



ANNUAL
UN COUNTRY
RESULTS REPORT
KAZAKHSTAN 2017

Astana 2018



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides a snapshot of the work that United Nations agencies undertook in Kazakhstan throughout 2017. In partnership with Government, civil society, academia and the private sector, results were achieved across a wide range of areas, including improving equitable access to integrated quality social services, diversification of the economy, strengthening capacity of public institutions, promoting the achievement of SDGs, gender equality, and regional cooperation.

The United Nations Country Team in Kazakhstan supports the Government, civil society, academia and the private sector:

- In achieving a future with a healthy women and men, girls and boys, a green economy, thriving businesses and guaranteed rights for all, through economic, social, and political modernization.
- In building an inclusive society, by protecting and promoting the rights and wellbeing of all people, especially the most vulnerable and those at risk.
- In developing the capacity of stakeholders at all levels to be more accountable for ensuring equal rights for women and men, girls and boys.
- In promoting multilateral and regional co-operation, particularly in the area of Sustainable Development Goals, humanitarian and development assistance.

The United Nations Country Team works with the people and Government of Kazakhstan, along with other development partners, to ensure more prosperous and more secure lives for everyone, particularly the most vulnerable, leaving no one behind.

The report highlights the increasingly dynamic partnership between the government, the UN and a large array of actors in implementation of the Partnership Framework for Development (PFD), 2016-2020.

The Partnership Framework for Development (PFD) sets the strategic vision and direction for the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in Kazakhstan during the period 2016-2020, and is the result of a consultative process with the Government and other partners. It analyses how the United Nations system can continue to most effectively coordinate its activities in response to national priorities, while serving as an easily accessible overview of United Nations goals and activities in Kazakhstan.

There are three Pillars under the PFD:

- Reduced Disparities and Improved Human Development
- Strengthened and Innovative Public Institutions
- Enhanced International and Regional Co-operation

Six Outcomes have been adopted under these three strategic Pillars, emphasising inter-sectoral links, and such crosscutting issues as: (1) a human rights-based approach, particularly for vulnerable groups; (2) specific capacity development for monitoring and evaluation; (3) improving the overall evidence base; (4) youth involvement; and (5) gender equality.

KEY DEVELOPMENT TRENDS

PILLAR 1 ■ REDUCED DISPARITIES AND IMPROVED HUMAN DEVELOPMENT



Outcome 1.1: Improved equitable access to integrated quality social services (health, education, social protection, legal et al.) for the population, including for socially vulnerable and disadvantaged individuals and groups

Outcome 1.2: Diversification of the economy provides decent work opportunities for the underemployed, youth and socially vulnerable women and men

Outcome 1.3: Ecosystems and natural resources are protected and sustainably used, and human settlements are resilient to natural and manmade disasters and climate change

In 2017, standards were developed for the provision of special social services for victims of domestic violence, which determine the scope, quality and timing of the services provided and the necessary labour and financial resources for their provision.

Based on the Concept, a National Programme “Kazakhstan without Violence in a Family” was developed under the leadership of the National Commission on Women Affairs and Family and Demographic Policy under the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the General Prosecutor Office at the beginning of 2017 and a Road Map for implementation was adopted. The latter has a special component dedicated to piloting of multisectoral response to gender-based violence in South-Kazakhstan Oblast supported by UN Women, UNFPA, and UNICEF.

The creation of the Public Health Service is one of the priorities of the State Program "Densaulyk" State Healthcare Development Program of Kazakhstan for 2016-2019. It is aimed at the introduction of affordable and effective mechanisms for disease prevention and health promotion. The Service focuses on all stages of life: from vaccination of infants and school medicine, to healthy behaviour and adolescent suicide prevention, environmental safety, occupational health among young people and adults, to the rationalization of nutrition and the prevention of chronic degenerative diseases in the elderly. Three ministries joined their efforts to launch national project on adolescents' suicide prevention, which had been successfully piloted in two regions (Kyzylorda and Mangystau oblasts) and is ongoing now in 1300 schools and colleges of five regions.

Standards for youth work and Youth Resource Centres support to young people, especially those with vulnerabilities were developed, tested and approved by the Ministry of Religious and Civil Society Affairs for the application at the national level.

The Government of Kazakhstan has shown commitment to fight against HIV and AIDS by including the national indicator on HIV in the "Densaulyk" State Program. Also, in May 2017 the national guidelines on antiretroviral therapy (ART) were approved. The guidelines recommended ART treatment for all HIV-infected individuals, to reduce the morbidity and mortality associated with HIV infection. In the last years, the Kazakh Government has just about become the sole "Investor" in the National AIDS response, which is a significant step in a region still highly dependent on external donor funding. Currently, the governmental budget covers the substantial cost of medical staff, HIV prevention programme (syringe and condom distribution), full funding for voluntary HIV counselling and testing, antiretroviral treatment and tuberculosis screening. Nevertheless, Kazakhstan faces obstacles in achieving the targets set out in the UNAIDS "Fast Track – Ending the AIDS Epidemic by 2030" initiative. This includes stigma and discrimination attitudes from communities, health providers, and law enforcement officials that marginalize vulnerable group of population and limit access to and uptake of HIV-related services; and limited epidemiological data on the size and location of these populations to help strategically target services.

Since 1 July 2017, the Social Insurance Fund (FSMS) began to receive contributions from individual entrepreneurs and deductions from employers. As part of the improvement of the legislative framework of the mandatory social health insurance system (OSMS), a law was adopted on June 30, 2017, providing for a number of changes in the law on OSMC. In 16 regions of the country, the Fund's branches were established. Work is underway to develop and adopt normative legal acts.

PILLAR 2 ■ STRENGTHENED AND INNOVATIVE PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS



Outcome 2.1: *Rights holders benefit from improved Government policymaking and implementation through enhanced participation at sub-national and national levels*

Outcome 2.2: *Judicial and legal systems and public institutions are fair, accountable and accessible to all*

Politically, in 2016-2017 Kazakhstan has seen decisive action towards modernization of its institutions and reforming the entire governance system. It included further evolution of effective institutional public service capacities, at both central and local levels. Thus, in his 2017 annual address to the nation, the President of Kazakhstan Nazarbayev, announced five main priorities as part of what he described as “Kazakhstan’s third stage of modernisation”. The priorities are aimed at ensuring economic growth and supporting the country to become one of the top 30 most developed countries in the world by 2050. The five priorities are: (i) accelerated technological modernization of the economy; (ii) greater impetus to developing industry; (iii) macroeconomic stability; (iv) improving the quality of human capital; and (v) institutional change, security and fighting corruption.

Another outstanding reform process, announced by the President of Kazakhstan, first among Central Asia’s leaders, is related to decentralizing the power system by re-distributing authority among the government branches. The political reform started with power decentralization processes through Constitutional reform on 25 January. It called for re-distributing decision-making authorities, and advancing a system of checks and balances among the various branches of the Government. The President announced the redistribution of powers among the branches of government to ensure stability, increase efficiency and develop a unique Kazakh model of government. The main feature is the delegation of certain powers from the President to the Parliament and the Government. The President is to focus on strategy, foreign policy, national security and defence. At the same time, the amendments have not resulted in a full re-distribution of powers, as the President maintained his main functions of appointing the Prime Minister having consulted with political parties represented in the

Mazhilis of the Parliament; dismisses the Prime-Minister, upon suggestion by the Prime-Minister determines the structure of the Cabinet of Ministers and appoints governors of provinces (akims). The President continues to have the power to appoint ministers of foreign affairs, interior and defence (no longer ministry of justice) independently without consulting the Prime-Minister. To back the reform with action, the new Law on Local Government and Self-Governance was adopted in 2017, launching a new era of decentralization and empowerment of local authorities and communities. This reform, if implemented successfully, will enable sustainable territorial development, including in most remoted areas. This process is inherently linked to core aspirations of agenda 2030, and in particular of SDG 16.

As regards reforming its legislation, Kazakhstan has achieved progress on this front. This concerns such areas as civil service, judiciary, instruments to prevent corruption in the public administration and access to information, as well as in prosecuting corruption. However, some of these reforms are not yet complete, many laws are still not fully in line with international standards and enforcement is uneven, as reported in the new OECD report¹. Among other important recommendations to ensure good governance and transparency, the report commends Kazakhstan for launching the judicial reform but notes that the measures taken so far are insufficient. For example, the independence of the judiciary and judges is not properly guaranteed by the legislation in place as well as in practice. Similar problems are evident in the public prosecution system, where even stronger reforms are needed to ensure autonomy and accountability.

UNCT has supported this reform agenda by implementing several large-scale initiatives, including set of new laws on combatting corruption, public councils, access to information, local government and self-governance. For example, the Regional Hub of Civil Service in Astana (a joint project with UNDP) progressed to a new height by publishing a series of high-quality knowledge products and innovating for stronger institutions and rule of law, while other UN projects with such partners as the Supreme Court and Prosecutor's Office, are aimed at capacitating justice educational institutions, as it takes the agenda of promoting the rule of law to a new level.

