

Final Narrative Report: Joint Programmes in the Seed Funding Tracks

INTRODUCTION

Reporting period: From the start date to the end date of the joint programme (JP).

- Please be succinct and to the point, focusing on the most important accomplishments and issues that you want to bring to the attention of the Joint SDG Fund at the global level.
- Please do not exceed the word limit for each narrative question.
- Kindly ensure that the information provided is duly reviewed and approved by the RC and all PUNOs involved in the JP.
- Please contact rena.hinoshita@un.org, maria.berenguer@un.org, vittoria.gemelli@un.org, and/or maya.marquez@un.org for questions and support.

Submission deadline from RCOs to the Joint SDG Fund: No later than 2 months from the JP end date via MS Form (<https://forms.office.com/e/zYeyMiXjAv>)

PROFILE

JOINT PROGRAMME (JP) PROFILE:	
UN Country Team	Kyrgyzstan
JP Title	Empowering Bishkek Stakeholders for Sustainable Development: Awareness and Capacity Building for SDG Action
Funding Round (Select the applicable funding round for the JP)	<input type="checkbox"/> Decent Jobs and Universal Social Protection <input type="checkbox"/> Digital Transformation <input type="checkbox"/> Education and Skills <input type="checkbox"/> Energy Access and Affordability <input type="checkbox"/> Food Systems Transformation <input type="checkbox"/> Integrated Policy and Capacity Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SDG Localization
Cross-fertilized SDG Transitions (Select up to 2 main SDG Transitions that are reflected in the JP progress to date)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Climate Change, Biodiversity Loss, Pollution <input type="checkbox"/> Decent Jobs and Universal Social Protection <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Digital Transformation <input type="checkbox"/> Education and Skills <input type="checkbox"/> Energy Access and Affordability <input type="checkbox"/> Food Systems Transformation
Contribution to Cooperation Framework Outcomes	<p>Strategic Outcome 1 By 2027, the people of the Kyrgyz Republic, particularly vulnerable groups, have enhanced resilience, strengthened capabilities, and access to decent work, resulting in full enjoyment of their rights, contributing to the socio-economic and gender transformative development of the country.</p> <p>Output 1.2 Social services for health, education, social protection,</p>

	<p>employment, and labour are improved to provide higher quality, taking into account universal accessibility, gender equality, shock-responsiveness, timeliness, and include mechanisms to report and respond to grievances.</p> <p>Strategic Outcome 2 By 2027, the well-being of the population of the Kyrgyz Republic will have improved through the further rollout of a green economy based on sustainable and healthy food systems natural resource management, and effective migration processes, by accelerating the use of gender transformative social and technological innovations and entrepreneurship.</p> <p>Output 2.1 Green economic growth is accelerated through increased equitable entrepreneurship and employment opportunities, including through the sustainable use of natural resources.</p> <p>Strategic Outcome 3 By 2027, the Kyrgyz Republic has started the transition to low-carbon development and risk-informed climate resilience, contributing to people’s fair and equitable access to ecosystem benefits and to empowerment of vulnerable communities in the governance of natural resources and disaster prevention.</p> <p>Output 3.1 Climate policy, financing, and awareness mechanisms are designed and implemented that support climate actions, with the full participation of women and men at all decision-making levels.</p> <p>Output 3.2 Policies, innovations, and seed investments are developed to ensure inclusive access to sustainable energy solutions in underserved urban and rural areas, with the support of the state and business, and in ways that encourage women’s leadership.</p> <p>Output 3.4 Capacity of disaster management systems is strengthened, and community resilience to multiple shocks is increased at all levels through enhanced participation of women in DRR planning, as well as effective investments, policies, mechanisms, and tools.</p>
Actual Start Date (i.e. fund transfer date)	11/10/2024
Duration	12 months
Actual End Date (i.e. operational closure date)	11/10/2025
Total Approved Funding from the Joint SDG Fund	USD 250,000
Planned Financial Closure Date	11/04/2025
Fund Management Modality: Administrative	Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (MPTFO) Mari Matsumoto, Portfolio Manager,

Agent (Pass-through Only)	mari.matsumoto@undp.org Sara Ansari, Finance Manager, sara.ansari@undp.org
JP TEAM:	
Resident Coordinator	Name: Antje Grawe Email: grawe@un.org
JP's RCO focal point	Name: Kanykei Ergesheva Title: Partnership and Development Finance Officer Email: kanykei.ergesheva@un.org
Lead PUNO focal point	Name: Javier Torner Title/Organisation: UNECE Email: javier.torner@un.org
Other PUNOs focal points	Name: Azamat Usubaliev Title/Organisation: UNDP azamat.usubaliev@undp.org Name: Martino Miraglia Title/Organisation: Coordinator, SDG Localization and Local Governments Team & SDG Cities Flagship, Urban Practices Branch, UN-Habitat Email : martino.miraglia@un.org
JP's designated communications focal point	Name: Chyngyz Zhanybekov Title: Associate Communications Officer Email: chyngyz.zhanybekov@un.org

OVERVIEW

1. Overall self-assessment of the JP achievements.

The primary objective of the Joint SDG Fund's seed funding track is to provide countries with support and resources to incubate and pilot transformative solutions and approaches (including actions to develop and implement national roadmaps or priorities) that can subsequently lead to accelerating progress across [key SDG Transitions](#) at scale. Towards this objective, please evaluate the performance of the JP.

