







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

ANNUAL REPORT

2022

FUND INFORMATION

Fund Name	UN Multi-Partner Human Security Trust Fund for the Aral Sea Region in Uzbekistan (MPHSTF)
Operational period	November 12, 2018 – December 31, 2023
Funding	For 2022: USD 2,242,300
Goals	To address environmental, economic, health, food, and social insecurities in the most vulnerable areas of the Aral Sea region by providing innovative solutions to address environmental issues, improving the access of affected rural populations to basic services, and contributing to poverty reduction.
Reporting period	January - December 2022
Expected Outcomes	Outcome 1: Stress on local communities due to the deteriorating environmental situation is reduced
	Outcome 2: Employment and income generation opportunities for local communities are increased
	Outcome 3: Local community access to affordable and healthy food and clean drinking water is secured
	Outcome 4: The overall health of the local population is improved, and healthy lifestyle promoted
	Outcome 5: The living conditions of local populations are improved, with particular focus on vulnerable groups such as women, children, and youth
Participating UN Organizations	UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNESCO, UNODC, FAO, WHO
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Participating UN Organisations



Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)



United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)



United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)



United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)



United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime (UNODC)



UNFPA

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)



World Health Organization (WHO)

Contributing Partners



European Union



Government of Finland



Government of Germany



Government of Norway



Government of the Republic of Korea



Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan



Alwaleed Philanthropies

MPHSTF Parallel Contributors



Government of Japan

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

AC	Advisory Committee on	RCO	Resident Coordinator Office
	Sustainable Development of the Aral Sea Region	RoK	Republic of Karakalpakstan
CFP	Call for proposals	SC	Steering Committee of the MPHSTF
CDPs CSO	Community development plans Civil Society Organization	SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
EU	European Union	SMEs	Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization	STH	Soil-transmitted helminths
FDA	French Development Agency	SWASH	School Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
GGGI	Global Green Growth Institute	ToR	Terms of Reference
GIZ	German Agency for International Cooperation	TS	Technical Secretariat of the
GoU	Government of Uzbekistan		MPHSTF
ICT	Information and Communications Technology	UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
IICAS	International Innovation Centre for the Aral Sea Basin under the President	UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
	of the Republic of Uzbekistan	UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
loGT	Internet of Good Things	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
IPC	Infection Prevention and Control	UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs
JP	Joint Programme	011020	and Crime
MIIT	Ministry of Investment, Industry and Trade	UPSHIFT	Social innovation and social entrepreneurship programme
МОН	Ministry of Health	USAID	United States Agency for
MPHSTF	UN Multi-Partner Human Security		International Development
	Trust Fund for the Aral Sea Region in Uzbekistan	VCC	Village Council of Citizens
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations	WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
PHC	Primary Health Care	WASH FIT	Water and Sanitation for Health Facility Improvement Tool
PUNOs	Participating UN Organizations	WHO	World Health Organization



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

With appreciation for the partnerships with and contributions made by development partners since 2019, the 2022 Annual Fundlevel report presents the UN Multi-Partner Human Security Trust Fund for the Aral Sea Region's (MPHSTF) key results achieved and activities implemented in cooperation with the Government of Uzbekistan, the UN Country Team, and civil society partners.

This report presents the results of the Fund's completed Joint Programme (JP) on strengthening the health and nutrition of adolescents, improving access to and quality of health care facilities, and empowering youth to be positive agents of change in the three target districts of Bozatau, Kungrad and Muynak, benefitting over 224,000 people. Jointly implemented by UNICEF, UNFPA and UNODC, the Programme's results supported SDGs 1, 3, 4 and 6, and the Fund's Outcome 4.

The Joint Programme of UNDP, UNFPA and FAO has advanced in developing rural communities by delivering access to basic infrastructure such as clean drinking water, electricity and digitized services, and empowering youth, women and the elderly in the three pilot districts of Bozatau, Kungrad and Muynak, where the UNICEF, UNFPA and UNODC JP is promoting an integrated approach to addressing development issues. Since the start of its implementation, this JP has reached over 26,000 direct beneficiaries in Karakalpakstan.

The Fund's project implemented by WHO has progressed towards universal health coverage and security to guide investments in Karakalpakstan's health system. The project in cooperation with its partners has developed a business plan for Primary Health Care (2022-2024) that was submitted to the Ministry of Health and subsequently approved.

In 2022, the Fund welcomed generous contributions by the governments of Uzbekistan and Germany. The MPHSTF succeeded in leveraging an additional USD 2.2 million USD during the post-pandemic period in Uzbekistan. These resources will be further invested to respond to the most urgent insecurities of people and communities in the Aral Sea region during the Fund's next call for proposals.

The Fund also established strategic partnerships with the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI), University College London's Department of Political Science, and the Wageningen University. Fund's 5th Steering Committee meeting considered the results-based summary of the Fund's two JPs and one project implemented since 2021. To further enhance human security in the Aral Sea Region, the Fund's Steering Committee endorsed two more JPs in November 2022 - the first is coordinated by UNICEF, WHO and UNFPA, and the second is coordinated by UNDP, UNICEF and FAO under the Youth-Employment, Innovations, Health and Green Growth priority areas. There total funding comes to USD 4.4 million.

This year's report also puts a spotlight on operational performance and highlighting human interest stories, with the results matrix presenting specific targets achieved.

The Fund's guiding compass is the United Nations Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, and national SDG commitments in the Aral Sea Region. In this regard, the Concept Note of the Aral Sea Fund for Climate Resilient Development (2024-2030) has been elaborated and approved by the Steering Committee for the Fund's next operational cycle.

As embedded in our motto "The Sea Is Gone, People Are Not", MPHSTF remains committed to continuing collective efforts towards people, planet and prosperity.

1. ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE FUND

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2022

JANUARY

THE GOVERNMENT ADOPTED A RESOLUTION ON ENVIRONMENTAL INNOVATIONS AND TECHNOLOGIES IN THE ARAL SEA REGION

The Cabinet of Ministers adopted the Resolution 'On additional measures to transform the Aral Sea region into a zone of environmental innovations and technologies' on 25 January 2022, #41. The *document* was developed as part of the implementation of the Decree of the President dated 29 July 2021 No. PP-5202 'On measures to implement the special resolution of the United Nations General Assembly dated 18 May 2021 "On declaring the Aral Sea region a zone of environmental innovation and technology"

MARCH

FOURTH CONTRIBUTION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF UZBEKISTAN

The Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan (GoU) supported communities in the Aral Sea region by making another significant contribution of USD 1.5 million to the UN Multi-Partner Human Security Trust Fund the Aral Sea Region in Uzbekistan (MPHSTF), which is the fourth time Uzbekistan has made such financial support.

