



UNITED NATIONS  
UZBEKISTAN



THE REPUBLIC  
OF UZBEKISTAN

## 2025 Annual Fund-Level Report



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

The UN Multi-Partner Human Security Trust Fund for the Aral Sea region in Uzbekistan is funded by:



The Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan



The Government of Norway



European Union



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The Government of Germany



The Government of the Republic of Korea



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## 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 30, 2030

**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.

**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.

**Reporting Period:** January-December 2025

**Participating UN Organizations :** UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNESCO, UNODC, FAO, WHO, UNOPS

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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)



United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)



World Health Organization (WHO)



United Nations Office For Project Services (UNOPS)

## Contributing Partners



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## MPHSTF Parallel Contributors



Government of Japan

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## LIST OF ACRONYMS

AQMS	Automatic Air Quality Monitoring System
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
IOGT	Internet of Good Things
IPC	Infection Prevention and Control
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MPHSTF	Multi-Partner Human Security Trust Fund for the Aral Sea Region
MPTF	Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNSDCF	UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WQMIS	Water Quality Monitoring Information System

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Fund-level Final Narrative Report presents consolidated results achieved under the **UN Multi-Partner Human Security Trust Fund (MPHSTF)** for the Aral Sea Region in Uzbekistan during the period of January to December 2025, implemented jointly by UNICEF, UNDP, and FAO, in close partnership with national and regional authorities.

Despite operating in one of the world's most environmentally degraded regions, the Fund successfully delivered integrated, multi-sectoral interventions that addressed **human security risks** related to water access, health, environmental degradation, climate change, livelihoods, and environmental governance in the Republic of Karakalpakstan.

Across the Fund portfolio, interventions reached over **2 million people** directly and indirectly through improved access to safe drinking water, strengthened environmental and water quality monitoring systems, expanded air quality monitoring coverage, enhanced health and WASH services, ecosystem restoration pilots, and community-driven livelihood and innovation initiatives.

**Key Fund-level achievements** include:

- Improved human security and health resilience through access to safe drinking water for 20,030 people, strengthened water quality surveillance benefiting 333,000 people, and expanded digital health and parenting platforms reaching nearly 900,000 users.
- Substantial strengthening of environmental governance through the establishment of 37 automatic air quality monitoring stations, six meteorological stations, mobile soil laboratories, and integrated water, soil, and air monitoring systems embedded in national institutions.
- Restoration and protection of fragile ecosystems, including 4 hectares of tugai forest restoration, innovative afforestation pilots using water-saving technologies, and ecosystem restoration guidelines developed for national application.
- Community resilience and livelihoods enhanced through support to small grants, start-ups, and households, particularly women and youth, creating new income opportunities and climate-adaptive practices in affected districts.

The Fund demonstrated strong value for money, leveraging a total portfolio of approximately **USD 2.36 million** to achieve systemic results across multiple sectors, while strengthening national ownership, institutional capacity, and sustainability mechanisms.

## I. ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE FUND

Key achievements of the Fund during the reporting cycle include:

- Establishment and operationalisation of **37 Automatic Air Quality Monitoring Stations (AQMS)** across Karakalpakstan, including **20 additional stations approved by the Steering Committee**, fully integrated into the national air quality monitoring system;
- Improved access to **safely managed drinking water for 20,030 people** across 15 remote and underserved communities;
- Strengthened **water quality monitoring services benefiting approximately 333,000 people** through upgraded reference laboratories and the Water Quality Monitoring Information System;
- Deployment of strategic environmental governance tools, including an **Air Quality Situation Centre**, meteorological stations, a mobile soil laboratory, and a **Dust Migration Model for the Southern Aral Sea Region**;
- Strengthened institutional capacity and community resilience across WASH, health, education, environmental protection, and livelihoods.
- Piloted collaboration with civil society organizations for small grants initiatives.

