



UNITED NATIONS
KYRGYZ REPUBLIC



2020 UN COUNTRY ANNUAL RESULTS REPORT

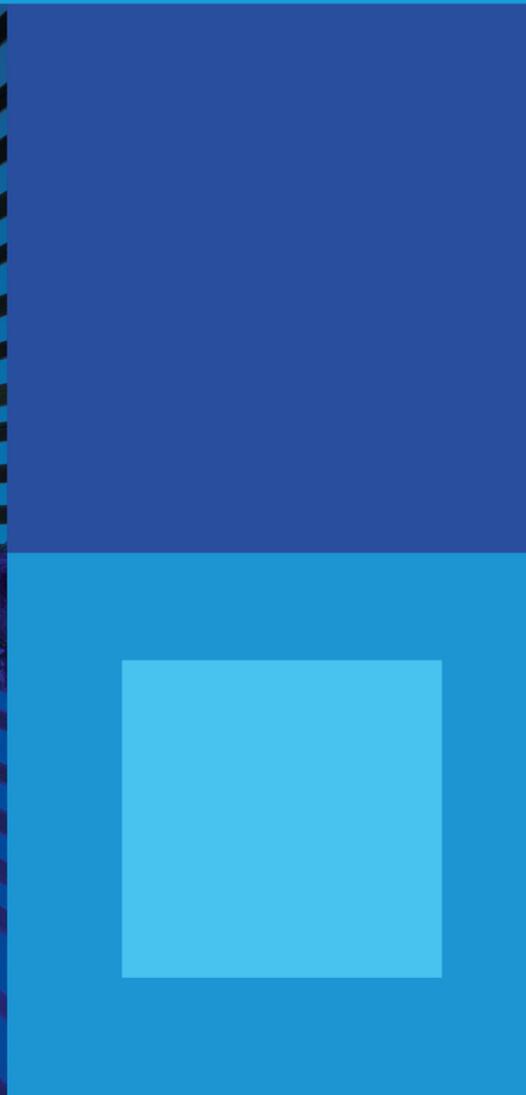


Table of Contents

Foreword	1
UN Country Team in the Kyrgyz Republic	4
Key development partners of the UN system in the Kyrgyz Republic	7
Overview: UNDAF 2018–22 Priority Areas	13
Chapter 1: Key developments in the country and regional context	14
Chapter 2: UN socio-economic response to the COVID-19	17
Chapter 3: UN development system support to national development priorities through the UNDAF 2018–22	26
3.1. Overview of UNDAF 2018–22 Results	27
3.2. UNDAF 2018–22 priorities, outcomes and outputs	30
3.3. Support to Partnerships and Financing the 2030 Agenda	43
3.4. Results of the UN working more and better together: UN coherence, effectiveness and efficiency	46
3.5. Evaluations and Lessons Learned	49
3.6. Financial Overview and Resource Mobilization	51
Chapter 4: UNCT key focus for 2021	52

Foreword



Ozonnia Ojielo, UN Resident Coordinator

In 2020, the people of the Kyrgyz Republic, like those of many other countries, experienced the devastating effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic spread human suffering, destabilized the economy and upended lives in every city and village. In 2020, more than 81,000 cases of COVID-19, including 1,360 deaths, were registered. As this report is being published, the virus continues to claim lives almost every day. The darkest days of the pandemic, that saw the health system overwhelmed, medical personnel exhausted beyond all limits, and official statistics for deaths reached dozens per day in June-July 2020, may have passed, but the pandemic is more than just a health crisis. It has pushed many people deeper into poverty, widened social inequality and exacerbated human rights and gender issues.

In 2020 Kyrgyzstan's economy suffered a 8.6 per cent decline in GDP (a record fall since 1994), 9.7 per cent inflation, and a 17.6 per cent increase in food prices. Like never before, a whole-of-society approach and national mobilization through increased collaboration and coordination between government institutions at all levels, civil society organizations, businesses, women, youth and communities is absolutely vital to build back better and to leave no one behind.

To protect Kyrgyzstan's hard-won progress on the SDGs and to continue to actively seek opportunities for a more sustainable and inclusive future development path, the UN

provided uninterrupted development support in 2020 and continues to support the Government in recovering from the crisis stronger and more ambitious in this Decade of Action on the SDGs. In 2020 we re-purposed more than half of the UN's annual financial support for Kyrgyzstan to the COVID-19 response through the Disaster Response Coordination Unit's (DRCU) USD 67.4 million Response and Recovery Plan, in full agreement and coordination with the Government, and embedded the remaining response activities into the UN's Socio-economic Response Framework (SERF), for which we mobilized USD 48 million, including additional repurposed funds by UN agencies, and we are mobilizing an additional USD 56 million to ensure that the Framework is fully funded. The SERF is supporting the Government to mitigate immediate socio-economic impact of the pandemic and to pave the way for a sustainable, longer-term recovery. A safe and equitable recovery – reaching those furthest left behind first – remains our priority in dialogues with the government.

A key accomplishment in 2020 was the Kyrgyz Republic's submission, for the first time, of a Voluntary National Report on progress towards the SDGs. This was presented at the UN's High-Level Political Forum in July. The VNR reflects on the country's fundamental and practical approaches to achieving the SDGs, challenges and successes, as well as the areas where further work is required.

As the Kyrgyz Republic has embarked upon political and other reforms, the UN will continue to support the Government to pursue these reforms based on UN Charter principles of peace, security, development, gender equality and human rights. With the comparative experience and expertise of 26 agencies active in the country, and leveraging the capacities and assets of all of the UN Development System agencies, we reaffirm our support to the people of the Kyrgyz Republic to achieve sustainable, inclusive and long-term recovery from the challenging socioeconomic situation and reaching the multiple goals of its national development agenda.

UN Country Team in the Kyrgyz Republic

Physical in country presence through representative office, programme/project presence



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) leads international efforts to defeat hunger, improve nutrition, increase agricultural productivity, raise the standard of living in rural populations and contribute to global economic growth. FAO's assistance in Kyrgyzstan spans the agriculture sector, including crop, livestock and fisheries projects and support to sustainable land and forest management in the face of climate change.



The International Organization for Migration (IOM) is the UN's migration agency. In the Kyrgyz Republic IOM works to help ensure the orderly and humane management of migration, promote international cooperation on migration issues, assist in the search for practical solutions to migration problems and provide humanitarian assistance to migrants in need, including refugees and internally displaced people.



The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), Regional Office for Central Asia (ROCA) was established in 2008 in Bishkek and currently covers all five countries in the region: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. OHCHR formulates and implements programmes and activities to promote and protect all human rights in the countries of Central Asia.



The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is dedicated to saving lives, protecting rights and building a better future for refugees, forcibly displaced communities and stateless people. UNHCR in Kyrgyzstan works with partners to: support the Government to improve its national asylum system; enhance measures aiming at prevention of statelessness; and strengthen emergency preparedness.



The **UNAIDS** provides the strategic direction, advocacy, coordination and technical support needed to catalyse and connect leadership from governments, the private sector and communities to deliver life-saving HIV services. Aimed at reaching 90-90-90 targets UNAIDS Country Office supports the country in enhancing M&E systems, decentralization of HIV services, combining prevention among key population groups and development of HIV strategic documents and shaping national policy. It also advocates for the human rights of vulnerable groups.



The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) provides humanitarian and developmental aid to children worldwide, focusing on child protection, health, social policy, early childhood development and education, water, sanitation and hygiene, response in emergencies, climate change and disaster risk preparedness, children with disabilities and youth. In Kyrgyzstan, UNICEF works with the Government to improve the social system, and on the ground to make sure that this system reaches all children, particularly the most vulnerable.



Empowered lives
Resilient nations

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) supports countries operationally on their development paths. UNDP in Kyrgyzstan focuses on sustainable and inclusive economic growth; accountable institutions, justice and peace, HIV and AIDS, the environment, climate change and disaster risk reduction.



OCHA
Office for the Coordination
of Humanitarian Affairs

The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) contributes to principled and effective humanitarian response through coordination, advocacy, policy, information management and humanitarian financing tools and services.



United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) provides assistance to implement drug conventions and global counter-terrorism instruments, as well as UN standards and norms on crime prevention and criminal justice. In Kyrgyzstan, UNODC supports the Government's efforts to counter traditional and emerging threats of transnational organized crime, drug trafficking and terrorism, fostering criminal justice reforms and strengthening anti-corruption measures, as well as evidence-based drug demand reduction and HIV prevention strategies.



The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) aims to deliver a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth safe, and every young person's potential fulfilled. In the Kyrgyz Republic UNFPA supports the most vulnerable and marginalized, including women and girls at risk of child marriage and violence, those from rural areas and migrants, young people who are unemployed or not in formal education, women with disabilities, key populations and people living with HIV.



UNRCCA

The United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia (UNRCCA) is an example of political engagement and preventive efforts by the United Nations in support of Member States. It is mandated to liaise with the Governments of the region on issues relevant to preventive diplomacy; to provide monitoring and analysis; to maintain contact with regional organizations and facilitate coordination and information exchange. In addition, the Centre is to provide an overall framework and leadership for the preventive activities of the UN country teams and to maintain close contact with the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan to ensure a comprehensive and integrated analysis of the situation in the region.



The **UN Women** in Kyrgyzstan assists national partners and the UN system to progress more effectively and efficiently towards achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women. UN Women's work in Kyrgyzstan focuses on two main priority areas: eliminating violence against women and girls; and promoting gender-responsive governance and ensuring women's leadership and participation in decision making at all levels.



The **World Food Programme** (WFP) is the leading humanitarian organization saving lives and changing lives, delivering lifesaving food assistance in emergencies often in extremely dangerous and hard-to-access conditions and working with communities to improve nutrition and build resilience. In 2020 the WFP was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. WFP's mandate in the Kyrgyz Republic, aligned with government priorities, is to ensure food security and nutrition for all, especially the most vulnerable, through the implementation of safety net measures throughout the country.



The **World Health Organization** (WHO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations responsible for international public health. In Kyrgyzstan WHO supports the Government to maximize opportunities for promoting population health and reducing health inequities, by taking an intersectoral, health-in-all-policies approach and emphasizing the need to improve overall governance for health.



The **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization** (UNESCO) seeks to build peace through international cooperation in education, the sciences and culture. UNESCO focuses on promoting quality education and skills development at all levels, evidence-based policy-making, safeguarding cultural heritage and promoting cultural diversity, supports scientific institutions and uses sciences to address global challenges, promotes freedom of expression, quality journalism and media and information literacy, empowers young people as agents of positive changes and supports people from vulnerable groups to eradicate inequalities in the society.

Separate liaison office/project office



International
Labour
Organization

The International Labour Organization (ILO) is devoted to promoting social justice and internationally recognized human and labour rights. The ILO's work in Kyrgyzstan focuses primarily on promoting decent work; promoting respect for freedom of association; ensuring social protection for all; achieving full, productive and freely chosen employment; eliminating child labour, forced labour and modern slavery, mainstreaming gender equality in the world of work; strengthening maternity protection; and reducing the informal economy.



International
Trade
Centre

The International Trade Centre (ITC) is a joint agency of the World Trade Organization and the United Nations that works towards creating 'trade impact for good'. Since 2002, ITC's work in the Kyrgyz Republic has included promoting Kyrgyz exports of fruits and vegetables, textile and clothing products, and enhancing the capacity of government officials, trade and investment support institutions and exporters.



The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) promotes industrial development for poverty reduction, inclusive globalization and environmental sustainability. Currently the main focus of UNIDO in Kyrgyzstan is Programme for Country Partnership (PCP), the first pilot programme in Europe and Central Asia, that includes five priority industrial sectors: energy, agro-industry, constructions materials, light industry and tourism

Non-physical in country presence through regional office or sub-regional office



UNECE

The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), as a multilateral platform, facilitates greater economic integration and cooperation among its 56 member States and promotes sustainable development and economic prosperity. In Kyrgyzstan UNECE focuses its projects on trade and environmental issues.



The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) is both a specialized agency of the United Nations and an international financial institution, established to mobilize resources for agriculture and rural development in developing countries. In Kyrgyzstan it works on participatory pasture management and empowering users' unions, which are becoming entry points to reach livestock smallholders.



The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) mission is to provide leadership and encourage partnership in caring for the environment by inspiring, informing, and enabling nations and peoples to improve their quality of life without compromising that of future generations. UNEP's sub-regional office for Central Asia based in Almaty, Kazakhstan was established in March 2015. Cooperation with the Kyrgyz Republic and other Central Asian countries focuses on seven broad thematic areas: 1. Climate change; 2. Resilience to Disasters and Conflicts; 3. Healthy and Productive Ecosystems; 4. Environmental Governance; 5. Chemicals, Waste and Air quality; 6. Resource Efficiency; 7. Environment under Review.



The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) promotes regional cooperation for inclusive economic and social development and supports regional cooperation and integration in the Asia and Pacific region. ESCAP's role as a regional development arm of the United Nations Secretariat is to support its membership, through analytical, normative, and technical cooperation, to respond to the development priorities and changing needs of the Asia Pacific region.

