



**YOSHLAR ISHLARI**  
AGENTLIGI



**UNODC**  
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime  
Regional Office for Central Asia



**MINUTES**  
**of the annual Steering Committee Online Meeting**

**Project:** Youth for Social Harmony in the Fergana Valley (Joint Programme)  
**Date/Time:** December 11, 2020; 17:00 (Tashkent time)  
**Venue:** online Zoom conference <https://undp.zoom.us/j/84760701896>

**List of participants**

<b>Youth Affairs Agency of Uzbekistan</b>		
1.	Alisher Sadullayev	National project coordinator, Director of Youth Affairs Agency
2.	Farrux Omonov	Deputy Director of Youth Affairs Agency
3.	Islom Okhunov	Head of the International relations department
4.	Ilyos Matlabov	Chief specialist of the International relations department
5.	Zarina Chullieva	Specialist
<b>United Nations Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (PBF)</b>		
6.	Jood Wasel Alharthi	Associate Peacebuilding Officer
<b>UN Youth Task Force</b>		
7.	Anvarjon Meliboev	UNRCO National Public Information Officer
8.	Mirsaid Uzakov	Consultant on Youth at United Nations Population Fund
<b>UNRCO</b>		
9.	Seraina Petersen	Programme Coordination, Monitoring & Evaluation Assistant
10.	Matluba Umurzakova	Development Coordination Officer, PBF Focal point in Uzbekistan
<b>UNODC</b>		
11.	Ashita Mittal	UNODC Regional Representative for Central Asia
12.	Koen Marquering	International Manager in Central Asia/ Criminal Justice, Crime prevention and Integrity
13.	Gulnar Kudaybergenova	National Project officer
14.	Indira Mukimova	Training Coordinator
<b>UNESCO</b>		
15.	Jan Hladik	UNESCO Representative in Uzbekistan, Head of UNESCO Tashkent Office
16.	Bakhtiyor Namozov	Education Program Specialist
<b>UNDP</b>		
17.	Matilda Dimovska	UNDP Resident Representative in Uzbekistan
18.	Doina Munteanu	UNDP Deputy Resident Representative in Uzbekistan
19.	Kamila Mukhamedkhanova	Cluster Leader on Good Governance, Policy and Communications
20.	Azizkhon Bakhadirov	Programme Analyst on Rule of Law
21.	Sherzodbek Sharipov	Programme Associate on Public Policy
22.	Kamila Alimjanova	Resource Management Associate
23.	Nodira Mukhammadkulova	Project manager
24.	Afzal Yodgorov	Task Manager
25.	Botirjon Mavlanov	Research Coordinator
26.	Otabek Eshmatov	National consultant on communication and public awareness
27.	Svetlana Yugai	National consultant on the coordination of PVE/BI experiment and start-up accelerator programme
28.	Shakhinakhon Bahramova	Project assistant on youth engagement and gender equality
29.	Jamshid Shukurov	Administrative Finance Assistant



## AGENDA

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### **Session.1 Introduction**

17:00 – 17:20 Opening Remarks

- Alisher Sadullayev, Director of the Youth Affairs Agency of Uzbekistan, National project coordinator
- Matilda Dimovska, UNDP Resident Representative in Uzbekistan
- Jood Wasel Alharthi, Associate Peacebuilding Officer, PBF

### **Session.2 UN Joint Programme progress and plans**

17:20 – 17:40 Presentation on the UN Joint Programme progress in 2020 and plans for 2021  
*Ms. Nodira Mukhammadkulova, Manager, UN Joint Programme*

17:40 – 18:20 Discussion and review/interventions from partners and participating PUNOs:

- 1- Progress of JP in 2020
- 2- Work Plan for 2021
- 3- National Programme Coordinator (key national partner) of the UN JP
- 4- General discussion
- 5- Conclusions and decisions

18:20 – 18:30 Closing remarks



**MINUTES:**

1. Report on the activities of the UN Joint Programme “Youth for Social Harmony in the Fergana Valley” in 2020
2. Discussion of the main directions of the UN Joint Programme in 2021

