design the baseline study methodology and tools, (ii) provide guidance, tools, and a basic training on their use to the Project Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Specialist, and (iii) produce a report on baseline findings (based on the data compiled by enumerators under the guidance of the M&E Specialist). The data collection part of the assessment will be carried out by the Research Institute of the MoLMEP. The baseline assessment will cover women and children left behind.

The project also hired an international consultant to understand the attitude and behaviour pattern of Tajik migrant workers contributing to family abandonment. The research and baseline assessment will be conducted in the same period and are linked with each other. Both international consultants work together and complement each other. The quantitative part of research will be covered during baseline assessment to avoid approaching beneficiaries repeatedly and asking the same questions. The research will target 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 is questionnaire and focus group discussion. Similar to baseline assessment, the research will also involve national consultant to collect data from different group of respondents.

4.2. The activities will be carried out next year. The project will facilitate policy and implementation planning at national and district levels by increasing awareness of families left behind amongst policy makers, through capacity building and technical support, consultation and study processes, and national events with senior officials. Specifically, the project team will closely work with the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade of the Republic of Tajikistan, which is responsible government agency on developing of district development plans.

4.3. Project Team drafted the ToR and Request for Proposal (RfP) for the research company to implement the following:

- Assessment in emergencies aims to analyze the impact of the crisis on women and girls. It compares how gender issues were prior to the crisis with how gender issues and social norms

have changed since the crisis began. Recognizing that the COVID-19 outbreak will increase women's vulnerability to the broader impact of pandemics, the main objective of the survey is to understand how the changing situation is affecting women and girls and to find out the way to provide assistance to women and girls to make their life and work at home easier.

- Mapping of services' costs and recommendations for policy framework (analytical review).

In December 2021, the project team met with the Deputy Minister of MoLMEP regarding an activity related to developing of a section of the National Migration Concept for responding to the situation of families left behind within the project. The Deputy Minister supported this initiative and informed PUNOs that MoLMEP has been drafting a National Migration Strategy for the period of 2030 and PUNO's initiative can be integrated in this document. PUNO noted that the draft National Migration Strategy covers families left behind but not sufficiently, especially social protection and gender sensitizations. The project team proposed MoLMEP their assistance, specifically involving of national and international experts who could provide their support with enhancing social protection and gender consideration. The Deputy Minister accepted the assistance of PUNO but mentioned that they have to engage consultants as soon as possible since the document will go to the Government of Tajikistan for the review and approval by the end of March 2022.

The communication consultant was hired in the middle of November 2021. The Media Plan was reviewed, renewed and expanded accordingly. The new plan describes context, objectives, target audiences, methodology, expected results and the budget, among others. This document will serve as a basis for development and content creation of various sensitization materials focusing on information dissemination. The primary goal of the communication interventions is to reduce vulnerability and empower women and children from families left behind by their migrant breadwinner.

The main body introduces the readers with the main aim of the document and its expected results; briefly analyses the situation and the media coverage of the topic; details the goal and the objectives; shares the vision and approaches to take specifying advantages and disadvantages of the suggested means; segments the beneficiaries and the geography to be covered and frequency of the coverage; suggests activities to be implemented and the budget details; identifies key partners and how the implementation should be coordinated; shares expectations; and finally, provides offers on monitoring & evaluation. The annex includes detailed plan of activities and the budget. The Plan was shared with PUNOs and other stakeholders and suggestions and feedback was collected and incorporated into the final version.

Several meetings were organized with the communications specialists from the MPTF and the UN implementing agencies in Tajikistan to discuss the gaps, the needs, and the opportunities to promote the project visibility.

The project was also introduced to the UN Tajikistan Communications Group at the last monthly meeting of the group in 2021.

A flyer in English for local and international stakeholders is developed and is being disseminated during opportunities. An expanded version in Tajik for local stakeholders and especially the government agencies is planned to be created on January 2022.