1.a. Rate the overall performance of the JP: Did the JP deliver its key results as planned in the ProDoc?

Unsatisfactory, Marginal Achievement: Less than 50% of expected results delivered.

Satisfactory Achievement: 50-75% of expected results delivered.

Very Good, Solid Achievement: 100% of expected results delivered; implementation completed on schedule.

Exceptional, Outstanding Achievement: 100% of expected results delivered ahead of schedule, with additional results or improvements delivered.

1.b. Incubation and validation of solutions/approaches/roadmaps: How much results did the JP reach in incubating innovative approaches/national roadmaps and/or piloting transformative solutions during the 12 months?

Limited Results: None of planned incubation activities/roadmaps or pilot solutions were rolled out.

- Moderate Results:** Planned incubation activities/roadmaps or pilots began but remain at the early stages or within the limited scope at the time of the JP closure.
- Good Results:** Planned incubation activities/roadmaps and pilot solutions are fully operational and validated.
- Excellent Results:** All planned incubation activities/roadmaps and pilot solutions are completed and validated ahead of schedule, showing promising potential or early sign of scale-up.
- Not Applicable:** The JP did not plan to incubate ideas, roadmaps or conduct pilots during this phase.

1.c. Sustainability and scalability potential: To what extent did the JP achieve in establishing pathways for future viability and scale-up of the innovations/solutions beyond the 12-month implementation?

- Marginal Achievement:** Concrete sustainability or scale-up plan was developed but not operationalized; only preliminary discussion with potential partners/funders took place.
- Moderate Achievement:** Sustainability and scale-up strategies were rolled out; potential scale-up pathways identified; active engagement with potential partners/funders underway.
- Solid Achievement:** Comprehensive sustainability and scale-up strategies achieved a broad uptake; viable pathways for expansion secured; engagement with potential partners/funders deepened and showing promising outcomes.
- Exceptional Achievement:** Robust sustainability and scale-up plans were implemented ahead of schedule; multiple viable scale-up pathways activated; strong commitments from partners/funders obtained; additional opportunities for expansion identified beyond initial plans.
- Not Applicable:** The JP has not yet reached the stage of planning for sustainability and scalability.

RESULTS OF THE JP

A. Results-Based Narrative

2. Overall results of the JP (600 words / 1.5 pages max)

Using bullet points, describe the key achievement made by the JP, especially around how it contributed to incubating and piloting new ideas and approaches (including actions to develop and implement national roadmaps/priority areas) to propel the [key SDG Transitions](#). Your response should cover how the JP made changes around '[enabling actions](#)': 1) developing new policy and regulatory frameworks; 2) identifying new pipelines of solutions; 3) strengthened capacities of key stakeholders; 4) enhanced partnerships and financing mixes to ensure sustainability and scale, and other transformative shifts. Please include specific reference to the SDG targets identified in the ProDoc.

(600 words / 1.5 pages max;

Key Results and Transformative Contributions of the Joint Programme

1) Development of new policy and regulatory frameworks

The JP operationalized Bishkek's Voluntary Local Review (VLR) by delivering a Causal Chain Analysis framework across eight SDGs (1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 11, 13), advancing policy coherence and prioritization around air quality, mobility, social inclusion, urban development and basic services, tied to SDG targets 11.1, 11.6, 11.7, 13.3, 16.7 and 17.16. This enabled the municipality to embed SDG targets into planning instruments under Cooperation Framework (CF) Outcomes 2 and 3.

The JP produced a Roadmap and best-practice compendium linking local challenges to proven policy models from global cities (e.g., Seoul, Astana, Reykjavik), strengthening Bishkek's ability to design regulatory reforms and service delivery improvements. This directly advanced SDG 11.1, 11.6, 11.7 and 16.7 by offering actionable pathways for housing, air quality, spatial development, and participatory governance.

Through territorial analysis of Bishkek's administrative enlargement, the JP introduced risk-informed, climate-sensitive planning approaches, helping municipal and national actors assess land-use, emissions, infrastructure demand, and fiscal impacts. This shifted policy dialogue on administrative reform and informed the upcoming City Development Plan, contributing to SDG 13.3, 17.9 and CF Outcomes 2 & 3.

