



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



UN MULTI-PARTNER HUMAN SECURITY TRUST FUND
FOR THE ARAL SEA REGION IN UZBEKISTAN

ANNUAL
REPORT
| 2021



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

ANNUAL REPORT

2021

FUND INFORMATION

MPHSTF	UN Multi-Partner Human Security Trust Fund for the Aral Sea Region in Uzbekistan
Operational period	November 12, 2018 – December 31, 2023
Funding	For 2021: USD 1,793,498
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	<p>Outcome 1: Stress on local communities due to the deteriorating environmental situation is reduced</p> <p>Outcome 2: Employment and income generation opportunities for local communities are increased</p> <p>Outcome 3: Local community access to affordable and healthy food and clean drinking water is secured</p> <p>Outcome 4: The overall health of the local population is improved, and healthy lifestyle promoted</p> <p>Outcome 5: The living conditions of local populations are improved, with particular focus on vulnerable groups such as women, children, and youth</p>
Participating UN Organisations	UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNESCO, UNODC, FAO, WHO
Contact information	<p>Ms. Roli Asthana, UN Resident Coordinator in the Republic of Uzbekistan, Co-chair of the MPHSTF Steering Committee E-mail: roli.asthana@un.org</p> <p>Mr. Simon Hacker, Senior Development Coordination Officer, Strategic Planning and RCO Team Lead E-mail: hackers@un.org</p> <p>Ms. Rusyan Jill Mamiit, UN RCO, Development Coordination Officer, Partnerships and Development Finance E-mail: mamiit@un.org</p> <p>Mr. Uktam Abdurakhmanov, Head of the MPHSTF Technical Secretariat E-mail: uktam.abdurakhmanov@undp.org</p>

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)

Contributing Partners



Government of Finland



European Union



Government of Norway



Government of the Republic of Korea



Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan



Alwaleed Philanthropies

MPHSTF Parallel Contributors



Government of Japan



Government of Russian Federation

TABLE OF CONTENTS

LIST OF ACRONYMS.....	5
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY.....	6
1. ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE FUND.....	8
Highlights of 2021.....	8
MPHSTF OUTCOME 3. Local community access to affordable and healthy food and clean drinking water is secured.....	13
- UNDP and UNESCO Joint Programme “Addressing the urgent human insecurities in the Aral Sea region through the promotion of sustainable rural development”.....	13
- UNDP, UNFPA and FAO Joint Programme “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”.....	14
MPHSTF OUTCOME 4. The overall health of the local population is improved, and healthy lifestyle promoted.....	15
- UNICEF and UNFPA Joint Programme “Improvement of Quality of Perinatal Care Service to Most Vulnerable Mothers and Newborns”.....	15
- UNICEF, UNFPA and UNODC Joint Programme “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”.....	16
- WHO Project “Towards universal health coverage and security in Karakalpakstan”.....	18
2. FUND OPERATIONAL PERFORMANCE.....	19
Operational Activities of the Steering Committee, Advisory Committee, and Technical Secretariat.....	19
Partnership, Resource Mobilisation and Communication.....	20
Challenges & Lessons Learned.....	23
CONCLUSION.....	24
Annex 1. MPHSTF RESULTS FRAMEWORK.....	25

LIST OF ACRONYMS

AC	Advisory Committee on Sustainable Development of the Aral Sea Region
CFP	Call for proposals
CDPs	Community development plans
CSO	Civil Society Organization
EIB	European Investment Bank
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
IICAS	International Innovation Centre for the Aral Sea Basin
JP	Joint Programme
MIFT	Ministry of Investment and Foreign Trade
MOH	Ministry of Health
MPHSTF	UN Multi-Partner Human Security Trust Fund for the Aral Sea Region in Uzbekistan
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
PUNOs	Participating UN Organizations
RCO	Resident Coordinator Office
RoK	Republic of Karakalpakstan
SC	Steering Committee of the MPHSTF
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SMEs	Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises
ToR	Terms of Reference
TRP	Technical Review Panel
TS	Technical Secretariat of the MPHSTF
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
WASH	Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene
WHO	World Health Organization

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The UN Multi-Partner Human Security Trust Fund for the Aral Sea Region (MPHSTF) 2021 Annual Report covers the Fund's third full operational calendar year. Following a brief summary, this report presents the major highlights of 2021. Subsequently there is an in-focus summary of the results of the Fund's five Joint Programmes. The report also presents the operational and financial performance of the Fund, including a Results Matrix showcasing specific targets achieved.

In 2021, the MPHSTF enhanced its development efforts to address the most urgent of human insecurities, in order to leave no one behind in the Aral Sea region. The Fund brought together a diverse group of development partners in a single platform for sustainable development, to foster synergies that will help communities affected by environmental disasters become more prosperous and resilient.

The two joint programmes that ran from 2019 to 2021 yielded their first results in 2021. The UNICEF and UNFPA programme being successfully implemented in the Nukus city, Kungrad, and Beruniy districts has provided improved medical care to mothers and newborns, resulting

in a reduced maternal, neonatal and perinatal mortality. Meanwhile UNDP and UNESCO have succeeded in giving five rural communities access to drinking water, creating employment opportunities by supporting thirteen small business projects, and promoting climate change adaptation through undertaking evidence-based afforestation initiatives on the dried bottom of the Aral Sea.

Furthermore, three ongoing programmes and projects have demonstrated significant progress made towards achieving their objectives. WHO assessed the health needs of Karakalpakstan's population and developed a proposal for comprehensive investments in the health sector. The UNICEF, UNFPA and UNODC JP sought to assess water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) infrastructure in schools and medical facilities, and improved the related capacities of thousands of educators, parents and adolescents, and also community volunteers. Last but not least, UNDP, UNFPA and FAO helped rural communities gain access to basic resources including electricity and water, and empower youth, women and the elderly.