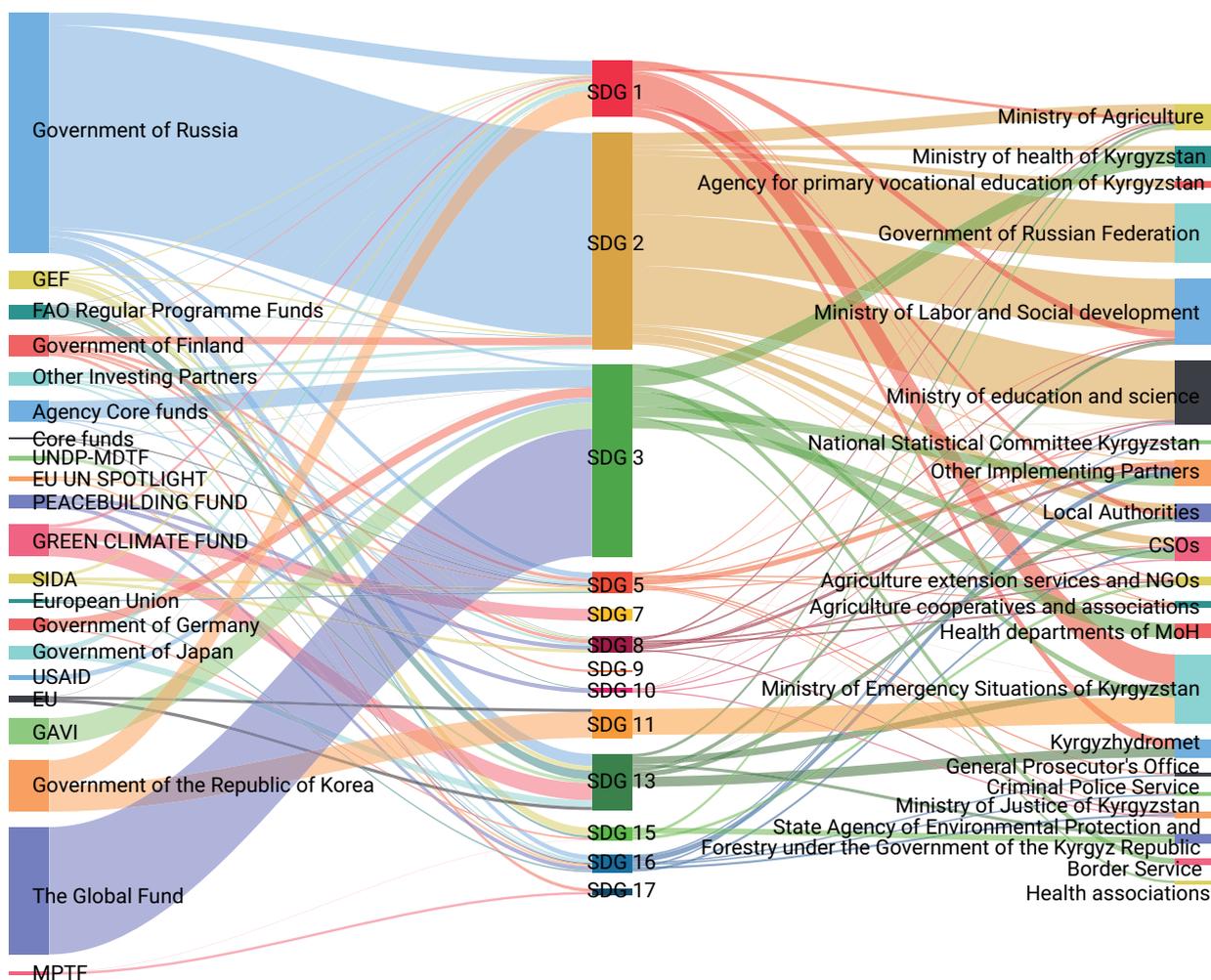


The United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme contributes to peace and development through volunteerism worldwide. We work with partners to integrate qualified, highly motivated and well supported UN Volunteers into development programming and promote the value and global recognition of volunteerism. UNV is administered by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).



The **United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction** is the United Nations focal point for disaster risk reduction. UNDRR oversees the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, supporting countries in its implementation, monitoring and sharing what works in reducing existing risk and preventing the creation of new risk. UNDRR's vision is anchored on the four priorities for action set out in the Sendai Framework. UNDRR coordinates international efforts in Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and it reports on the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. It convenes the biennial Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction.

Key development partners of the UN system in the Kyrgyz Republic



Graphic 1. Investments contributing to the work of different agencies and partners to advance the Sustainable Development Goals in Kyrgyzstan. (source UNINFO)

The partnership between the UN and the Kyrgyz Republic is based on trust, national ownership and leadership, transparency and accountability. The UN's partners in the Kyrgyz Republic include the Government, international financial institutions, academia and research think-tanks, workers' and employers' and business membership organizations and various NGOs.

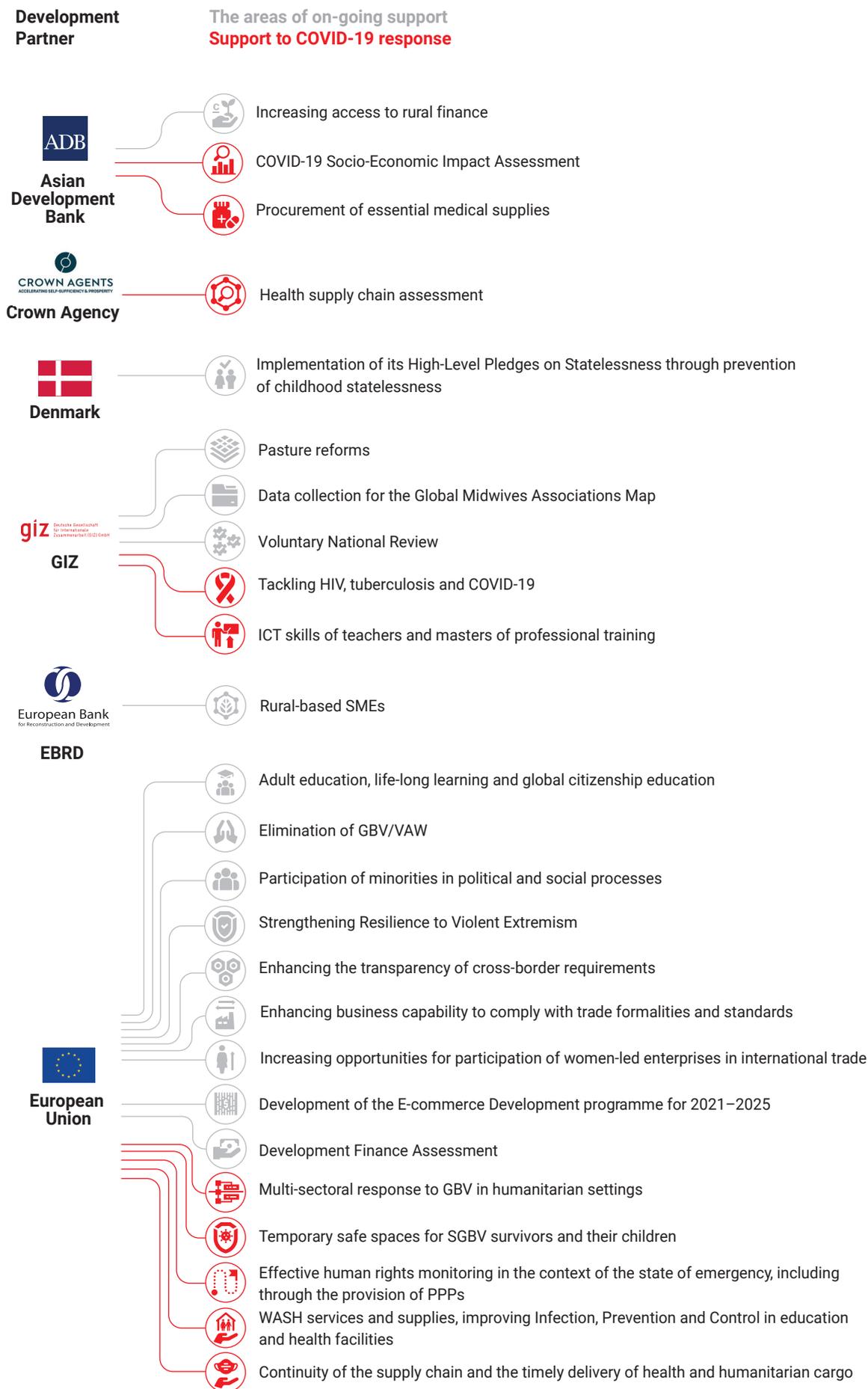
Partnerships have been developed and strengthened with a wide range of government counterparts. These include the Parliament, the Central Election Commission, the Office of the President, the Office of the Government, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Industry and Melioration; the Ministry of Economy; the Ministry of Finance; the Ministry of Emergency Situations;; the Ministry of Justice; the Ministry of Health; The Mandatory Health Insurance Fund, the Ministry of Education and Science; the Ministry of Internal Affairs; the Ministry of Labour and Social Development, the National Statistics Committee, the National Bank, the Investment Promotion and Protection Agency, the State Personnel Service, the State Migration Services, the State Tax Service, the State Agency for Local Self-Governance and Interethnic Relations, the Prosecutor General's Office, the State Agency on Environment Protection and Forestry, the Supreme Court, the State Committee on Informational Technologies and Communication, the State Committee on Industry, Energy, and Subsoil Management, the State Committee for National Security, the State Agency for Youth, Physical Culture and Sports, National Human Rights Institutions (Ombudsman and National preventive mechanism), the Osh and Batken provincial governments and local self-governments, academia and research institutions, workers' and employers' and business membership organizations and various non-governmental organizations.

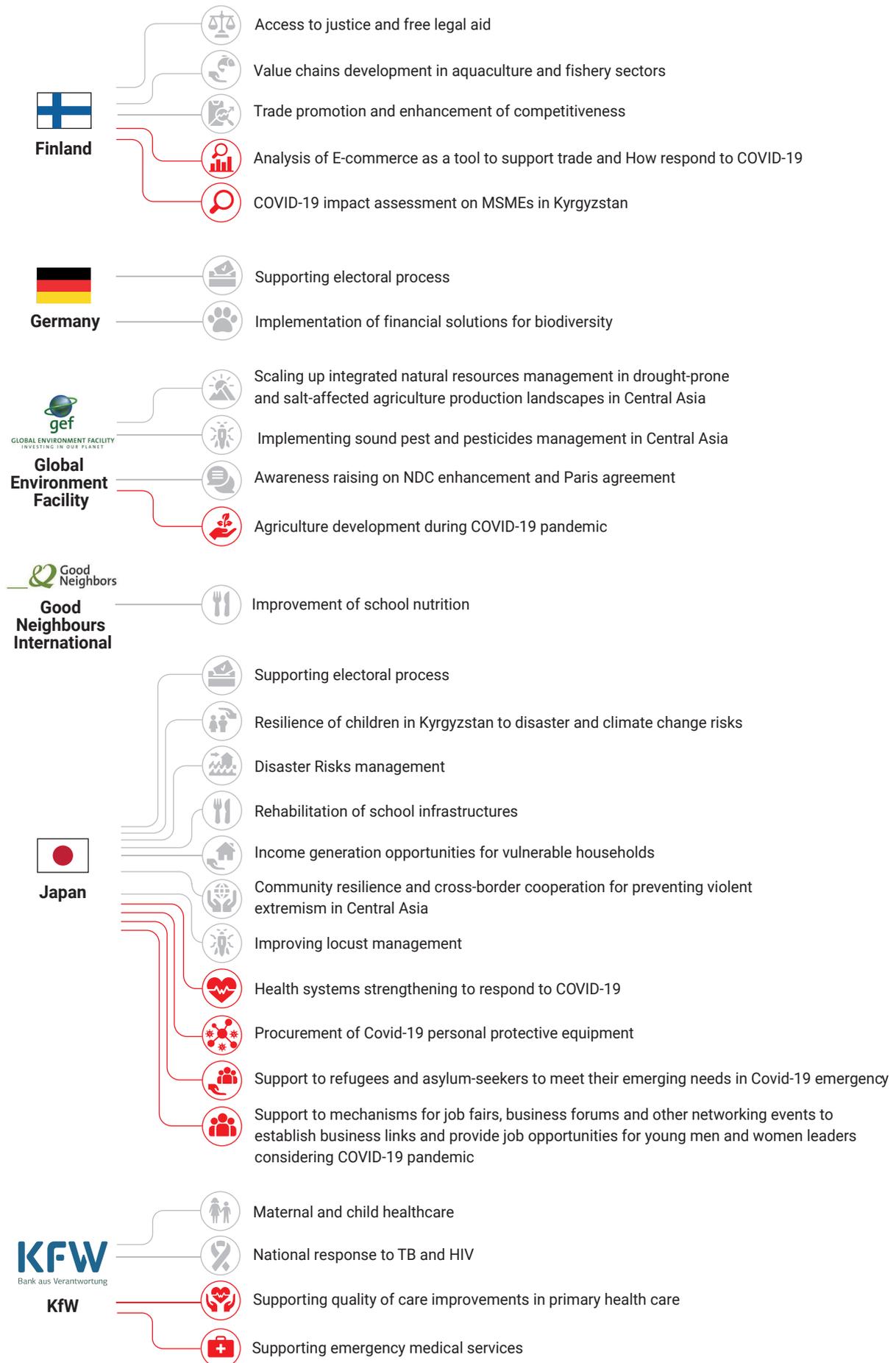
The UN's partnerships with international financial institutions, collaboration with other development partners, and its participation at the Development Partners Coordination Council (DPCC) are particularly crucial for coordinated and complementary development action. These partnerships enable the creation of impact assessments and analysis, financing and resource-mobilization for national development priorities, complementary action on UN normative values, policy advocacy on urgent macroeconomic measures to provide relief to COVID-19 and broader development issues, effective programme design and delivery, and planning for the longer term.