1. Kazakhstan should build on its efforts to fight corruption and push forward with reforms, OECD Report, September 2017, <http://www.oecd.org/corruption/acn/ACN-Kazakhstan-Round-4-Monitoring-Report-RUS.pdf>

PILLAR 3 ■ ENHANCED INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL COOPERATION



Outcome 3.1: *The Government, together with partners, promotes the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the region and leads in promoting and implementing United Nations principles, standards and Conventions*

On 1 January 2017, Kazakhstan began its two-year non-permanent membership in the United Nations Security Council. Kazakhstan's agenda in the SC is built around four pillars of global security – nuclear, water, food and energy. The country intends to contribute to strengthening stability and security in Eurasia, while focusing international attention on security and development challenges in Central Asia and Afghanistan. In January 2018, while presiding at the Security Council, Kazakhstan convened a session on non-proliferation and confidence-building measures and a ministerial-level debate on Afghanistan and Central Asia.

In February 2017, Kazakhstan's National Security Committee issued its 2017-2020 State Programme, which focuses on countering radicalization, addressing the threat of foreign terrorist fighters, countering the financing of terrorism, as well as rehabilitation of terrorists and violent extremists. The programme, however, limits violent extremism/terrorism to religious extremism, if compared with the broader UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, and does not address the root causes of violent extremism.

The President of Kazakhstan offered Astana as a venue that could be used to progress ceasefire talks between opposing sides in Syria. To date, there have been eight rounds of Syrian peace talks in Astana in 2017.

On 29 August, the IAEA Low Enriched Uranium (LEU) Bank opened in Kazakhstan. The aim of the IAEA LEU Bank is to create a guaranteed reserve of low enriched uranium. This reserve, if ever necessary, will be able to produce nuclear fuel for nuclear power plants of any IAEA member state.

EXPO 2017

Undoubtedly, one of the major events of the year was the international specialized exhibition EXPO-2017

held in June-September in Astana on the theme "Energy of the Future", where the most modern technologies for obtaining and using clean energy were presented. The exhibition was attended by 115 countries and representatives of 22 international organizations that presented the best developments in the field of alternative energy.

The EXPO provided an excellent opportunity for the UN to demonstrate its collective strengths and achievements under its tagline "Energy for Sustainable Development". The UN played prominent roles throughout the EXPO, as represented by the attendance of the UN Secretary-General in the EXPO opening ceremony on 9 June 2017. Ten Under-Secretary Generals attended or visited the EXPO (events). The Energy Ministerial Meeting organized by the Government of Kazakhstan and the UN Regional Commissions on 11 June, and the "UN Day" celebration on 13 June were among the key highlights of the EXPO, at which the UN advocated for sustainable development agenda and the UN's collective actions. Under the leadership of the UN Commissioner-General for EXPO (UNDP ASG), nine UN agencies (ESCAP, UNESCO, UNDP, IAEA, UNIDO, UNICEF, UN Women, UNHCR, UNEP) participated through their exhibits at the UN Section of the International Organizations Plaza, which received over 100,000 visitors. At the award ceremony organized by the Bureau International Exposition (BIE), "an Honorary Mention was given to the International Organization Joint Pavilion" in recognition of its effort and compliance with the EXPO theme, on an exceptional basis.

Astana also hosted the OIC Summit on Science and Technology on the margins of the International Exhibition EXPO-2017, an event that underlined the need for technological modernization for the sake of unity, and solidarity of the 1.5 billion strong Islamic world. The high-level meeting attended by 15 presidents and dignitaries from 57 states manifested a clear and undeniable link between security and development and recognized that building a sustainable future for their nations was the only course of action to eradicate challenges and threats to their security.

At the 70th session of the General Assembly, the President of Kazakhstan proposed to open the "International Centre for Green Technology and Investment under the auspices of the UN" as a legacy of EXPO 2017. It is understood that the Centre will promote green economy through knowledge exchanges on renewable energy and transfer of green technologies.

Kazakhstan renewed its commitment to establishment of a UN Regional Hub for multilateral diplomacy in Almaty focusing on sustainable development, humanitarian assistance, disaster risk reduction and resilience building in the region and the wider area.

From August 25 to 29 Astana hosted the Conference of the Pugwash Movement of Scientists to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of the Movement and International Day Against Nuclear Tests, where hundreds of scholars, practitioners and officials from around 50 countries gathered to seek ways of achieving a nuclear-weapons-free world. The same day, President of Kazakhstan and IAEA Director General Yukiya Amano opened the IAEA Low Enriched Uranium Bank Facility in Kazakhstan, with a view to making a significant contribution to the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes and strengthening the global non-proliferation regime.

RESULTS OF THE ONE PROGRAMME

OUTCOME 1.1: IMPROVED EQUITABLE ACCESS TO INTEGRATED QUALITY SOCIAL SERVICES (HEALTH, EDUCATION, SOCIAL PROTECTION, LEGAL ET AL.)



Under Outcome 1, UN agencies in Kazakhstan, including WHO, IOM, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNODC, UN Women, supported the national government in improving equitable access to integrated quality social services, namely in health, social protection, education, legal areas and in promoting gender equality.

In health, the country has been able to achieve the targets set for health for 2016-2017, although data is limited to elicit the status of some vulnerable groups. According to the Quality of Life survey the percentage of all households satisfied with health services delivered by public health care system increased by more than 10% over 2014-2016, in terms of cost, quality and accessibility of provided services. The under-five mortality reduced to 10.8 per 1,000 live births, exceeding the target by 20%. The maternal mortality decreased from 22 per 100,000 live births in 2013 to 12.9 in 2015.

UNCT contributed to the achievements of the country in a number of areas: WHO supported the Government in setting up integrated public health services in Kazakhstan. This was done through assisting the process of self-assessment of essential public health operations, developing draft concept note to facilitate discussions on necessary legislation review, and establishing of new organizational structures in Kazakhstan to create a first integrated public health agency. It will be responsible for prevention, monitoring and control of communicable and non-communicable diseases.

Radiation safety in oncology services as part of “imPACT” (cancer programme assessment mission) assessed by WHO within the framework of development of standards and guidelines to define environmental and occupational health risks and benefit associated with air quality, chemicals, water and sanitation technologies Report with recommendations will be provided to government by the end 2017. Further, the component of safety of health

professionals in preparation of cytostatics and in radiation departments and nuclear medicine departments will be assessed, and recommendations made.

With a view to support the Government on further reducing maternal and child mortality, UNFPA and UNICEF mobilised international and national technical support on planning and implementation of Confidential Enquiry into Maternal and Perinatal Deaths. The National team of experts adopted the methodology, standards and audit tools for cases review and audit development, and the audit regulations, and protocols were endorsed by the MoH. The piloting of audit of perinatal deaths was initiated in six selected regions. The Near-Miss Cases Review (NMCR) of Obstetric Complications were implemented in 31 maternities of the country and NMCR standards and criteria were revised and updated in accordance with the latest WHO technical recommendations (2017).

Family planning is not only central to gender equality and women's empowerment but is also cost-effective and key in reducing maternal mortality. To this end, UNFPA supported the development of a Reproductive Health Situation Analysis, a Market Segmentation Analysis, and a Budget Impact Analysis of introduction free-of-charge oral contraceptives. Based on the findings of the above listed analyses UNFPA supported the MOH in developing a National Strategic Framework on Strengthening Family Planning Services. Following this, a Plan of Action on Strengthening of Family Planning Services was developed and its components were integrated into the Road Map of the MOH.

During 2017 UNFPA and UNICEF initiated the revision of the national standards for Youth Health Centres to strengthen quality services and counselling for adolescents and young people. UNFPA also continued its support to ensure access to sexuality education in vocational schools. More than 4,000 college students and teachers were exposed to life-skills based education, including values and age-appropriate sexuality education in colleges of Aktobe, Kyzylorda and Mangystau regions.

UNODC contributed to the health care system reform via provision of advisory and technical support to the integration of mental health and drug treatment services. UNODC continues to support introduction of evidence-based methadone-assisted therapy and its expansion throughout the country and jointly with WHO supports the regional initiative on prevention of opioid overdoses. UNODC also provides constant advisory and capacity building of the police via integration of training on occupational health, HIV prevention and building partnership with the CSOs, providing services to vulnerable populations, into the curriculum of the educational institutions of the Ministry of Interior; and introduction of the police referral schemes at the community level in selected provinces of the country.

Upon the request of the General Prosecutor Office, UNFPA supported the analysis of legislation and existing practices in Health Care System on treatment and prevention of drug and alcohol addicts, and psychiatric disorders, which are considered as one of the immediate causes of domestic violence.

UNAIDS and UNICEF supported the government in expanding access to ARV treatment for people living with HIV. The assessment of Kazakhstan ARV pricing and review of supply chain conducted by UNAIDS, advocacy to adopt UN procurement system and cooperation with UNICEF supply division in procurement of ARV medicines resulted in 2-fold increase in coverage of patients with HIV in 2017. Such a good practice motivated the Government to initiate cooperation with UNICEF in procuring other important health supplies, such as vaccinations and medicines.

In the area of social protection, there has been also a significant progress as well in reaching the country targets. The percentage of all households in urban areas satisfied with the quality of social transfers, pensions and other social benefits provided by the State Centre increased up to 53%, while of those in rural areas increased up to 65% thus achieving the target of 10% increase from baseline. The level of Inequality-Adjusted HDI in 2016 reached 0.714.