The Governments of Uzbekistan, the Republic of Korea, and Alwaleed Philanthropies have supported the Trust Fund, donating USD 1.8 million to jointly deliver on the Trust Fund's strategic objectives.

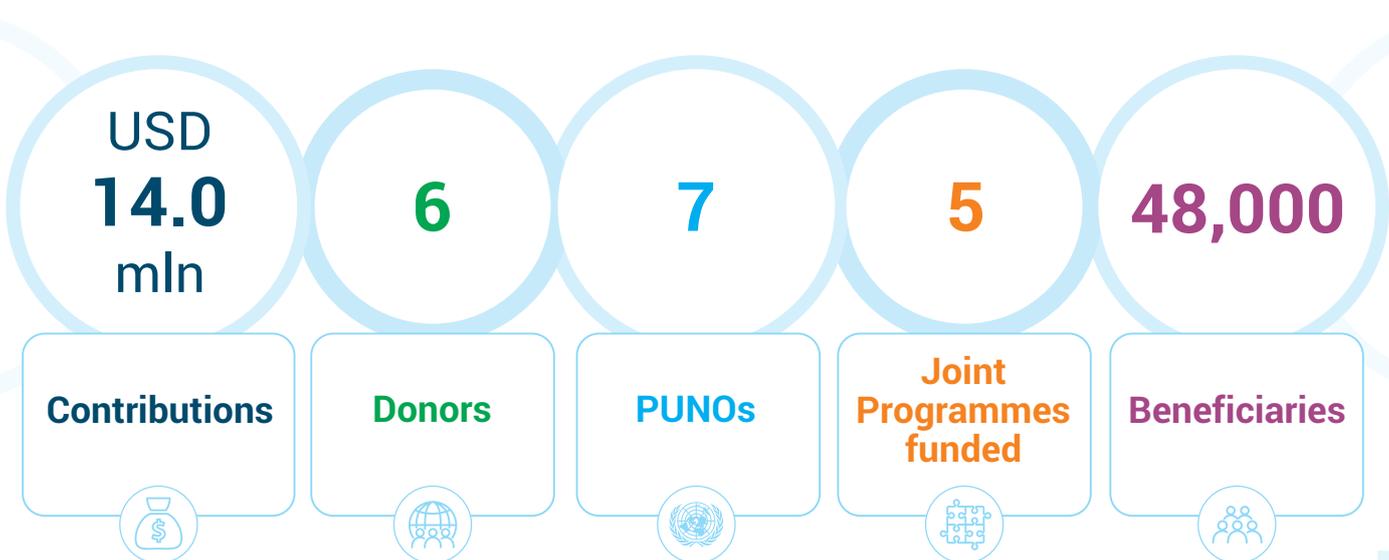
To turn these resources into long-term results, the Fund has launched a Third Call for Proposals, focusing on the priority areas



of Youth Employment, Innovation, Health, and Green Growth. This Call resulted in five proposals totalling USD 10.3 million being submitted by seven PUNOs.

The Advisory Committee on Sustainable Development of the Aral Sea Region in Uzbekistan, comprised of more than 80 members from 40 organizations, has gained momentum and developed an Integrated Roadmap for ensuring the environmental balance and socio-economic development of the Aral Sea region.

Needless to say, a strong partnership of the Government of Uzbekistan, the United Nations Country Team and other development partners has played a significant role in achieving the results presented in this report. Building on joint achievements, the UN in Uzbekistan is committed to having a greater impact in shaping the response mitigating the negative consequences of the Aral Sea crisis, while also restoring the region's socio-economic and environmental situation in accordance with national Sustainable Development Goals



1. ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE FUND

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2021

MARCH

THE SECOND MEETING OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Second Meeting of the **Advisory Committee** on sustainable development of the Aral Sea Region in Uzbekistan was held on 30 March 2021.

The Government of Uzbekistan presented the concept of an Integrated Roadmap for ensuring environmental balance and socio-economic development in the Aral Sea region during the meeting. The Integrated Roadmap's purpose is to provide a unified action plan for the region's long-term sustainable development.

MAY

UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION DECLARED THE ARAL SEA REGION A ZONE OF ECOLOGICAL INNOVATIONS AND TECHNOLOGIES

The UN General Assembly adopted, a resolution N^o 75/278 declaring the **Aral Sea region a zone of ecological innovations and technologies** at the 75th session on 18 May 2021.

CONTRIBUTION OF ALWALEED PHILANTHROPIES TO THE MPHSTF

Alwaleed Philanthropies, a philanthropic organization from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, made a generous contribution of USD 200,000 to the MPHSTF and became the first Philanthropic Organization contributing to the Fund.

JULY

THE THIRD MEETING OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Third Meeting of the Advisory Committee on sustainable development of the Aral Sea Region in Uzbekistan was held on 8 July 2021.

During the meeting, the socio-economic portrait and 2030 forecast scenarios for Karakalpakstan and the draft of the integrated roadmap of program measures for the cohesive development of the Aral Sea region were presented.

PRESIDENTIAL RESOLUTION ON MEASURES TO IMPLEMENT THE SPECIAL RESOLUTION OF THE UNGA

To facilitate the execution of the UNGA decision, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan issued a decree (PP-5202, effective 29 July). Likewise, a roadmap was developed to change the Aral Sea region from a zone of ecological and humanitarian disaster to a zone of ecological innovations and technologies.