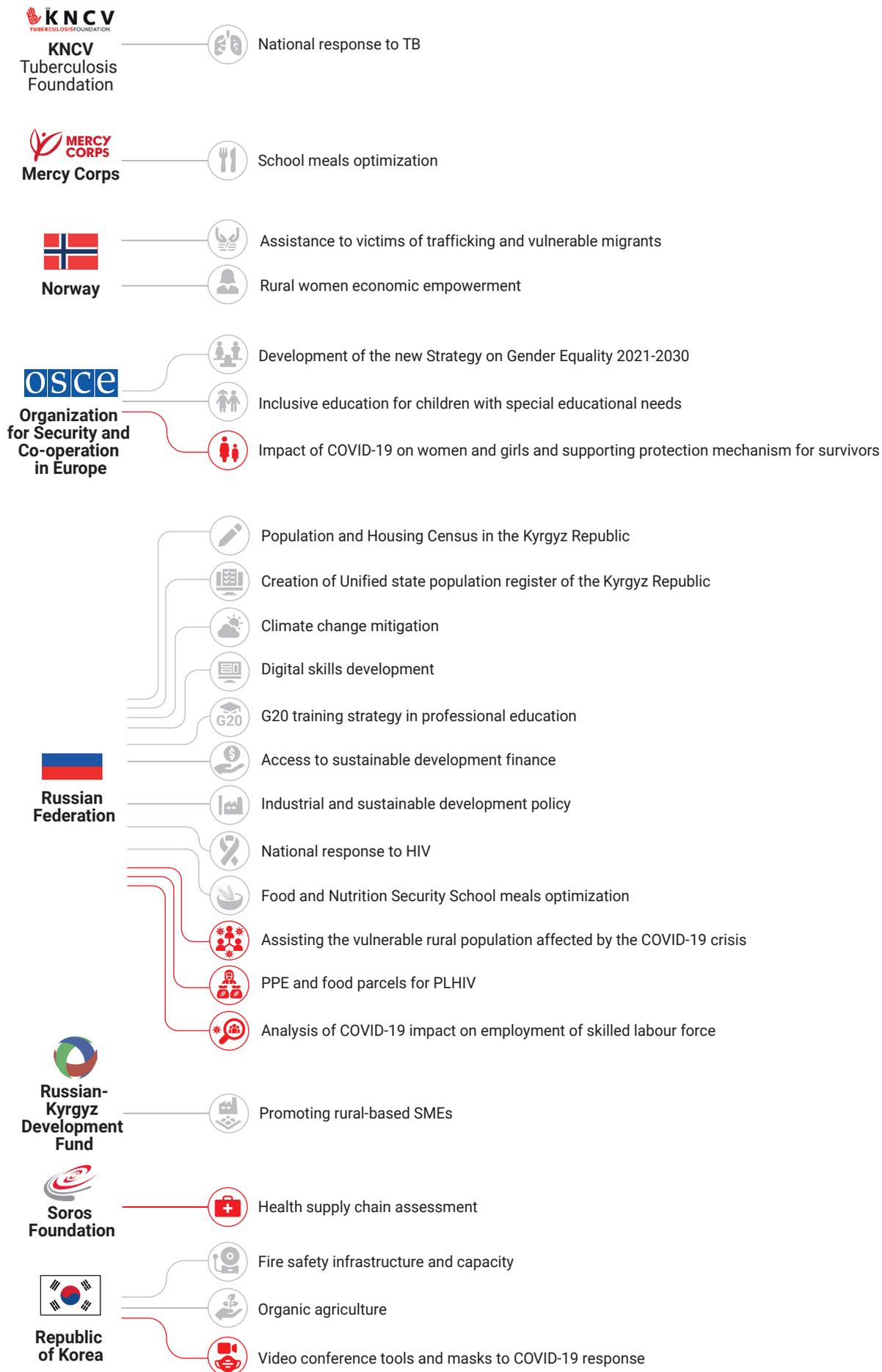
The UN has extensive connections with civil society organizations, workers' and employers and business membership organizations, women's groups, and volunteer groups. Many of these organizations are facing different kinds of challenges and the UN will continue to partner with them to enable the creation and sustenance of appropriate policy frameworks, laws and regulations that enhance their work. Many of them continue to indispensable roles in the COVID-19 response, notably in reaching out to vulnerable people, mobilizing and distributing humanitarian aid especially to people in remote communities, and in contributing to the responsiveness of the electoral bodies during elections.

The UN has been cooperating closely with the centres established by the Government to coordinate the health and socio-economic response and recovery to COVID-19. The Disaster Risk Coordination Unit – under the leadership of the UN Resident Coordinator and comprising the heads of UN agencies, the Red Cross/Red Crescent movement, international humanitarian organizations and NGOs – was activated at the request of the Government in March 2020 to coordinate support from the UN and the international community for an effective response to COVID-19.

The UN is grateful for the support of many development partners for their partnership with Kyrgyzstan during this difficult year. Some of the key contributions especially in relation to the Covid-19 responses are listed below.









**Switzerland/
SDC - Swiss
Agency for
Development
and
Cooperation**

- Development of the new Strategy on Gender Equality 2021–2030
- Building Parliamentary democracy and Civil Society participation
- Supporting electoral process
- Strengthening Non-Communicable Diseases diagnosis and management
- Capacity for implementation of the national health reforms
- Market access for small and medium-sized enterprises through strengthening the value chains
- Quality of care improvements in primary health care
- Procurement of PPPs
- Improving the sexual and reproductive health during the COVID-19 pandemic
- Food security through cash-based transfers targeting the 'new poor'



Turkey

- Management of wheat rust diseases
- Reducing food loss and waste in the region
- Capacities for sustainable fisheries and aquaculture management in Central Asia



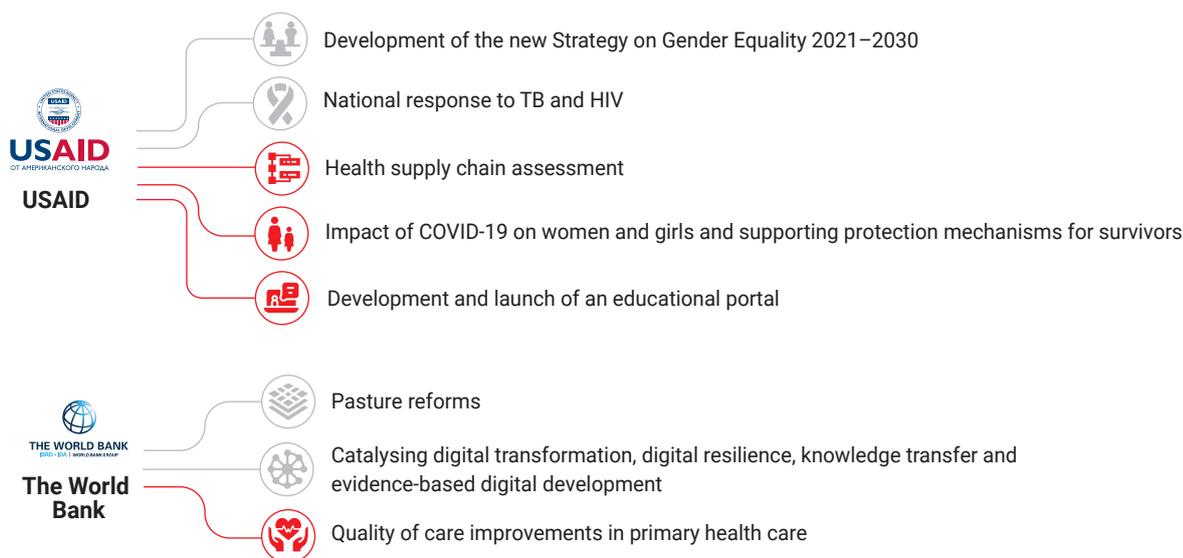
**United
Kingdom**

- Coherent climate change action and increasing public awareness
- Prevention and response to GBV in Central Asia
- Community stabilization
- Safe spaces and psycho-social support to GBV survivors in the context of COVID-19
- COVID-19 safety measures for faith-based organizations
- Reintegration of returned migrants



**United
States**

- Rule of law, human rights and gender equality
- Preventing and combatting trafficking in persons
- Anticorruption
- Access to justice victims of trafficking in persons
- Strengthening forensic services
- Health and education
- Procurement of essential medical supplies



Overview: UNDAF 2018–22 Priority Areas

The UN partnership with the Kyrgyz Republic is based on trust, mutual ownership and accountability and co-creation. Since the country’s independence in 1991, the UN has been the closest development partner of the Kyrgyz Republic, helping it set up its various institutions, investing in their growth and supporting the national development agenda. In line with UN’s global role, the UNCT serves as a development advisor to the

Government, bringing high quality policy advice and development support from national and international experts to support the national development agenda. Through the five-year UNDAF (2018–2022) programmes, the UN hopes to contribute about USD 230 million during the current UNDAF to support the implementation of national programmes towards achieving the SDGs and the human rights related commitments.

Priority	Outcome
I. Sustainable and Inclusive Economic Growth, Industrial, Rural and Agricultural Development, Food Security and Nutrition	By 2022, inclusive and sustainable industrial, agricultural and rural development contribute to economic growth, decent work, improved livelihoods, food security and nutrition, especially among women and vulnerable groups
II. Good Governance, Rule of Law, Human Rights and Gender Equality	By 2022, institutions at all levels are more accountable and inclusive ensuring justice, human rights, gender equality and sustainable peace for all
III. Environment, Climate Change, and Disaster Risk Management	By 2022, communities are more resilient to climate and disaster risks and are engaged in sustainable and inclusive natural resource management and risk-informed development
IV. Social Protection, Health and Education	By 2022, social protection, health and education systems are more effective and inclusive, and provide quality services

Chapter 1: Key developments in the the Kyrgyz Republic and regional context



As a small, landlocked country with relatively high poverty rates (20.1 percent in 2019) and a dependency on remittances from labour migrants working in neighbouring countries (equivalent to a third of national GDP), the Kyrgyz Republic is facing urgent challenges. The COVID-19 crisis is not only a health crisis, but, as in other countries, a crisis that has threatened the stability of the national economy and increased poverty and inequality. According to official statistics, as of 1 February 2021, 84,588 people in the Kyrgyz Republic had contracted COVID-19 and 1,412 people died from the disease. While official infection rates did not reach the critical levels of the hardest-hit countries, the pandemic exposed the weaknesses of the national health system and administrative capacity gaps in governance, disrupted service delivery by state institutions, and triggered an economic downturn that has heavily impacted groups and communities especially those in the informal sector and in the service economy. It has increased poverty, created social isolation, eroded trust in government and state institutions, and as a result has exacerbated the risks to social cohesion and stability. Delivery of services was heavily impacted in health care and education. On the flip side, the pandemic helped demonstrate the opportunities and increasing demand for new and innovative approaches, for example, for digital services and online education.

The GDP contracted by 8.6 per cent in 2020, the biggest fall since 1994. Inflation reached 9.7 per cent in 2020, and food prices increased by 17.6 per cent. Imports fell by 27.3 per cent, while exports increased by 1.7 per cent, due to an increase in the price of gold, which makes up almost half of Kyrgyzstan's exports. Over the course of the 2020, the Kyrgyz currency, the Som, fell by 22 per cent against the US dollar. COVID-19 has worsened the investment climate in Kyrgyzstan, which is landlocked and poorly connected by transport infrastructure. The deficit in external trade is estimated at USD 500 million. The official unemployment rate is 6.2 per cent, though COVID-19 may have led to a temporary unemployment of as high as 28

per cent as of mid-2020. Falling remittances added to a drastic and abrupt curtailment of household incomes in the country. Foreign debt payments are expected to grow; which in combination with lower tax revenues will lead to a severe budgetary shortfall. This in turn will make it more difficult for the government to meet social protection and welfare obligations. The Ministry of Internal Affairs has reported that lockdown policies have led to a 65 per cent increase in domestic violence cases.

In October 2020, the Kyrgyz Republic experienced political crisis. The parliamentary elections triggered mass protests that led to the election results being cancelled, and the Government and President resigning. The interim Government initiated constitutional reforms and amended the electoral law. New presidential elections were held on 10 January 2021, and the new President, Sadyr Japarov, who received 79.2 per cent of the vote, was sworn in on 28 January 2021.

A referendum on the form of government was held in parallel with the presidential elections, and 81.5 per cent of voters opted for a presidential form of government. Local and parliamentary elections are expected in 2021.

Constitutional reform is continuing in the country. The second version of the draft Constitution¹ – the result of the work of the Constitutional Council – was published by the Parliament on 9 February 2021. The draft intends to establish a presidential republic (strengthening Presidential powers), reform the judicial system, introduce a new consultative body (People's Kurultai) and introduce other changes. The public debate in the Parliament over the draft constitution concluded on 9 March 2021, and a referendum on the draft Constitution will be held on 11 April 2021, together with local elections.

The COVID-19 pandemic and political upheavals of 2020 are likely to reverse progress towards the SDGs, seriously delaying the achievement of those national

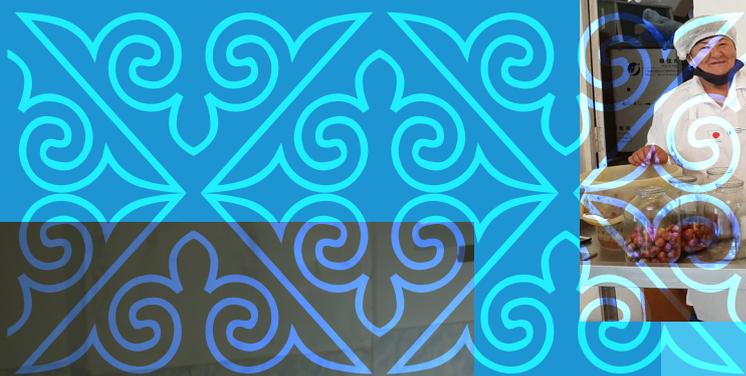
¹ The first working draft of the Constitution was published in November 2020 and reviewed and amended by the Constitutional Council.

SDGs that were lagging while limiting the Government's capability to improve the socio-economic situation, eliminate corruption, and carry out other important and urgently needed reforms. Political upheavals and potential constitutional reform pose multiple challenges to the rule of law, human rights, inclusiveness and participation, as well as social cohesion and peace in Kyrgyzstan.

The political crisis also exposed the weaknesses of democratic institutions in Kyrgyzstan and led to operational challenges for UN programme implementation in 2020 amid increased sensitivities around UN operations. The UN Country Team engaged with the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General to Central Asia and discussed priorities for supporting the country in the transitional period. The constitutional process, as well as risks to rule of law and human rights, are being monitored and analysed with potential UN response and engagement to a host of scenarios discussed on a continuing basis.

Central Asia remained stable in 2020, though drug trafficking and the violence undermining the peace process in Afghanistan as well as cross-border disputes between the countries of the region pose potential development, peace and security risks. There were several flare ups triggered by land and water disputes in the border areas between Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan in 2020: in some cases, firearms were used by border troops and civilians, with many people wounded, contributing to tensions and deepening distrust between the border communities.