During 2017, UNICEF has continued to provide technical support to Ministry of labour and social protection

on current reform of social assistance (TSA) programs. In preparation to national rollout of a new approach to cash transfers in January 2018, UNICEF conducted assessment and simulation of the reform. Findings of the assessment will feed into policy dialogue with the Ministry on how to address potential risks of exclusion from the cash transfer coverage of families with children living below national subsistence minimum. Furthermore, in October UNICEF presented research on the barriers which low-income and vulnerable families with children face in accessing poverty-targeted social assistance and special social services. It focuses on children living in households and seeks to feed into institutional and legislative changes required to make social assistance and special social services programs equity driven.

UNICEF, UNDP, and UN Women partnered with the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection in organising the first Social Workers Forum in Kazakhstan and contributed to plenary and breakout sessions by bringing international and national experts, raising the importance of the best interest of the child, youth and other excluded groups in all reforms and addressing disparities by targeting those groups not covered by the services. The forum informed the new concept of modernisation of social assistance system. The new concept of modernisation of social assistance system will make social assistance more targeted, continue reforming larger institutions into the community-based social services, and introduce new financing of services through the social banking, and upgrading the level of social workers.

UNICEF and the Eurasian National University formed a trainers' group with other social work faculties from universities and tested the social work orientation modules for specialists performing the functions of social workers in Kyzylorda and Mangystau regions. The modules included the basic components of case management, ethical principles and stigma free approaches to families with children. The content of the modules will enrich Bachelor's programme curriculum on social work.

The joint evaluation of the state programmes on early childhood development and education (ECD/ECE) conducted by UNICEF revealed regional disparities in access of young children to these services. Other barriers included underfinancing and low quality of services provided under the public-private partnership. It will require a joint response plan to include adoption of ECD/ECE service packages, enhancing mechanisms for early identification of most disadvantaged children, refine quality standards, capacity strengthening strategies and monitoring instruments.

In the area of education, the country has less progress in achieving the targets. The percentage of all households satisfied with pre-school education in urban area increased up to 51.9%, however in rural area decreased to 48.1%. The percentage of all households satisfied with the quality of secondary education services slightly decreased over two years.

UNICEF's review of the pilot formula of per capita financing in secondary education suggested to have a fixed cost allocation in respect of the first block of students (between 0 and 50) to ensure equity among schools regardless of their size. The inclusion of special needs is weighted in the formula as ratio 2, but further analysis is needed to define the possible numbers of children with disability who could be mainstreamed and the resources likely to be necessary to support inclusion.

The organization of a sub-regional meeting on implementing the SDG4 in Almaty in February 2017 and a workshop on nationalization of SDG indicators allowed the countries in Central Asia to take stock of the localization of SDG4 strategies and indicators and to have peer-to-peer exchanges. In support of target SDG4.7, UNESCO strengthened educators' capacities in Kazakhstan to teach the skills needed for sustainable development, culture of peace, non-violence, and global citizenship. Based on a country analysis on education for sustainable development (ESD) and global citizenship education (GCED) and institutional reviews in teacher education institutions (TEIs) in Kazakhstan, training and pedagogical support were provided to TEIs to integrate ESD and GCED into their education programmes.

Within the framework of a policy analysis on lifelong learning, UNESCO supported the conduct of a review on Open Education Resources (OER) in Kazakhstan and the expansion of OER for lifelong learning. With a view to developing the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) competency standards for teachers in Kazakhstan, UNESCO and the Ministry of Education and Science are collecting data from different stakeholders in Kazakhstan.

In the area of promoting gender equality, UN Women, UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO joined efforts in advocating with the Government on prevention and response to domestic violence in the country, including data collection, bringing expertise in revision of national legislation to promote better response and prevention, building capacity of key government bodies and service providers and awareness raising campaigns among the population. An Action Plan for the December 2016 endorsed Concept of Gender and Family Policy was adopted in March 2017 which includes measures to improve the national response on prevention of domestic violence and expand access to protection and social services for survivors. In response to the wave of social media coverage on sexual assaults in Kazakhstan, a national movement, NeMolchi.kz (Don't Keep Silent) to combat sexual violence was provided with capacity building support from UN Women.

As part of this work, UNFPA as well as UN Women advocated for the establishment of a national system of Multi-Sectorial Response to Gender based violence, which has now been included in the Concept of Family and Gender Policy for 2017-2030, led by the National Commission on Women affairs and Family and Demographic Policy, as well as in the Road map on implementation of the national Program "Kazakhstan without Violence in Family", initiated by the General Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

The cross-agency working group, with UN Women, UNFPA, and UNICEF, was formed under the auspices of the General Prosecutor's Office to provide a strategic response to domestic violence including against children. The working group will initiate legislative changes into laws, referral protocols and communication for social norms change. Partners advocated for the legislative changes related to revision of the Law on domestic violence and review of policies on violence against women and children.

In order to gather evidence on the prevalence of Violence Against Women in the country UNFPA, UN Women and WHO have been supporting for the last 3 years the Committee on Statistics in the conduct and implementation of a National survey on violence against women. During 2017 the three agencies supported the quantitative analysis of data collected in the survey as well as printing and dissemination of the survey results. The report includes a background on regional disparities, in particular those related to the socio-economic and cultural conditions that influence both the prevalence of violence but also the (under)reporting bias that might be the result of the lack of awareness and is the first of its kind in Kazakhstan. While preliminary results had been presented to key stakeholders, ministries, parliament members, UN agencies, international partners and NGOs on November 29, 2016, the full report was finalized in November 2017.

UNICEF and the Commissioner for Human Rights conducted a survey on knowledge, attitude and practices on violence against children in the family (KAP survey) covering 2400 households and 2000 children of 12-17 age and 100 child protection and law enforcement specialists in 10 regions. The research revealed a knowledge gap among the specialists and the general public in all types of violence: 75% of general public support the use of corporal punishment to discipline and control children in the family. Over 95% of the general public and child protection specialists believe that strangers are likely to sexually abuse children. The KAP Survey data and findings will be used to inform public policy dialogue, support development of policies and programs, and to develop communication initiatives.

IOM supported the Government in capacity building of key government officials and NGOs in protection of rights and provision of services for victims of trafficking to enhance support systems for protecting rights by improving the quality of services for victims of human trafficking. This contributed to the implementation of the national Law on the special social services.

OUTCOME 1.2: DIVERSIFICATION OF THE ECONOMY PROVIDES DECENT WORK OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE UNDEREMPLOYED, YOUTH AND SOCIALLY VULNERABLE WOMEN AND MEN



The Strategy "Kazakhstan-2050" was adopted in order to embark on a process of comprehensive modernization, including Diversification of the economy. Employment is a key priority for Kazakhstan as part of its endeavour to become one of the 30 most developed countries in the world by 2050. The Government adopted an "Employment Road Map 2020" which is a comprehensive program aimed at improving the efficiency of the Kazakhstan labour market and to provide measures to support employment; development of rural entrepreneurship; promote employment of self-employed, low-income and unemployed people, with a special focus on young people. Increase of productive employment is one of the key tasks of the State program of industrial-innovative development of Kazakhstan. Providing equality of rights and opportunities of men and women, achievement of gender equality in social and political life, achievement of gender equality in the economic sphere, further development of women's entrepreneurship is among the main strategic goals declared by government in the Concept on Family and Gender Policy until 2030.

Supporting an inclusive pattern of economic growth that is vital in determining Kazakhstan's economic sustainability and human development, particularly, knowledge-based economic growth priorities for creation a private sector-driven, diversified and resilient economy, with competitive industrial/manufacturing, agricultural and service sectors, UNDP focused on promoting new drivers for diversification of the economy. Programmes in several regions were conducted on creating favourable conditions for "creative" economy - 500 people developed their business skills and 155 were employed. UNDP's local initiatives on piloting of innovative and sustainable solutions, aimed at strengthening competitiveness, improving productive capacities

of SMEs, and adoption of green technologies, allowed establishing new business and social entrepreneurship models to creation green and new jobs for people with disabilities.

To enhance national capacity – capacity of line ministries to develop programmes/policies with focus on employment and income generating opportunities for socially vulnerable women, and capacity of civil society organizations to lead advocacy for increased related budget, UN Women in 2017, expanded the project initiated in 2016 with financing from the Ministry of National Economy, in two regions of the country, to the central level. The process is based on findings of conducted studies and recommendations on existing opportunities and gaps, validated during regional consultative meetings and submitted for incorporation into the Plan of Action on implementation of the Concept of Family and Gender Policy, in line with nationalization of SDGs and promotion of gender sensitive national planning and budgeting.

In 2017, UN Women continued to study of the national labour market to identify obstacles that hinder the expansion of entrepreneurship opportunities for socially vulnerable women. The research aimed at analysing the access of socially vulnerable women to financial resources and enterprise products, and the possibility of engaging vulnerable women in entrepreneurship. Women from socially vulnerable groups in five regions of Kazakhstan were surveyed to measure access to financial resources and other obstacles to starting own business. The results of the study showed the following obstacles that socially vulnerable women face in accessing funding for starting a business: lack or insufficiency of movable or immovable assets; lack identification documents, which prevents opening an account and registration of business (women affected by violence, women-internal migrants); low level of education; low level of financial literacy (all groups); no access to legal aid (all groups); limited access to ICT (women living in shelters, women in rural areas, women internal migrants); social stigma (women with HIV).