NOVEMBER

A SPECIAL SIDE EVENT ON THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF THE ARAL SEA REGION ON THE MARGINS OF THE 26TH UNITED NATIONS CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE (COP26)

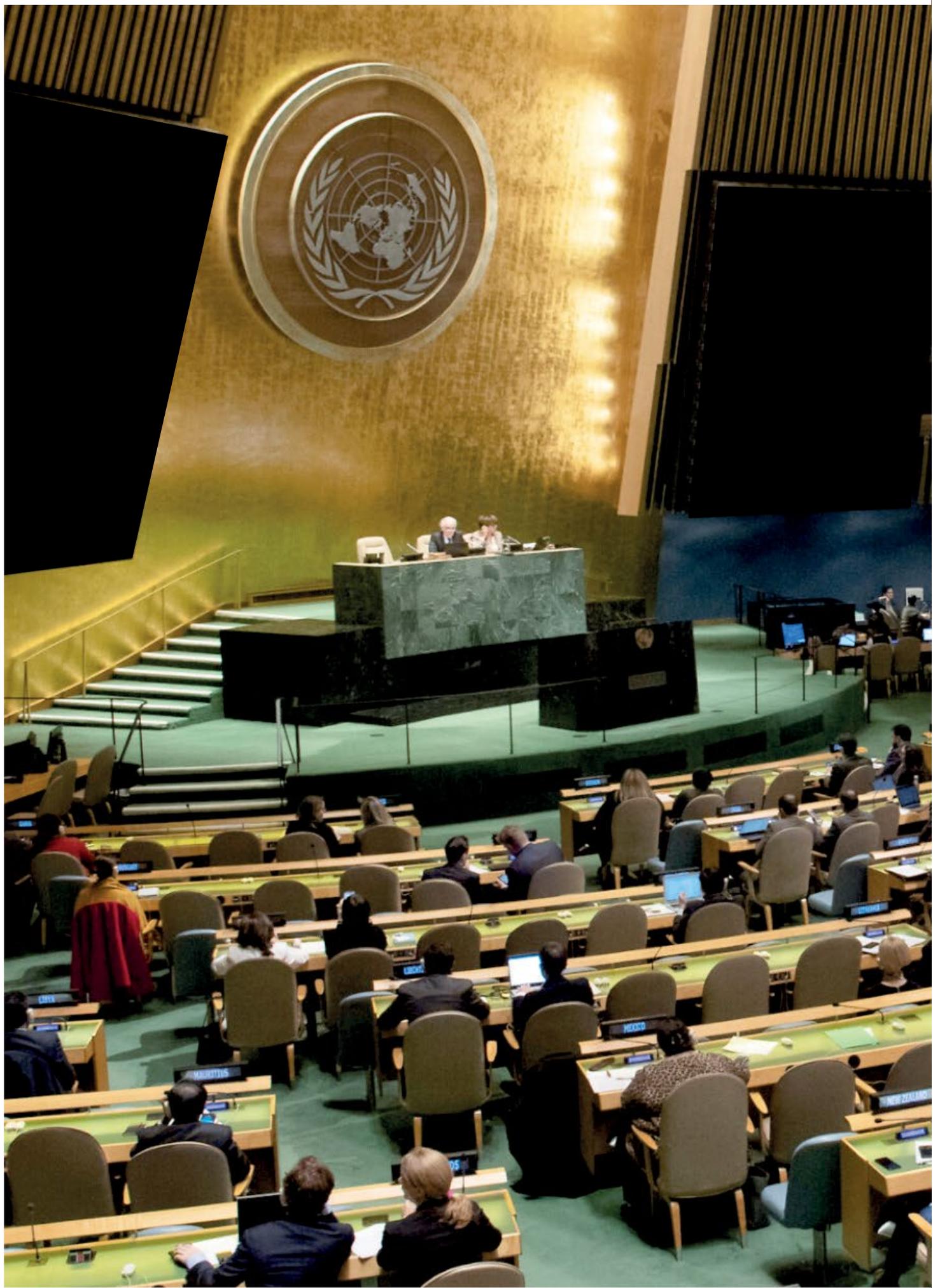
The United Nations in Uzbekistan and the Government of Uzbekistan jointly held a Side Event on the Sustainable Development of the Aral Sea Region on the margins of the 26th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26) on 9 November 2021.

It aimed to encourage Member States, programs and agencies of the UN system, international financial institutions and development partners to enhance institutional cooperation on the Aral Sea, including but not limited to the promotion of the Multi-Partner Human Security Trust Fund, being a unified platform to ensure resource flow transparency and accountability in the Aral Sea region.

DECEMBER

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE THIRD CALL FOR PROPOSALS

On December 2021, the MPHSTF announced its Third Call for Proposals. **Youth Employment and Innovations, Health, and Green Growth** were approved as the priority areas of the Call.





United Nations General Assembly RESOLUTION

75/278. Declaring the Aral Sea region as a zone of ecological innovations and technologies

The negative humanitarian, environmental and socioeconomic consequences of the Aral Sea basin tragedy go well beyond the region and represent a global concern

The creation of the MPHSTF, which aims to overcome the negative circumstances of the ecological catastrophe in the Aral Sea region

Supports the initiative to transform the Aral Sea region from a zone of ecological crisis into a zone of ecological innovations and technologies;

Supports the ongoing regional efforts and initiatives to strengthen the environmental, social, economic and demographic situation of the Aral Sea region

Encourages research and scientific advisory activities to further recover and improve the environment, preserve natural resources and enhance the quality of life of the population of the Aral Sea region;

Invites Member States, the funds, programmes and agencies of the UN system, IFIs to conduct joint collaborative interdisciplinary research and scientific and innovative cooperation in the Aral Sea region

Emphasizes the importance of strengthening regional cooperation in the implementation of joint actions to overcome the consequences of the Aral Sea crisis and stabilize the ecological situation in the Aral Sea region

Declares the Aral Sea region a zone of ecological innovations and technologies and

Calls upon to develop and implement in the Aral Sea region environmentally sound technologies, sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, and energy- and water-saving technologies, in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

PROGRAMMATIC RESULTS



IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF PERINATAL SERVICES



3 perinatal centres in Nukus city and the Kungrad and Beruniy districts have been renovated and supplied with modern medical equipment.