2) Identification of new pipelines of SDG-aligned solutions

The JP established a portfolio of future solution areas, including SDG-tagging of budgets, programme-based financing, digitalization of services, creation of an SDG Dashboard, and conceptual investments in clean heating, greener mobility, and informal settlement upgrading. These pipeline initiatives link to SDG 11.6, 13.3, 16.7 and 17.17 and provide traction for future project development with IFIs and development partners.

The enlargement modelling exercise generated sustainable urban growth pathways, demonstrating reduced emissions, optimized land use and lower infrastructure burdens under compact-city scenarios—providing the basis for bankable policy and investment proposals, aligned with CF Outputs 2.1 and 3.4.

3) Strengthening capacities of stakeholders for local SDG implementation

The JP adapted and delivered four tailored in-person technical training modules on SDG planning, budgeting, transparency, data governance and dashboard development, reaching over 50 participants. This expanded institutional capability for evidence-based decision-making, advancing SDG 16.7 and 17.18 and CF Output 1.2.

Training outcomes included mapping of VLR recommendations to municipal competencies, applying SDG principles for Urban Planning, and drafting of Terms of Reference for the SDG Dashboard, strengthening accountability systems, and monitoring capacity.

The JP enabled the municipality to develop a Citizen’s Budget format, supporting improved fiscal transparency and strengthening linkages between SDG priorities, public finance and local service delivery — directly contributing to SDG 16.7 and 17.18.

4) Enhanced partnerships, multi-stakeholder governance and pathways for sustainability

The JP institutionalized multi-stakeholder governance by operationalizing a Steering Committee chaired by the Bishkek Mayor’s Office and leveraging the VLR Working Group (city administration, academia, youth, civil society, private sector). This deepened inclusive policy-making and strengthened inter-departmental coordination, supporting SDG 16.7, 17.16 and CF Output 1.4.

The JP positioned Bishkek as a regional frontrunner by supporting its participation in the World Urban Forum 12 in November 2024 and Regional Forum on Sustainable Development in April 2025, establishing pathways for peer learning and replication across Kyrgyz cities and Central Asia — contributing to SDG 17.17.

Through its closing territorial workshop, the JP raised awareness on SDG Localization global efforts, validated methodologies with Bishkek Municipality, enabling uptake of the causal-chain analysis, dashboard framework, and territorial reform methodologies. This laid the foundations for scaling SDG localisation and sustaining JP results beyond its duration.

3. Constraints, adjustments and lessons (500 words / 1 page max)

In bullet points, please explain any constraints, including risks identified in the ProDoc's Risk Matrix, that were encountered and any adjustments that were made or mitigation actions taken by the JP team to strengthen the relevance and effectiveness of the JP and the coherence and coordination of UN system support.

In describing lessons learned, please be candid about both successes and failures, explaining what was learned from each experience and how these insights can inform future programming or scale-up efforts.

(500 words / 1 page max;

Constraints and Adjustments

Time-bound implementation limited iterative validation of outputs with the Steering Committee. Given the analytical depth of the Causal Chain Analysis, Collection and description of applicable policy measures, and the Analysis of the Administrative-Territorial Reform, longer project timeline would have enhanced feedback loops. To mitigate this and speed up output preparation, the JP expanded its expert team by recruiting an international urban development expert, a local GIS analyst and a

graphic designer, accelerating production timelines and improving final output quality to provide partners additional time for review and inputs.

Scheduling challenges with the Bishkek Municipality led to delays in convening workshops originally planned for June 2025, postponed to September and ultimately consolidated into a final event in October. The JP adapted by extending co-design work and normative products consolidation with the municipality during the interim period, ensuring outputs were sufficiently advanced for review and validation once workshops occurred.

The JP's initial plan for a hybrid training delivery model proved ineffective due to limited municipal online connectivity and stakeholder preference for in-person engagement. In response, the JP delivered both major trainings in-person (March and October 2025), which strengthened interaction, quality of dialogue and practical uptake — demonstrating the need to balance innovation with on-the-ground realities.

The short programme duration constrained the ability of the Steering Committee to meet more regularly during the programme duration. To compensate, the JP focused on embedding ownership inside municipal processes, including integration of results into ongoing statutory planning (e.g., City Development Plan 2050) and budgeting processes.

Lessons Learned:

Ownership is strengthened when methodologies are embedded in existing planning processes. The application of the Analysis of the Administrative-Territorial Reform in the City Development Plan discussion demonstrated that uptake is highest when products align with real planning cycles and decision agendas.

Peer learning accelerates adoption. Workshops showcasing examples from Costa Rica, Kenya, Portugal and South Africa facilitated stronger engagement and inspired replication of dashboard and planning approaches.

Data capacity-building must be hands-on. Planning for change with the SDGs, SDG Dashboard, and fiscal transparency workshops (e.g., Citizen's Budget) were effective because participants co-produced outputs rather than receiving training passively.