JOINT DECLARATION OF INTENT WITH THE GLOBAL GREEN GROWTH INSTITUTE (GGGI)

The Global Green Growth Institute in Uzbekistan and the United Nations represented by the Resident Coordinator's Office (RCO) in Uzbekistan signed a *Joint Declaration of Intent* to promote the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals under the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework – especially in the Aral Sea region within the framework of the MPHSTF.

APRIL

US CONGRESSIONAL STAFF VISIT

The Technical Secretariat held a meeting with the US Congressional Delegation jointly with the Ministry of Investments and Foreign Trade of the Republic of Uzbekistan. The Technical Secretariat presented information about results achieved within the MPHSTF, in tackling Aral Sea catastrophe-related challenges.

EU AMBASSADORS TO UZBEKISTAN VISIT THE ARAL SEA REGION

The Delegation of the European Union in Uzbekistan (EU Delegation) organized *a three-day visit* of the EU Ambassadors mission to Karakalpakstan. The visit underscores the EU's support for development initiatives in the Aral Sea region, including within the MPHTSF.

The EU Ambassadors visited one of the many project sites of the MPHSTF to get on-ground information on results achieved within the MPHSTF. The project in these sites sought to address urgent human insecurities in the Aral Sea region through promoting sustainable rural development.

NOVEMBER

FIFTH MEETING OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE

On 16 November 2022, the Steering Committee of the MPHSTF approved funding for two new Joint Programmes amounting to USD 4.4 million within the Third Call for Proposals addressing priority areas on Youth, Employment and Innovation, Health and Green Growth.

Moreover, the Steering Committee approved the MPHSTF strategic documents for the current cycle of the Fund, such as the Resource Mobilization and Partnership Strategy, Communication, Branding and Marketing Strategy, and Monitoring and Evaluation Guide.

DECEMBER

CONTRIBUTION
OF THE GOVERNMENT
OF THE FEDERAL
REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

In the framework of its
International Climate Initiative,
the *Government of the Federal Republic of Germany*, being a
key contributor to the climaterelated United Nations
Multi-Partner Trust Funds,
has made a EUR 700,000
contribution to the MultiPartner Human Security Trust
Fund for the Aral Sea Region
in Uzbekistan.

PROGRAMMATIC RESULTS



Since its establishment in November 2018, the Fund has supported 7 projects valued at USD 13.5 million to improve 5 key human securities – environmental, food, health, social and economic – in the Aral Sea region, which positively impact the lives of over 274,000 people or nearly 14 percent of Karakalpakstan's population.

This was made possible thanks to our **Contributing Partners** including the Governments of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Finland, Norway, the Republic of Korea, the Federal Republic of Germany, the European Union, and Alwaleed Philanthropies.

Our Implementing Partners are FAO, UNICEF, UNDP, UNESCO, UNODC, UNFPA and WHO.



FOOD AND WATER SECURITY

OUTCOME 3. LOCAL COMMUNITY ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE AND HEALTHY FOOD AND CLEAN DRINKING WATER IS SECURED

Joint Programme on 'Unleashing young people's and vulnerable citizens' creativity and innovation by strengthening their adaptive capacity to address the economic and food insecurities in the exposed communities of the Aral Sea region' [Jointly implemented by UNDP, UNFPA and FAO]

The Fund, through the Joint Programme (JP) which is supported and jointly implemented by UNDP, UNFPA and FAO, has worked with a range of partners to tackle a number of human insecurities in 2022. With the aim of increasing efficiency and introducing innovations in agriculture, as well as promoting digitized agricultural smart and established communities. the JP favourable infrastructure and facilitated the population's labour market initiatives in three districts of Karakalpakstan: Bozatau, Kungrad and Muynak.

To reduce the vulnerabilities of unemployed, unskilled youth and women and returning migrants:

 The JP has helped 489 youth increase their professional skills and knowledge in five need-based areas, specifically IT, sewing, cooking, beauty and plumbing services, by accessing 3 established vocational **training centres** (one in each target district).

- 50 youth, including vulnerable youth from the 'youth notebook', have become formally or informally employed¹.
- 72 young people have been trained through the startup platform established in Nukus, in skills on start-up project development, as well as managing innovative businesses. Ultimately 6 projects received financial support and have engaged 14 more young people who have started generating income.
- 365 have enhanced women knowledge home-based their in entrepreneurship, through of the developed motivational planner for beginner entrepreneurs, and participation in a number of skills-building initiatives. These measures have been instrumental empowering women

A database for identifying, solving and monitoring the problems of unemployed youth (aged 14-30 years old) who require and wish to receive social, economic, legal and psychological support, knowledge and skills.



Photo 1. Monocenter in Bozatau district, IT class.



Photo 2. Beneficiary of the startup platform, Nukus.

communities and in generating **additional monthly income** of UZS 1,200,000 – 2,500,000.

To create an enabling environment for income generation in rural communities:

 The JP has helped 183 households obtain increased income through adaptation of innovative technologies and agricultural practices.

572 women and youth and 78
 extension specialists have improved
 their capacities through thematic
 training (capacity building programs)
 on the subjects of horticulture,
 livestock development, conservation
 agriculture, aquaculture and
 resource-saving technologies.

Photo 3. Rural development supporting generation of household incomes.



• Two innovative resource-saving methods in agriculture have been tested in demonstration plots, namely (i) Buried Diffuser (subsoil irrigation method) and (ii) drip irrigation. The preliminary result has shown that Buried Diffuser technology saves up to 20 percent of water, and generates up to 41 percent more harvest than drip irrigation. This study and its replication will continue during the project life cycle in 2023.

To enable the development of smart communities through digitalization:

 4,465 rural residents of the 'Kazakhdarya' Village Council of Citizens (VCC) of the Muynak district have gained access to improved

- **health care services** due to renovation work conducted at this facility.
- 8,430 rural youth have gained access to the internet through the establishment of 15 Wi-Fi zones in the three districts of Bozatau, Kungrad and Muynak.
- ~15,000 people can now benefit from 370 types of public services, including utilities, health care, real estate, transport, social protection, finance and banking, tax guidance and other services, through the establishment of info kiosks in rural remote areas.
- 21,839 rural residents in the Bozatau district have gained access to digitized medical services via the established e-polyclinic platform.