In 2017, UN Women convened two national consultations to facilitate the discussions on improving the services for socially vulnerable women in the entrepreneurship and finance sector. More than 70 representatives of civil society, socially vulnerable women, financial institutions and central and local executive bodies gathered to discuss current gaps and find mutual solutions for development of the final recommendations on improving the services for socially vulnerable women in the entrepreneurship and finance sector. The meetings had a tangible effect on the constructive dialogue between the state bodies and NGOs and the women themselves and has enabled to develop further mechanisms for the advancement of women. Final recommendations on the results of this study was submitted to Ministry of National Economy for integrating to the national policy and programmes.

The Government confirmed youth employment as priority development target. The Action Plan on Youth Employment addresses specific challenges facing young people in the Kazakh labour market. It focuses on three key priorities; providing vocational guidance to young people, promotion of entrepreneurship among young people, and expansion of young people's access to effective employment services and active labour market policies. For enhancing Employment Services functions, ILO conducted national consultations for consideration of different options for ILO support on capacity development as well as involvement of Kazakh officials to the Public Employment Services (PESs) course at the ILO ITC Turin. An action plan for PES capacity strengthening will be developed, based on analysis and specification of needs. A national study on PES functions, structure and comparative analysis of service models considered as an additional tool to support the Ministry of labour and social protection.

UNESCO supported the capacity-building of the managers of the World Heritage properties in Kazakhstan in documentation and of the trainers of trainers on intangible cultural heritage. In order to promote the engagement of youth and women in creative economy, trainings in handicrafts were provided in rural areas. The acquired skills will contribute to the safeguarding of the traditions of felt weaving and wood-carving, but also, to improving the quality of handicrafts products as a means of strengthening livelihoods.

UNECE supported government on Development of the Country Profile on Housing and Land Management and building capacity on innovation policy and Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) through conducting a study on important issues, challenges, achievements and progress in Kazakhstan in the fields of housing, land management and urban development. Based on findings the Policy advisory mission to Kazakhstan and prioritization of PPP project proposals were discussed. To ensure a national strategy for a coherent treatment of trade facilitation and quality assurance in Kazakhstan, UNECE conducted the seminar for the validation of the report assessing readiness of Kazakhstan to implement the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement.

To improve citizens understanding of Human Rights norms and make available services for those whose rights are infringed, IOM conducted targeted awareness-raising -training on HR and ethical recruitment, e-learning course on International Migration Law. In 2017 IOM continued its' activities on raising awareness of the public and local authorities, CSOs, and private sectors on human rights standards and observance of the rights of migrant workers and victims of trafficking (VoTs); labour rights of migrants and the risks of child labour exploitation; implementation of recommendations provided by two Special reports on Migrants Rights and VoTs rights in Kazakhstan

IOM in cooperation with local NGOs and HRC conducted nine monitoring reports on the migrants' rights in Kazakhstan; 59 public information campaigns on human rights covering 11,935 people; 2100 people in Kazakhstan received access to the justice via free legal aid provided by NGOs and law clinics network; 176 people covered by information campaign applied to the local authorities due to reduce the risk of human rights violations; 224 students were trained on Human Rights and International Migration Law in four regions in Kazakhstan; 114 people were covered by peer learning process on human rights in Aktau, Aktobe and Karaganda;

UNDP in partnership with Eco-Damu has been implementing a programme in 3 regions of the country since 2014, aimed at allocation of microcredits for people living near protected areas with the interest rate of 4%. To date, 200 jobs have been created and 83 projects have been implemented in the sphere of construction of greenhouses with drip irrigation, bakeries, fabrication of national costumes, bee breeding, poultry, ecological tourism, production of souvenirs and national items, horticulture, development of fisheries amounting 275.3 million KZT.

OUTCOME 1.3: ECOSYSTEMS AND NATURAL RESOURCES ARE PROTECTED AND SUSTAINABLY USED, AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS ARE RESILIENT TO NATURAL AND HUMANMADE DISASTERS AND CLIMATE CHANGE



Legislative reforms

UNDP supported the Government in preparing the draft Law “On making amendments and supplements to some legislative acts of the Republic of Kazakhstan concerning flora and fauna” that was signed on 15 June 2017. The amendments allow the private sector to participate in financing of the conservation of forest ecosystems and restoring objects of the state natural reserve fund. The Law now contains norms on conservation and sustainable use of wildlife resources.

UNECE is conducting the analysis of the national legislative environmental assessment framework vis a vis the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and is currently developing recommendations for drafting national SEA legislation to prepare the country for accession to the Protocol.

Green economy

Providing technical assistance to government and building national capacity on facilitating the transition to green economy at different levels, UNEP engaged with the Green Technology and Investments Center on inclusive green economy in Central Asia study and provided recommendations for Kazakhstan. UNEP also taking part in the work of Green Economy Council, and preparing proposals for the Green Technology and Investments Center to be opened in Astana in cooperation with other UN agencies and partners. Cooperation

initiated also with other partners on the activities on environmental ratings of oil companies in Kazakhstan. Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE) application for the country is under development.

Sustainable cities development, outdoor lighting and transport systems

UNDP has reached an agreement with Damu fund (national operator for SME support) to design and launch the innovative financial mechanism to incentivize the businesses and investors to go green to be implemented in 15 pilot cities. UNDP has also developed mechanisms for financial incentives to stimulate the development of a market of Energy Service Companies in the communal housing sector.

UNDP has supported the municipalities in Almaty in launching the Bus Rapid Transit project with an overall length of 22,454 km, that is expected to increase the passenger turnover to 146,900 passengers daily. Overall through the measures aimed at raising the efficiency of indoor at outdoor lighting in schools, residential buildings, healthcare facilities, administrative buildings, street lighting, entryway and courtyard lighting UNDP helped save 53,009 MWh of energy and avoided 49,486 tonnes of CO₂ emissions.

Disaster risk reduction

UNEP has conducted in Almaty a technical training of the environmental risks (FEAT methodology) on the base of Regional DRR Centre in Almaty in cooperation with OCHA and Joint UNEP/OCHA Environment Unit (JEU), and a Regional Forum for National Designated Entities for Climate Change Technology Center (CTCN) and Network partners to share experiences on NDEs set-up and activities in cooperation with CTCN. Regional training and ToT on environmental emergencies in partnership with CESDRR, OCHA and UNECE for Central Asian countries. Relevant training package is updated in terms of the content for Central Asia and translated into Russian for further on distribution.

UNICEF is currently testing methodology for disaster risk analysis with focus on children's vulnerability in two districts in Kyzylorda and Mangystau regions.

IOM is translating the Migration Crisis Operational Framework (MCOF) principles in the context of DRR and climate change adaptation into national and subnational authorities, by providing trainings and workshops that covered 175 key stakeholders on the national and local level. A training module on migrants' vulnerabilities was designed for policy makers and practitioners.

WHO has provided substantial support to the assessment of the International Health Regulations in the country with regards to natural disasters, providing consultation and expertise for the development of national IHR plan.

In close cooperation with the Regional DRR Centre in Almaty, UNESCO supported the formulation of a regional strategy on landslide risk reduction. It also partnered in the organization of an international conference on Mudflow risk. UNESCO will work with the relevant entities in Kazakhstan to further address risks from landslides/mudflows, notably in promoting scientific knowledge generation and exchange, and enhancing education and awareness of local populations on existing disaster risks. UNESCO promoted the engagement of representatives of scientific institutions, young researchers, and government authorities on issues related to geohazard risk reduction and DRR by supporting their participation in summer schools, international meetings and well as technical workshops.

Biodiversity and ecosystems

UNDP conducted the statistical analysis of allocated funds for 2008-2014 and assessed financial needs for conservation of biodiversity in Kazakhstan until 2030 as part of the Global Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN). 5 key economic mechanisms were selected in agreement with the representatives of the public and private sectors – payments for ecosystem services, biodiversity offsets, subsidies, tax incentives and forest

certification and the resource mobilization plan until 2030 is being developed. New economic solutions are being tested by the example of pilot projects in the Ustyurt, Ile-Balkhash and Kyzylorda regions.

The potential of CO₂ absorption by forest and grassland ecosystems of Kazakhstan was assessed and predicted for three periods: (1) 2016-2020, (2) 2021-2025, (3) 2026-2030 and guidelines on sustainable management of grassland and forest ecosystems were prepared. Guidelines on methodological approaches to assessment of green gas emissions and absorption by forest and grassland ecosystems of Kazakhstan were also developed. The economic valuation of ecosystem services of the soon-to-be-established Ile-Balkhash reserve was undertaken so that payment for ecosystem services perspectives could be identified. In order to develop the offset mechanisms, the impact of the Kansu gas field on soil, flora and fauna of the Ustyurt Reserve was assessed and cartographic materials were produced.

UNDP provided support for expansion of the Altyn Yemel National Park by 146,500 ha in December 2015. The Irgis-Turgai Reserve was expanded by 409,962 ha in December 2016. The budget request was approved to establish the new Ile-Balkhash Reserve with the total area of 415,000 ha. The boundaries of the ecological corridor in the Ile-Balkhash region were defined with the total area of 973,600 ha, the proposed corridor includes the territory from the Altyn Yemel Ridge to Karaoi cluster zone in the ancient Ile River delta. The establishment is expected in the beginning of 2018.