These achievements demonstrate the Fund’s catalytic role in promoting integrated human security solutions and strengthening government-owned systems.

The overarching purpose of the MPHSTF in Uzbekistan is to **reduce human insecurity caused by environmental degradation in the Aral Sea region**, while strengthening resilience, livelihoods, and environmental governance for the most vulnerable communities.

All Fund-supported interventions were aligned with:

- **MPHSTF Results Framework** (Outcomes 1, 3 and 4),
- **UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2021–2025** Outcomes 4 and 5,
- National development strategies and Presidential Decrees related to the Aral Sea region,
- Relevant **SDGs**, particularly **SDGs 3, 6, 11, 13 and 15**.

The Fund adopted an integrated human security approach, combining infrastructure investments, systems strengthening, policy support, digital innovation, and community-level solutions.

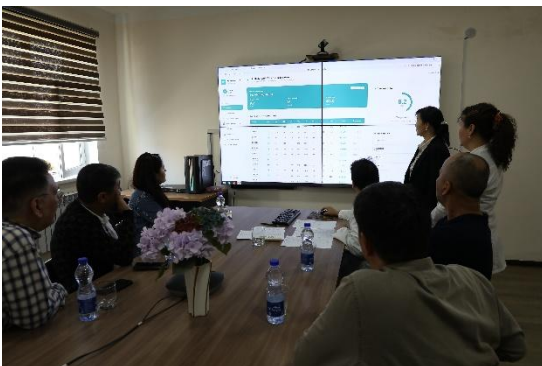
## II. PROGRAMMATIC RESULTS

### Outcome 1 – Reduced Environmental Stress

The Fund supported a step-change in environmental governance through the installation and operationalisation of Automatic Air Quality Monitoring Stations across Karakalpakstan, establishment of an Air Quality Situation Centre, deployment of meteorological stations, and development of evidence-based tools such as the Dust Migration Model for the Southern Aral Sea Region. These interventions enabled continuous data generation and improved regulatory decision-making at regional and national levels.



- **37 AQMS installed** in Karakalpakstan
  - **17 stations** from original programme allocation
  - **20 additional stations** approved by the Steering Committee in **September 2025**



- **Air Quality Situation Centre** established under the Committee on Ecology
- **6 meteorological stations** installed and operational
- **Dust Migration Model for the Southern Aral Sea Region** published and adopted as a national reference
- **Mobile soil laboratory** operational at IICAS

**Fund-level impact:** transition from fragmented/manual monitoring to **24/7 digital, automated, government-owned environmental monitoring** supporting regulation and public health protection.

### Outcome 3 – Secured Access to Clean Water

Fund investments rehabilitated water supply infrastructure in four districts, providing safe drinking water to more than 20,000 people. Upgraded reference laboratories and the Water Quality Monitoring Information System expanded access to reliable water quality monitoring, while capacity-building activities strengthened operation, maintenance, planning and budgeting competencies of local authorities and service providers.

- **20,030 people** gained access to safely managed drinking water through **10 rehabilitated water systems** in **15 communities**
- **333,000 people** benefited from strengthened **water quality monitoring**, supported by:
  - upgraded reference laboratories (Kungrad, Beruni)
  - the **Water Quality Monitoring Information System (WQMIS)**

- **300+ local officials and community representatives** trained in:
  - operation & maintenance
  - WASH planning and budgeting
  - climate-resilient water management

**Sustainability:** water facilities transferred to local authorities; O&M manuals endorsed by the Council of Ministers of Karakalpakstan.

#### Outcome 4 – Improved Health and Well-being

The Fund strengthened health system resilience through capacity development of healthcare workers and medical brigades, improved Infection Prevention and Control practices, and expanded WASH in Schools programming. Digital platforms significantly extended outreach to adolescents and caregivers with trusted health and parenting information

- **330 healthcare workers** strengthened in IPC, nutrition and climate-resilient WASH
- **458 medical brigade members** trained under MNP/IFAS and deworming programmes
- **27,500+ schoolchildren** reached through WASH in Schools (3-Star Approach)
- **10,000 adolescent girls** empowered through peer-led health and MHM programmes
- **648,000 adolescent girls and 249,700 caregivers** reached via digital platforms (IOGT and Bebbi)

**Systemic impact:** WASH in Schools and digital behaviour-change tools integrated into national education and health systems.