For more information, see the: Annual Progress Report, 2022

Photo 4. Health care medical personnel at work using the e-polyclinic platform

Photo 5. Testing water-saving technology, IICAS, Nukus.





HEALTH SECURITY

OUTCOME 4. THE OVERALL HEALTH OF THE LOCAL POPULATION IS IMPROVED, AND HEALTHY LIFESTYLE IS PROMOTED

As of December 2022, the Fund's Joint Programme implemented by UNICEF, UNFPA and UNODC, and the Fund's

project overseen by WHO, contributed to the Fund's Outcome 4.

The Joint Programme on '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' jointly implemented by UNICEF, UNFPA and UNODC has been implemented to address the immediate needs of vulnerable populations, including adolescents, in terms of access to safe and clean schools and health care facilities, through the JP implemented by UNICEF, UNFPA and UNODC.

The JP meets other health and nutritional needs, and strengthens the human capital and resilience of youth by expanding opportunities for social innovation skills development in the three districts of Muynak, Kungrad and Bozatau throughout January 2021 to December 2022

The following outputs

- improved the health and nutrition status of adolescents:
- Over 700 teachers and 27,000 schoolaged children (100 percent of target) gained access to Water, Sanitary and Hygiene (WASH) services through the construction of WASH facilities in 15 public schools / educational institutions in the Bozatau, Muynak and Kungrad districts.
- 131,000 adolescent girls aged 10-17 in all districts of the Republic of Karakalpakstan received iron and folic acid supplementation (100

Photo 6. WASH facility at public school in Muynak district.



percent coverage), which helps prevent anaemia among adolescent girls.

- 40,000 school children in five districts of the Republic of Karakalpakstan received deworming support through two rounds of a deworming campaign, which reduced the incidence rate of intestinal helminthiases among children from 12.6 percent in 2021 to 1.7 percent in 2022.
- 2,534 of health and education workers trained to deliver anaemia prevention and adolescent nutrition counselling services.
- 1,908 teachers and community activists trained on School Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (SWASH), micronutrient supplementation and deworming counselling.
- 1,752 family members (adolescents and parents) covered by family skills training programme.
- 15,228 secondary school staff/ teachers, adolescent Union leaders and adolescents have increased their capacity to develop and deliver programmes in lifetransferrable, health and soft skills.
- 426 adolescents and youth, specifically those most in need, were equipped with socioemotional skills to manage life in a healthy and productive manner.
- 30,000 active users have been reached with local content on health topics developed for school children under the 'loGT' (Internet of Good Things) platform.



Photo 7. Girls' supplementation programme to prevent anaemia

Photo 8. Capacity-building programme for school staff to develop and deliver education programmes in life-transferrable, health and soft skills.





Photo 9. Telecommunication equipment provided to HCF, Muynak district.

The below-mentioned programme outputs contributed to improved access to safe, quality health care services:

- 20 health care facilities received improved WASH services.
- 10,000 health care personnel and population of the three target districts benefitted from improved
- telecommunication and telemedicine services. As a result, the overall population's satisfaction with health services has increased from 41 percent to 70 percent, and the referral rate to health care facilities has increased 20 percent from 2021 to 2022.
- 659 health care providers trained on the WASH, IPC and Water and Sanitation for Health Facility

Photo 10. Sanitation facility at the Rural Health Care Point 'Suwenli', Kungrad district.

workers in the Muynak district.

Photo 11. Training on IPC for health care



Improvement Tool (WASH FIT), while 3 standards / policies for WASH in health care facilities have been developed and reviewed, including specific gender markers.

- 1,589 health care professionals have been educated and re-trained through the distance learning system by equipping 35 medical institutions with functioning telecommunication and telemedicine facilities, including a regulatory framework for telemedicine.
- 31 laboratories (100 percent of the 3 target districts) have received soil-transmitted helminths (STH) equipment and testing systems, while clinical STH management standards at the Primary Health Care (PHC) level have been updated to improve

diagnosis and treatment of intestinal infection.

Empowering young people to be productive citizens and positive agents of change has been made possible due to:

- 178 young people people having received training on social and entrepreneurship skills through the social innovation and social entrepreneurship programme (UPSHIFT).
- Eleven youth-led projects having received mentoring and seed funding, while 6 youth-led projects have evolved into sustainable social business.

For more information, see the: Annual Progress Report, 2022

Photo 12. UPSHIFT programme participants presenting their product (highly nutritious feed for poultry).



Project 'Towards universal health coverage and security in Karakalpakstan (UHC+S)' [Implemented by WHO]

With the aim of progressing towards universal health coverage and security (UHC+S), and to guide investments in the health system of the Republic of Karakalpakstan by the year 2023, the Fund supports the WHO-implemented project.

After WHO's assessment conducted in 2021, the project recommended the conceptual model of the Muynak-Kungrad quality service delivery and medical network as reflected in the WHO Interim Assessment Report, 2021.

From February to March 2022 the fifth expert mission took place in the Nukus, Kungrad and Muynak districts. The mission's key outputs include the following:

 Identification of actions for the two compound flagship initiatives with regards to ensuring energy efficiency, renewable energy, landscape integration and sustainable health care for the Muynak and Kungrad

- hospitals, including green, blue, resilient and inclusive infrastructure;
- Investigation of the status of existing facilities in Kungrad and Muynak;
- Recommendation to apply the UNECE Environmental Performance Review of Uzbekistan in the proposals;
- Discussion of recommendations with national counterparts.

Moreover the Business Plan for 2022-2024 has been finalized including the mission, vision and analysis of the current situation, and strategic goals and objectives. This Business Plan gives a clear indication of the service profiles to be provided at both hospitals, the staff and equipment needed to deliver those services, and required foundations in Primary Health Care (PHC) and enablers, such as digitalization. Eventually the Business Plan was submitted to the MoH of Karakalpakstan, and subsequently discussed and approved by December 2022.

For more information, see the: **Annual Progress Report, 2022**

2. FUND OPERATIONAL PERFORMANCE

OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE AND THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT

The Fund issued the Third Call for Proposals for USD 4.4 million on 24 December 2021, under priority areas including Youth Employment, Innovation, Health, and Green Growth, with a proposed submission date of 31 January 2022. Seven PUNOs were encouraged to use the One UN programming strategy, and to collaborate with national and international partners in developing proposals.