The JP highlighted the value of multi-agency collaboration (UNECE, UN-Habitat, UNDP) as a delivery model. Each PUNO brought complementary competencies — policy analysis, project implementation, economic assessment, and municipal coordination — reinforcing how joint programming can deliver outcomes beyond the reach of a single agency.

Future replication should be designed from the outset. The interest of the Ministry of Economy and Commerce of the Kyrgyz Republic expressed interest to scale-up the experience of Bishkek to other Kyrgyz municipalities, specifically Osh and Jalal-Abad, during the final workshop showed the demand for scaling the JP methodologies. An

early replication strategy — including knowledge products tailored for non-target cities — would enable faster uptake and reduce transaction costs when scaling.

Short-duration JPs need early alignment between political calendars and implementation schedules. The municipal postponement of workshops showed that urban administrations operate within shifting agendas and approval cycles. A future phase should include buffer time and co-owned planning calendars agreed at inception, while taking into account that political agendas will continue to shift during programme implementation.

4. Scale up and pathways for transformative systems change (Select all that apply)

Please select all relevant pathways that the JP applied with the aim of scaling up systematic transformation:

Capacity-building & local ownership: Strengthening capacity of individuals, local institutions and communities to independently implement and sustain activities; or transferring ownership and management to local organizations for sustained impact.

Cross-sectoral collaboration & partnerships: Partnering with diverse stakeholder groups to address interconnected issues and amplify impact; engaging with private and public sector to replicate successful programme components; or institutionalize participatory governance mechanisms to ensure inclusivity and intensify effectiveness.

Policy integration & mainstreaming: Incorporating successful programme elements into national or local policies and regulations to ensure wider adoption and impact; or integrating programme components into existing systems and structures for wider reach, efficiency and sustainability.

Resource mobilization & financial sustainability: Developing innovative financing mechanisms and attracting new donors/investors to ensure financial sustainability and expansion; or influencing existing financing mechanisms or diversifying resource streams to support long-term programme viability and growth.

People-centred technology adoption & innovation: Leveraging technology and solutions to increase reach, efficiency, impact of activities; or using technology and innovation to enhance cross-sectoral collaboration and scale-up of impact.

Others. Please specify: _____

5. Measures taken with a focus on sustainability (500 words / 1 page max)

In bullet points, please elaborate how the JP has ensured the mid- to long-term sustainability and scalability of the JP results beyond its 12-month implementation period. Your response should focus on 1) measures taken to ensure financial, institutional, and community-level sustainability of the JP outcomes, 2) ['enabling actions'](#) that supported sustainability and ownership, 3) the exit strategy that facilitated the scalability and replication of the successful JP interventions.

(500 words / 1 page max; Please delete examples)

1) Ensuring institutional, financial and community-level sustainability

Sustainability was strengthened by embedding the JP's three core outputs: the Causal Chain Analysis (CCA), the Collection and Description of Applicable Policy Measures, and the Analysis of the Administrative-Territorial Reform into municipal planning cycles. Their recommendations are being integrated into the forthcoming City Development Plan 2050, ensuring ongoing relevance and use beyond the programme period.

Sustainability was reinforced through adapted tools and learning resources derived from the three outputs — including causal analysis, policy formulation guidance and territorial scenario modelling — which municipal officials can continue applying in planning, budgeting and monitoring.

The JP contributed to long-term financial sustainability of Bishkek's municipality and its territory by providing a clear pathway for sustainable urban development and identifying potential investment areas linked to the three outputs, including cleaner heating, sustainable mobility, informal settlement upgrading, digital systems and dashboard development, creating a pipeline for future resource mobilization and financing discussions.

2) Enabling actions that strengthened sustainable ownership and capacity

Training materials and methodologies were localized using data, findings and recommendations drawn from the three outputs and the VLR of Bishkek, which increased their usability and ensured institutional ownership.

Sustainability was strengthened through multi-stakeholder governance spaces, including the Steering Committee and the VLR Working Group, which reviewed and validated the three outputs. These platforms helped embed the outputs' use and interpretation within existing municipal structures and partnership networks.

The Joint Programme facilitated the co-design of Terms of Reference for Bishkek's SDG Dashboard, using evidence and guidance from the Causal Chain Analysis and the Collection and Description of Applicable Policy Measures. This strengthened municipal monitoring and established an institutional mechanism to continue using the outputs.

Peer learning engagements enabled municipal actors to benchmark the findings from the three outputs against international experience, helping them adopt new methods in planning and reform discussions.

3) Exit strategy and pathways for scale-up and replication

The Joint Programme validated and transferred its outputs through the closing technical workshop, ensuring that municipal authorities endorsed their continued use in planning, budgeting and evidence-based decision-making.

Training and technical workshops embedded the methodologies and outputs into municipal practices — for example, officials were presented with the Causal Chain Analysis to map SDG linkages, applied the Collection and Description of Applicable Policy Measures to support reform formulation, and used evidence from the Analysis of the Administrative-Territorial Reform to inform discussions on urban growth and land management.