Chapter 2: UN Socio-economic Response to the COVID-19



The first cases of COVID-19 in the Kyrgyz Republic were detected on 18 March 2020. The entire country was placed on an emergency footing on 22 March, with strict lockdown requirements in Bishkek, Osh, and selected parts of the country during March–May 2020. Like many other countries, the Kyrgyz Republic subsequently imposed border restrictions with neighbouring countries and suspended all international and domestic flights. The COVID-19 pandemic has been unprecedented in terms of scale, complexity and impact across the Country. The COVID-19 pandemic in the Kyrgyz Republic aggravated societal challenges such as unemployment

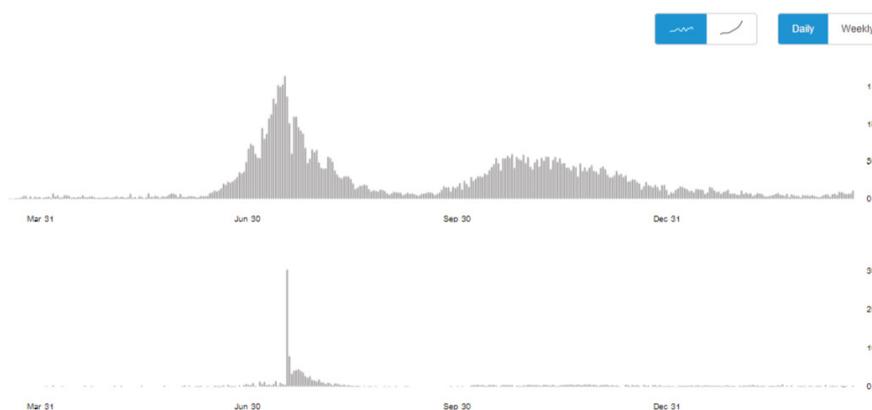
and hunger, highlighting vast inequalities, which in turn impacted the ability of policymakers to handle the crisis. It revealed systemic problems in education, public service competencies, governance, and decision making. The pandemic had put the country’s public finances under considerable strain. The overall decline in economic activity had led to a massive drop in public revenues: revenues from trade tax, social security contributions and value-added tax (VAT) have all but vanished and were expected to remain low as the crisis continues.

Kyrgyzstan Situation

87,652
confirmed cases

1,492
deaths

Source: World Health Organization

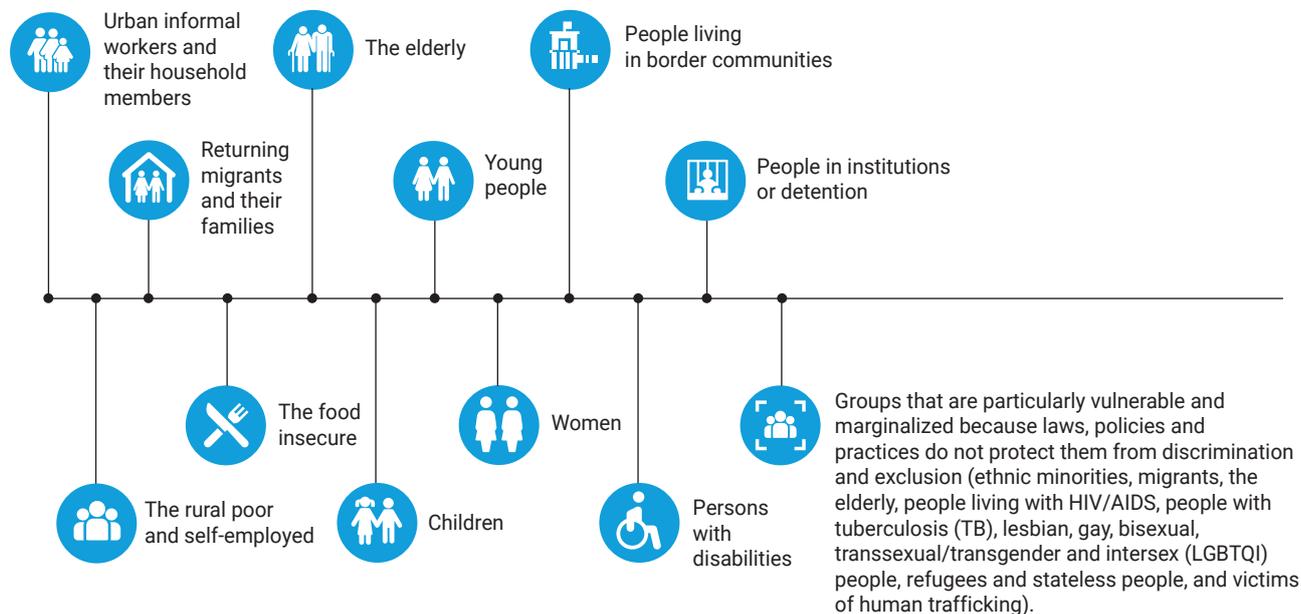


The Government of the Kyrgyz Republic had taken important steps to contain the spread of COVID-19. The Government launched a series of emergency schemes, including the provision of loans, guarantees, benefits and subsidies, however these were not sufficient to offset the pandemic’s negative impacts. The health sector was not sufficiently prepared or ready when the pandemic occurred. As a result, there were significant gaps in the delivery of health services to the people. Although the National Health Contingency Plans were flexible and aligned with prevailing transmission scenarios, existing capacity was limited in terms of the number of beds in the observation and treatment centres. There were serious gaps in preparedness in such areas as coordination (including planning scenarios), safety (including for hospital staff), and communication (including outreach to local communities), as well as in clinical, nursing,

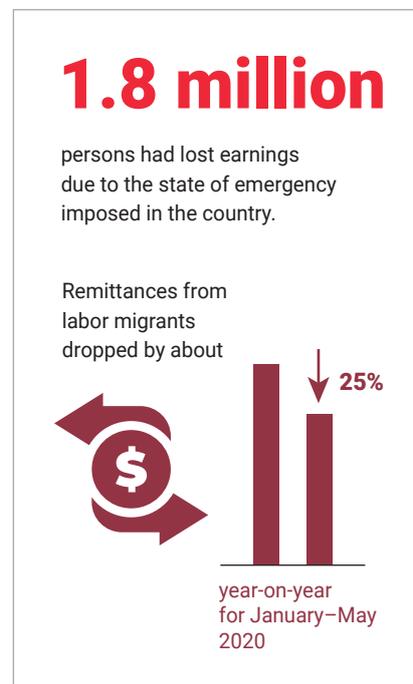
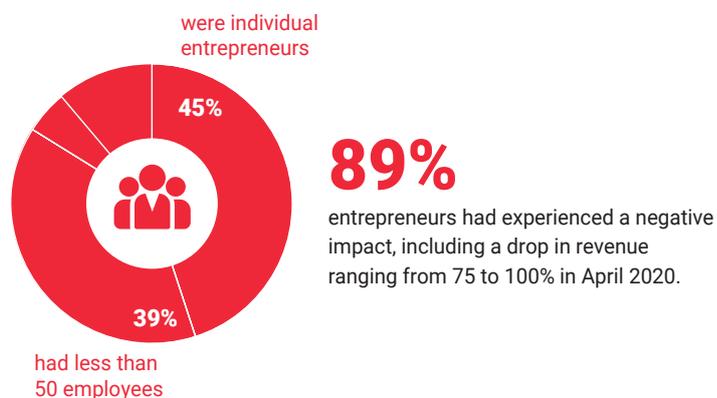
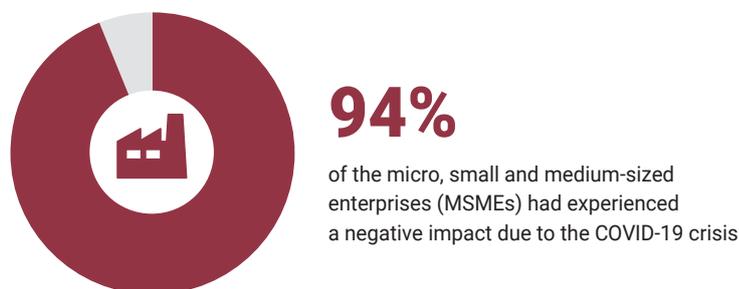
and other support services. Due to lockdown and budget insufficiency, most regular health services were suspended.

The socioeconomic impact of the pandemic is being felt through the following channels: (i) lost income due to lockdowns, disruptions in commercial activities, the loss of jobs and reduction in remittances from the large shares of the labour force working abroad; (ii) higher consumer, and especially food, price inflation rates (which were running at annual rates of 9% and 16% respectively in April 2020); (iii) reduced access to quality healthcare and other essential social services; and (iv) increases in the incidence of domestic and other forms of violence.

The available evidence from the COVID-19 impact suggests that the following groups require particular attention:

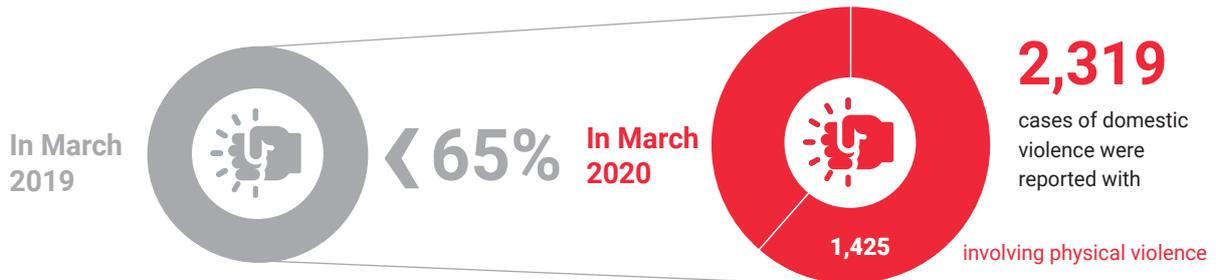
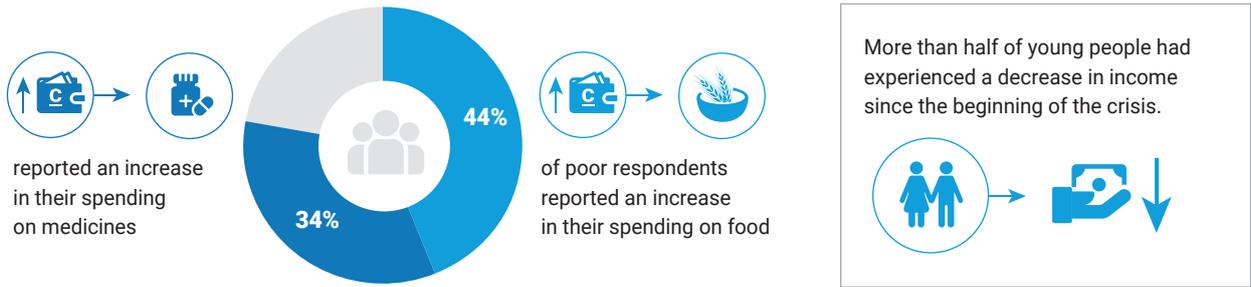


Key indicators of the socio-economic impact of COVID-19



The fluctuations in food prices and inflation during the pandemic are major factors influencing poverty rates:

price hikes of **10-15%**↑ potentially led to an increase in the poverty rate by **7-11%**↑



Brief overview of how the COVID-19 pandemic has affected programme implementation in the Kyrgyz Republic

Kyrgyzstan. Who is doing WHAT and WHERE (3W)

WHO

74

organizations

Type organizations

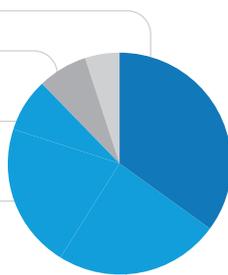
Donor

National NGO

Government

UN Agency

International NGO



WHAT

6 sectors

of activities per sectors



activities by status of implementation Status



Filter by Sector



Multisector 60 # of activities

WHERE

7 regions and nationwide

of activities per sectors



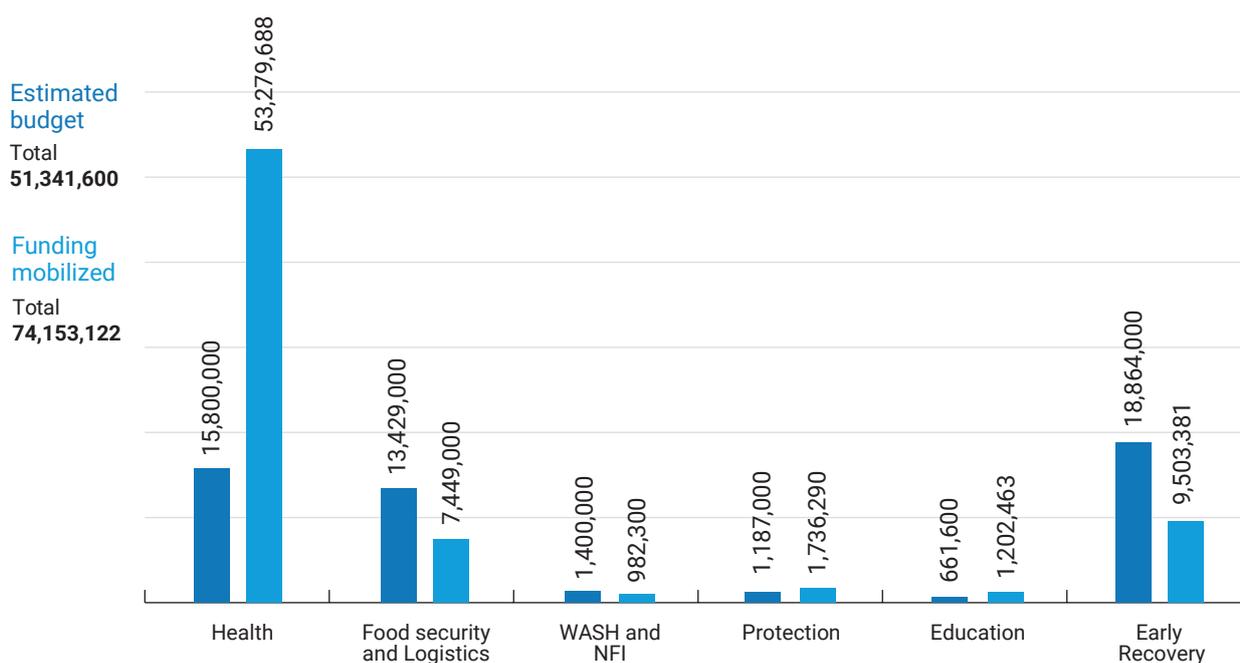
442 Nationwide

67 No data

The UN has been cooperating closely with the centres established by the Government to coordinate the health and socio-economic response and recovery to COVID-19. The Disaster Risk Coordination Unit (DRCU) – under the leadership of the UN Resident Coordinator and comprising the heads of UN agencies, the Red Cross/ Red Crescent movement, international organizations and NGOs – was activated at the request of the Government in March 2020. DRCU has been able to mobilize a coordinated humanitarian response to COVID-19 leading to the development of the COVID-19 Response and Early Recovery Plan in close coordination with the Government’s civil protection system and key immediate national COVID-19 response priorities. The COVID-19 Response and Early Recovery Plan was endorsed by the

Government on June 20, 2020. Through this Plan DRCU prioritized and leveraged comprehensive support across six priority sectors, e.g.: Early Recovery, Education, Food Security and Logistics, Health, Protection, and Water Sanitation, Hygiene (WASH) and non-food items (NFI). During March-December 2020 the humanitarian and development partners under Disaster Risk Coordination Unit mobilised more than USD 74 million (against original estimation of USD 51 million) to provide rapid response and address the most urgent needs of the vulnerable population.