730 medical professionals from 3 target perinatal centers and 5 nearby districts have improved knowledge.



9544 mothers and **9577** newborns were served by modernized target inter-district perinatal centres in Nukus city and the Kungrad and Beruniy districts in 2021.



Exit interviews have shown that the implementation of family-centred and evidence-based practices have raised satisfaction among mothers from 66 percent in 2019 to 84 percent in 2021.



The maternal mortality rate decreased by 25 percent on average in 2021 compared to 2018, while the perinatal mortality rate decreased by 34 percent, and the neonatal mortality rate decreased by 31 percent in three target centres.



BUILDING COMMUNITY RESILIENCE (SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE)



3,491 rural residents have received access to clean drinking water in **5** communities of the Takhtakupyr district, resulting in an increase of the population's access to piped water from 52 to 66 percent. Accordingly, the rate of diarrheal diseases decreased by **three times**.



7,208 people have obtained access to clean drinking water at two schools in Bozatau district and two medical facilities in Kungrad district.



8,922 rural residents (4,503 women) in **17** communities of three districts (Bozatau, Kungrad, Muynak) have improved access to stable electricity.



1,021 rural residents (including students) have improved internet access and digitalized services in three districts (Bozatau, Kungrad, Muynak), through provided ICT equipment.



PROMOTION OF CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION MEASURES



The Takhtakupir State Forestry Department has been equipped with **17** types of modern equipment and machinery.



The capacity to plant drought resistant plants on the dried bottom of the Aral Sea has increased almost **2.5** times, from 2000 ha in 2019 to 5000 ha in 2021.



The quantity of seedling plantings at nurseries has increased **5** times, from 10 ha to 50 ha.



The volume of seeds collected on steppe plantations has increased **6.5** times, from 10 tonnes to 65 tonnes.

MPHSTF OUTCOME 3. Local community access to affordable and healthy food and clean drinking water is secured

This outcome encompasses the PUNOs' activities within the two JPs to improve access to clean drinking water, enhance income generation opportunities, promote climate change adaptation, develop smart communities through digitalization, and create better access to social infrastructure.

UNDP and UNESCO Joint Programme "Addressing the urgent human insecurities in the Aral Sea region through the promotion of sustainable rural development"

This JP was implemented over the period of August 2019 to August 2021, with the **goal** of addressing environmental, social and economic insecurities in the most vulnerable communities of the Aral Sea region. The programme has achieved this outcome through applying comprehensive solutions to cope with environmental issues, promote access to basic services, improve living standards, and develop sustainable tourism.



Under the **access to clean drinking water** objective, six infrastructure projects on water purification and supply of drinking water have been implemented in the Takhtakupyr district, RoK, for 3,491 beneficiaries of five rural communities.

Photo 1. Clean drinking water provided in the Tazakonis community



Through the **income generation initiative** 13 business projects were established and supported, with 60 rural people now employed and 5,537 people indirectly benefiting from the businesses

Photo 2. Dairy production income generation project



Within **evidence-based afforestation initiatives** made possible through the enhanced capacity of the Takhtakupyr Forestry Department, the JP has enhanced sand stabilization, decreased air pollution, improved agriculture output and public health, and created more employment opportunities.

Photo 3. Afforestation of the dried bottom of the Aral Sea

UNDP, UNFPA and FAO Joint Programme “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”

The **goal** of this JP (January 2021 – June 2023) is to address social, health, economic and food insecurities in the most vulnerable communities of the Aral Sea region, by increasing efficiency and introducing innovations in agriculture, promoting smart and digitalized communities, establishing favourable infrastructure, and facilitating active labour market initiatives.

Under the objective of **empowerment and promotion of entrepreneurial skills, and youth-led innovations**, more than 250 youth, women and men were empowered through the capacity building programmes. Vocational training centres are to be established in three districts.



Photo 4. Vocational centre, Bozatau district

Under the objective of **improving income generation in rural communities**, technical support was provided to three cooperatives in the three target districts. A demonstration plot created to introduce and test the innovative 'buried diffuser' water saving technology has been launched.



Photo 5. Buried diffuser demonstration plot, IICAS, Nukus

Under the objective of the **development of smart communities through digitalization**, 8,922 rural people (4,503 women) of 17 communities have improved access to stable electricity with the support of the JP. 1,021 rural residents (including students) have improved access to internet and digitalized services in three districts, through the provided ICT equipment.



Photo 6. ICT classroom at a public school in the Bozatau district.

For more information: [Annual Progress Report, 2021](#)

MPHSTF OUTCOME 4. The overall health of the local population is improved, and healthy lifestyle is promoted

This outcome encompasses the PUNOs' activities within the two JPs and one project undertaken to improve the quality of perinatal care service for the most vulnerable mothers and newborns, enhance the health, nutrition, water, sanitation, hygiene and wellbeing of adolescents, harness the talents of youth, and ensure progress towards universal health coverage and security in the Republic of Karakalpakstan.