Sustainability was further reinforced through integration of Bishkek’s experience — including the application of the outputs — into Kyrgyzstan’s 2025 Voluntary National Review, creating national visibility, incentives for continued action, and political reinforcement behind SDG localization processes.

B. Indicator-Based Performance Update

This section is based upon the JP results framework and workplan.

6. The JP results framework (Upload Excel)

Please assess the JP performance against the indicators identified in the ProDoc's Annex 1: Integrated results framework, namely 1) JP outputs and 2) JP contribution to Joint SDG Fund global indicators.

7. Key documents produced by the JP (Upload max. 10 files if available)

Please feel free to share up to 10 key documents, including, but not limited to, policy briefs, strategy papers, guidance notes, knowledge products and training materials that the JP would like to bring to the attention of the Joint SDG Fund at the global level. File types can be Word, Excel, PowerPoint, PDF, image, video and audio, but each file size must be below 1GB.

1. Causal chain analysis on Bishkek VLR recommendations (ENG).
2. Causal chain analysis on Bishkek VLR recommendations (RUS).
3. Collection and description of applicable policy measures and best practices (ENG)
4. Collection and description of applicable policy measures and best practices (RUS)
5. Analysis of the administrative-territorial reform, challenges, opportunities and the way forward towards a sustainable urban growth. (ENG).
6. Analysis of the administrative-territorial reform, challenges, opportunities and the way forward towards a sustainable urban growth. (RUS).
7. Combined workshop attendance list.
8. Workshop materials.
9. 1st Steering Committee meeting minutes.
10. 2nd Steering Committee meeting minutes.

8. Number of people directly benefited by the JP

Direct beneficiaries are individuals, groups or organizations who actively participate in JP activities and directly benefit from its interventions, such as civil servants attending

workshops, small business owners receiving training, or households accessing services provided by the JP. It is important to disaggregate the primary beneficiaries by sex and age as per table below when possible.

Type of engagement	Total Number of People	Number of Women and Girls*	Number of Children (ages of 0-14) *	Number of Youth (ages 15–24)*
Training/workshops for targeted groups	56	25	0	0
Awareness raising campaign for broad audience	27	10		
Dialogues/consultations with relevant stakeholders	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a
Coordination meetings with key partners	22 (2 Steering Committees)	10	n.a.	n.a.
Access to expanded services				
Others (Please specify):				

** Note that it is allowed to have overlaps in the reporting of women/girls and children/youth columns.*

9. Contributions to marginalized and vulnerable groups (250 words / 0.5 page max)

In bullet points, please provide a summary of how the JP benefited the marginalized and vulnerable groups identified in the ProDoc. Include results achieved at both institutional/policy and local/human levels. Please find the 20 standard LNOB groups in footnote 28 on page 17 of the UNSDG Output Indicator Framework's [Implementation Guide](#).

(250 words / 0.5 page max)

The Joint Programme contributed with the baseline on equity and targeting within municipal policymaking by identifying through the Causal Chain Analysis how current social programmes reach only a small share of vulnerable low-income households. It recommended reform options for expanding coverage and strengthening shock-responsive support for poor families and female-headed households.

The JP mainstreamed environmental justice considerations, highlighting how poor households, informal settlement residents, older persons and children are disproportionately affected by air pollution, unsafe transport, and inadequate green space access. These insights were transferred to municipal officials through capacity-building sessions and follow-up planning discussions.

By incorporating informal settlement upgrading (e.g., the Altyn Kazyk case study) into training materials and planning exercises, the JP increased institutional awareness of spatial inequities and introduced tools for improving access to services for communities living in underserved urban areas.

The JP promoted inclusive governance by embedding municipal staff from social, education, health and environmental departments, as well as civil society and youth representatives, into decision-making bodies (VLR Working Group), strengthening representation of vulnerable constituencies in SDG implementation debates.

Training modules strengthened capacity of public officials to apply data-driven approaches to gender-aware budgeting, citizen engagement and indicator development, enhancing accountability for service delivery impacting women, children, migrants, the elderly and low-income groups.

The territorial enlargement analysis highlighted distributional impacts of urban growth, helping policymakers understand exposure risks for peri-urban communities, commuters, and labour migrants, and emphasizing the need for equitable access to infrastructure, transport and basic services.

By presenting Bishkek’s SDG work at subregional and municipal peer learning platforms, the JP amplified voice and visibility of urban challenges linked to vulnerable communities, opening doors for continued advocacy and technical support for inclusive planning and service provision.

10. Financial resources mobilized/leveraged

Please indicate the financial resources (in USD) mobilized or leveraged through the JP. Please clarify the source of funding/financing and the source type, such as PUNOs and Government contributions, public-private partnerships, private sector investments, and financial commitments from IFIs, DFIs and other donors.