The COVID-19 Response and Early Recovery plan funding overview (USD)



HEALTH

Lead agency:



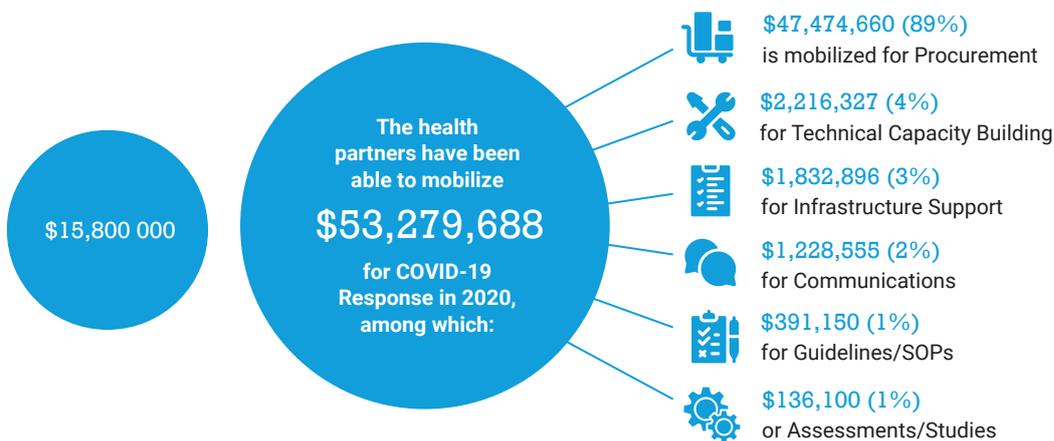
Sector Members and Partners:

ABT, AKDN, ADB, CDC, EU, Germany, GIZICAP, IOM, ICRC, Kyrgyz Red Crescent, MSF, Qatar Charity, Switzerland, Turkey, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNDP, UNHCR, USAID, WB, WHO

State Implementation Partners:

Ministry of Health of the Kyrgyz Republic

Though the initial estimation if the implementation of health sector response was



6,382

beneficiaries in total have been equipped with knowledge on various aspects of the COVID-19 response and those included – the staff of the Ministry of Health, the healthcare workers.



964,858

items of essential equipment, PPE and other supplies have been procured and distributed among the healthcare facilities and vulnerable groups.

Number of personnel trained per strategic pillar of PRP



4,090

Infection Prevention and Control



129

Essential Health Services



100

Surveillance



2,019

Case Management



44

Laboratory

EDUCATION

Lead agency:

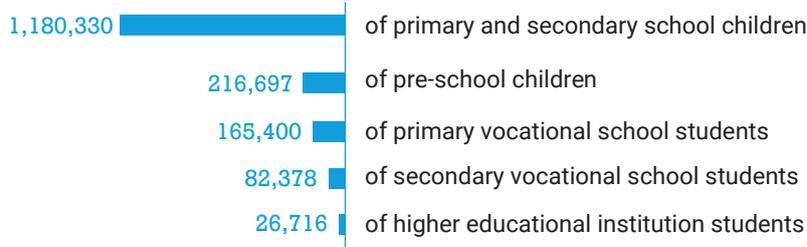


Sector Members and Partners:

ACTED, ADB, Aga Khan Foundation, AUCA, EU, GIZ, Kyrgyz-Turkish Manas University, ILO, OSCE HCNM, Soros Foundation, UNDP, UNESCO, UNICEF, UN Women USAID, WB, WFP

State Implementation Partner:

Ministry of Education and Science



continued to learn
via remote learning
tools



250

teachers and local trainers of all educational levels built their capacity for providing and monitoring remote learning.



11,916

of most vulnerable children, including children with disabilities, received psychological and pedagogical support during quarantine and/or remote learning.

FOOD SECURITY AND LOGISTICS

Lead agency:



&



WFP

FAO

Sector Members and Partners:

ADB, AKF, GIZ, EU, FAO, Mercy Crops, Red Crescent Society, Russian Federation, Switzerland, UNDP, UNICEF, WB, WFP

State Implementation Partners:

Ministry of Labour and Social Development, Ministry of Education and Science, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Emergencies, the State Environmental and Forestry Agency



260,000

vulnerable people assisted



4,600 mt

of food assistance provided



100 mt

of seeds distributed to farmers



218 mt

of fertilizers, gasoline and wheat flour distributed to farmers

PROTECTION

Lead agency:



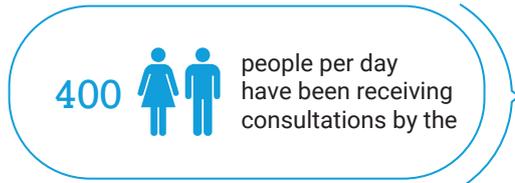
GBV sub-sector lead: UNFPA
 Child Protection sub-sector lead: UNICEF

Sector Members and Partners:

Association of Crisis Centers, CSO "DIA", Help Age International, ICRC, IOM, OHCHR, Red Crescent Society, UNCCT, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNODC, USAID

State Implementation Partners:

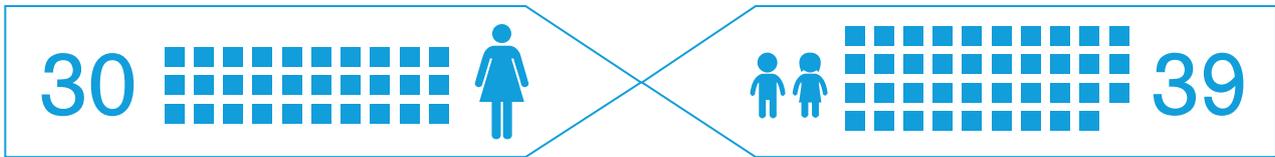
Ministry of Health, Ministry of Labor and Social Development



153 staff of hotlines 111 and 112 during April-November



the consultation from the crisis centres



9,000

dignity-hygiene kits were provided to observation points and vulnerable people (such as elderly people, persons with disabilities, migrants)



182

representatives (including 173 women) of administrations and departments of family and child support from Bishkek, Chuy and Osh oblasts increased capacity on gender equality and GBV prevention



360

social pedagogues increased capacity in addressing children's concerns, building knowledge of children's rights and promotion of Helpline 111



15,000

children and their families were informed about 111 hotlines



4,000

children with disabilities received psycho-social support

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)

Lead agency:



Sector Members and Partners:

AKF, Helvetas, Mercy Corps, RCSK

State Implementation Partners:

Ministry of Emergency Situations, Ministry of Health



197,645

vulnerable people reached with hygiene materials



396

schools' WASH facilities rehabilitated



44

hospitals reached with IPC tools



2,057,695

people reached in total vs 500,000 planned

EARLY RECOVERY

Lead agency:



UNDP

&



ACTED

Sector Members and Partners:

ACTED, ADB, AKF, EU, FAO, Helvetas, ILO, IOM, Ministry of Economy, UNDP, UNICEF, WB, WFP

State Implementation Partners:

Ministry of Labour and Social Development, Ministry of Economy

Emergency cash transferred to
1,000



vulnerable populations

32

designated hospitals and



10 mobile units are being supported for health waste management



single-use face masks



of infrared non-contact thermometers



PPEs



alcohol wipes



pairs of plastic and nitrile gloves



of N95 masks



items of cleaning water

were provided during the elections process



12,500

specialists were trained for CEC and SRS on the proper use of new equipment used during the election



350

employees of the Ministry of Internal Affairs received trainings on prevention of using hate speech during the elections



964

people, including 588 women, and 23 persons with disabilities received on-line free legal consultations during May-October 2020 in Kyrgyz and Russian languages on civil rights, family law, labour, housing, social protection, criminal and administrative law, domestic violence, tax law, emergency and/or state of emergency issues and others.

Chapter 3: UN development system support to the national development priorities through the UNDAF 2018–22



3.1. Overview of UNDAF 2018–22 Results

The UNDAF 2018–22 implementation has been fully aligned with the national development priorities set forth in the National Development Strategy of the Kyrgyz Republic 2018–2040 and the Government of Kyrgyzstan's Programme "Unity, Trust, Creation" 2018–2022 and other sectoral programmes and plans. In 2020 the UN support was aligned and extended beyond the Government's consecutive Anti-Crisis plans, as set out in the March 2020 'Priority action plan of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic to ensure economic and social stability for 2020 in connection with COVID-19'; the 'Action Plan of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic for 2020 to restore economic activities and support business entities' operations', announced on 6 May 2020; and Action Plan of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic for 2020 to ensure social stability, sustainability of the economy and maintenance of the population's incomes, announced on August 13, 2020.

Over the course of 2020, the UN focused its efforts to increase livelihoods, support the labour market and strengthen economic opportunities and diversification. UN work in this priority area concentrated on capacity building and enhancement, access to decent work and economic strategies. Integrated support to leverage business potential in the tourism, agriculture, education, food processing, textiles and trade sectors helped created additional jobs, including for women. The UN expanded its programme portfolio by including emergency food assistance and cash-based transfers to extend support to poor rural and urban populations severely affected by the COVID-19 crisis. In total 4,000 mt of food assistance was distributed while cash distributions are still ongoing. Critical life-saving food assistance was delivered to 260,000 vulnerable people. This assistance was provided as a temporary safety net in exchange for participation in field-level activities aimed at improving community infrastructure and enhancing the skills of participants through vocational training to improve labor



opportunities. Skills building and mentoring support was organized through mobile applications such as Skype and WhatsApp to enable outreach for participants during lockdown. With schools closed due to the pandemic, the UN provided take-home rations of fortified wheat flour to 80,000 primary schoolchildren. The UN further focused on strengthening agricultural production by providing online capacity building support and reaching out to 300 socially vulnerable families who were able to cultivate vegetables. The "new normal" required national partners to rethink how we produce and consume. Green growth thereby became a significant driver for recovery. The UN continued working with the government, civil society and the private sector to develop recovery plans that embrace renewable energy, sustainable business, green urban planning and nature-based jobs and livelihoods.

In 2020, the UN continued strengthening the capacity of national and local institutions through policy advice and technical support in areas to enhance their performance to meet institutional commitments and reach the most vulnerable. Support was provided to strengthen the capacities of the Central Electoral Commission in

increasing campaign finance transparency, offering comprehensive civic and voter education (including those resident outside the country) through a public outreach campaign targeting vulnerable groups, including women, people with disabilities, migrants, youth, etc. National institutions and mechanisms have been better positioned to implement judicial and legal reforms by harmonizing new legislation regarding criminal and administrative law, increasing public interaction with vulnerable and business community groups, and monitoring reforms to enable evidence-based strategic planning and policymaking.

The capacities of more than 1,000 penitentiary officers (46 per cent women) have been increased across a wide range of issues with a focus on human-rights-based prison management. The state established a legal aid hotline that provided legal consultations for 376 men and 588 women – including 23 persons with disabilities – on labor, property rights, domestic violence and other social protection issues. Moreover, 1,880 people, including 1,050 women and 53 persons with disabilities, received legal aid through 14 UN-supported free legal aid centers. The UN also provided technical assistance to the Government during the Universal Periodic Review of the state's human rights record. As a result, the Kyrgyz Republic accepted over 90% of the UPR recommendations, including recommendations on addressing discrimination against women, ethnic and other minorities. An E-learning course on non-discrimination and equality was made available to over 47,000 public sector employees through the portal of the State Personnel Agency. The legal framework on the prevention of violent extremism was revised and intensive capacity building was provided to law enforcement agencies, social service providers, legal aid providers, educational, religious and youth organizations to improve outreach. A network of crisis centers, municipal authorities and service providers working in close collaboration with the UN established temporary shelters and safe spaces for sexual and gender-based violence survivors in Bishkek and Osh. Emergency GBV Mobile Groups consisting of police officers, health, social workers and psychologists were deployed to support SGBV female survivors and their children. As a result

of the joint work between State agency on Youth, Sport and Physical Culture and the UN an annual SDGs Youth Ambassadors program was established, and a first cohort of 34 youth ambassadors organized 173 events themed on the SDGs that reached 12,859 people throughout Kyrgyzstan.

The UN remained committed to working towards addressing national environmental concerns, including through enhanced environmental assessment and ecosystems analysis, and promoting knowledge and awareness about sustainable development. The UN's policy level engagements in 2020 included focusing on shaping national strategic and regulatory frameworks to better respond to environmental challenges. UN provided direct support to beneficiaries by establishing sustainable livelihoods mechanisms and practices in rural communities.

The outcomes of these interventions brought tangible benefits to more than 30,000 rural community members (half were women) to gain access to renewable energy sources, improve on-farm irrigation infrastructure and mitigate against natural disasters such as flooding and mudflow. The UN supported the government at national and local levels to combat the effects of climate change, emergencies and disasters, and strengthened the system for emergency preparedness and disaster risk management through better data gathering, enhanced analytical, institutional and managerial capacity of the national Civil Protection mechanisms and the key ministries and agencies of Civil Protections system, and stronger inter-agency cooperation for disaster preparedness and response actions. In total, 895 participants, of which 58,5 percent were women and girls and 8 target schools located in the communities most vulnerable to natural hazards gained new awareness on disaster preparedness. This was accompanied by the implementation of humanitarian cash transfer (HCT) simulation exercises in rural communities that are prone to natural disasters.