A.S.	Mr. Alisher Sadullayev (National Project Coordinator) welcomed participants of the Steering Committee Meeting and thanked all the partners for their endeavors. The National Project Coordinator (NPC) noted the positive experience that the UN Joint Programme had provided to all involved national counterparts. Young people in the Fergana Valley welcomed the opportunity to engage in dialogue platforms, educational opportunities and civic initiatives, such as a hackathon and legal clinics with great excitement. Over the course of project implementation, young people will learn a lot and invest time and effort into obtaining needed life skills. Mr. Sadullaev expressed his gratitude to UN agencies and reiterated the openness of the Youth Affairs Agency to strengthen partnership and cooperation.
M.D.	<p>Ms. Matilda Dimovska, UNDP Resident Representative in Uzbekistan, expressed her gratitude and welcomed all the parties. She highlighted the meeting as an opportunity to have an open discussion on how to bring the project to the next level. Citing the President's words from the Samarkand Forum on Human Rights she stated that young people are generators of new ideas to make our life on this planet more prosperous. This is also true and relevant for Uzbekistan, given that young people make up 60% of the population. The project comes at a time when Uzbekistan is going through a major reform effort. It is important to make sure that every citizen can participate in and benefit from these reforms.</p> <p>Ms. Dimovska underlined that the Joint Programme was launched when the COVID-19 pandemic erupted, noting the programme's importance in terms of building resilience to cope with the challenges posed by the pandemic. The program aims to set examples that could be further taken to the national level. Along with interventions and activities, the research component that is to analyze youth needs, expectations, and moods, should serve as a base of engagement. The RR suggested that a project representation in Fergana Valley is established for better tailoring the engagement. She also raised the need to set an appropriate office for the staff of the project in Tashkent, closer to the national partner. To allow for full implementation of the Joint Programme, Ms. Dimovska suggested its extension and that to be discussed with the donor UN Peacebuilding Fund the approval of the extension.</p>
J.A.	<p>Ms. Jood Wasel Alharthi, the Associate Peacebuilding Officer, thanked and welcomed all the meeting participants. PBF representative noted that it was the first project in Uzbekistan, for the Peacebuilding Fund. She highlighted the potential for a conversation on a cross border project in Uzbekistan and other countries nearby. In the next 3-4 years, the PBF was going to approve more cross-border projects and it obviously has youth and gender empowerment elements, since all of these are priority areas, the PBF is open for discussions and ideas for the cross-border ideas if there are any. Also, Ms. Alharthi expressed PBF's openness to discuss the current project, regarding the extension etc.</p> <p>Ms. Alharthi requested for more data to be submitted for better visibility and building portfolio. She also stressed the importance of monitoring the reports and deadlines as they were all linked in with internal deadlines for the visibility activities. Additionally, she expressed her excitement to learn about the results of the project and future work in Uzbekistan.</p>