The PUNOs submitted five proposals with the total amount of USD 10.3 million, within the Third Call for Proposals. On 16 November 2022, the Steering Committee of the MPHSTF approved funding for two new projects amounting to USD 4.4 million within the Third Call for Proposals addressing such priority areas as Youth Employment and Innovation, Health and Green Growth.

The UNICEF, WHO and UNFPA Joint Programme 'Laying the foundations for people-centred, climate-resilient primary health care and water, sanitation, and hygiene practices at health care facilities and schools in Karakalpakstan' will positively impact the lives of over

320,000 people. This will be achieved through the introduction of a new Primary Health Care service delivery and financing model, as well as the development of new tools for digitalization.

Another UNDP, UNICEF and FAO Joint Programme 'Empowering Youth Towards a Brighter Future through Green and Innovative Development of the Aral Sea region' will promote integrated green and innovative resilience building of communities, through empowering rural youth and women, thereby increasing their employment opportunities.

This programme will serve the interests of over **4,600 people** from three northern districts of Karakalpakstan, namely Chimbay, Kegeyli and Karauzyak through creation of an enabling environment for income generation, employment, social infrastructure and digitalization as well as climate change adaptation measures on the dried bed of the Aral Sea.

In addition, as a result of these two projects, 241,000 people and 5,000 children and adolescents will benefit from environment-friendly, sustainable

primary care and education facilities, improved access to water, sanitation, hygiene infrastructure and health promotion, better nutrition, and education on climate change topics.

It is expected that the above-mentioned results will be achieved by the end of this year, thanks to collaboration between the United Nations, government, civil society and development partners, to address the actual needs of the people of Karakalpakstan.

On 16 November 2022, the Steering Committee (SC) of the MPHSTF approved **strategic documents** for the current cycle of the Fund:

- The Monitoring and Evaluation Guide aims to help Trust Fund partners support UN Organizations involved in implementing the Fund's projects and programmes, to obtain timely qualitative and quantitative information required for effective monitoring and evaluation.
- The Resource Mobilization and Partnership Strategy aims to strengthen relationships with existing partners, and to build new partnerships with institutional, civil and private actors.
- The Communication, Branding and Marketing Strategy seeks to further raise visibility of the Fund, its donors and partners, and its supported programmes and projects, in partnership with key Participating UN Organizations and stakeholders.

The **Technical Secretariat** (TS) supported the Fund's entire programming cycle. It provided extensive support to both the SC and the Advisory Committee (AC) in the delivery of the ToR, and it specifically supported implementation of the Fund's strategic decisions. The Secretariat closely liaised with the Ministry of Investments, Industry and Trade's newly established Department for Cooperation with the MPHSTF.

To support the management process by providing decision-makers with reliable and sound data/information, the TS conducted regular field visits to project sites in March, April and December 2022. During these missions, the TS held meetings with local authorities and project partners to discuss challenges, and both the outcomes and impacts of on-going programmes. As a result of the monitoring visits, key findings and recommendations were developed and submitted to project teams for further consideration.

The TS has assisted in implementing the Third Call for Proposals, particularly by holding a series of technical meetings with PUNOs and partners to identify priority areas for the call. It later revised the Guidelines for the Third Call, complementing the document with specific requirements for proposals, as well as the required application, appraisal and selection s processes. Furthermore the TS developed a Proposal Evaluation Guideline for the Technical Review Panel to be used as a reference for the technical evaluation of project proposals.

PARTNERSHIP, RESOURCE MOBILISATION AND COMMUNICATION

The international donor community continued to support the MPHSTF in 2022.

The Government of Uzbekistan has transferred its third tranche in the amount of USD 1.5 million, and the Government of Germany has transferred a USD 0.74 million contribution.

The Fund Consolidated Financial Report 2022 is available at https://beta.mptf. undp.org/fund/arl00.

Significant measures continue to be taken by the Government of Uzbekistan, the UN RCO in Uzbekistan, and other stakeholders, to mobilize additional financial and technical resources from the international donor community to the MPHSTF and parallel initiatives.

In 2022 the Aral Sea Trust Fund was expanding its partnership base by signing Declarations of Intent to partner with development partners. In particular, the Aral Sea Trust Fund partnered with

Photo 13. Signing ceremony with the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany.



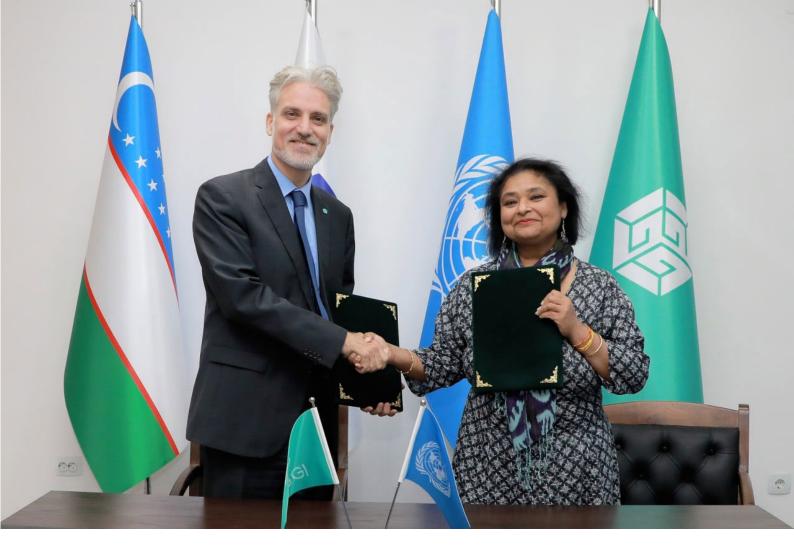


Photo 14. Signing ceremony with the GGGI

University College London's Department of Political Science, Wageningen University's Social Sciences Group, and the Global Green Growth Institute in Uzbekistan. Declarations of Intent on such partnerships were signed between the UN Resident Coordinator's Office in Uzbekistan and above-mentioned institutions concerning cooperation in meeting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Uzbekistan, particularly in the Aral Sea region.

The Declarations of Intent were signed due to recognizing the critical importance of partnerships with the government, private sector, civil society and academia to promote achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in Uzbekistan in general, and in the Aral Region in particular, as well as aiming to cooperate in the areas of mutual interests related to the work of the United Nations Country Team in Uzbekistan and the development efforts of the abovementioned institutions.