In 2020 the UN in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and other partners helped to strengthen the dual track health service delivery during the pandemic by supporting the rapid expansion of the surge capacity of public health services to cope with COVID-19 pandemic, while also restoring essential services that had been reduced during lockdowns. The UN strengthened national institutional capacity to prepare and respond to health needs during the COVID-19 outbreak at national and local levels. This included helping to build capacity and develop guidelines for surveillance, contact tracing, laboratory certification, case management, transportation of samples, infection prevention and control for medical workers to address priority public health risks. A total of 1,910 health care workers in 42 health facilities were equipped with Personal Protective Equipment (70% female 30% male) while mobile and regular oxygen concentrators were distributed to 20 territorial and national hospitals. By updating of the postgraduate family planning curriculum, more than 300 health care providers were better equipped to deliver family planning services. 1,313 drug-resistant tuberculosis patients started treatment in 2020, including 489 women and 57 children. The UN supported 62 healthcare specialists from primary healthcare centers to improve their knowledge and skills on providing stigma-free SRH services to key populations, including people living with HIV. With UN support, and despite global supply chain challenges, the national immunization programme did not experience any shortages. In total, 341 health facilities providing vaccination services nationwide were equipped with specialized cold chain equipment to provide the required temperature during power cut offs. Responding to the critical situation in the educational sector, the UN provided extensive technical support to ensure uninterrupted learning by establishing online learning platforms and developing 2,985 video lessons aired on television and available online during school closures.

An estimated 216,697 pre-school children, 1,180,330 schoolchildren, 109,092 vocational school students and 165,400 higher education students continued learning remotely, and at least 11,916 vulnerable children, including

children with disabilities and refugee children received psychological and pedagogical support during quarantine and through remote learning. 200,000 schoolchildren and their families benefited from nutrition advice and cooking tips provided under the “School Meals at Home” campaign across the whole country which was complemented by take home rations of fortified wheat flour provided to 80,000 primary school children.

The UN contributed to the protection of the social rights of children, especially during the early years, prevented family separation, and reduced the child poverty rate, gap and severity. The UN has strengthened its social research and advocacy and brought the leave no-one behind principle onto the policy agenda amid strong evidence of increases in poverty and vulnerability. Food or cash assistance was provided to 41,400 vulnerable families, some of whom lost income as a result of COVID-19, in exchange for skills training for better labour opportunities or creation of community assets. Immediate emergency food assistance and personal protective equipment was provided to residents of 22 residential institutions for the elderly, persons with disabilities, and children in state care. In addition, the UN assisted 129 victims of trafficking (73 females) from Kyrgyzstan and 114 vulnerable migrants (49 females) from Kyrgyzstan to return home, and with social support and equipment to start small income-generating activities.

3.2. UNDAF 2018–22 priorities, outcomes and outputs



Priority I.

Sustainable and Inclusive Economic Growth,
Industrial, Rural and Agricultural Development,
Food Security and Nutrition

UN entities contributing to outcome:



WFP



UNDP



UNIDO



UNECE



ESCAP



UNCTAD



FAO



ILO



ITC



UNICEF



FAD



IOM

SDGs supported:



Strengthening jobs, livelihoods diversification and expanding economic opportunities

Support to business development projects in tourism, agriculture, education, food processing, textiles and trade worth USD 120,000 led to creation of additional jobs, including for women. In total, 224 women self-help group members developed income-generating ideas to diversify and ensure sustainability of their small businesses. In addition, 200 rural women and girls acquired business development skills by attending business planning, financial literacy and start-up courses and workshops.

Annual Export Caravans organized in partnership with the Investment Promotion and Protection Agency and relevant business associations helped raise awareness among producers and exporters in all seven provinces of the Kyrgyz Republic and reached more than 330 private-sector representatives, including 77 women.

In 2020 capacity building support on international standards and best practices, sector-specific researches and analysis, mentoring support and exchange of market information and business competitiveness reached 33 tourism agents, 160 beekeepers, 152 farmers and 8 large SMEs. Partnership with a university in Finland led to the creation of a network of 74 national experts from leading private companies in fruit, vegetable and dairy processing and academic institutions to support SMEs.

30,800 people including 5,255 women were organised into community-based groups across value-chains and were able to build business development skills. Farmers' groups and processors gained access to finance through a small grants programme in collaboration with local financial institutions, and to processing, storage and conservation, and cooling equipment. In 2020, the competitive grants programme financed one leading entity for USD 100,000 and will provide similar financial support to around 20 others small to medium-size enterprises over the coming years.

Through the partnership with the Ministry of Economy and the Russian-Kyrgyz Development Fund the UN ensured access to sustainable financing by supporting feasibility studies for seven business projects worth USD10 million in the sectors of agriculture, production, processing, and tourism that will lead to strengthening economic prosperity and providing new job opportunities to more than 300 people, including women and youth. Furthermore, this partnership leveraged additional co-financing from the Russian-Kyrgyz Development Fund that provided a concessional loan of USD 20 million (USD 2.5 million disbursed to date) to support agro-processors and producers in the dairy, honey, wool and livestock sectors.

The UN supported 35 local textile and clothing companies, including 29 women-led enterprises to become more internationally competitive through intensive capacity building. Nine of these companies attended two trade fairs in Moscow and Frankfurt in February 2020. As a result, the companies established 313 contacts with potential buyers, and signed contracts worth a total of USD 261,091.

The UN supported the decentralization of pasture management by establishing 454 pasture users' unions. This strengthened pasture governance with determination and collection of pasture use fees. From 2009 to 2020, the pasture use fees collected grew from KGS 8 Million to 139 Million. With these resources, PUU can continue building and /or rehabilitating pasture infrastructure, while upgrading the quality of grazing materials.

The UN supported the development of management plans that include tourism destination planning and management for World Cultural Heritage sites and sites on the Tentative List in Kyrgyzstan, particularly looking at the issues of pilgrimage, involvement of local communities, interpretation, infrastructure and conservation challenges.

Sub-regional capacity building in partnership with World Federation of Tourist Guide Associations helped tourism guides from Kyrgyzstan enhance their knowledge of Silk

Road corridors, presenting culture, sustainable tourism, cultural sensitivity, gender issues and communication. UN supported capacity building of the national Intangible Cultural Heritage experts through Central Asian Training of Trainers (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan) to deepen their knowledge about the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage

With UN support, the State Committee on Industry, Energy and Subsoil Use developed a framework for the implementation of the National Strategy for Sustainable Industrial Development 2019–2023 which will enhance and expand the national industrial potential to reach 4,6% growth annually and create 25,000 new jobs.

Employment and labour rights

In 2020 the UN supported the MLSD to institutionalize the Methodology for Analyzing Short-term Demand in the Skilled Labour Force (piloted in 2019). This will help the Ministry of Education and Science to shift from a supply to a demand-driven approach in terms of planning enrolment to VET institutions. New competency-based training courses (on gas industry, milk processing and tourism and hospitality) have been piloted in five VET schools.

In October 2020, the UN registered the ratification by Kyrgyzstan of the Protocol of 2014 to the Forced Labour Convention, 1930. In addition, the process for the ratification of ILO Maternity Protection Convention, 2000 (No. 183) was approved by the Minister of Labour in March 2020, the commitment to ratify the Convention was reconfirmed by the Vice Prime Minister. The UN continues to help in developing the required legislative package, including in planning for the financial implications of the Convention's implementation.

In 2020 the UN closely engaged with the Government and the Parliament to prevent the adoption of the draft law on trade unions, which was initiated by the Parliament and

was assessed by the ILO Supervisory Bodies as violating the right to freedom of association.

Green economy

The UN and the National Statistical Office developed an assessment model to analyze the impact of green policies on the labour market and household income distribution and provided training for University professors, the National Statistical Committee and the National Bank on how to use the methodology for policy analysis. The National Statistical Committee will use this assessment model in its subsequent analysis of the labour market to inform national policy measures

The UN organized 25 virtual knowledge sharing events with participation of UN experts and national partners, including academic institutions, on how to apply green economy modelling to assess the impact of policy measures and identify synergies and cross-sectoral impacts among policy options. The strong partnership of the UN with the Alliance of the Universities for Green Economy and Sustainable Development in Kyrgyzstan is powering the integration of green economy issues into the curricula of academic institutions – first modules will be available from the next academic year in autumn 2021.

In 2020 UN supported several business ideas from private innovators to facilitate peer learning among communities on separate waste collection via a smartphone application and documentary films. The assessment of medical waste collection and utilization in the context of COVID-19 highlighted the gaps in policy and legislation and generated a set of practical recommendations for the Ministry of Health, leading to discussions with the Eurasia Investment Bank to finance their implementation.

The UN strengthened the resilience capacities of pastoral communities, to become less dependent on livestock and to better adapt to climate change by facilitating the adoption of green technologies (solar fruit and vegetables

dryers, greenhouses, drip irrigation) through diversification of activities and income increase.

Food security and nutrition

UN monitoring of food prices has been particularly critical during the pandemic, which affected imports, food production and supply. The price bulletins and briefs on the socioeconomic situation provided evidence for the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Reclamation to revise national regulations on monitoring food security and nutrition and boosted the ministry's monitoring capacity. This resulted in more focused policy and programmatic measures taken to address the basic needs of vulnerable households whose income was impacted by the COVID-19 crisis. The Food Security Atlas, an online tool that provides an analysis of food security, regional disparities, trends, and underlying problems with the help of a series of thematic maps, was handed over to the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Reclamation.

The UN supported the development of a regulatory framework for school gardening. The school gardens contribute to the improvement of the school feeding program via the introduction of fruits to the school menu and will be creating an opportunity for schoolchildren to learn the basics of climate-smart agriculture and nutrition through the engagement into planting, maintaining and harvesting. Some rural schools were provided with fruits and raspberry seedlings, along with fencing materials and drip irrigation technologies.

The UN supported the development, dissemination and implementation of appropriate breastfeeding and complementary feeding recommendations to health facilities (200,000 copies for breastfeeding mothers and 10,000 for medical workers), bearing in mind the COVID-19 context. Moreover, UN provided technical and financial support for the development of guidelines on Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) and adaptation of IYCF counselling package and management of acute

malnutrition in the context of COVID-19. In total 140,000 mothers were reached through social media channels with strong IYCF messages, while 306 medical workers were trained online on anemia prevention.

53 representatives of the state institutions gained skills to serve as data managers and workspace administrators to support national equity-based analysis through different data sources on maternal and child health, child survival, nutrition and immunization by using the Equitable Impact Sensitive Tool (EQUIST).

UN further focused on strengthening agricultural production by providing online capacity building support and outreach to 300 socially vulnerable families who were able to cultivate vegetables as a result of the intervention. 234 household members of the Aquaculture Cooperatives were able to produce 31.4 million common carp eggs at the project hatcheries in spring 2021. It is anticipated that by 2022, when the carp reach maturity, the farmers will benefit from an increased harvest. The Aquaculture Cooperatives also received 170,000 trout eggs. The fingerlings produced were sold and the proceeds of the sales were used to further enhance the production capacity of the cooperatives.



Priority II.

Good Governance, Rule of Law, Human Rights and Gender Equality

UN entities contributing to outcome:



UNDP



OHCHR



UHCHR



UN WOMEN



UNICEF



UNODC



UNFPA



IOM

SDGs supported:



Inclusive and accountable institutions

Collaboration under the Open Parliament Initiative in 2020 led to improvement of the parliament's public hearings process related to budget issues and increased public awareness about budgetary processes after a series of trainings held with 81 civil society activists. Partnership agreements between 16 civil society organizations and the Parliament helped to foster civic education, public monitoring and strengthening public input into law and policy making.

With the UN support the Central Election Commission (CEC) established an e-learning platform which helped 26,000 officials better understand the details of the electoral process and operate smoothly on the election day serving more than 2 million voters.

UN supported an upgrade of more than 2,000 biometric voter identification kits and assisted with training of more than 6,500 voter biometric identification operators. Joint efforts also allowed for a more than three-fold increase in the number of voters registered abroad (the Russian Federation, Kazakhstan, Turkey, Italy and the US) from just over 13,000 voters at the beginning of 2020 to 49,479 voters.

The UN supported the CEC to strengthen campaign finance oversight and transparency through the development of secondary legislation and introduction of the electronic campaign finance platform Talapker. According to the CEC, from December 1 till January 2020 the platform was visited 43,752 times.

UN has been actively promoting international standards in journalism education by enhancing the curricula of 15 universities on the following subjects: community radio, science and health. The capacities of 24 community media outlets, and 5 Media NGOs were increased to debunk disinformation and 'fake news', on reporting around violence against women and girls, media and elections in the digital age and gender mainstreaming.

The UN supported legal aid hotline provided consultations to 376 men and 588 women – including 23 persons with

disabilities – on labor, property rights, domestic violence and other social protection issues. Moreover, 1,880 people, including 1,050 women and 53 persons with disabilities received legal aid through 14 UN-supported free legal aid centres.

In 2020, more than 240 people received qualified legal advice on equality, non-discrimination and human rights in the context of preventing and combating violent extremism. Comprehensive legal advice was provided in 81 cases of human rights violations and two individual complaints were forwarded to the UN Human Rights Committee.

112 prosecutors and 100 lawyers strengthened their capacities around the new Criminal Code and the Criminal Procedure Code. 70 prosecutors and 40 police officers were exposed to international best practices related to police and prosecutorial oversight of sexual and gender-based violence cases as well as on gender-sensitive practices and survivor-centred approaches in preventing and responding to SGBV cases.

The UN provided advisory and technical support to national legal and judicial reform mechanisms to harmonize new legislation regarding criminal and administrative law, increase public interaction with vulnerable and business community groups, and monitor legal reform to enable evidence-based strategic planning and policymaking. As a result, 259 laws have been identified to be amended and/or annulled.

The UN provided advisory and technical support to social rehabilitation of offenders and advocating for securing the respective state budgetary allocation. Eight probation offices were opened in the regions to accommodate and train the probation staff that can serve over 4,200 probation clients. As a result of the increased use of probation and ongoing rehabilitation and social reintegration processes, the number of prisoners fell from 10,891 in January 2019 to 9,400 in September 2020.

The UN supported capacity building for more than 1,000 penitentiary officers (46 per cent women) on a wide range of issues with a focus on human-rights-based prison

management. A prison service call centre established with UN support increased the access to information of prisoners and their families. The centre receives about 50 phone calls and about 20 peer visits a day, providing prison-related information and legal advice to the public.