Two nominations of national protected areas (i.e. Altyn-Emel, Karatau) and one transboundary nomination (Altai) were included in the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere (MAB) programme in 2017. In cooperation with the National Commission of Kazakhstan for UNESCO, the concept of UNESCO Global Geoparks Network, which aims to conserve geological heritage and promote sustainable development of local communities and tourism, is being discussed with the relevant stakeholders in Kazakhstan and a roadmap developed.

In order to ensure sustainable protection of the unique biodiversity of Kazakhstan, UNDP provided substantial support for preparation of plans to manage the species of the Ile-Balkhash Reserve such as the kulan, the goitered gazelle and the Przewalski's horse. The current information system of monitoring of the biodiversity of Kazakhstan has been expanded through inclusion of 3 national protected areas (Altyn Yemel National Park, Barsakelmes and Ustyurt Reserves). As result, more than 700,000 ha of desert ecosystems are monitored. Navigation equipment was installed on the goitered gazelles (*Gazella subgutturosa*) for the first time in Central Asia to track their migration paths.

Sustainable natural resource management

In 2 pilot regions (Kyzylorda and Mangystau oblasts) Land-use Planning Schemes were developed and introduced for sustainable management of desert areas. Currently, territorial planning covers more than 13,000 000 ha. In these regions, 35 projects relating to diversification of rice crops, sustainable livestock breeding in distant pastures, conservation of wetlands, rehabilitation of Asiatic poplar forests in the Balkhash region, demonstration and introduction of mechanical and phytomeliorative methods of fixing sands, pheasant nurseries for hunting concessions and commercial fisheries were implemented in order to demonstrate best practices in sustainable natural resource management, e.g. methods of sustainable distant livestock breeding were demonstrated and introduced at 20 model sites to reduce land degradation in desert and semi-desert areas. As a result, more than 50 000 ha of pasturelands in Mangystau and Kyzylorda oblasts were provided with permanent water sources, alternative energy power and managed by local communities in a sustainable manner. This experience is replicated in Almaty region as well.

Transboundary rivers

In 2016 UNDP country offices in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan completed the comprehensive transboundary diagnostic analysis (TDA), in which total water stock was determined. Based on this analysis, the Chu-Talas Water Basin Inspection updated their strategic work plan 2020, and a short-term integrated water resource

management plan was developed. These plans will serve as the basis for funding by respective governments and international organizations.

To strengthen the legal foundation for transboundary water management in Central Asia UNRCCA developed two draft agreements on the use of water resources of Amudarya and Syrdarya Rivers and submitted them for consideration of the Central Asian states.

Water resources management

On World Water Day UNESCO organized the launch of the World Water Development Report-2016, with the participation of local authorities, research and educational institutions, and independent experts to discuss training of water specialists, access to water and sanitation, water situation in the region and gender aspects in water resources management. UNESCO continued supporting Kazakhstan in promoting education standards in the water sector, and in building capacities of young civil servants on water through a training organized in cooperation with UNESCO Chair on Water Management at the German-Kazakh University.

Education and trainings

A training programme on economic valuation of ecosystem services (using the example of the proposed Ile-Balkhash reserve) was developed by UNDP and considered by the special commission and academic committee of the Kazakh Agrarian Technical University named after S. Seifullin (KATU) and Kazakh National Agrarian University (KazNAU) and will be included in the curriculum from October 2017.

UNESCO developed a pilot study module on Climate Risk Management for universities in Kyzylorda region and organized trainings for university teachers. It is planned to introduce this course to other universities in the country.

UNESCO organized three trainings on biodiversity conservation and biosphere reserves concept in Aralsk for the local administration, the staff of the Barsakelmes Biosphere Reserve and local NGOs.

Gender mainstreaming

Kazakhstan hosted a specialized exhibition EXPO Astana-2017 “Future Energy”. The EXPO provided a platform to raise and discuss many topical issues with involvement of big international and national community. UN Women, as one of nine UN agencies participating at Expo, utilized its shared kiosk with UNESCO to highlight the role of women in Future Energy. Here electronic videos and materials on flashdrives on women as decision makers, users and producers of energy were shared with visitors. UN Women further participated in several events during the three months of Expo, including the Ministerial Conference, continually bringing the focus of women to the energy discussions. The National Commission on Women, Family, and Demographic Policy and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs organized a dedicated event at a high political level, to highlight the role of women in promoting sustainable energy for all. The Forum - Women for Future Energy was held on 31 August 2017 and discussed the role and contribution of women in promotion of innovative ideas in the field of alternative energy and “green economy” based on efficient partnership of the state, business sector and civil society. UN Agencies, led by UN Women, such as UNDP, UNICEF, UNEP, and others played an active role in laying the agenda and contributing to the discussion. Among other topics, the following was discussed: involvement of women entrepreneurship of Kazakhstan to “green economy” development, creation of joint projects on introduction of “green technologies” in different economic fields, involvement of women leaders of environmental innovation business in EXPO-2017 events and global initiatives of the UN “Sustainable Energy for All”, “Green Bridge” Partnership Program.

OUTCOME 2.1: RIGHTS HOLDERS BENEFIT FROM IMPROVED GOVERNMENT POLICY MAKING, AND IMPLEMENTATION



Kazakhstan will conduct the next Population and Housing Census in 2019. A Pilot Census is planned in two districts in 2018 with UNFPA supporting the Committee on statistics to conduct it in line with international standards and UN recommendations. During 2017, UNFPA supported a needs assessment on the use of the Geographic Information System (GIS) and carried out several capacity building activities on international methodological issues and practical aspects of GIS applications for electronic/digital mapping for census and geo-referral Population register.

Kazakhstan is also planning to conduct a Generations and Gender Survey (GGS) in 2018. During 2017 UNFPA supported capacity building of staff from the Committee on Statistics through participation in two Experts Meetings and a study tour to Belarus. A Road map/Action Plan on GGS preparation and implementation was developed and discussed by a GGS Steering Committee and Technical Working Group (with representatives of all line ministries and agencies, research institutions and academia) during a 2-day workshop organized by UNFPA.

UNFPA supported the development and piloting of a “Population and Development” course for civil servants in the Academy of Public Administration under the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan to build institutional capacity for the formulation of a Demographic Policy and the conduct of demographic analysis and population projections. Over 30 civil servants from central and regional governments were trained on demographic analysis, population projections and formulation and monitoring policies and regional development plans, UNFPA also provided technical assistance to the Academy on the development of a new course on demographic analysis and population projections to be introduced into the Master's Program of the Academy.

UN Women supported piloting of standards on special social services within the framework of a joint project with the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Population in Kazakhstan. A manual for social workers on maintaining work with victims of domestic violence was adapted based on newly adopted standards on

special social services for the victims of domestic violence. Guidelines on the system of redirecting victims of domestic violence to strengthen intersectoral cooperation and enhance national referral mechanisms were also produced. Based on conducted work, trainings on adaptation of standards were organized in Uralsk and Astana. UN Women also supported organizing a national forum for social workers in Astana. To further upgrade social workers qualifications, a “Social Worker” study module in the sphere of provision of services to the victims of domestic violence was developed.

In 2017, UN Women also worked with national stakeholders on gender sensitive analysis, monitoring and evaluation of the national development programmes and sectoral policies in the context of nationalization of SDGs. UN Women conducted gender analysis of main state agricultural programmes, Strategic Programmes of the Ministry of Agriculture, five pilot local budgets and Regional Development Programmes. Based on the results of research most of the programmes were found gender neutral, results of the analysis are intended to be used for development of recommendation for improvement of planning and development of an effective budgeting policies in agricultural.

UN Women trained more than 85 state officials to improve their skills in gender, gender analysis, indicators, and gender responsive budgeting (GRB) and in partnership with Ministry of National Economy developed training courses/modules for civil servants on gender analysis, indicators. In the perspective, it allows to implement GRB on national planning and budgeting system more effectively and supportively. Based on the developed training modules, practical guidelines for conducting gender analysis of strategic plans and budget programmes were also developed for the usage by government on GRB process.

As part of its EAW programme UN Women within the framework of a joint project with the Ministry of National Economy conducted the first assessment of economic damage and budgeting DV prevention and response measures at the regional/province level and conducted a national consultative meeting to present and discuss the results of budget assessment. The finalized results of the study will be available in the beginning of 2018. In close consultations with its partner the Committee for Statistics (Ministry of National Economy), UN Women provided expertise on gender statistics and SDG indicators to prepare a harmonized set of indicators and review best international practices on data collection and analysis in the field of elimination of violence and discrimination against women.

UN Women conducted a study on sexual harassment in the workplace, with recommendations for improving legislation and practice. An analysis was made of legal gaps in the laws and mechanisms for their implementation related to the prevention and protection of sexual harassment in the workplace. Recommendations were submitted to National Commission for Women, Family, and Socio Demographic Policy.

UNAIDS continued work on reduction of HIV related stigma and discrimination, including primary health care offering HIV testing. UNAIDS provided technical assistance and expertise to Republican AIDS Center and Kazakhstan Union of PLHIV for developing the National Strategic Plan toward Stigma and Discrimination. The analysis of national legislation was provided to the government to assess extent of implementation of international standards on effective torture investigation. The analysis was followed with recommendations towards making changes in existing legislation including the Criminal Code and the Criminal Procedure Code and Law on Forensic Activities that have been passed to the government to initiate the process of legislative changes. Analytical reports have been provided on administrative and functional regulations of the selected government agencies that identified gaps allowing for corruption.