Launch of the project with a special event organized on 20 August 2021 was publicized through UN Tajikistan online platforms. Please, see the links below:

<https://tajikistan.un.org/en/141419-empowerment-families-left-behind-improved-migration-outcomes-khatlon-tajikistan>

<https://tajikistan.un.org/en/141424-joint-programme-launch-empowerment-families-left-behind-improved-migration-outcomes-khatlon>

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/42127238/admin/>

<https://twitter.com/UNinTajikistan/status/1430145260664115226>

<https://www.facebook.com/UNinTajikistan/posts/4466362293415520>

Results Reporting Framework						
INDICATORS	Baseline	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.	0	0			0	No progress for the current reporting period.
Indicator 1b: % of children at risk of being placed in Residential childcare institutions found alternative family-based solutions and were prevented from institutionalization	0	0			0	No progress for the current reporting period.
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	0	0			0	No progress for the current reporting period.
Indicator 1.1b: # of training participants	0	0			0	

sensitized on issues of women and children left behind during advocacy events, disaggregated by sex						No progress for the current reporting period.
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)	0	0			0	No progress for the current reporting period.
Indicator 1.1d: # of maternity ward (in targeted districts) with knowledge and skills to provide family counselling and support to prevent child abandonment and	0	0	104 (101 women and 3 men)		0	The number of participants exceeds the project target, which was 100.

relinquishment, disaggregated by sex						
Indicator 1.1e: # of para-social workers trained who demonstrate increased knowledge on modern methods and techniques of social services, disaggregated by sex	0	0			0	A series of meetings were held with the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of the Population on best way to carry out capacity building initiatives among para-social workers and other governmental service providers.
Indicator 1.1f: # of participants at advocacy events, disaggregated by sex	0	0			0	No progress for the current reporting period.
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	0			0	No progress for the current reporting period.
Indicator 2b: % increase in incomes for households participating in agricultural support	Baseline/Endline TBD	0			0	No progress for the current reporting period.
Indicator 2c: % Post-harvest losses of projects beneficiaries due to better land and	42%	0			0	No progress for the current reporting period.

water management, improved farming capacities, access to technology, etc						
Indicator 2d: % of trained women earning income in the area of vocational training	0	0			0	No progress for the current reporting period.
Indicator 2e: % of target women reporting additional time free from unpaid/care work for other activity or education	0	0			0	No progress for the current reporting period.
Indicator 2f: # of financial providers offering new tailored products for 'families left behind or families of migrants'	0	0			0	No progress for the current reporting period; however partnership was built with National Bank of Tajikistan to support these interventions.
OUTPUT 2.1 Families left behind have increased capacity to utilize their land and water resources						
Indicator 2.1a: # women farmers trained	0	0			0	ToR for the Specialist in Farmers Field School and Junior Field Schools as well as National Project Coordinator and Agricultural Economist was developed, a vacancy note was posted.

						Recruitment procedure is ongoing.
Indicator 2.1b: % trained women farmers reporting implementing learnt techniques	0	0			0	No progress for the current reporting period.
Indicator 2.1c: # of children trained, disaggregated by sex	0	0			0	Recruitment for Junior Field Schools specialist is ongoing.
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	0	0			0	Technical specifications for the agricultural inputs to be procured under the framework of the FFS was developed.
Indicator 2.2b: # of farmers and families benefitting from processing activities	0	0			0	No progress for the current reporting period.
Indicator 2.2c: # of person reached with awareness raising of best practices	0	0			0	No progress for the current reporting period.
OUTPUT 2.3 Women left behind have improved vocational skills to better access alternative employment						
Indicator 2.3a: # of women trained and	0	0			0	No progress for the current reporting period.

acquired vocational skills						
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	0	0			0	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	0	0			0	No progress for the current reporting period.
Indicator 2.4c: # of self-help group participants	0	0			0	Call for proposal was developed and posted for selection of Implementing Partner for community mobilization on gender equality and prevention of violence against women and girls.
Indicator 2.4d: # of families benefited from micro-projects and Community actions on	0	0			0	No progress for the current reporting period.