UNICEF and UNFPA Joint Programme "Improvement of Quality of Perinatal Care Service to Most Vulnerable Mothers and Newborns"

This JP was implemented during the period of August 2019 – April 2021, with the goal of ensuring the population's access to perinatal services by improving infrastructure, providing essential equipment to medical facilities, and increasing the quality of maternal and newborn health care.



Three district perinatal centres of the Kungrad and Beruniy districts and Nukus city were renovated, significantly improving their infrastructure and allowing them to install and make use of a large set of modern equipment covering all significant aspects of care for mothers and newborns.

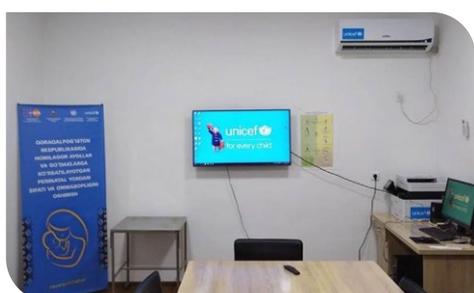
All three facilities serve as inter-district perinatal centres, admitting women from neighbouring districts.

Photo 7. Improved neonatal ward in the Kungrad district



All key personnel of the target facilities and neighbouring districts, a total of **730 medical professionals**, upgraded their knowledge and skills on evidence-based maternal and newborn survival practices.

Photo 8. Capacity building activity for medical professionals



A training room at the Regional Perinatal Centre in Nukus was renovated and equipped, while in Karakalpakstan five health care facilities were equipped with sets of distance learning equipment.

Photo 9. Training rooms at regional perinatal centres equipped with video-conferencing equipment

For more information: [End of Project Report](#)

UNICEF, UNFPA and UNODC Joint Programme “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”

The **goal** of this JP (January 2021 – December 2022) is to address immediate needs of vulnerable populations, including adolescents, in terms of access to safe and clean schools and health care facilities, meeting their other health and nutrition needs, and strengthening the human capital and resilience of youth by expanding opportunities for social innovation skills development in the three districts of Muynak, Kungrad and Bozatau.

15 schools and 20 health care facilities have been assessed by the project, determined as requiring immediate action to improve water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) infrastructure. Subsequently the capacities of 326 teachers (221 women) and 82 parents (63 women) in WASH, nutrition, and the prevention of soil transmitted helminthiasis (STH) and anaemia have been enhanced.

Binocular microscopes for STH diagnostics at 31 health care facilities (28 PHC and 3 District Laboratories of the Republican Centre of Sanitary and Epidemiological Welfare) have been provided.

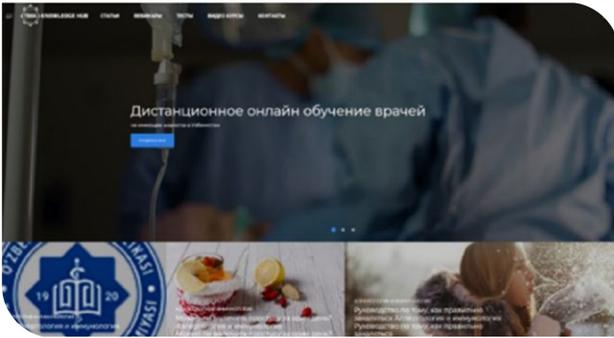


Photo 10. Practical session for laboratory technicians from target districts

Trained 3,503 parents and educational professionals, and 27 volunteers, on teaching young people about reproductive health, healthy lifestyles, HIV and STI prevention, and basic life and family skills. This information has been passed onto more than 5,000 adolescents



Photo 11. Training for teachers on RH



Established a **digital 'Knowledge Hub'**, which has given 199 healthcare workers access to online learning materials on evidence-based and gender-sensitive health education information and practices for adolescents and youth.

Photo 12. Knowledge hub based on the Tashkent Medical Academy's platform (bilim.tma.uz)



In the direction of improving the quality and accessibility of health services, the programme has provided 224 units of telecommunication/distance learning equipment (28 lots of 8 types of equipment) to all 28 healthcare facilities of the three target districts (supporting a total of 181,200 residents).

Photo 13. Distance learning system, Muynak district



The gender-sensitive UPSHIFT programme has been launched to equip youth with social and entrepreneurship skills. 88 people aged 15-25 years (45 girls and women) have been trained through this programme. 17 youth-led projects have been provided with mentoring and seed funding, some becoming standalone enterprises creating job opportunities for rural youth.

Photo 14. Presentation of a social innovation project by UPSHIFT programme participant

For more information: *Annual Progress Report, 2021*

WHO Project “Towards universal health coverage and security in Karakalpakstan (UHC+S)”

Implemented over January 2021 – September 2023, this project’s **goal** is to progress towards universal health coverage (UHC) and security in the Republic of Karakalpakstan, with security being broadly defined to include health emergencies, socio-economic and environmental conditions.

Within initiatives to **identify priorities for future investment in the health sector**, WHO and its partners have supported assessment of the health needs of the population, with a focus on the Muynak district, to inform future investment in health infrastructure.



Photo 15. Focus group discussions, Muynak

Under an evidence-based model of service delivery and financing which reflects identified priorities, several expert missions to Nukus, Muynaq cities and surrounding district, as well as Kungrad city took place in 2021. Hospital managers from Muynak and Kungrad were invited to a workshop and supported in the operationalization of the proposed model, with the development of a business plan for the proposed Muynak-Kungrad medical network.

A proposal for comprehensive investments in the health sector has been developed.

In 2022, WHO will support local stakeholders, including community leaders, in articulating their vision for the concept of a green, blue and resilient medical network, with a comprehensive list of desired features and minimum requirements.