The key strategic activities within the Declarations of Intent include:

- Data and knowledge sharing on green growth and sustainable development;
- Information, education, and communication campaigns which may include but are not limited to co-hosting of events and providing available expertise;

Partnership and investment expansion for the sustainable development of the Aral Sea Region in Uzbekistan, including through a collaboration that would involve other UN organizations and agencies working in the Aral Sea region.

The Delegation of the European Union in Uzbekistan (EU Delegation) held a three-day mission to Karakalpakstan over 28-30 April 2022. The visit underscores the EU's support for development initiatives in the Aral Sea region.

On 30 April the EU Delegation visited one of the many project sites of the MPHSTF. The UN Resident Coordinator in Uzbekistan and Government representatives accompanied the Ambassadors in their visit to the MPHSTF-funded UNDP/UNESCO Joint Programme at the Forestry Department of the Takhtakupir district. At these sites the project sought to address the urgent human insecurities in the Aral Sea region through promoting sustainable rural development.

The Head of the Takhtakupir State Forestry Department briefly underscored that the benefits of the forestry activities funded by the MPHSTF included enhancement of the technical capacity of the Takhtakupir Forestry Department as well as increasing the volume of afforestation work on the dried bed of the Aral Sea. Enhanced technical capacity helped to plant saxaul and other species

Photo 15. EU Delegation visit to the Fund's project sites.





Photo 16. Meeting with the US Congressional Delegation.

on 3,000 hectares of land, being a six times greater space than before project interventions. The afforestation resulted in more income for Forestry Department workers. The professional skills of over 100 employees from 16 departments of the State Forestry were enhanced through trainings on 'innovative methods of afforestation'.

In 2022 the Fund through its Technical Secretariat also held a meeting in

Tashkent with the US Congressional Delegation with support from the Ministry of Investments and Foreign Trade of the Republic of Uzbekistan. The Technical Secretariat presented information about the results of MPHSTF in tackling the Aral Sea catastrophe, especially in mitigating negative consequences of the ecological disaster.

The technical level meetings identified common areas of cooperation



In 2022, the MPHSTF Technical Secretariat reached out to more than 25 embassies and international development agencies in Uzbekistan, including among others the Federal Republic of Germany, China, France, the State of Kuwait, Switzerland, Turkey, Great Britain, the US and Italy.



Technical level meetings were held with embassies of the State of Kuwait, Switzerland, Korea, Finland and the EU Delegation in Uzbekistan, to explore the possibility of building new and extending current partnerships within the MPHSTF.



In addition, technical level meetings were held with representatives of the MPHSTF Technical Secretariat and FDA, and USAID and GIZ representatives.

between parties within the MPHSTF. The leadership of the Trust Fund was informed about the results of those meetings.

The Fund, its supported programmes and projects as well as partners, communicated its collective activities and results to the public and a wide range of stakeholders under a unified Communication, Branding and Marketing Strategy. Collective action further enhanced the notion of the UN, Government of Uzbekistan (GoU) and international and national partnership collaborating in the pursuit of shared Sustainable Development Goals.

Strategic communication was developed around the Human Security concept focused on people supported through the Fund's strategy, in addressing the Aral Sea crisis through the development of human-interest stories, beneficiary interviews, and presentations of the project's key statistics. Furthermore, development partners and stakeholders could witness on-the-ground results during their visits (for example, during the EU Delegation visit to Karakalpakstan, the US Congressional Delegation, and other events) and have an opportunity to hear the voices of project beneficiaries and see the importance of a bottom-up approach in supporting those most-in-need in the Aral Sea Region.

Qualitative and quantitative information regarding the key communication, visibility and outreach activities conducted by the Fund in 2022 and its impact are summarized in the table below.

Summary of Communication, Visibility and Outreach Activities	Impact
80 news articles, project results, stories published in traditional media via 10 different channels (Anhor.uz, Uz24, Uzdaily, Yuz.uz, Gazeta.uz, Nuz,uz, review.uz and others) and in project websites: https://www.aral.mptf.uz/, https://uzbekistan.un.org, https://www.fao.org, https://www.undp.org, https://uzbekistan.unfpa.org, https://www.unicef.org/uzbekistan/, https://www.unodc.org/centralasia/, https://www.who.int/uzbekistan	15,257 views, and > million of people reached
2 campaigns (Field visit of the EU ambassadors to MPHSTF project sites and Youth start-up competition, final round) and 1 festive event dedicated to the International Day of Volunteers	> 600 participants,> 2000 views via social media
19 information/knowledge products developed in different languages (including EN, RU, UZ and KK) and widely distributed among various target groups	744 downloads, 1971 copies produced
50 posts published on social media accounts (Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, Telegram, etc.)	6679 views, 962 likes, 35 retweets

A WAY FORWARD

To date, the Fund has offered a novel approach to building dialogue collaboration between relevant partners, with the intention of identifying region, insecurities faced in the particularly those impacting the most vulnerable persons including women, children and youth. The unified platform has enabled developing assistance in the Aral Sea region, improving resource mobilization and the effectiveness of its use, strengthening activity coordination, ensuring transparent financial interactions, and building capacity of national partners.

Through the platform it has been possible for the Fund to successfully support initiatives in Karakalpakstan, being an epicentre of ecological catastrophe, by addressing food, economic, social, health and environmental challenges through a holistic approach. It has drawn on the strengths and aspirations of local communities, building resilience from the bottom-up, while synchronizing these efforts with macro-level policies and strengthened government institutions.

achievements, Alongside these key the platform has also successfully established itself as а kev dedicated to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in the Aral Sea region. Through its efforts the platform has become synonymous with development achievements made in the Aral Sea region over recent years, and has been applauded for bringing together all relevant partners.

The current operational cycle of the MPHSTF ends on 31 December 2023. Initiated by the Government of Uzbekistan and the UN, the existing Fund and platform have demonstrated scalable initiatives with bankable characteristics. Learning from challenges faced and good practices developed through the current Fund's operations and applying them throughout the Aral Sea region has paved the way towards extending the Fund's operations beyond 2023 to 2030.

To complement the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and national SDG commitments, the Fund seeks to contribute to the 2030 Agenda through its development projects and programmes for the people, planet and prosperity in the Aral Sea region.