the economy of care/unpaid work						
OUTPUT 2.5 Families left behind have improved financial inclusion and increased skills and knowledge to manage debt.						
Indicator 2.5a: # of beneficiaries trained	0	0			0	Meeting was held with National Bank of Tajikistan, a government entity, which is a leading agency on financial literacy in the country. The meeting was about coordinating of joint activity and discussing of future cooperation.
Indicator 2.5b: % of trainees improving their financial literacy (knowledge)	0	0			0	No progress for the current reporting period.
Indicator 2.5c: # of financial providers (participants) attending workshops	0	0			0	No progress for the current reporting period.
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	TBD	0			0	The target will be developed as per results of the Baseline
Indicator 3b: % of service users reporting satisfactory access to services	TBD	0			0	The target will be developed as per results of the Baseline
Indicator 3c: % of target beneficiaries who report (i) increased knowledge of rights and (ii) community support for rights	0	0			0	No progress for the current reporting period.
Indicator 3d: % of adolescents acquired skills and competencies to transition to work life	0	0			0	No progress for the current reporting period.
Indicator 3e: % of targeted women seeking psychosocial and emotional support services disaggregated by age.	Baseline/Endline	0			0	No progress for the current reporting period.
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 service	0	0			0	No progress for the current reporting period.

/referrals, including birth registration						
Indicator 3.1b: # of women and girls who received integrated community based sexual gender based violence (SGBV) services	0	0			0	No progress for the current reporting period.
Indicator 3.1c: # of service providers who are aware of legal issues faced by women left behind	0	0			0	No progress for the current reporting period.
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]	0	0			0	No progress for the current reporting period.
Indicator 3.2b: # of activists/advocates active, disaggregated by sex.	0	0			0	No progress for the current reporting period.
Indicator 3.2.c: # of CSOs capacitated	0	0			0	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	0	0			0	No progress for the current reporting period.
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	0	0			0	No progress for the current reporting period.
Indicator 3.3b: # of adolescents from the grade 8 to 11 from targeted schools will participate in life skills/competencies programme	0	0			0	No progress for the current reporting period.
Indicator 3.3c: # of adolescents to participate in competency-based education for outdoor learning	0	0			0	No progress for the current reporting period.
Indicator 3.3d: # of adolescents supported with psychosocial support, community-based rehabilitation and diverted from justice processes	0	0			0	No progress for the current reporting period.

<p>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)</p>	0	0			0	No progress for the current reporting period.
<p>OUTCOME 4 National and regional and local government identify and plan to implement evidence-based responses to ‘Families left Behind’</p>						
<p>Indicator 4a: Existence of policy guidance on families left behind, in line with international standards, developed, approved and implemented. [Developed = 1, submitted =2, approved = 3, implemented =4]</p>	0	0			0	No progress for the current reporting period.

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.]	0	0			0	No progress for the current reporting period.
OUTPUT 4.1 Evidence on 'Families left behind' is available to guide policy planning						
Indicator 4.1a: # of assessment/ research reports disseminated	0	0			0	International Consultants were hired both for research and baseline assessment.
Indicator 4.1b: # of individuals of related ministries, whose <u>technical and managerial capacities</u> on prioritization for Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB) in socio-economic aspects of migration and diagnostics of systemic GRB financing bottlenecks are <u>supported</u> by knowledge and data	0	0			0	No progress for the current reporting period.

Indicator 4.1c: # of knowledge products introduced to the officials of MoF, MoLE, MEDT.	0	0			0	No progress for the current reporting period.
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	0	0			0	No progress for the current reporting period.
Indicator 4.2b: # of senior officials participating in consultation and learning visits [Deputy Minister or above)	0	0			0	No progress for the current reporting period.
Indicator 4.2c: # of District Task Forces capacitated on GRB, with focus on migration sector.	0	0			0	No progress for the current reporting period.
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	0	0			0	PUNOs met with MoLMEP to provide their support with integrating of families left behind in the National Migration Strategy.

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 are 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.

Each PUNO also met with its government partners separately to discuss joint cooperation in details 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.

2. 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 also raised during project kick-off and first PSC meetings, highlighting social, economic and psychosocial difficulties, which families left behind experience due to not receiving of required support in their community by the UN Resident Coordinator.