UNESCO contributed to the consultations on, and provided technical advice for, the assessment of the draft law “On Amendments in some legislative Acts on Information and Communication” initiated by the Mazhilis Parliament Committee on Social and Cultural Development. Awareness was raised among, and capacities built of, some 30 media outlets on questions pertaining to the access to information and safety of journalists with

support from UNESCO's International Programme of the Development Communication (IPDC). With a view to promoting good governance and the participation of the civil society, UNESCO supported the establishment of 14 community media centers in Kyzylorda. These centres will allow the local communities to generate and disseminate content that of specific relevance to them.

UNDP provided Ministry of Justice the detailed analysis of implementation of the second UPR recommendations and developed suggestions on implementation of those recommendations of the states that have been considered and have not been accepted. Recommendations have been developed towards increasing transparency of work of the government agencies including the law enforcement bodies through wider engagement of civil society in monitoring public services and work of the police. UNDP in cooperation with 25 representatives of law enforcement and forensic workers updated activity plan to promote principles of the Manual on Effective Investigation and Documentation of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (the Istanbul Protocol).

UNDP supported dialogue platforms and processes, including the Coordination Council on Social Protection Issues with CSOs and persons with disabilities as well as a series of events aimed at strengthening the capacity of public councils and dialogue platforms on implementation of the recommendations of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of Human Rights.

UNDP focused on introducing efficient and transparent business processes of public services delivery and supported reengineering of 20 public services to make them more streamlined, transparent and accessible. UNDP continued supporting the Government in corruption prevention and reduction of corruption risks, mainly by providing knowledge-based best practices and high-quality policy advice. UNDP conducted research on corruption prevention and put forward practical recommendations against corruption that were submitted to the Agency of Civil Service Affairs and Anti-corruption.

As part of the large-scale public administration reform UNDP supported the broader process of functional redistribution in Kazakhstan through conducting functional analysis and mapping of business-processes of regional executive bodies (akimat) in South Kazakhstan and Akmola Oblasts. With regard to the local level institutions, UNDP supported development of the law on amendments to the "Law on Governance and Local Self-government" to provide more authorities to rural akims, including budget management responsibility. On national level UNDP provided support to the Government in reallocation of functions of 8 line ministries.

In Kazakhstan, the Regional Hub for civil service in Astana supported the efforts of the Government in building professional state apparatus by providing support in developing the factor and point scale grading system, a new bonus payment system and common framework of competencies for Kazakhstan's Civil Service comprising 98 886 civil servants. To promote civic engagement, UNDP assisted local authorities in becoming more citizen-oriented in delivering public services. More than 43 public services were re-engineered to make them more effective and lean. To further optimize the public administration in the country UNDP has developed a comprehensive methodology on handover of public functions of state bodies to private sector.

UNHCR supported the work of the Interagency Working Group on revision of the national legislation related to nationality and statelessness created under the auspices of Mangystau region Akimat. In 2017, the Working Group finalized the gaps analysis of the national legislation related to nationality and statelessness and developed recommendations for legislative amendments. The analysis and recommendations were shared with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Ministry of Justice.

OUTCOME 2.2: JUDICIAL AND LEGAL SYSTEMS, AND PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS, ARE FAIR, ACCOUNTABLE, AND ACCESSIBLE TO ALL



In 2017, UNCT contributed to the achievements of the country in a number of areas. In particular, efforts have been made to strengthen capacities of the public institutions (in particular judiciary and law enforcement bodies) to excel their services for all.

It is important that the criminal justice system upholds international human rights standards. The UN Agencies continued to strengthen capacity of the criminal justice institutions, through development of the efficient and appropriately enforced system of alternatives to incarceration. The regional conference on alternatives to incarceration and mandatory treatment, organized by UNODC provided a platform for a debate on criminal justice policy reform addressing the issues of proportionality of sentences, depenalization of drug use and provision of alternatives to incarceration for drug using offenders as well as mandatory drug dependence treatment in the countries of Central Asia; to pilot police referral schemes in selected regions of Kazakhstan.

UNICEF has been piloting the community based diversion and alternative justice programmes in East Kazakhstan and Kyzylorda oblasts for children in conflict with the law and children at high risk of offending, respectively. It allowed to demonstrate mechanisms of alternatives to convictions, deprivation of liberty, and placement of children into special schools for children with deviant behaviour. In Mangystau oblast, UNICEF was piloting the child-victim support services. ToTs were conducted in 2016 and 2017, including for police and academics on standard operating procedures. The capacity of specialized legal professional and governmental intuitions has been further developed, and successful co-operation with training institutions established, to revise the training curriculum. Number of bilateral meetings and trainings on local level with participation of prosecutors, law enforcement officials and judiciary were conducted to apply international standards and approaches in justice for children.

Under the justice sector institutional strengthening initiatives UNDP assisted the Supreme Court of the Republic of Kazakhstan in modernization of the Academy of Justice. UNDP's input will be focused on the improvement of the Academy's capacity to deliver high-quality training programmes for judges and judicial staff, and to strengthen the physical and ICT infrastructures of judicial education. Provided recommendations will allow to expand the coverage of judicial education so as each year 930 judges and 2000 judicial staff can undertake in-service professional training and sharpen their knowledge and skills in a planned manner.

Prevention of Gender-based violence in Kazakhstan is the topic for attention of many UN Agencies in the UNCT of Kazakhstan. Based on a previous commitment to pilot a Multi-sectoral response to Gender-based violence in Kazakhstan, UNFPA supported the Office of Prosecutor General in conducting regional trainings on Standard Operating Procedures for the health, psycho-social and police sectors and CSOs in two pilot districts of South Kazakhstan region (Saryagash and Abai). The application of the SOPs was reviewed and tested throughout the year including lessons learned for further adaptation and to promote inter-sectoral collaboration.

A study tour was organized for several government officials to learn about MSR to GBV in Romania (considered a best practice); findings and results from the pilot were presented at a national advocacy meeting in November followed by consultations in Shymkent with local service providers where it was agreed to further expand the pilot to other districts given its importance and encouraging results.

UNFPA also partnered with religious leaders from Sunni Islam and Orthodox Christianity on issues related to maternal and reproductive health, family planning, HIV, GBV and early/forced marriages prevention. Relevant religious scriptures and teachings were analysed and a practical guidance/training course aimed at theological institutions adopted following extensive discussions, which have resulted in the religious leaders committing to further disseminating important information on these topics through their congregations. Training materials is being developed for consideration of the heads of these religious communities for introduction into the curricula of their spiritual institutions.

During 2017 UNFPA, UN WOMEN and WHO supported the finalization of the first-ever national survey on the prevalence of violence against women in Kazakhstan (using a WHO methodology). The survey includes a qualitative component and includes information on the impact of violence on women's health and well-being, women's health seeking behaviours, a background on regional disparities, in particular those related to the socio-economic and cultural conditions that influence both the prevalence of violence but also the (under) reporting bias that might be the result of lack of awareness. Policy briefs were prepared with specific analysis done for two oblasts: Kyzylorda and Mangystau in the context of a joint programme involving all the agencies. The evidence gathered was disseminated in December (as part of the 16 days of activism against violence against women) and will inform future programming with a special focus on the health response to violence and the need to strengthen a multi-sectoral prevention and response system involving among others the police, the judicial and legal systems.

A Knowledge, Attitude and Practice (KAP) survey on Justice for Children and Violence against children in the Family was conducted to produce baseline information for public policy dialogue, supporting the development of policies and programmes and developing communication initiatives. A communication campaign on J4C and VAC with key messages as a result of the KAP survey was launched in Kazakhstan in 2017 by UNICEF. Findings suggests that 64 per cent of surveyed child protection and justice specialists and 42 per cent of general population believe that detention of children should be used as a last resort; 30 per cent of same specialists believe that community based rehabilitation of children in conflict with the law is not dangerous against only 15 per cent among general population. Such findings indicate the need to further focus on knowledge of juvenile justice principles and social norms.

UN Women supported the General Prosecutor's project on prevention of violence, covering domestic violence

and sexual violence against women and girls and access of victims to justice, and was supporting piloting of standards on special social services for victims of domestic violence in a number of pilot regions. UNICEF contributed to violence prevention work through the gap analysis of existing legislation on domestic violence against children and provided specific recommendations for legislative amendments.

In the beginning of the year several discussions with the General Prosecutor's Office were held on implementation Roadmap “Kazakhstan without violence in the family” developed by the General Prosecutor's Office jointly with UN Women. A pilot of the project was launched on 5 June in Shymkent (South KZ). The GPO’s initiative to pilot the project contributed to implementation of SDG 5 and 16 targets on EAW at the local level. Three key issues were addressed by the pilot project: - Needs to ensure improved intersectoral/interdisciplinary prevention and response to domestic violence (DV) with a clear division of responsibilities/tasks for each concerned state institution/partner, introduced referral mechanisms to improve access to services for women and children affected by the DV; -Unacceptance/zero tolerance to DV by the society and an active community response to DV; - Financing issues – sufficient budget resources allocation at the central and local levels to ensure efficient prevention and response to DV, protection of rights of women and children. UN Women rendered expert support to conduct: - analysis of local authorities’ functions in the sphere of EAW and developing practical recommendations on strengthening interdepartmental cooperation; - analysis and developed recommendations on establishing the Department for Family Affairs in the region to specifically regulate DV issues; - analysis of effectiveness of state funded crisis centres for the victims of DV and developed recommendations on adapting the social and psychological support services in the remote villages to grant wider access to services for rural women living under restricted circumstances. UN Women also conducted trainings among local population and for the justice department authorities on advocating family values and preventing DV. The trainings aimed to improve understanding of local population on their rights and obligations, to strengthen the family as an institution and prevent DV in remote regions.