N.M.	<p>Project Manager Nodira Mukhammadkulova made her relevant presentation, providing details of the main results of the UN Joint Programme 2020. In particular, the following points were made.</p> <p>As a main objective of the Joint Programme "Youth for Social Harmony in the Fergana Valley" she mentioned the support of the government's youth policy, and to ensure that young people are not left behind.</p> <p>Among the main achievements and milestones of the UN Joint Programme she mentioned the following interventions and activities launched in 2020.</p> <p>During the presentation, the Project manager highlighted the research component as a very important activity, which gives us a chance to designate existing problems.</p> <p>Also as important events, she mentioned conference and training on Anti-corruption measures in education jointly with the national counterparts.</p> <p>Among successfully organized events she pointed out the hackathon where 64 motivated young women and men were taught on IT. Participants developed innovative technology-based solutions to promote social cohesion and rule of law. During the scoping mission UNODC colleagues and the Youth Affairs Agency representatives have considered and chosen places appropriate to establish a media center in the Fergana region.</p> <p>UN days promotion substantiated from online conferences.</p> <p>Among other key activities, she mentioned face to face training for 20 school teachers, as well as psychologists and police officers working with youth and youth life skills training programs in 10 schools to build the resilience of more than 200 sec. school students in Namangan and Fergana cities.</p> <p>While talking about the challenges the Joint Programme faced she mentioned the following aspects:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The project commenced activities in online mode since the overall situation related to COVID-19 did not get better within the country;</li> <li>2. People in rural areas have limited access to the Internet as well as limited funds to purchase gadgets.;</li> <li>3. Changing the national partner to a new Youth Affairs Agency, established on 30 July, responsible for developing youth policy and monitoring relevant legislation (17 Aug.)</li> </ol> <p>Summing up her presentation Project Manager divulged information on Program plans for 2021.</p>
A.M.	<p>UNODC Regional Representative for Central Asia Ms. Ashita Mittal highlighted that it's indeed a unique project that has allowed all the parties to come together and work on the issue of prime importance to the country, especially the engagement of youth for social cohesion. UNODC has a niche of crime prevention, hence victimization and crime surveys were to help understand what drives young people to go in that direction, to learn about underlying issues, more context on what leads to criminal involvement. The RR expressed willingness to continue creating more safe spaces that align with ideas articulated by presidential apparatus.</p> <p>As one of the most important domains of the work the RR underlined the establishment of three youth hubs in Andijan, Namangan and Fergana. She also noted the youth centers that allow young people to find space to dialogue and discuss, and be fully engaged in the development processes in their communities.</p>
J.H.	<p>Mr. Jan Hladik thanked Joint Programme team members and expressed gratitude for being part of the process. Concerning the programme, he said that 3 UN agencies have common points. For example, it's a fight against corruption, which is closely linked to corruption in education, also there is the implementation of different standard putting instruments like the Panama convention, concerning UNODC which in fact has three additional protocols - one of them partially deals with civil servants.</p> <p>Regarding the analysis of the administrative and legal practice of authorities, in order to ensure compliance with national and international principles of human rights, he suggested his expert assistance.</p>
M.U.	<p>Thanked all the colleagues for the presentation and inputs. He proposed UN Youth advisory members be involved into implementation and monitoring the program.</p>
K.M.	<p>Mr. Marquering shared his thoughts regarding the UN Joint Programme achievements in 2020. Existing mechanisms, he noted, are already in place in Uzbekistan, UNICEF and U-report in particular, was a positive resource to start gathering data on youth issues and perceptions. There's a strong need to establish a dialogue with the youth of Fergana Valley on various issues.</p>