Ultimately, the MPHSTF's Steering Committee made a decision on 16 November 2022, to endorse the concept and strategic preparations for the next operational cycle of the Fund for 2024-2030 with further development of the strategic plan and elaboration of the direction for the next cycle. The next cycle of the Fund will require an entirely new level of visioning, partnership, coordination and action

ANNEX 1. HUMAN INTEREST STORIES

WATER IS THE SOURCE OF LIFE

Vast area, fresh air. Yes, I live in a beautiful village with people close to me. Autumn is especially beautiful here. At the sight of trees changing their foliage, you will fall in love with my village.

I study in the 11th grade of secondary school No. 12, located on the territory of the 'Madeli' Village Council of Citizens of the Muynak district. Our school was built in 1975 and currently has 180 students. I like the subject of Karakalpak language and literature. In the future I want to master the profession of a teacher, like my favourite teacher Gulimkhan apa Zhaksylykova.

Previously students often fell ill, with the reason for this being poor-quality drinking water. It was very dirty, unusable water, which created difficult conditions for people. It turns out that the water we drank every day was unhealthy and caused many diseases. There were no other sources of water.

To date, a water supply network has been built and we can use clean water. The people suffered a lot, but thanks to the project of the Multi-Partner Trust Fund for Human Security for the Aral Sea region, a new water supply network was installed, and we got access to clean drinking water, which is the key to our life. Apart from the water supply, handwashing and sanitation facilities have also been constructed. We are now excited to apply hand hygiene, menstrual health and hygiene practices. During our classes we also receive information about hand hygiene, sanitation, menstrual health and hygiene, nutrition and reproductive health topics.

Water is a source of energy, but it is also considered the source of life for all living things. This is a source that needs to be protected.

Water is life. Everyone needs it. We must use water rationally to maintain a healthy lifestyle.





Currently school attendance has improved, now that students rarely get sick. I rush to class every day. Seeing the eyes of my classmates burning with happiness, I am overwhelmed with emotions.

If you live a healthy lifestyle, you will never get sick.

Muslim BAZARBAYEVA, Student of the 11th grade of comprehensive school No. 12 of the Muynak district

Retrieved from the UNICEF, UNFPA and UNODC Annual Progress Report, 2022.

YOUNG INITIATOR INCREASES SOIL FERTILITY IN BOZATAU

Aybek Zhalgashov, a young initiator from a vulnerable household in the Bozatau district, is leading a production cooperative consisting of twelve young people from the neighbourhood who produce organic fertilizer – vermicompost – in their backyards.

"The idea of creating such a business came to me in those days when I desired the quality of my agricultural products to be better. This kind of problem was observed by all the inhabitants of my region, who were also engaged in cultivating crops. In my second year of study an idea came up to solve these problems, given the fact that our family business had ideas for creating this kind of activity," recalls Aybek.

Every business requires the right technology and equipment. Aybek understood this and wanted to invest more, but he did not have enough funds for further development. Having learned about the Joint Programme's support for young entrepreneurs, he decided to present his business plan.

"This was a new opportunity for me that I simply could not miss! Previously, we had used primitive methods of biohumus production on our plots, but this method has its limitations, given that the harvest can only be obtained seasonally. In connection with this, 12 youths from the district, including me, opened a new production cooperative LLC 'Bio Organic

Export'. Our business proposal was approved, and furthermore we gained a lot of experience and knowledge with the support of the Joint Programme, which organized trainings on water saving technologies, aquaculture, livestock, and technology and design for further biohumus production," says Aybek.

Specialists have found many advantages in biohumus production. The presence of humus determines the fertility of soil, being the main organic matter of the soil that contains nutrients. The presence of worms are critical for making biohumus – they process organic matter much faster and more completely than soil microorganisms, in composting. Biohumus increases productivity and also has a positive effect on the quality of products, including their taste.

According to Aybek, demand for biohumus is nowadays high in local markets. "We started cooperating with



wholesale retailers from the capital city Nukus, and with local farmers in Bozatau. The current production capacity of our cooperative is 144 tons per year, which generates about 216 million soums in income annually. However, we plan to double production capacity in the second year, so as to increase the profitability of our cooperative."

Aybek is concerned that not all farmers care about the quality of the grown product. "In most cases, the grown products do not quite meet standards. They are most often not grown on pure ecological fertilizers, which may affect people's health. It is not the quantity of agricultural production that is most

important here, but health issues!" - as Aybek says. "Due to the lack of conditions and resources, there were times when we could not get a good harvest for several years in a row. We had to use a lot of fertilizers and chemicals, which made us think more than once about our decision to grow agricultural products. The fact that I was a student at an agronomic university meant I could apply my knowledge in this field to my enterprise, and solving this issue has become my main goal" says Aybek.

Aybek says the path he has travelled has been difficult, but despite this he continues to do what he loves, and believes in his success.

Retrieved from the UNDP, UNFPA and FAO Annual Progress Report, 2022.



DIGITALIZATION OF MUYNAK'S RURAL COMMUNITIES

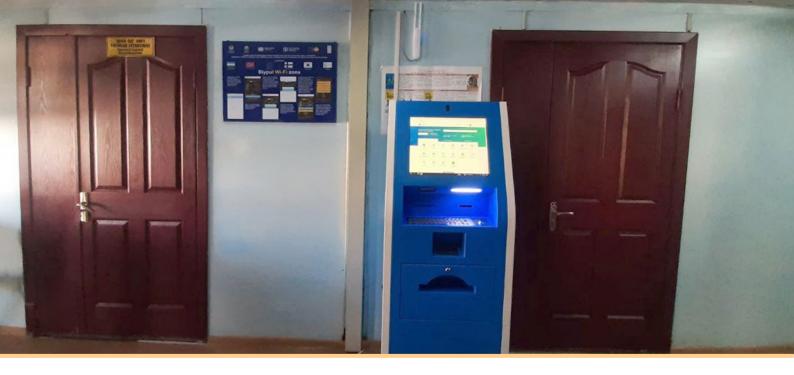
Today we live in a rapidly developing digital world, and therefore we cannot imagine our daily life without digitalized services. Uzbekistan's economy largely depends on digital approaches, as is reflected in global experience. In order to keep up with the times, it is very important to improve computer literacy and skills of using digital platforms, especially among residents of remote, vulnerable communities.

This group of people includes residents of the Kazakhdarya community (Mahalla) of the Muynak district, who lack access to public services. Accordingly, they have to cover a rather large distance to the district centre to gain access to these services, and thus they often face problems visiting government institutions due to their area's remoteness. We can take a closer look at the problems faced by people of this rural community, through the eyes of ICT specialist Manas Nazarbaev who is a youth leader in the Kazakhdarya community.