Source of Funding/Financing	Type of Source (e.g. PUNO, PPP, DFI, donor, etc.)	Expected amount planned in the ProDoc	Actual amount mobilized as initially planned in the ProDoc	Additional amount newly mobilized beyond the ProDoc expectation
In kind	PUNO UNECE	\$15,000	\$30,000	\$15,000
In kind	PUNO UN-Habitat	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$0
In kind	PUNO UNDP	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$0

11. Cross-cutting issues and principles of leaving no one behind (LNOB)

For each question, select the relevant response. If yes, please list 1-2 examples of actions taken/results delivered, and if no, please provide a brief 1-2 sentence explanation in the table.

Question	Yes	No	Comment
The JP has adequately implemented environmental and social standards/safeguards to avoid and address adverse impacts on people and the planet.	X		The Analysis of the Administrative-Territorial Reform assessed spatial expansion impacts on infrastructure, emissions, land use and access to services, informing risk-sensitive urban planning; the Causal Chain Analysis identified environment–equity linkages and supported mitigation of air quality risks affecting vulnerable communities.
The JP has developed or operationalized a strategy to address human rights issues, undertaking and drawing upon relevant human rights analysis.	X		The JP applied inclusive governance mechanisms (VLR Working Group and Steering Committee) engaging civil society, youth and municipal stakeholders in decision-making; training activities strengthened transparency and accountability capacities through inclusive planning and budgeting, and building capacities for the elaboration of the SDG dashboard ToR
The JP has developed or operationalized a strategy to address structural inequalities facing women and girls.	X		The Causal Chain Analysis highlighted gendered impacts in access to services and safety; workshops mainstreamed gender and inclusion lenses in SDG planning, and mapped institutional actions to improve municipal responsiveness to vulnerable households, including women-headed families.
The JP has demonstrated positive results / effects for youth in accordance with the principles in Youth 2030.	X		Young municipal experts participated in technical trainings on data, planning

			and dashboard development, strengthening skills and civic engagement opportunities.
The JP has developed or operationalized a strategy to address structural inequalities facing marginalized and vulnerable persons in any other LNOB groups. Please specify which groups: _____			The Altyn Kazyk informal settlement case study and territorial analysis highlighted access inequities; reforms recommended expanding social protection outreach and infrastructure for under-served communities, especially the elderly, low-income and peri-urban residents affected by air pollution and mobility deficits.

C. Strategic Communications and Partnership Update

12. Strategic communications

Please provide the links to written articles published by the JP, or the draft outline of a written article to be finalized in the coming weeks. Examples of human-interest stories, practical guidance on storytelling, other useful tools to produce impactful written articles can be found in the Joint SDG Fund's [Communications Guideline for Seed Funding Tracks](#) on [UNSDG Knowledge Portal](#) (NB: PUNOs may need to request access first).

List of links to written articles of human-interest stories:

- Workshop 25-26 March 2025 posts:
 - SDG Localization social media posts: [Post 1, Post2, Post 3, Post 4](#)
 - <https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7310626984567422976>
- Regional Sustainable Development Forum post:
 - <https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7314935070631362560>
- Communication Capacity Building workshop UNECE website:
 - [Capacity Building Workshop – Planning for Change with the SDGs, SDG Financing & SDG Localization Dashboard | UNECE](#)
- UNRCO Joint SDG Fund article published at the Joint SDG Fund website: Impact Stories – Share your success:
 - [X \(Twitter\) Post](#)
 - [LinkedIn Post](#)
 - [Full Article](#)
- Workshop and Awareness Event 17 October 2025 posts:

- <https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7384950794883600384>
- https://www.linkedin.com/posts/sdg-cities-un_vlr-bishkek-kyrgyzstan-activity-7386770363885617153-TBLX?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop&rcm=ACoAACiU8XQBotZEWKl2hyQt6weGC_W0i3OVaxg

Draft outline of a written article of a human-interest story (500 words / 1 page max)

Bishkek Concludes UN Joint SDG Fund Seed-Funding Programme with Second SDG Localization Workshop and Final Awareness Event

Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic — 17 October 2025 — The City of Bishkek, under the leadership of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), in partnership with UN-Habitat and UNDP, and in close coordination with the United Nations Resident Coordinator’s Office, hosted the second SDG Localization Capacity-Building Workshop and the closing session of the Joint SDG Fund programme *“Empowering Bishkek Stakeholders for Sustainable Development: Awareness and Capacity Building for SDG Action.”*

The event marked the completion of a one-year Joint SDG Fund seed-funding initiative designed to translate the recommendations of Bishkek’s 2023 Voluntary Local Review (VLR) into tangible municipal action. Over the past year, the programme has helped strengthen the city’s capacity to localize the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through practical analytical, financial, and digital tools.