In the context of the global UN Network on Migration, UNCT in the Kyrgyz Republic established a Migration Network at country level to facilitate effective, timely and coordinated UN system-wide actions supporting migration management in the Kyrgyz Republic in line with the draft State Migration Policy 2020–2030.

UN provided training to 28,000 census personnel who will be engaged in data collection for housing census scheduled for September 2021. A massive country-wide awareness raising campaign was launched and channelled through social media and the census website.

Sustaining Peace and Social Cohesion

The UN supported a review of the national criminal justice practices through the analysis of more than 450 criminal cases related to terrorism and extremism across 15 relevant articles of Criminal Legislation leading to identification of the systemic gaps and inconsistencies in the criminal legislation and preparing the set of recommendations to enhance inclusivity and compliance with human rights principles.

The UN also contributed to strengthening communities' resilience to violent ideologies by enhancing their meaningful participation in local development and providing income generation opportunities with focus on youth. 10 youth centres were established in rural areas across the country in 2020 and served as platforms to mobilize more than 4,000 youth and build their capacities on civic participation, leadership, communications, and youth-centric local development planning. As a result of these interactions, 78 youth local socio-economic initiatives were funded through the local budgets leading to establishment of additional 225 jobs for youth.

Teachers and students from 11 madrasas and 8 vocational schools and female and male religious leaders and civic activists from 11 municipalities acquired knowledge and skills to prevent violent extremism and to design and implement initiatives to prevent radicalization. 70% civic activists and religious leaders noted the importance of critical thinking in preventing violence, and 73% of surveyed community members confirmed that they had started practicing and promoting tolerance and the rights of girls and women.

The UN assisted the Government to prevent and monitor trafficking of persons by enhancing capacity of more than 200 (38 per cent women) representatives of local government, police, civil society and youth representatives who are the members of Trafficking in Persons Coordination Councils to monitor and evaluate implementation of local action plans and provide targeted assistance to victims of trafficking.

Human rights

The UN also provided technical assistance to the Government during the Universal Periodic Review of the state's human rights record. As a result, the Kyrgyz Republic accepted over 90% of UPR recommendations, including recommendations on addressing discrimination against women, ethnic minorities and LGBTIQ people. An E-learning course on non-discrimination and equality was made available to over 47,000 public sector employees through the portal of the State Personnel Agency. A comprehensive training Manual on human rights will be used in six State Training Centres and the Manual on multicultural education was endorsed by the Kyrgyz Academy of Education.

Gender equality

The UN provided humanitarian aid to the most marginalized women and girls including those facing intersecting forms of discrimination, infected by HIV/AIDS, female drug-users, representatives of LGBTIQ, sex-

workers in the form of dignity kits. More than 700 women in 27 communities received aid to meet their special needs during the pandemic.

With support of UN the Emergency GBV Mobile Groups consisting of police officers, health, social workers and psychologists were deployed to support SGBV female survivors and their children. In total 50 women and 30 children SGBV survivors have benefited from psychosocial, legal and health support. The '117' hotline was established for reporting GBV cases and has received more than 800 calls reporting domestic and gender-based violence cases.

The UN supported a Parliamentary Working Group for drafting and adoption of the Criminal Procedure Code that was signed into a law, which protects violence survivors through detention of perpetrators. Also, the UN supported establishment of a permanent Council on Women's Rights and Prevention of Gender-based Violence (GBV), under the Parliament in June 2020 that aims to strengthen the Parliament's institutional oversight functions and capacities to monitor and inform policy and law-making processes related to GBV.

With UN support the Ministry of Education and Science introduced online learning modules for education professionals on non-discrimination and gender mainstreaming. To facilitate learning on non-violent culture and civic competencies in secondary schools and increase public awareness, 28 learning, media, and educational materials were developed for television and the internet, and an information campaign on social media achieved approximately 800,000 views.

Youth

As a result of the joint work between the Government and the UN, 34 young activists hosted 173 events (interactive lectures, online flash mobs, workshops, trainings, forums, interactive games, quizzes, master classes) reaching 12,859 people under the SDG Youth Ambassadors

Programme, aimed at raising awareness of the SDGs in the Kyrgyz Republic. This continued with the launch of the SDG Academy, a joint series of learning events for 20 young activists to become strong SDG advocates.

Refugees and Statelessness

The UN supported the Government of Kyrgyzstan in improvement of birth registration and prevention of childhood statelessness, enactment of statelessness determination procedures in line with international standards, as well as accession to the Statelessness Conventions. As a result of joint advocacy efforts, a new Law on Civil Acts was enacted in 2020 with provisions closer to international standards. In 2020, the Law on Refugees was amended, introducing Asylum-Seeker Certificate as a document to enter the country among other changes, but allowing for rejections of registration for some categories of asylum seekers. The UN will continue supporting Kyrgyzstan in bringing its national legislation on refugees in compliance with international standards.

Voluntary National Review

The UN supported the Government to prepare the first Voluntary National Report (VNR) on the Kyrgyz Republic's progress towards the SDGs, and to present it at the UN's High-Level Political Forum in July. The VNR included an additional chapter that highlighted measures taken in response to the COVID-19 crisis and reflected how the SDG priorities have been integrated into the work and the budgets of public authorities and into national development planning. The report dedicated specific sections to the principle of leave no-one behind and the need to address the root causes of inequality and exclusion. It introduced Kyrgyzstan's national 'Open SDG platform', adopted by NSC to systematically monitor progress on the SDGs and to provide disaggregated data including on gender that enables the VNR to track gender-related indicators across the SDGs.



Priority III.

Environment, Climate Change, and Disaster Risk Management

UN entities contributing to outcome:



SDGs supported:



Strengthening environmental protection

The UN's policy level engagement in 2020 included ratification of the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol that commits the country to cut production and consumption of hydrofluorocarbons by more than 80 per cent over the next 30 years. The UN supported the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic to introduce an information platform for the national carbon monitoring system for forestry and other land use sectors and develop a land cover database through use of remote sensing and GIS. A programme and action plan are in force to regulate greenhouse gas emissions and to support lead government agencies to implement the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Kyrgyzstan has approved the Regulation that puts conditions in place to generate and supply electricity using renewable sources.

In 2020 the UN facilitated the establishment of a district Commission for Intersectoral Cooperation on Sustainable Management of Natural Resources, which is being scaled up nationally. The district Commissions will contribute to joint efforts in eliminating the negative effects of climate change and drought at local level, to enhance cross-sectoral coordination at the national level through integration of climate change actions under national adaptation plans into sectoral planning, budgeting, and investment to further enhance the sustainable management of natural resources.

Climate Change and Resilience

The UN launched the updating process of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) to support the government for the enhancement of the country's climate pledge and Paris agreement implementation. Kyrgyzstan intends to submit the updated NDC by the end of April 2021. All key governmental, academia, and nongovernmental bodies were mobilized through the inter-ministerial working group to update the NDC.

The Crisis Management Centre's Information Analysis and Management System of MES was upgraded to improve inter-agency cooperation and improve access to open disaster statistics data. The new data processing centre will now use spatial and GIS technologies to collect and exchange disaster monitoring data on natural, weather-related and man-made hazards, and to build a database of hazardous areas. Joint efforts also helped to optimize the mobile application "112 Kyrgyzstan" that now integrates new technological solutions to improve quality spatial data, statistical information and feedback.

The UN has supported the development of a standard regular reporting on the socioeconomic effects of emergencies in rural areas. In 2020 the UN continued its support to establishing one unified disaster damage and loss accounting mechanism and now Kyrgyz Republic can report against the seven targets of the Sendai Framework.

UN has further strengthened its partnership with the Ministry of Education and Science and local governments to build the capacities of more than 900 representatives (58.5 per cent female) in disaster preparedness in schools located in communities vulnerable to natural hazards. A network of 500 young volunteers was established to raise awareness of communities around disaster relief and in humanitarian emergencies. Vulnerable communities were supported through climate-resilient, environmentally sound infrastructure (water, shelter, pasture connectivity roads) for early warning system in case of extreme climate events and hazards.

The UN initiative on strengthening the resilience of vulnerable communities through community-based disaster risk reduction measures in Central Asia helps to increase the resilience of the most disaster-prone communities in Kyrgyzstan through their active engagement in comprehensive disaster risk reduction measures, which includes the implementation of mitigation projects to be complemented by public awareness and education activities at all levels. In 2020

the awareness-raising activities reached 648 direct and indirect beneficiaries in the selected communities.

The UN also supported the protection of the environment and climate change and resilience practices in rural communities:

- With UN support a thousand beneficiaries in rural communities across the country gained access to renewable energy sources, including solar fruit driers, biogas plants and etc.;
- The installation of drip irrigation systems for 82 hectares of land in Batken province led to potential water savings of 284,879 m³;
- Rehabilitation of the on-farm irrigation infrastructure in 7 local communities in Batken oblast helped to avoid the loss of 8,000 cubic meters of irrigation water per season, increased water availability for 6,500 hectares of irrigated land and protected 5,000 hectares of agricultural land from hydrological emergencies, bringing benefits to 30,513 community members (women -15,672) in terms of protection from landslides;
- Construction of a protective dam alongside Kara-Ungur river reduced risks of flooding for 152 houses, 200 ha of land and 17,000 people;
- The local self-government structures and the Ministry of Emergency Situations and the State Agency on Environmental Protection and Forestry were able to implement 95 initiatives under Special Preventive Liquidation Measures for disaster prevention and 11 initiatives under the national Tree Planting program for disaster prevention;
- Ten earthquake-resilient school building designs were developed under the guidance of international and national engineers taking into account energy efficiency and child-friendliness, including for children with disabilities. These designs will now

be handed over to the Ministry of Education and Science;

- Climate smart technologies, resource use efficient and biodiversity-friendly food and feed value chains were all promoted in an intervention targeting over 1,500 direct beneficiaries in Naryn, Osh and Djalalabad oblasts;
- The UN supported the formulation of sustainable pasture management plans that promote sustainable use of 70,000 hectares of pasture land in Naryn province. Afforestation/reforestation works were implemented on 100 ha of land.



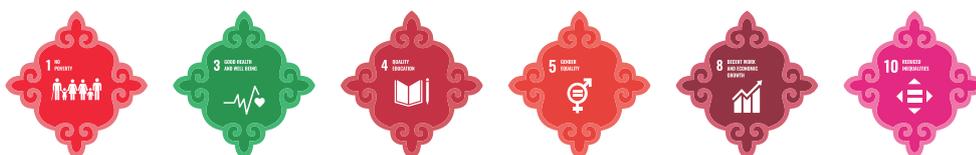
Priority IV.

Social Protection, Health and Education

UN entities contributing to outcome:



SDGs supported:



Health

In 2021 the UN continued strengthening access to family planning for vulnerable groups of women and procured KGS 5.2 million of oral contraceptives for them. The UN supported updates to the postgraduate family planning curriculum, with more than 300 health care providers strengthening their capacities to deliver family planning services. The UN supported the Ministry of Health to ensure access to sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services during the pandemic, including for care of pregnant women. Moreover, UN-collected data on maternal and child health indicators were used for advocacy to address bottlenecks in provision of such services during the pandemic.

The UN continued to support the national response to HIV and tuberculosis, including through procurement of high-quality diagnostic tests, antiretroviral tests and second-line tuberculosis medicines. HIV prevention programmes covered more than 30,000 people from vulnerable groups and 93 per cent of people living with HIV received antiretroviral therapy. Meanwhile, 1,313 notified drug-resistant tuberculosis patients started treatment in 2020, including 489 women and 57 children.

Education

250 teachers and local trainers gained skills to provide and monitor remote learning, with a separate programme on computer literacy and distance education for more than 120 teachers at all 99 professional lyceums in Kyrgyzstan. The UN facilitated training of 40 teachers in three oblasts to integrate education for sustainable development into teaching for Grades 5 and 6. Twenty education professionals were trained to deliver training themselves, and thus scale up education for sustainable development.

Social protection

Evidence on the impact of COVID-19 on poverty generated in partnership with the World Bank, informed the targeted cash transfer response of the Ministry of Labour and Social Development. Piloting of Humanitarian Cash Transfers (hCTs) took place during lockdown in the remote rural villages prone to natural disaster and affected by COVID-19 in the southern region where the first cases were registered. In total, 105 children from 27 poor families received one-off multipurpose hCTs of US \$54, the minimum subsistence level for children.

The pilot monitoring and evaluation of the Cash+ approach to boost livelihoods and improve nutrition in vulnerable households in one of the districts of Jalalabad oblast was finalized in 2020. In total 150 households (840 people, half of whom were children), receiving the state Monthly Benefit for Low Income Families were engaged in activities to improve their livelihoods. In total, 74 per cent of the households improved agricultural productivity and were able to generate some income and more than 90 per cent of the pilot project participants reported improved dietary diversity and the nutrition of children and women.

In 2020 the UN launched in collaboration with the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection a new pilot initiative "Social Contract". "Social Contract" is a tool to encourage opportunities and conditions for self-employment for poor and low-income families, which is particularly relevant for the economy's post-COVID-19 recovery. The tool will serve as social protection mechanism for the Government to reach thousands of unemployed people.