It is no secret that the Internet and digital platforms are an integral part of our lives, without which we cannot perform necessary processes, including simple actions like paying utility bills, getting cash from banks, and accessing other types of public services. The digital age is spreading to all corners of the world and dictates current trends, offering quick and easy actions that do not require the presence of individuals in

government institutions, which minimizes the time, effort and means required. According to Manas, "even the simple action of withdrawing funds seems to be difficult for residents. I am in agreement that this is a real problem caused by a lack of proper terminals and digital platforms that could make life easier for rural residents of vulnerable regions neighbouring the Aral Sea."





Manas was interested in computer technologies from an early age. Having learned about great opportunities in the ICT field, he has set himself the goal of sharing knowledge with his community's youth, teaching them about software platforms that will give them opportunities to work remotely and make decent profits.

"From an early age I have been driven by a passion for knowledge, and now I aim to improve the quality of life of my fellow villagers with the help of my understanding," Manas shares. "Teaching all young people how to use computer programs will undoubtedly improve their quality of life."

As Manas recalls, his first impression of the Mahalla's administrative building shocked him, to say the least. "The state of the building left much to be desired," he admits, referring to the lack of repairs and proper digital equipment.

"At that moment I realized that the lack of Internet and computer equipment could become the main challenge on the way to my goal, as it seemed there was no other way out of the situation," Manas recalls.

"By coincidence, a miracle happened! The Joint Programme of UNDP, UNFPA and FAO, funded by the Multi-Partner Trust Fund, provided an opportunity to ensure the technical digitalization of remote communities, which included our community. On hearing this news I was incredibly happy, and more determined than ever to achieve my goals." What makes him even more pleased was the trainings that were held within the framework of the Joint Programme, which increased levels of knowledge in the field of digitalization - mirroring Manas' passion for knowledge.

According to Manas, "the missing piece was the additional knowledge I required, which I could obtain through the training." As part of the Joint Programme, Infokiosk equipment was installed at the post office, giving access to more than 370 types of public services. Additionally, a free Wi-Fi zone with constant access to the Internet was created within the Kazakhdarya community.

Retrieved from the UNDP, UNFPA and FAO Annual Progress Report, 2022.

ANNEX 2. MPHSTF RESULTS FRAMEWORK



Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages (targets 3.4, 3.8, 3.C)



Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all (targets 8.2, 8.4, 8.5)



Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable (targets 11.2, 11.5, 11.A)

	Outputs	Output Indicators	Baseline *	Means of Verification (MOV)	Frequency	Results Achieved
ou	TCOME 1: The stress on local o	communities due to the deteriorating	environmental situation	is reduced		
# of hectares of arable land increased, thousand ha			509.6 (2018)	State committee on land resources, geodesy, cartography and cadastre data	Once a year	516.9
% (of public satisfaction of environ	mental policy	16.4 (2017)	Socio-economic survey report	At the end of the project (2023)	To be updated in the next reporting period
1	Local management practices and knowledge of ecosystem services are improved	% of communities with access to ecosystem services	0	Operational research	Operational research should be conducted	0

NB. It is important to note that for 2022, the MPHSTF programmes focused on Outcomes 3 and 4. However, through direct or indirect cooperation with other organisations, there is some progress towards other targets. The latter is an example of coherence that MPHSTF seeks to promote.

* for Karakalpakstan, value and reference year

	Outputs	Output Indicators	Baseline	Means of Verification (MOV)	Frequency	Results Achieved
		# of pilot projects that test out new technologies adjusted to local conditions	0	Project reports	Once a year	2
2	New technologies in the area of water purification,	Area of desert lands covered by forest stands, thousand ha	1,082 (2018)	State committee on forestry data	Once a year	2,257
2	agroforestry, afforestation, and soil stabilisation are piloted	# of households with improved quality of irrigation water	3,366 (2018)	Projects reports	Once a year	To be updated in the next reporting period
		Area of restored tugai forests, thousand ha	20.3 (2018)	State committee on forestry data	Once a year	20.34
		# of newly established or improved environmental quality checks	0 (2018)	Uzhydromet data	Once a year	0
3	The quality of water, air and soil pollution is monitored and addressed through local regulatory practices	# of base stations monitoring the climate in the Aral Sea region	16 (2018)	Uzhydromet data	Once a year	16
		% of water/air quality monitoring laboratories regularly reporting through the automated surveillance system	0 (2018)	Uzhydromet data	Once a year	0

	Outputs	Output Indicators	Baseline	Means of Verification (MOV)	Frequency	Results Achieved
OU	TCOME 2: Employment and inc	ome generation opportunities for loc	cal communities are incre	eased		
% (of the population that is econom	nically active	69.5 (2018)	State statistics	Once a year	68.4
# 0	of new business initiatives start	ed	18 (2018)	Project reports	Once a year	103
4	New income opportunities in sectors adjusted to local conditions (e.g., agriculture, ethno-tourism, infrastructure	# of small and medium-sized companies created with the support of the MPHSTF	0 (2018)	Project reports	Once a year	22
	and housing construction, service industry) are created	# of jobs created in target communities per year	78 (2018)	Project reports	Once a year	662
	Skills and knowledge of local communities to participate in new	% of people surveyed that are satisfied with their skills levels	61.8 (2017)	Socio-economic survey report	At the end of the project (2023)	To be updated in the next reporting period
5	industries and to become entrepreneurs, as well as, adaptability to new work conditions for employability are improved	# of people trained and retrained in the specialised centres to improve and develop their entrepre-neurial skills/knowledge	0 (2018)	Training records	Once a year	1,825
6	Investments in local infrastructure serving local communities (e.g., energy,	amount of investments in local infrastructure with the support of the MPHSTF, mln. USD	0 (2018)	Project reports	Once a year	0.138
6	access roads, service industry, banking) are increased	% of people surveyed that are satisfied with trade services	51.2 (2017)	Socio-economic survey report	At the end of the project (2023)	To be updated in the next reporting period