Among its main achievements is a Causal Chain Analysis that examined eight priority SDGs—from poverty reduction to climate action—identifying key barriers, linkages, and policy gaps while offering evidence-based recommendations to inform city planning and investment. The initiative also produced a Compendium of Policy Measures and Best Practices, which translates the findings of the VLR into actionable solutions, enabling the city to identify its most pressing urban challenges, define priority development areas, and design practical implementation steps.

With Bishkek’s territorial expansion in 2024, which added over 41,000 hectares and 18 rural municipalities and brought the population to nearly 1.3 million, the programme developed an analytical framework linking this administrative-territorial reform with the SDGs. The report outlines strategic directions for balanced development, proposes initial initiatives and “quick wins,” and recommends mechanisms such as capital investment planning to ensure sustainable growth across the city’s expanded territory.

Another important milestone is the creation of a customized digital SDG Dashboard—a platform that aggregates and visualizes city-level data, helping track progress on the SDGs, enhance transparency, and support evidence-based decision-making. Developed through extensive peer learning and stakeholder consultations, the Dashboard offers Bishkek a dynamic tool to monitor and accelerate implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

The programme also strengthened municipal financial management. A training for Bishkek City Hall staff and municipal departments focused on budget transparency and programme-based budgeting, helping improve openness and accountability in managing city finances. Drawing on international best practices and national legislation, a new methodology for the city’s “Citizen’s Budget” was developed, making information about revenues, expenditures, and funding priorities more accessible for residents and stakeholders.

In addition, the programme carried out an analysis of Bishkek’s local budget performance for 2023–2024 and the planned targets for 2025, identifying key trends and gaps in resource allocation. An assessment of the city’s medium-term financial needs—taking into account the ongoing administrative-territorial reform—is being finalized to help guide future investment priorities and strengthen financial sustainability.

The October workshop built on the first training held in March 2025 and brought together municipal officials, national partners, civil society, and development agencies to review the findings, provide feedback, and finalize the Terms of Reference for the SDG Dashboard. Participants discussed how to align the Dashboard’s structure and indicators with Bishkek’s priorities, data systems, and broader development vision.

13. Strategic partnerships (Select all that apply)

What type of partnerships established during the JP made important contribution to the JP objectives?

- National Government Institutions (Please specify): Ministry of Economy and Commerce, National Statistical Committee
- Sub-national Government Institutions (Please specify): City of Bishkek_____
- International Financial Institutions & Development Finance Institutions (Please specify): _____
- Private Sector Companies or Industry Associations (Please specify):
Doscredobank,
- Civil Society Organizations, Philanthropic Organizations and Foundation (Please specify): MoveGreen, Development Policy Institute, ESG Central Asia, International Business Council.
- Academic/Research Institutions (Please specify): Academy for Public Management under the President of the Kyrgyz Republic; Kyrgyz State Technical University
- Bilateral Development Partners (Please specify): _____
- Labour Unions or Organizations (Please specify): _____
- Others (Please specify): _____

ANNEX: SDG Localization Marker Survey

ONLY for the JPs with SDG Localization's Marker 3 to respond.

- 1) Please report on the SDG Localization monitoring indicators below. If an indicator is not applicable to your joint programme kindly state NA and briefly justify in the “Means of Verification” column.

Indicator	Baseline (year)	Target (year)	Evidence or means of verification
Number and type of local and regional governments and relevant local development stakeholders actively engaged in the programme design.	1 (2024)	1 (2025)	Programme Document and Official Letter from Bishkek municipality.
Number and type of local and regional governments and relevant local development stakeholders with clear roles and responsibilities within the programme.	1 (2024)	1 (2025)	Steering Committee meetings minutes
Number and type of persons or representative organizations involved in activities developed with the primary aim of enhancing local populations’ ownership and inclusion in sustainable development processes at the subnational level, led by local development stakeholders.	N/A	73 participants (50.7% Women)	Workshop documentation, including attendance list
Number and type of specific events, publications, or training materials aimed primarily at building capacity for local sustainable development/SDG localization in local development stakeholders.	0	3 (Capacity Building workshops) 3 (Training handouts – Global training materials adapted to the case of Bishkek)	Workshop documentations: Handouts, Attendance list, PowerPoint presentations
Number and type/description of specific coherent policies, regulations, and/or tools developed to enhance SDG localization (Disaggregated on policies, regulations, or tools focused on cross-sectoral or cross-level policy coherence).	3 (Causal Chain Analysis, Collection and description of applicable policy measures, and the Analysis of the Administrative-Territorial Reform)	3 (Causal Chain Analysis, Collection and description of applicable policy measures, and the Analysis of the Administrative-Territorial Reform)	Submitted programme outputs
Number and type/description of mechanisms or activities developed to improve the transparent and accountable financing of SDG localization.	Civic budget, analysis of budget expenditures	3 (format of civic budget, Analysis of budget	