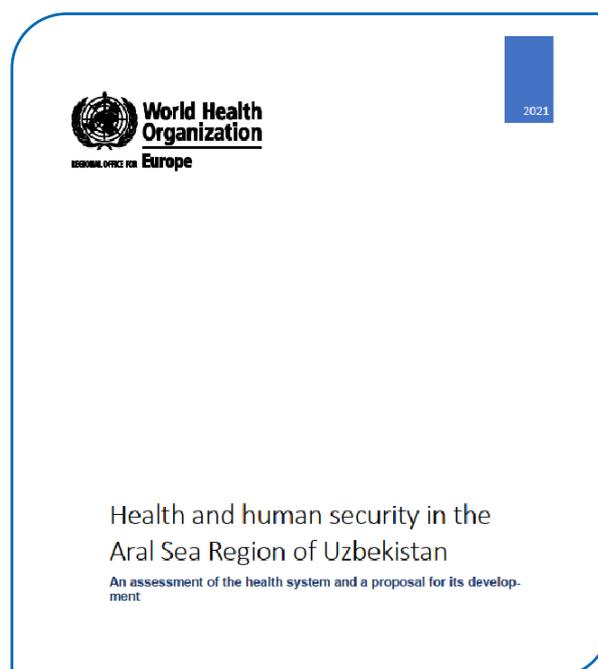


Photo 16. Assessment of the health system and a proposal for its development

For more information: [Annual Progress Report, 2021](#)

2. FUND OPERATIONAL PERFORMANCE

OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE, ADVISORY COMMITTEE, AND TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT

The Fund issued the Third Call for Proposals for USD 4.4 million on 24 December 2021, under such priority areas including **Youth Employment, Innovation, Health, and Green Growth**, with a proposal submission date of 31 January 2022, as per the tacit decision of the MPHSTF **Steering Committee** of 23 December 2021. Seven PUNOs were encouraged to use the One UN programming strategy, and collaborate with national and international partners in developing proposals.

In 2021 the **Advisory Committee** on Sustainable Development of the Aral Sea region gained momentum. The AC has grown since its launch in December 2020, with 45 organizations and 81 members having joined the Committee. The AC has operated with the support of its three Working Groups. To support the implementation of the **UNGA resolution #75/278**, the **Integrated Roadmap** for ensuring environmental balance and socio-economic development of the Aral Sea region was elaborated by the Sustainable Investments Working Group. This process was undertaken in close cooperation with academia, international organizations, development partners, UN family, and the government.

The **Data and Assessments Technical Group** has developed a data repository as a consequence of expert collaboration to give evidence and reasoning for portfolio analysis and investments in the Aral Sea region.

The **Visibility Working Group** ultimately approved the Terms of Reference and the Work Plan for 2021.

The **Technical Secretariat** (TS) supported the entire programming cycle of the Fund. It provided extensive support to both the SC and the AC in the delivery of the ToR, and specifically it supported the Fund's strategic decisions. The Secretariat closely liaised with the Ministry of Investments and Foreign 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, May and October 2021. During these missions, the TS held meetings with local authorities and project partners to discuss challenges, and the outcomes and impacts of the ongoing programmes. As a result of

the monitoring visits, key findings, conclusions 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 Guidelines for the Third Call,

complementing the document with specific requirements for proposals, as well as the required application, appraisal and selection processes. Furthermore, the TS developed a Proposal Evaluation Guideline for the Technical Review Panel to use as a reference for the technical evaluation of project proposals. Finally, as previously stated, the Call was announced on 24 December 2021.

PARTNERSHIP, RESOURCE MOBILIZATION AND COMMUNICATION

The international donor community continued to support the MPHSTF in 2021. The Government of Uzbekistan has transferred its third tranche in the amount of USD 1.5 million, and the Government of the Republic of Korea has finalised its tranche of the amount of USD 1.0 million. Alwaleed Philanthropies, a charity organization of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, became the first private sector donor of the Trust Fund by contributing USD 0.2 million.

The **Fund Consolidated Financial Report 2021** is available at <https://beta.mptf.undp.org/fund/ar100>.

At the same time, some donors have supported the MPHSTF through parallel initiatives not directly contributing to the Trust Fund.

The Government of Russia contributed USD 5.0 million to UNDP in Uzbekistan to support the project 'Improving the resilience of the local population and promoting green, inclusive development of the most vulnerable communities in the Aral Sea region'. The project will be

implemented under the unified strategy of the MPHSTF, which echoes parallel initiatives within the Trust Fund.

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

The Ministry of Investments and Foreign Trade of the Republic of Uzbekistan (MIFT) has conducted negotiations on partnership within the MPHSTF with representatives of the governments of Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates on the margins of the Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors of the Islamic Development Bank Group (IsDB Group) held in September 2021 in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

Moreover, a special Side Event on the Sustainable Development of the Aral Sea Region was held on the margins of the 26th Conference of Parties (COP26) of the United Nations Framework

Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Glasgow in November 2021, with the direct engagement of the government, the UN, and development partners.

The MPHSTF Technical Secretariat has reached out to the embassies of Germany, China, France, Kuwait, Switzerland, Turkey, Great Britain, the U.S. and Italy in Uzbekistan.

Technical Level meetings have been held with the Embassy of Kuwait and the EU Delegation in Uzbekistan, to explore the possibility of building new and extending current partnerships within the MPHSTF.