Additionally, as part of the final phase of the MPHSTF portfolio, a **Small Grants Initiative** was implemented to pilot community-driven solutions addressing environmental and human security challenges in Karakalpakstan. Following approval by the MPHSTF Steering Committee, **four local civil society organizations (CSOs)** were each awarded a **USD 10,000 grant** to implement targeted, locally led interventions.



The supported initiatives included: (i) installation of **community street lighting in Mamiy village (Shumanay district)** to improve safety, accessibility and inclusion, including for persons with disabilities; (ii) establishment of a **youth media club in Kegeyli district**, strengthening youth engagement and civic participation; (iii) installation of a **low-carbon heating system at Preschool No. 11 in Takhtakupir district**, improving learning conditions and energy efficiency; and (iv) provision of **sustainable access to safe drinking water in Kaishly community (Chimbay district)**. The Small Grants Initiative demonstrated the Fund’s ability to rapidly translate financing into tangible, community-level results, while strengthening local ownership and CSO capacity for future engagement in the Aral Sea region.

MPHSTF’s first implementation cycle demonstrates that **integrated human security financing** can deliver durable impact in one of the world’s most fragile ecological contexts. The 2026 results provide a strong foundation for **scaling, replication and a second Fund cycle** focused on national expansion and regional cooperation.

Rather than framing the investment as “small”, the Fund demonstrated **high cost-effectiveness and catalytic impact**, by:

- Leveraging **USD 2.36 million** to deliver **multi-sectoral, system-level reforms**
- Financing **additional AQMS expansion** through Steering Committee flexibility

By financial closure in **April 2026**:

- Monitoring systems (AQMS, WQMIS) fully integrated into **state institutions**
- Infrastructure transferred with trained personnel and budget lines identified
- Manuals and guidelines endorsed for continued use
- Community and livelihood investments embedded in local structures

The Fund exited with systems left behind — not projects.

### **III. DELAYS IN IMPLEMENTATION**

Initial delays related to fund disbursement timing, procurement, and partner turnover were mitigated through:

- Approved no-cost extensions,
- Accelerated procurement and contracting,
- Reprogramming and reprioritization of activities,
- Additional co-financing by participating UN agencies.

All planned outputs were fully delivered within the revised implementation periods.

### **IV. SUSTAINABILITY AND INSTITUTIONALIZATION**

Sustainability was embedded across all interventions:

- Infrastructure assets were transferred to government institutions with O&M capacity.
- Monitoring systems are institutionalized within national and regional authorities.
- Guidelines and training manuals formally endorsed.
- Community-driven initiatives are integrated into local development processes.
- Digital platforms embedded with long-term government and UN support models.

### **V. BEST PRACTICES AND LESSONS LEARNED**

#### **Best practices**

- Integrated water–health–environment programming delivers higher resilience dividends.
- Early government ownership accelerates sustainability.
- Digital platforms significantly extend reach in remote environments.
- Small grants catalyze innovation and community resilience.

#### **Lessons learned**

- Infrastructure projects require realistic implementation timelines (minimum 12 months).
- Environmental monitoring benefits most when fully embedded in national systems.
- Community-based pilots are effective entry points for scale-up.

MPHSTF has proven to be an **effective mechanism** for addressing complex environmental and human security challenges in the Aral Sea region. By linking **environmental restoration, governance reforms, health systems, water security** and **community resilience**, the Fund has laid a strong foundation for sustainable recovery and long-term development in one of Uzbekistan’s most vulnerable regions.