		expenditures 2023-2024, financial needs assessment for 2025-2028)	
Number and type of relevant initiatives/processes that the projects contribute to reach large scale, transformative impact.	3 (Causal Chain Analysis, Collection and description of applicable policy measures, and the Analysis of the Administrativ e-Territorial Reform)	3 (Causal Chain Analysis, Collection and description of applicable policy measures, and the Analysis of the Administrativ e-Territorial Reform)	Submitted programme outputs
Percentage of programmatic expenditures allocated explicitly to activities that directly impact local sustainable development processes and systems (e.g. food systems value chains, local health or education systems, energy and water management, local economic development, local climate action, multilevel governance) embedded in local SDG-related priorities which are expressed in local strategies.	75%	75%	Programme budget
Number and type of local financial tools/instruments developed or strengthened to support SDG implementation at local level.	0	3	3 (format of civic budget, Analysis of budget expenditures 2023-2024, financial needs assessment for 2025-2028)
Total amount (in USD) of additional public and private sector resources mobilized for local SDG implementation at the local level.	\$15,000	\$15,000	Time allocation and operating budget from Bishkek
Percentage of results contributing to SDG localization that have met their preplanned target/milestones.	100%	100%	
Number of local and regional governments and/or local service providers integrating aspects of policy coherence for sustainable development into their monitoring and reporting processes.	1 (Bishkek municipality)	1 (Bishkek municipality)	Steering Committee meeting minutes

2) What action areas has your JP prioritized since launch to advance the SDGs at the local level? (Select all that apply)

Empowering local authorities and communities (e.g. capacity building, leadership development, technical support)

- Facilitating multi-stakeholder engagement (e.g. participatory planning processes, community consultations)
- Strengthening multi-level governance (e.g. vertical coordination, central-local policy alignment)
- Localizing SDG financing (e.g. municipal finance mechanisms, local resource mobilization, local SDG budgeting)
- Enhancing local data systems (e.g. disaggregated data collection, community-based monitoring)
- Expanding social service access (e.g. last-mile delivery, integrated service provision)
- Others (please specify): _____

3) To what extent has funding from the joint programme budget be directly channelled or mobilized to local-level actors (e.g. local governments, local community organizations, local service providers) to support SDG Localization efforts in the reporting period?

- 0% i.e. no resource has been directed to local-level actors.
- 1-24% of total programme funding directed to local-level actors.
- 25-49% of total programme funding directed to local-level actors.
- 50-74% of total programme funding directed to local-level actors.
- 75-100% of total programme funding directed to local-level actors.

4) Please describe how the territorial or localization approach is applied in your joint programme. Include the following key aspects into your response.

- Alignment between joint programme and local development plans and integration of results in local processes, frameworks and SDG monitoring system.
- Role of subnational-level (local and regional) governments and other key local institutions/stakeholders in the implementation of the joint programme.
- Description on how capacities and innovation of local stakeholders for integrating SDG and multi-actor collaboration are identified and reinforced.

(500 words / 1 page max)

The JP adopts a localization approach by aligning its three core outputs—(1) *Causal Chain Analysis*, (2) *Collection of Policy Measures and Best Practices* based on the 2023 Bishkek VLR and 2019 Smart Sustainable City Profile, and (3) *Analysis of the Enlargement Reform*—with municipal planning instruments. These outputs aim to institutionalize key recommendations through integration into Bishkek’s upcoming Strategic Development Plan, Local Area Development Plans, and the next VLR, reinforcing links to national SDG monitoring frameworks and the 2025 VNR process.

The Bishkek City Government plays a leading role in implementation, engaging municipal departments such as the Urban Planning Institute and the Mayor’s Office to

ensure outputs are embedded in official planning, policy, and regulatory frameworks. This strong municipal ownership is critical for coherence and sustainability.

The JP also strengthens the capacities of local stakeholders through the *Planning for Change with the SDGs* workshop, which focused on mapping institutional competencies, identifying actors, and building skills for cross-sectoral collaboration. Participants co-developed implementation strategies aligned with SDG priorities, reinforcing multi-actor coordination and innovation at the subnational level. These efforts position the JP for potential replication in other municipalities across Kyrgyzstan.

The role of the Bishkek City Government as the lead stakeholder in the implementation, adoption, and translation of JP recommendations into statutory plans remains critical. The active engagement of municipal experts and decision-makers ensures a strong connection between project outputs and formal city planning processes.

Through the capacity-building workshop on Planning for Change with the SDGs, the JP considered the action-oriented recommendations and delivered a training on mapping the local competencies for the implementation of the recommendations aligned with the strategically relevant SDGs for Bishkek. This also included mapping relevant actors for the realization of the recommendations. Furthermore, the groups presented their preliminary results in a plenary, contributing to further discussions on the local competencies with the group (in a line with strategic plans and programs of Bishkek City such as a main development program “Bishkek-2026. Well-maintained and Green Capital”, Bishkek City's socio-economic development program for 2025 and forecast for 2026-2027, etc.).

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