A number of analytical reports and recommendations in the sphere of DV monitoring, prevention and response were produced. UN Women supported establishment of a centre of social and psychological support in the South Kazakhstan region, which provides legal, social, and psychological support to the victims and potential victims of domestic violence. A pilot local department on family affairs was established as a unified administrative resource to govern the sphere of family affairs, including domestic violence prevention and response at a local level. A local referral mechanism was developed, providing mapping of existing services for the victims of domestic violence in the region. UN Women also provided expert support in establishing a database for domestic violence monitoring in South Kazakhstan, and an analytical report on the current domestic violence situation in the region was produced based on the survey conducted in June this year by the Committee of Statistics. This database on cases of domestic violence in South Kazakhstan improved monitoring and analysis of gender statistics in the ending violence against women area. Thus, UN Women supported prevention, monitoring, and response to domestic violence. An overview of national legislation and law-enforcement practices was prepared as well as recommendations based on the results achieved within the UN Women – GPO’s project “Kazakhstan without violence in family” were developed. Further analysis was prepared on compliance of national legislation with international obligations, as well as analysis of the effectiveness and timeliness of proposed measures in the GPO’s project “Kazakhstan without violence in family”.

The institute of Ombudsperson on the Rights of the Child in the Republic of Kazakhstan, starting from its creation, has been supported by UNICEF. In November 2017, a two-day international conference was organized by UNICEF with key partners to discuss situation of children in Kazakhstan and their rights in accordance with CRC recommendations. Similarly, with 2016, the Ombudsperson reported on the progress made in 2017. OHCHR continued to advocate for the strengthening of the Ombudsperson institution through meetings, support to the conference on the Paris Principles and regional consultations of National Human Rights Institutions.

UNDP increased capacity of law enforcement bodies through development of training programs and distribution

of training materials on Istanbul protocol implementation to the Academy of law enforcement and Police Academies. The materials will be applied in postgraduate training and upgrading qualification of police officers. This is in line with the GPO's national project "Towards the Society Free of Torture" started in 2016.

Training on Istanbul Protocol helped to increase the knowledge of special prosecutors, police staff on personal security, and forensic experts on international standards of effective investigation of torture and identify gaps in existing work of investigation teams including the lack of regulation mechanisms.

To improve delivery of special social services to vulnerable population UNDP trained 208 social workers and representatives of 56 CSOs to introduce new innovative approaches in service delivery in the related area. UNDP conducted series of tailored trainings for vulnerable population, thus 101 people (out of 150 trained) were employed in various industries. It is worthy to note that 16 of them are employed in the first inclusive social café (<http://kundecafe.kz/>) in Astana where people from Mental Health Clinic will be working full time. The café was featured in the first ever crowdfunding campaign in UNDP Kazakhstan (June-July 2017).

UNDP trained more than 900 civil servants of Kazakhstan and countries of the region and in partnership with the Parliament of Kazakhstan and OSCE supported the implementation of new laws on Access to Information and Public Councils in all regions of Kazakhstan which resulted in the establishment and effective functioning of 229 public councils. The training manual was developed to capacitate the members of public councils in reviewing draft laws at local government level and engage civil society in public discussion.

IOM enhanced opportunities for civil society participation in monitoring and promoting changes to legislation on migration and labour related issues and its implementation. HR monitoring activities and round tables on HR monitoring were conducted by NGOs in the regions.

UNESCO and UNDPI continued working on providing better access to information and participation for the rural population. Webinar-trainings for rural-online centres in Kyzylorda region were organized. The mobile application Voice of Kyzylorda was developed.

UNHCR enhanced the capacity of State officials dealing with asylum. One judge of the Supreme Court participated in the Regional Conference for Judges on Elements of Refugee Law and Evidence Assessment in Asylum Context held in Georgia. UNHCR facilitated participation of 25 Government officials from Central Asia and CIS dealing with asylum cases in Refugee Status Determination Distance Learning Programme and Workshop in Almaty to increase their capacity in adjudication of asylum cases.

UNHCR and partners organized the workshop on access to asylum and Refugee Status Determination (RSD) for 35 officials of the Migration Service Department in Taraz and Shymkent cities. UNHCR attended the State RSD Commissions to observe the Commission meetings and ensure procedural fairness and transparency of the RSD process; provided on-the-job trainings to the members of the Commission; made recommendations where necessary to the members of the Commission to ensure the compliance of the RSD procedures with international standards and national refugee legislation; shared updates on situation in the countries of origin of the asylum-seekers and on specific profiles in need. UNHCR conducted visits to five border points at Uzbek, Kyrgyz and Chinese borders to monitor the admission practice and raise awareness on asylum procedures in Kazakhstan. UNHCR conducted a training session for the officials of the Ministry of Labour and Social Development to raise their awareness on refugee and statelessness related matters and ensure consistent provision of services to population, including refugees and stateless persons.

OHCHR continued working with the Mazhilis of the Parliament on the law regarding the national preventive mechanism (NPM) (which functions in Kazakhstan under the auspices of the Ombudsperson), facilitating amendments which will increase the list of places that are subject to the NPM scrutiny.

OUTCOME 3.1: THE GOVERNMENT, TOGETHER WITH PARTNERS, PROMOTES THE ACHIEVEMENT OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs) IN THE REGION AND LEADS IN PROMOTING AND IMPLEMENTING UNITED NATIONS PRINCIPLES, STANDARDS AND CONVENTIONS.



In 2017 the UNCT continued supporting the Government of Kazakhstan with nationalization of the SDG agenda in Kazakhstan.

A ‘Mainstreaming Acceleration and Policy Support’ (MAPS) mission of UN experts took place in November 2016—the first such mission in the region, which also resulted in the Senate’s adoption of the Parliamentary Statement on SDGs. The MAPS report was completed by May 2017 with inputs from the UNCT, which was shared with the Government.

The MAPS analysis revealed that the existing national priorities can already help achieve over 60 percent of the SDG targets in Kazakhstan. There were also four broad acceleration areas identified for expedited implementation of the SDGs in Kazakhstan – They relate to governance reforms, diversification of economy, greening the growth path and tackling inequalities including gender inequalities.

Kazakhstan’s National Human Development Report on “Sustainable Development Goals and Capacity-Based Regional Development” was developed with support from UN/UNDP as first piece of policy support. This national Human Development Report assesses the abilities of Kazakhstan’s regions to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all ages, to ensure inclusive and quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all, to build resilient infrastructure, to promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization, to foster innovation, and especially to reduce inequality across the country. Kazakhstan’s diverse natural conditions, and contrasting social, economic, and spatial structures have produced regional disparities in economic and infrastructure development, employment, incomes, and quality of life. The report takes a “whole of development” perspective to these issues. It focuses not only on economic growth, innovation and productivity, but also on social progress

and ecological sustainability. And it does so using innovative quantitative SDG-based measures that allow for appropriate regional comparisons of economic diversification, skills development, and other considerations.

Under the leadership of UNFPA and the UNRC, the UNCT supported the Committee on Statistics which has taken a lead role in the process of the SDG nationalization through the establishment of a national monitoring mechanism to set baselines and targets and report on progress in the process of nationalizing SDG indicators. The first national workshop on SDG indicators was organized in September with significant technical support from several UN Agencies including with experts from other countries. UN Women chaired a working group on the SDGs 5 and 11, and contributed to the harmonization of other gender-related indicators ensuring that participants observe the principle of “leaving no one behind” that guides every goal of the 2030 Agenda. As a main result of this meeting is worth to note that there was identified the list of national indicators available for national SDG monitoring, including their sources for use in national strategic planning, as well as necessary disaggregation level. Two main documents were prepared there: a draft of nationally agreed list of indicators and a plan of further actions. Both documents were circulated by the Statistics Committee among the state ministries for further endorsement by the Government of Kazakhstan.

UN Women, under a cost sharing agreement with Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan, promoted nationalization of gender-related goals and targets of the Sustainable Development Goals in the countries of Central Asia. Within implementation of this project UN Women raised the capacity of more than 80 state bodies and media representatives on correct coverage of gender-related SDGs in the context of Kazakhstan.

UN RC and UNCT undertook a number of efforts to advocate for SDGs nationalization, e.g., by preparing inputs for the meeting on SDGs held in the Presidential Administration (led by State Secretary). In December 2017, UN RC met with the Prime Minister (PM) of Kazakhstan jointly with ADB Country Director, at which RC proposed to establish a national SDG coordination architecture under the leadership of PM. The PM welcomed the idea and tasked the Government officials to develop a proposal for adoption by the Government. UN continues to provide advice and support in this regard.

In respect of regional cooperation, the following are worth mentioning:

On January 31, 2017, the President of Kazakhstan signed a Decree “On Approval of the Main Directions of the State Policy of the Republic of Kazakhstan in the Field of ODA for 2016-2020”. This strategic document defines the thematic and geographic areas for the Kazakhstan ODA. Despite the Agency has not been established yet, the Government continues providing outbound aid to other countries in the Central Asian region and beyond. The concept for distribution of Child Friendly ODA has been developed by UNICEF and is being prepared for testing.