Ambassadors of Uzbekistan's international missions have paid their next visit to the Aral Sea region, to learn about the progress of socio-economic reforms in the Republic of Karakalpakstan, and the enhanced conditions created for the population and business entities. They will subsequently promote ongoing reforms in various fields with the participation of foreign partners, and to provide practical assistance to project initiators interested in attracting foreign investment.

To foster resource mobilization activities, the MPHSTF Technical Secretariat has developed the MPHSTF Resource Mobilization and Partnership Strategy and submitted it to the Steering Committee for its endorsement.

To further raise awareness and visibility of the Fund, its donors and partners, and its supported Programmatic

activities and results, a Communication, Branding and Marketing Strategy has been developed in partnership with key PUNOs and stakeholders. Furthermore, to ensure unique branding of the MPHSTF materials, Branding Guidelines have been developed and applied by the relevant stakeholders of the Fund. Key communication messages have been built around the following points:

- A bottom-up approach in mitigating the consequences of the Aral Sea crisis is important.
- A holistic approach that uses the Human Security Concept to address the crisis will be most effective.
- The MPHSTF is a pooled financing mechanism which can effectively coordinate donor assistance delivery.

These messages have been delivered to target audiences including the public, donors, national and international development organizations, experts, specialists, and representatives of the mass media.

The communication and visibility activities of the MPHSTF have been undertaken through various channels, including: traditional media; marketing collaterals such as wall calendars, folders, notebooks, and banners; and digital engagement through websites and social media channels.

The below table summarizes these engagement activities and their related impacts for 2021.

Summary of Communication and Visibility Activities	Impact
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 24 publications announced in traditional media via 17 varied channels (Uz24, Uzdaily, Gazeta.uz, etc) incl. 14 corporate (Joint Programmes and project, Government and other) websites 	<p>77,404 views, ~35,000 people reached</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8 public diplomacy activities and events held 	<p>135 participants, 3,153 views via social media, 760 people covered, 114 likes, 15 reposts</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 16 information/KM products developed in different languages (EN, RU, UZ, KK) and widely distributed among various target groups 	<p>4,375 copies produced, 769 downloads, 111,300 views, 3,300 likes</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 14 visibility products developed to support MPHSTF its implementing and contributing partners' brands 	<p>Produced in soft copies (pdf) and hard copies</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 94 posts published on social media accounts (Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, Telegram, etc) 	<p>26,647 views, more than 25,000 coverage, ~2,000 likes, ~100 shares and reposts</p>



CHALLENGES, LESSONS LEARNED

The negative impact of COVID-19 has touched many countries, including Uzbekistan. The new wave of COVID-19 in summer - autumn 2021 resulted in delays to the programme activities:

- The pandemic has disrupted manufacturing and the global supply chain. Thus, in terms of the procurement of equipment and consumables in support of the project, there have been some delays in completing activities and delivering results. Prices of some equipment and items have increased;
- Delays with identification of project sites due to limited communication with potential beneficiaries and partners were common, especially at the beginning of the COVID-19 outbreak. Field trips and meetings in pilot districts have been limited due to COVID-19 restrictions.
- Large-scale consultations were not conducted during the COVID-19 pandemic, while some discussions with community leaders and citizen focus groups did take place. Thus, some programmes did not achieve their intended targets in terms of numbers of people consulted.

- Delays occurred at the programme's initial stage, due to the time required for the negotiation of, development and signing of agreements with partners for project implementation, as well as the recruitment of JP staff members.

Due to this unprecedented scenario, the PUNO's project teams had to adapt to a fast-changing environment, and implemented **mitigation actions** accordingly:

- Some trainings were switched to online mode, and several capacity-building and awareness-raising activities were postponed.
- Trainings were conducted in accordance with COVID-19 measures, including social distancing, use of masks, and temperature measurements.
- All PPE measures against COVID-19 were observed by project staff, and were followed both in offices and project vehicles.
- Relevant project staff regularly communicated with vendors, and were thereby updated on the status of the delivery of goods and services.

CONCLUSION

As a model fund for developing human security, the Multi-Partner Human Security Trust Fund for the Aral Sea Region in Uzbekistan shares responsibility for demonstrating proof of concept. The Results Matrix presents a summary of the achieved indicators regarding its objectives.

While being a challenging year, 2021 has shown the power of unified work and coordination between stakeholders, including within the United Nations, local government, and particularly in civil society. The Fund has also demonstrated the impact of the human-centred approach in efforts to mitigate negative consequences of the Aral Sea catastrophe.

The focus in 2022 will be to continue operationalizing the adopted UNGA resolution to transform the Aral Sea region into a zone of environmental innovations and technologies, continuing to develop new partnerships and resources in the Advisory Committee and beyond. The Fund, international financial institutions, and other relevant stakeholders will work on developing and implementing environmentally

sound technologies, sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, and energy- and water-saving technologies in the Aral Sea region. This will be carried out in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Programmatically, the Fund will continue implementing its strategy to address food, health, environmental, economic and social insecurities through its three ongoing programmes. Regular coordination and stakeholder engagement will be required to monitor progress and hold all parties accountable. Another milestone will be the completion of the commenced Third Call, with the subsequent selection of proposals designed around the cross-cutting themes of Youth Employment, Innovation, Health and Green Growth.

In conclusion, we look forward to strengthening our collaboration with all partners. This will help us better shape our work in mitigating the negative consequences of the Aral Sea crisis and restoring the socio-economic and environmental situation in the Aral Sea region, in line with the national Sustainable Development Goals.

The Sea is gone but people, their dreams and inspirations are not.