The questionnaire, which was elaborated for project situational analysis, integrates 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.

3. Innovation, Good Practices and Lessons Learned

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 will also apply 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 will be driven by the mobilized community members who will get 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. More details about implementation of GALS will be accessible in the periodic report.

4. 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 COVID-19 pandemic also had its impact on implementation of some project activities. The project planned to meet with the Deputy Minister of MoLMEP, who manages policy development on migration, to discuss cooperation regarding integration of families left behind in the National Migration Strategy for the period up to 2030. However, this was possible after two months because she and her family members were impacted by COVID thus she was on extended sick leave. The COVID-19 also impacted activities related to baseline assessment and research, which required hiring of International Consultants. The first announcement through untj.org website for both positions did not bring any results. The re-announcement through sharing it among wider networks, including IOM mission in Central Asian Countries, M&E Share Point of IOM Regional Office Vienna and networks of other PUNOs was successful for baseline assessment but not research. IOM contacted a researcher who did similar work with IOM in 2009 and agreed to re-hired by IOM for conducting a research to understand behaviour of Tajik migrant workers contributing to family abandonment. One of the reasons for refusing to apply for baseline and research by International Consultants maybe associated with COVID-19 situation.

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 2022:

Project Management:

- Second PSC to discuss project challenges, lessons learned and coordinated new workplan for January -June 2022;
- First meeting of PSCSRG to share project approaches, practices and seek their advise with project implementation;
- A detailed work plan for the implementation of activities planned for half year of 2022 will be developed;
- Monthly coordination meetings of PUNOs to discuss and coordinate joint activities and seek support and advise.

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;
- Monthly capacity building and coordinating workshops among concerned local government.

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

- Organizing of vocational training courses for 200 women left behind;
- Adjusting of IOM Financial Education Module, which was developed as part of climate change project, to the needs of families left behind in Khatlon;
- Conducting training for NGO partners on financial inclusion to train 700 women in 2 target districts;
- Conducting joint events with National Bank of Tajikistan on “Money Day” and “Remittances Day” to raise awareness of families left behind and a wider communities about financial products available in their community;
- Conducting a value chain analysis to determine priority commodities as well as to shape the Curriculum of the farmers field schools and junior field schools.

- Implementing of the GALS, including reflection workshops for community members, training of community mobilisers/ local Women Rights Organizations and CSOs, and community projects on redistribution of care work;
- Formation of groups to develop the capacity of women left behind to carry out farming activities.

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

- Developing of capacity of local duty bearers to deliver services to ensure women's access on prevention and response to Violence Against Women rights to property, land and economic resources, including training of judiciary on laws relating to land ownership and divorce;
- Providing access to information and service referral through case management systems of CoWFA phone and monthly community information access points;
- Female caregivers will be trained on parenting skills;
- Juvenile Support Services will be established to provide psycho-social support and community-based rehabilitation for children left behind and diverted from formal justice processes.

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 baseline assessment to examine social, economic and psychosocial situation of families left behind;
- Undertaking a research to understand behaviour pattern of Tajik migrants workers contributing to families abandonment in the country;
- Assessing the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on the families of migrants in two target districts, including the impact on the external and domestic processes (care work, access to services and social protections for women, as well as the impact on female relatives of migrants and the dependence of labour migrants in general) as a research on factors contributing to abandonment;
- Implementation of Gender Responsive Budgeting, that will be the basis for Ministry of Finance (MoF), Ministry of Economic Development and Trade (MEDT), MoMLEP and national and district level actors to increase their capacity to implement Gender Responsive Policies, district action plans and allocated budgets;
- Integrating families left behind in the National Migration Strategy of Republic of Tajikistan for the period up to 2030.

ANNEX

- Annex 1 – Letter of Approval by the Government
- Annex 2 – Communication and Visibility Plan
- Annex 3 – One – pager in English and Tajik
- Annex 4 – Press release of kick-off meeting
- Annex 5 - Call for Proposal for hiring of civil society organizations on GALS