New joint MFA-UNDP project was launched with financial support of the Govt. of Japan (\$300,000) for women’s employment in Afghanistan. Within this project UNDP successfully organized the Capacity Building and Networking Seminar in Astana (CBNSA) for Civil Servants and NGO Representatives from Afghanistan on July 8-13, 2017. The seminar was attended by 24 Afghan civil servants and NGO representatives (more than 80% of seminar participants were women).

The Second Regional Networking Forum on South-South and Triangular Cooperation for the Arab states, Europe and the CIS was carried out by the Ministry of National Economy of the Republic of Kazakhstan with the support of the Astana Civil Service Hub (ACSH)² under the Astana Economic Forum on 15 June 2017. The Forum greatly succeeded in advancing further the dialogue on how to leverage South-South Cooperation in implementing 2030 SDG Agenda, with a focus on promoting the Green Economy partnerships and opened new

2. The Regional Hub of Civil Service in Astana (ACSH) is an initiative of the Government of Kazakhstan and the United Nations Development Programme

venues of partnerships.

On 12 April 2017 ACSH had conducted Annual Conference on “Partnership for Civil Service Excellence”, in which leading experts, representatives of international organizations and authorized state bodies from around 40 countries have gathered in order to exchange experience and opinions on pressing issues and challenges faced by the countries of the region in the sphere of civil service, as well as the role of partnership and the ACSH in their solution. The Conference shed light on transformations of the civil service in the concerned countries and provided a dialogue platform for addressing knowledge needs and extending capacity-building opportunities. ACSH has become an effective international platform for exchange of experience, practical knowledge and innovative solutions in the region and beyond.

The MoU between the CESDRR and UNICEF on DRR with and for children and humanitarian action in the Central Asia and South Caucasus sub-region signed on 2 March 2017 by the UNICEF Regional Director and Director of the CESDRR. The main areas of cooperation include capacity development, knowledge management and experience exchange on the UNICEF Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action, child-centred DRR, innovation and advocacy.

On 30 May 2017, UNHCR conducted a Round Table on Birth Registration and the Right to Nationality aimed at ensuring universal birth registration and the right of all children to nationality. During the reporting period, UNHCR identified 471 persons with undetermined nationality, de-jure stateless and persons at risk of statelessness, 410 requests related to individual cases were submitted to the Embassies of third countries and/or competent State agencies of Kazakhstan. 131 persons were documented as citizens of Kazakhstan or third countries.

UNHCR shared with the Ministry of Internal Affairs the Guide for Issuing Machine Readable Convention Travel Documents (MRCTDs) for Refugees and Stateless Persons jointly developed by UNHCR and the ICAO. The Guide provided guidance to the States and other relevant actors for the production and issuance of MRCTDs for refugees and stateless persons, based on existing standards and recommendations.

The Ministry of Energy of the Republic of Kazakhstan, UNDP, UN Environment, UNECE, UNIDO, and UNESCAP adopted a joint statement on the International Centre for Green Technologies and Investment Projects, which was included into the Declaration of the Ministerial Conference “Meeting the challenge of sustainable energy” held in the context of UNECE’s Eighth International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development organized on 11 June 2017 in Astana. Several consultations among UN and national partners were held on the developing the concept and outlining possible cooperation options and modalities. Later in the year, UN also briefed on the topic to Ambassadors accredited to Kazakhstan, at MFA’s invitation, and continues to offer support as Kazakhstan works on the establishment of the Centre.

A series of regional trainings and consultations with Central Asian states were organised by UNRCCA to discuss transboundary issues, including water diplomacy and regional security. These events aimed at building capacity of Central Asian countries in water diplomacy were held in each capital cities of the Central Asian states and contributed to the implementation and coordination of international donor initiatives, facilitation of dialogue on trans-boundary water issues and development of positive relations between Central Asia and Afghanistan.

UNRCCA conducted a High Level UN-Central Asian Dialogue on the Implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in Central Asia and a series of regional trainings aimed at capacity building in the field of mediation and conflict prevention for diplomats and other government officials from all Central Asian states and Afghanistan responsible for conflict analysis and resolutions in international affairs. These events contributed to the implementation of the Joint Plan of Action (JPoA) in Central Asia, adapted in 2011, and helped define future strategic priorities in the region.

Within the framework of its strategic dialogue series on security related topics UNRCCA, in partnership with UN Women and UNFPA, organized the regional seminar “Role of Women and Youth in Conflict Prevention in Central Asia” on 19-20 June. The event analysed youth and women engagement in processes related to peace, security and development in the region, and produced recommendations for relevant actors in this area. The event also provided a useful networking opportunity for the participants.

In November 2017, UNRCCA jointly with the Regional Office of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in Central Asia and the Government of Uzbekistan hosted as a co-organizer an International conference “Central Asia: Shared Past and a Common Future, Cooperation for Sustainable Development and Mutual Prosperity”, which took place in Samarkand. The conference gathered foreign ministers from Central Asian countries, high-ranking officials from the CIS countries, Europe, Asia and America, heads of international organizations, including the UN, EU, OSCE, SCO, CIS, EBRD and representatives of the diplomatic corps. The two-day forum discussed specific areas for enhancing cooperation between the Central Asian countries in the political, economic, transport-communication, water-energy, environmental and cultural-humanitarian areas, as well as the role of international organizations and partner countries in building the capacity of countries to face modern challenges and threats.

In December 2017, UNRCCA conducted a Meeting of Central Asian Foreign Ministers, which brought together Ministers and Deputy Ministers from all Central Asian countries and Afghanistan. The meeting provided an opportunity to exchange views on peace and security developments in the region, and to agree on ways to enhance regional cooperation.

With the view to promoting the use of cultural and natural heritage resources in Central Asia for the development of sustainable tourism, a sub-regional meeting of heritage managers and tourism experts was held in Almaty in April 2017. UNESCO promoted regional cooperation among the countries of Central Asia as well as the various agencies concerned within the countries (i.e. Ministries of Culture, of Defence, and of Internal Affairs, and customs agencies) to prevent thefts and illicit trafficking of cultural assets within the framework of UNESCO’s Conventions for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict (1954) and the Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property (1970).

The Sustainable UN facility (SUN) was invited by the UN Environment Central Asia office to carry out an initial sustainability assessment of the proposed UN Hub building in Almaty, Kazakhstan. The mission was held in December 2017, and the report has been prepared on the details of the initial assessment of current fit-out design and operational aspects, and proposals and recommendations aimed at ensuring a high degree of environmental, social and economic sustainability of the proposed development.

UNEP has supported the Inter-State Commission on Sustainable Development (ICSD) in Central Asia regular meeting in 2017 where the revision of the Regional Environmental Action Plan was initiated to improve regional cooperation and interaction in light of the SDGs, green economy and Paris Agreement. Outlook on the on the climate change adaptation in mountains regions of Central Asia is launched in June 2017, strategic guidance on the same topic was developed during 2017 to be presented in 2018 at the World Mountains Forum.

Trainings and seminars on environmental SDGs and related reporting are organized in cooperation among UNEP, UN ECE and UNDP with the regional participation. Draft regional report/scorecards on the related subject is been developed now. On-line system for state of environment report and SDGs is updated for Kazakhstan, to be launched in 2018.

RESULTS OF OPERATING AS ONE

In 2017 OMT successfully implemented the following activities:

1. Effective support to the UNCT with regards to the UN Common Premises management (Astana and Almaty) through constant revision of CP budgets and workplans, monitoring their implementation, and making corresponding recommendations to UNCT as a decision-making body;
2. Clarified and confirmed the exemption status of the UN with regards to the obligatory social and medical insurance scheme introduced by the Government of Kazakhstan in July 2017;
3. The 2017 Annual DSA survey which resulted in the new DSA rates for Kazakhstan effective 1 November 2017;
4. A procurement process on establishment of new LTAs with hotels in Astana and Almaty (accommodation and conference package services). The new LTAs, effective November 2017, were signed with 5 hotels in Astana and 4 hotels in Almaty.

RESULTS OF COMMUNICATING AS ONE

Coherent, inter-agency cooperation based approach in respect of the “Communicating as One” approach is a key element of the joint UN communications and advocacy in the Republic of Kazakhstan.

SDGs have been the main theme for UN joint advocacy in 2017. Starting with 25th anniversary of Kazakhstan's membership in UN, and throughout the summer during EXPO 2017, as well as in all joint and agency-specific events, including but not limited to UN Day celebration held in the context of EXPO 2017, Youth Forum-Cafe “Youth for Sustainable Development and Energy Efficient Lifestyle to Secure Peace and Stability Worldwide”, RC and other HoAs lectures on SDGs at universities, Student Contest on SDGs, etc. A special SDG advocacy plan was developed by the UN Communications Group and implemented throughout the year.

With the aim to exercise the most effective approach towards full implementation of the “Communicating as One” approach in Kazakhstan the “Joint UN KZ Communication strategy” that is aligned with the PFD 2016-2020 has been updated and UNCG thematic workshop has been organized. Advocacy campaigns have been organized to mark World Health Day; World Refugee Day, World Population Day; UN Day; Universal Children’s Day; Human Rights Day; International Migrants Day, etc.



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