	<p>As he stated UNODC targeted 400 young people for the celebrations of UN Days and involved them in substantive discussions on the corruption, human trafficking and other important issues. School-based programs have taken off with training on life-skills, entrepreneurial skills, involving almost 200 young people. Based on these interventions now it can be seen where UN agencies should work. IT skills, building teams, giving the youth an opportunity to develop their own projects on social issues, as Mr. Marquering stated, important to them and UN agencies' priority for the next year is to build access to services around all that.</p>
J.A.	<p>Ms. Alharti expressed her gratitude for the work that has been done by the Joint Programme team and thanked for the interesting presentation.</p> <p>She noted that the infographic on Technovation girls was really innovative and asked to share it with the PBF.</p> <p>Regarding the Joint Programme's extension, she noted that it's important to highlight the PBF. Because of the pandemic, across all the countries that PBF is active in, there have been requests for the extension. That she supposes is absolutely understandable. According to regulations, the PBF allows only a 6-month extension. The general advice provided was to be as strategic as possible in requesting. PBF is open to conversation when UN agencies believe when strategically best to request extension according to Ms. Alharthi. The usual advice is to wait for the 3 months before the end of the project that is the latest. She noted that PBF advised sharing concerns so that the fund can help tailor it and polish it till the fund moves to the next procedure for the high-level approval.</p>
K.M.	<p>Regarding the second tranche, Mr. Marquering said that UNODC also started discussing with colleagues the issue of funding. It's an important issue for UNODC and for other agencies in Uzbekistan to move forward to next year.</p>
J.A.	<p>Regarding the second tranche transfer Ms. Alharthi stated that before moving to the tranche question, there are two things that she highlighted. Other than no-cost extension there's an option of budget revision and changing the scope of the project. It can be done more than once, for 2-3 times as necessary as this is a viable and reasonable basis. Another option is changing the scope of the project if UN agencies feel like the project needs to tailor its response more related to COVID-19, and maybe certain interventions are not as relevant as they were before. If the Joint Programme is concerned with adding or removing activities that can affect outcome levels, then these options could be seen. She expressed that the PBF is open to discussing it in more detail.</p> <p>She noted that tranche requests come from all implementing agencies and when it's released - it's released to all the agencies. PBF wants to see the progress of all agencies together. The fund needs to reach 75% utilization from all the agencies before any tranche request can be released.</p>
F.O.	<p>Mr. Farrukh Omonov addressed the meeting members and thanked them for the work carried out within the Joint Programme and expressed the agency's readiness to support and cooperate closely for the realization of interventions in 2021.</p> <p>He stated that as a main national partner, the Agency hopes on the possible extension of the Joint Programme until the end of the upcoming year 2021. He requested facilitation in working with international ranking organizations in youth ratings for assessing the progress.</p>
M.D.	<p>Ms. Dimovska shared her views regarding the results of the Joint Programme in 2020.</p> <p>She noted that there is a very good overview of the project implementation and challenges the Joint Programme team faced so far. Ms. Dimovska noted that, given that there were no comments on the project report and presentation, it can be considered that the Board members agree on the report and project accomplishment for 2020.</p> <p>She also pointed that UNDP, UNODC and UNESCO do support the work plan for 2021 and have expectations that the project board would like to see research component accelerated, so that some of the planned activities are unlocked.</p> <p>She noted that it's always important to have the donor's perspective and asked if the requested extension of the project by the end of the next year can be considered by the donor.</p> <p>Considering the request made by the Agency on international rankings Ms. Dimovska confirmed readiness to discuss options for further implementation of this idea. As she stated there is a need to consult the PBF on the eligibility of that type of work. The RR stated that it was good to have the Youth Advisory Board of the UN in Uzbekistan at the meeting and hear about their readiness to get involved into the implementation of the JP even more.</p>



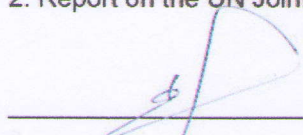
F.O.	As a final remark, Mr. Omonov thanked all UN agencies and stated that the Youth Affairs Agency hopes that the UN will continue the work on youth. On behalf of the Youth Affairs Agency and almost 18 million young people of Uzbekistan Agency expressed its commitment to sustain the partnership.
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**After the Steering Committee Meeting, the following decisions were taken:**

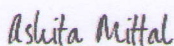
1. Recognize the Joint Programme's activities for 2020 as satisfactory and approve the annual report for 2020;
2. Recommend the extension of the Joint Programme until December 31, 2021, subject to donor (PBF Secretariat) confirmation;
3. Approve the Joint Programme's Annual Work Plan (AWP) for 2021 and note that, considering the risks that COVID-19 may cause, the AWP may be subject to revision;
4. Opening positions for representation of the Joint Programme in the Fergana valley and allocating office for them in Andijan, Namangan and Fergana cities by the Youth Affairs Agency;
5. Endorse the Joint Programme budget for the next year, including the shift of unused funds from Y2020 to Y2021; recommend updating the project's risk and mitigation strategy, and the planned activities to monitor project's implementation as well as submit it for timely signature by respective agencies;
6. Recommend postponement of the final evaluation of the Joint Programme from June 2021 to the 4th quarter of 2021 in case of the UN Joint Programme's extension is agreed by the donor (PBF Secretariat) till the end of 2021;
7. Ensure the asset transfer for / acceptance of ICT and other equipment, which will be procured and disseminated among Youth Hubs and Media center in pilot regions in late December 2020-January-February 2021.
8. Conduct further consultations with national counterparts and youth groups to finetune the annual work plan.

**Annexes:**

1. Presentation 'On the UN Joint Programme's progress in 2020 and planned activities of the UN Joint Programme for 2021'.
2. Report on the UN Joint Programme activities in 2020.



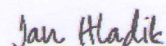
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