	Outputs	Output Indicators	Baseline	Means of Verification (MOV)	Frequency	Results Achieved
6	Investments in local infrastructure serving local communities (e.g., energy, access roads, service industry, banking) are increased	% of people surveyed that are satisfied with the services of banking and financial institutions	54.5 (2017)	Socio-economic survey report	At the end of the project (2023)	To be updated in the next reporting period
ou	TCOME 3: Local community ac	cess to affordable and healthy food	and clean drinking water	secured		
% c	f the drinking water supply of h	ouses (apartments)	48.2 (2017)	State statistic	Once a year	70.5
		the local population: percentage are wasted due to malnutrition	0.23 (2018)	State statistic	Once a year	0.27
% c	f household budget spent on fo	ood	60 (2017)	Socio-economic survey report	At the end of the project (2023)	To be updated in the next reporting period
7	Local infrastructure investments for access and distribution of clean water are increased	amount of investments in water access and distribution infrastructure with the support of the MPHSTF, mln. USD	0 (2018)	Project reports	Once a year	1.291
		% of people surveyed that are satisfied with access to drinking water	33.8 (2017)	Socio-economic survey report	At the end of the project (2023)	To be updated in the next reporting period
8	Local production, processing, storage and sale of diverse, affordable and high-quality food is increased	% increase in the local production of food with the support of the MPHSTF	0 (2018)	Project reports	Once a year	0

	Outputs	Output Indicators	Baseline	Means of Verification (MOV)	Frequency	Results Achieved	
8	Local production, processing, storage and sale of diverse, affordable and high-quality food is increased	# of created of networks of fruits and vegetables fridge-storage	10 (2018)	Council of Ministers of the Republic of Karakalpakstan data, Project reports	Once a year	12	
		# of newly established or improved food quality checks with support of the MPHSTF	0 (2018)	Project reports	Once a year	0	
9	The quality of nutrition is increased through standardisation, regulation, monitoring, information, and education	# of new crop varieties, adapted and resistant to harsh climatic conditions with the support of the MPHSTF	0 (2018)	Project reports	Once a year	0	
		# of newly established or improved biological laboratories with support of the MPHSTF for protection of plants and the prevention of diseases arising from environmental influences	0 (2018)	Project reports	Once a year	0	
OUTCOME 4: The overall health of the local population is improved, and healthy lifestyle promoted							
otate statistic office a year					12.2 11.3		
%	of the population satisfied with	health services	53 (2017)	Socio-economic survey report	At the end of the project (2023)	To be updated in the next reporting period	

	Outputs	Output Indicators	Baseline	Means of Verification (MOV)	Frequency	Results Achieved
	Investments in local health	amount of investments in local health infrastructure with the support of the MPHSTF, mln. USD	0 (2018)	Project reports	Once a year	2.326
10	services and pharmacies (e.g., facilities and equipment) are increased	% of people surveyed that are satisfied with the availability of affordable medicines	32.8 (2017)	Socio-economic survey report	At the end of the project (2023)	To be updated in the next reporting period
		% of medical institutions equipped with equipment	78 (2017)	State statistic	Once a year	85
11	Access to rural health clinics and to medication primarily in remote areas is improved	# of new health clinics and pharmacies with the support of the MPHSTF	0 (2018)	Project reports	Once a year	0
		# of functional rural health clinics strengthened with the support of the MPHSTF	0 (2018)	Project reports	Once a year	4
11	Access to rural health clinics and to medication primarily in remote areas is improved	doctors/nurses/health care professionals/hospital beds per 10 000 people: - provision with doctors - provision with the nursing staff - provision with in-patient beds	23.1 94.8 39.4 (2017)	State statistic	Once a year	24.4 95.7 36.0
12	The quality of health care is improved through increased professional education	# of health care professionals educated and retrained through distance learning	0 (2018)	Project reports	Once a year	1,889

	Outputs	Output Indicators	Baseline	Means of Verification (MOV)	Frequency	Results Achieved
	Healthy lifestyles and practices, drug and alcohol use prevention, as well as, mental health are promoted, including sanitation, vaccination, waste disposal, and local medicinal plants	% of populations responding positively to new healthy lifestyles in survey	0 (2018)	Assessments by independent evaluators	Once a two year	0
13		availability of teacher's manual on healthy lifestyle in Karakalpak language	0 (2018)	Project reports	Once per project	1
		# of teachers trained on healthy lifestyles	188 (2018)	Training records	Once a year	1,585
		# activities conducted on the promotion of healthy lifestyles	0 (2018)	Project reports	Once a year	2,196
OU	TCOME 5: The living conditions	of local populations improved, with	particular focus on vulne	rable groups such as w	omen, children and	youth
ser - c	% of the population with increased access to social and community services - drinking water - natural (liquefied) gas		33.8 48.6 (2017)	Socio-economic survey report	At the end of the project (2023)	To be updated in the next reporting period
% c	% of populations responding positively to living (housing) conditions		65.2 (2017)	Socio-economic survey report	At the end of the project (2023)	To be updated in the next reporting period
14	Adequate housing appropriate for the local living conditions is provided	adopted standards for the design and construction of residential buildings and social facilities, taking into account the actual ecological and geographic conditions of the Aral Sea region	0	Project reports	Once per project	0

	Outputs	Output Indicators	Baseline	Means of Verification (MOV)	Frequency	Results Achieved
14	Adequate housing appropriate for the local living conditions is provided	# of social infrastructure facilities constructed in accordance with the new standard projects that meet local conditions	0	Project reports	Once a year	0
15	Social and community services, including preschool education and leisure	# of new and improved pre- schools with the support of the MPHSTF	0	Project reports	Once a year	0
15	opportunities, and life skill education for children and youth are improved	% of enrolment of children by pre-school educational institutions	32.7 (2017)	Socio-economic survey report	At the end of the project (2023)	To be updated in the next reporting period
	Social and community services, including preschool education and leisure opportunities, and life skill education for children and youth are improved	% of people surveyed that are satisfied with the quality of school education	64.5 (2017)	Socio-economic survey report	At the end of the project (2023)	To be updated in the next reporting period
15		# of community members and school children covered through youth-led peer to peer education programme with the support of the MPHSTF	0	Training records	Once a year	16,254
16	The local governance system for addressing the human security needs of the population is improved	% of populations (disaggregated by sex) responding positively to their involvement in the local governance system	0	Independent assessment	Once per project	0

	Outputs	Output Indicators	Baseline	Means of Verification (MOV)	Frequency	Results Achieved
16	The local governance system for addressing the human security needs of the population is improved	# of representatives of local authorities participating in special training courses on human security, local development planning, etc.	48 (2018)	Training records	Once a year	249
		% of people surveyed that are satisfied with local public service delivery and ensuring social stability	68 (2017)	Socio-economic survey report	At the end of the project (2023)	To be updated in the next reporting period