ANNEX 1. MPHSTF RESULTS FRAMEWORK

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

SDG 8 – Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all (targets 8.2, 8.4, 8.5)

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

OUTCOME 1: The stress on local communities due to the deteriorating environmental situation is reduced		Baseline (for Karakalpakstan, value and reference year)	Means of Verification (MOV)	Frequency	Results Achieved in 2021 (cumulative)	
# of hectares of arable land increased, thousand ha		509.6 (2018)	State committee on land resources, geodesy, cartography and cadastre data	Once a year	517.133	
% of public satisfaction of environmental policy		16.4 (2017)	Socio-economic survey report	At the end of the project (2023)	To be updated in the next reporting period	
Outputs		Output Indicators	Baseline	MOV	Frequency	Results Achieved
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 2021, 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.

Outputs		Output Indicators	Baseline	MOV	Frequency	Results Achieved
2	New technologies in the area of water purification, agroforestry, afforestation, and soil stabilisation are piloted	# of pilot projects that test out new technologies adjusted to local conditions	0	Project reports	Once a year	0
		Area of desert lands covered by forest stands, thousand ha	1,082 (2018)	State committee on forestry data	Once a year	1,128
		# 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
3	The quality of water, air and soil pollution is monitored and addressed through local regulatory practices	# of newly established or improved environmental quality checks	0 (2018)	Uzhydromet data	Once a year	0
		# 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

OUTCOME 2: Employment and income generation opportunities for local communities are increased			Baseline	Means of Verification (MOV)	Frequency	Results Achieved
% of the population that is economically active			69.5 (2018)	State statistics	Once a year	67.7
# of new business initiatives started			18 (2018)	Project reports	Once a year	70
Outputs		Output Indicators	Baseline	MOV	Frequency	Results Achieved
4	New income opportunities in sectors adjusted to local conditions (e.g., agriculture, ethno-tourism, infrastructure and housing construction, service industry) are created	# of small and medium-sized companies created with the support of the MPHSTF	0 (2018)	Project reports	Once a year	18
		# of jobs created in target communities per year	78 (2018)	Project reports	Once a year	378
5	Skills and knowledge of local communities to participate in new industries and to become entrepreneurs, as well as, adaptability to new work conditions for employability are improved	% 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
		# of people trained and retrained in the specialised centres to improve and develop their entrepreneurial skills/knowledge	0 (2018)	Training records	Once a year	842
6	Investments in local infrastructure serving local communities (e.g.,	amount of investments in local infrastructure with the support of the MPHSTF, mln. USD	0 (2018)	Project reports	Once a year	0.138

	energy, 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
		% 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
OUTCOME 3: Local community access to affordable and healthy food and clean drinking water secured			Baseline	Means of Verification (MOV)	Frequency	Results Achieved
	% of the drinking water supply of houses (apartments)		48.2 (2017)	State statistic	Once a year	68.1
	% reduction in malnourishment of the local population: - percentage of children under 5 years age who are wasted due to malnutrition		0.23 (2018)	State statistic	Once a year	0.25
	% of household budget spent on food		60 (2017)	Socio-economic survey report	At the end of the project (2023)	To be updated in the next reporting period
	Outputs	Output Indicators	Baseline	MOV	Frequency	Results Achieved
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	0.635

		% 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
		# 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
9	The quality of nutrition is increased through standardisation, regulation, monitoring, information, and education	# of newly established or improved food quality checks with support of the MPHSTF	0 (2018)	Project reports	Once a year	0
		# 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			Baseline	Means of Verification (MOV)	Frequency	Results Achieved
% reduction in infant and maternal mortality:						
- infant mortality rate (up to 1 year, per 1000 live-born)			16.6	State statistic	Once a year	10.7
- maternal mortality (per 100,000 live births)			28.7 (2018)			25.5
% 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	MOV	Frequency	Results Achieved
10	Investments in local health services and pharmacies (e.g., facilities and equipment) are increased	amount of investments in local health infrastructure with the support of the MPHSTF, mln. USD	0 (2018)	Project reports	Once a year	1.306
		% 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	3
		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	23.4 93.3 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	399
13	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
		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	719
		# activities conducted on the promotion of healthy lifestyles	0 (2018)	Project reports	Once a year	2156

Outcome 5: The living conditions of local populations improved, with particular focus on vulnerable groups such as women, children and youth			Baseline	Means of Verification (MOV)	Frequency	Results Achieved
% of the population with increased access to social and community services			33.8	Socio-economic survey report	At the end of the project (2023)	To be updated in the next reporting period
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Drinking water - Natural (liquefied) gas 			48.6 (2017)			
% 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
Outputs		Output Indicators	Baseline	MOV	Frequency	Results Achieved
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
		# 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 pre-school education and leisure opportunities, and life skill	# of new and improved pre-schools with the support of the MPHSTF	0	Project reports	Once a year	0

	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
		% 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
		# 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	4440
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
		# 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



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

UN MULTI-PARTNER HUMAN SECURITY TRUST FUND FOR THE ARAL SEA REGION IN UZBEKISTAN

Resident Coordinator Office
4, Taras Shevchenko Street
Tashkent 100029 Uzbekistan
Tel: +998 78 120 34 50
Fax: +998 78 120 34 85

 @un_uzbekistan

 UN.Uzbekistan

 un.uzbekistan

 www.uzbekistan.un.org

 www.aral.mptf.uz

Funded by the UN Multi-Partner Human Security Trust Fund for the Aral Sea region in Uzbekistan



The Government
of the Republic
of Uzbekistan



The Government
of Norway



European
Union



The Government
of Finland



The Government
of the Republic
of Korea



Alwaleed
Philanthropies

© All rights reserved.

UN Multi-Partner Human Security Trust Fund for the Aral Sea region in Uzbekistan, 2021.