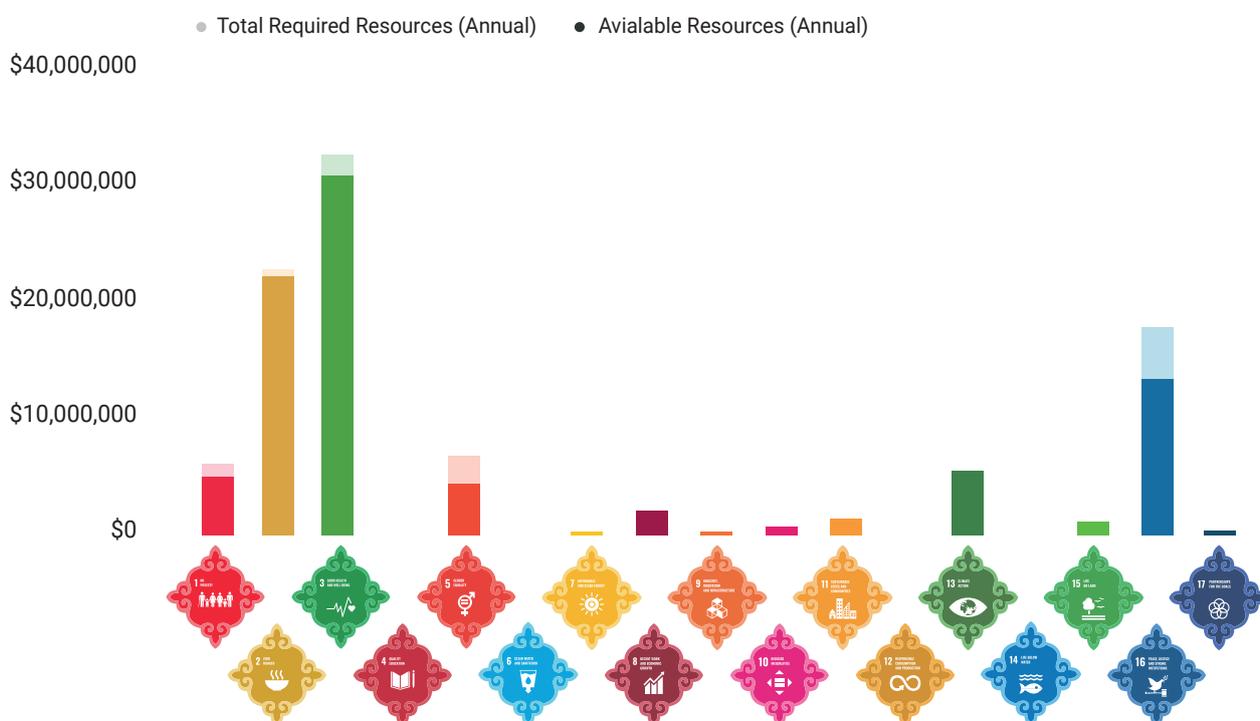
The partners also worked on the improvement of the 1,227 portal for poverty registration and management, in terms of functions and website architecture, including further automatization of business processes and facilitation of feedback functions. This has led to improved technical capacities at the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection to receive, register and follow up social assistance requests. In addition, the UN assisted 129 victims of

trafficking (73 females) and 114 vulnerable migrants (49 females) from Kyrgyzstan with their return home, social support and equipment in order to start small income-generating activities. The UN also assisted 39 vulnerable migrants from Moldova (13 females) and 95 vulnerable migrants from Tajikistan (26 females) who were stuck in Kyrgyzstan due to COVID-19 border restrictions and provided them with safe accommodation, PPE, and food. The UN then helped these groups return to their home countries.

The UN's technical assistance and capacity building also resulted in the institutionalization of regular measurement

of multidimensional poverty into the routine work of the National Statistical Office. Measurement of monetary child poverty is now complemented by assessment of deprivations in health, education, living conditions, social inclusion and protection. Both measurements are part of the national SDG monitoring system providing evidence for policy analysis and response and monitoring national progress on SDG 1.

3.3. Support to Partnerships and Financing the 2030 Agenda



Graphic: How Much We Need, How Much We Have: The UN Funding Gap by Sustainable Development Goal in Kyrgyzstan (source UNINFO)

During March-December 2020 the Disaster Response Coordination Unit by partnering with humanitarian and development partners was able to mobilise more than USD 74 million (against original estimation of USD 51 million) to provide rapid response and address the most urgent needs of the vulnerable population across six priority sectors: Early Recovery, Education, Food Security and Logistics, Health, Protection, and Water Sanitation, Hygiene (WASH) and non-food items (NFI).

The UN's partnerships with IFIs, and the Development Partners Coordination Council (DPCC) have been particularly crucial. These partnerships facilitated impact assessments and analysis, financing and resource-mobilization, policy advocacy on urgent macroeconomic measures to provide relief, effective programme design and delivery, and planning for the longer term. For example, the fiscal authorities in partnership with the DPCC, including the United Nations, launched critical steps on enhancing the composition, effectiveness and efficiency of public spending in line with the National Development Strategy of the Kyrgyz Republic and the Sustainable Development Goals. Furthermore, the UN engaged on various aspects of partnerships with IFIs such as the World Bank, International Monetary Fund, Asian Development Bank, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and the Islamic Development Bank. One of successful examples of partnerships was the joint socioeconomic assessment "COVID-19 in the Kyrgyz Republic: Socioeconomic and Vulnerability Impact Assessment and Policy Response" prepared by the United Nations, the Asian Development Bank, and the Economic Policy Research Institute in the Kyrgyz Republic's Ministry of Economy, in support of national efforts to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. The report describes how the global, regional and national macroeconomic shocks arising from the COVID-19 pandemic are affecting the Kyrgyz Republic's population and proposes policy recommendations to mitigate these negative socioeconomic effects. The other example of productive partnership is the UN-World Bank Partnership Framework for Crisis-Affected Situations. This partnership has such thematic focuses as conflict and violence prevention,

Humanitarian-Development-Piece Coordination, governance, rule of law and the security sector, health in fragile and conflict-affected settings (including COVID-19 response), and food insecurity.

Through the Joint SDG Trust Fund a Joint Programme for an Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF) was launched in 2020 to enable the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic create a holistic, comprehensive and integrated financing strategy. The INFF process will build on the ongoing Development Finance Assessment (DFA) and support the government's ambition to improve the efficiency, effectiveness and transparency of the use of public funds and governance of private finance in order to support the implementation of Kyrgyzstan's National Development Strategy (NDS) and the SDGs. The INFF will ensure that public and private resources, budget allocations and execution, investment strategies, fiscal policy objectives and partnerships are efficient and effective for achieving sustainable development outcomes, with particular focus on vulnerable groups, including women and children. Relevant partnerships are being built with the government, the private sector, civil society, and development partners to enhance dialogue, evidence-based exchanges and participation in the INFF. In 2020, the DFA exercise continued and initial consultations began on launching the SDG costing exercise, and on establishing governance and coordination structures for the Joint Programme (JP). Other key activities are also being promoted in assessing the efficiency of the education sector, analysing bottlenecks and gaps that hinder alignment between the SDGs, national development priorities, sectoral strategies, budgetary and financial processes with a focus on the education sector, and developing a TOT package for effective financing of Early Childhood Development.

The United Nations delivered capacity building to government policymakers on infrastructure financing challenges, opportunities and modalities in the Kyrgyz Republic. The government policymakers were advised on how to maximize available domestic resources and to explore new sources of international financing. In

In addition, the UN enhanced the capacity of government officials in planning, executing, supervising and evaluating sustainable, resilient, inclusive, and well-prioritized infrastructure programmes and robust infrastructure frameworks. Furthermore, based on UN recommendations, government policymakers decided to allocate a greater share of public revenue to infrastructure and make better use of transport user charges, so that there is less need for public revenue to maintain road infrastructure. The UN recommendations and capacity building encouraged government policymakers to improve and strengthen the legal system to reduce uncertainty faced by private participants and build a supportive and enabling environment for business. Finally, government policymakers were advised to consider all relevant potential international sources of SDGs financing. In response to this advice, the government started exploring previously untapped sources of international financing, including global pension funds and sovereign wealth funds. Also, the authorities have undertaken efforts on optimizing the legislative framework for building favourable investment climate and private sector incentives to ensure that foreign savings are efficiently channelled into productive investments. Further, to finance the large development needs, the authorities adopted a range of measures to increase domestic revenue and expenditure efficiency. For example, the UN welcomes significant efforts by the government on restructuring and optimization of the public external debt so that would allow to allocate a greater share of fiscal revenue to infrastructure investment.

Strengthening debt management through UN technical assistance and capacity building helped government policymakers manage their debt more effectively. Specifically, the UN, through its Debt Management and Financial Analysis System (DMFAS) program, offered technical assistance in debt management to strengthen the capacity of Kyrgyzstan to effectively and sustainably manage debt in support of poverty reduction and development. The goal is to strengthen public debt management in the Kyrgyz Republic through the introduction of version DMFAS 6 in the Ministry of

Finance of the Kyrgyz Republic, backed up by capacity building trainings for debt managers as well as through interaction with the treasury system (KAZNA). The Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO) will provide the UN with the necessary financial resources to cover the costs of activities with a non-refundable contribution (USD 685,000).

Based on UN policy advice, government policymakers continued exploring the potential of e-commerce to promote inclusive paperless trade growth. A range of modifications were initiated by the authorities in order to enhance the legislative framework for e-commerce in the Kyrgyz Republic. An e-commerce park has been proposed in order to develop the sector and allow access to world markets. Such a park would also act as a center of innovation and knowledge and a communication space for transnational companies who are focused on the countries of Central Asia. As part of this initiative government policymakers have begun developing a legal basis for the promotion of e-commerce in the Kyrgyz Republic, addressing issues of taxation in the e-commerce market, to create the most favourable possible conditions for entrepreneurs and investors.

The UN worked with the Global Action Plan (GAP) signatory agencies and the Ministry of Health to promote further the four SDGs accelerators: sustainable financing for health; primary health care; determinants of health; and data and digital health. A progress report on health and sustainable development in 2020 – “Toward a Healthier Kyrgyz Republic” – was prepared and published to provide evidence and encourage decision makers to activate work on SDG implementation. The report was informed and guided the Ministry’s contribution to the Voluntary National Review.

3.4. Results of the UN working more and better together: UN coherence, effectiveness and efficiency

In 2020 with its third year of the implementation of UNDAF 2018–22 the UN continued its coherent efforts in aligning the programmatic support to the key national development priorities. Under the leadership of UNCT, the UN Programme Management Team provided joint technical oversight, guidance and support to effectively implement and monitor the results of the UNDAF, ensure internal UN engagement, as well as coordinated support to and engagement with the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic and other national partners. Four Results Groups served the main coordination mechanisms for the implementation of UNDAF 2018–22 at the operational level and provided a substantive oversight to the delivery of the JWPs in 2020. Affected by COVID-19 pandemic and political crisis in autumn 2020 the UN system has reached an agreement with the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic on the extension of the JWP until mid-2021 to have enough time for the development of the JWPs 2021–22. The Monitoring and Evaluation Group (MEG) works to harmonize the M&E approaches and UNDAF results groups interventions to improve consistency, promote best practices, and reduce transaction costs. In 2020 MEG conducted a validation of JWPs 2018–2019 with the national partners and launched the development of the JWSs 2021–22 by also aligning the UNDAF planning process with the UN Framework on Immediate Socio-economic Response to COVID19 (SERF). UNCT reporting against SERF indicators in 2020 was assessed as top three countries globally that were able to timely submit the high-quality data on all 18 indicators.

The UN SDG group in 2020 acted as a key platform for the UN agencies active in the Kyrgyz Republic to consolidate efforts of the UN System in the Kyrgyz Republic in building national capacities for human-rights and

gender-responsive national adaptation, implementation, monitoring of and reporting on the SDGs in the Kyrgyz Republic. In 2020 it focused on the comprehensive support to the Government in preparation of its first National Voluntary Review by closely working with the VNR Coordination Committee under the Office of Prime Minister and five working groups (Economy, Environment, Social Development, Governance and Data) to analyze the progress of national SDGs implementation that was successfully presented at the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development under the auspices of the ECOSOC in July 2020.

The Youth Thematic Group (YTG) is another inter-agency working group of the UN System in the Kyrgyz Republic that serves as a platform for joint UN activities to make concerted efforts in supporting the government in addressing the needs of young people and helping them fulfill their potential. In 2020 the YTG mobilized the efforts of 34 SDG Youth Ambassadors who held 173 events on promoting the SDGs reaching out almost 13,000 people. It also coordinated the Survey on the impact of COVID-19 on the youth of the Kyrgyz Republic and engaged 600 participants on-line and off-line to celebrate the National Youth Day in November and speak about the role of youth in COVID-19 response, the SDGs and innovations.

The Gender Thematic Group (GTG) work resulted in joint support of implementation of the normative agenda on GEWE. GTG coordinated elaboration and finalization of PSEA Action Plan for 2020, in December 2020 and its implementation has been regularly tracked through regular meetings, it also ensured the implementation of 96% of the actions under UN SWAP Gender Scorecard Action Plan. Active UN participation in International

Women's Day, International Rural Women Day and 16 Days' campaign and 8th of March enabled broad participation of the wide range of national partners to raise awareness of gender equality and women empowerment issues.

During 2020, UN Communications Group continued to support the UNCT's efforts to help the government, national partners, and the people of Kyrgyzstan achieve SDGs by raising their awareness. This included support to the National Voluntary Review media plan, design of the nationalized SDG logos and media support in the build up to VNR. Supported by the UN Communications Group, Kyrgyzstan made a significant contribution to the UN75 Global Dialogue, launched by the UN Secretary-General, with over 28,000 people of different age, gender, and ethnic groups voicing their concerns and hopes for the future with ideas on how to address the global and local challenges. Against the backdrop of increasing cases of gender-based violence during the pandemic, UN agencies jointly launched a massive media campaign under the Spotlight Initiative, aimed at changing social norms and promoting gender equality. Among the innovative measures is "Spring in Bishkek" game application, which was downloaded 30,000 times in the first 10 days to provide knowledge on preventing abduction for marriage. The communication strategy of UNCG included highlighting solutions-based stories about COVID-19. UNCG and RCO work together to develop key messaging for the Heads of Agencies in their interactions with national counterparts.

Kyrgyzstan Business Operations Strategy (BOS) 2019–2022 is a medium-term results-based strategic plan that focuses on the Operations Management Team (OMT) support services to the UNDAF 2018–2022 that was designed through the BOS online platform. The following UN Agencies are participating in the Kyrgyzstan BOS: UNODC, FAO, UN, UNAIDS, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNIDO, WFP, UN WOMEN, OHCHR, IOM, WHO, UNDP. The joint opportunity analysis by OMT in Kyrgyzstan in 2020 reviewed common services that could potentially benefit country operations and selected the areas of common administration, human resources and

procurement services, more specifically in conference and event management, travel services, vehicle rental, fuel management, interpretation and translation services, joint Business Continuity Planning, environmental sustainability of common premises, central database for LTAs, Human Resources surveys and UN activities (UN Cares & UN Day). The selection of these common services involved brainstorming sessions with the OMT to explore and calculate new ways of working, researching new technologies and working together to imagine new and improved levels of collaboration. The Kyrgyzstan's BOS is set to be reviewed on 01/03/2021 to identify the new areas of common services.

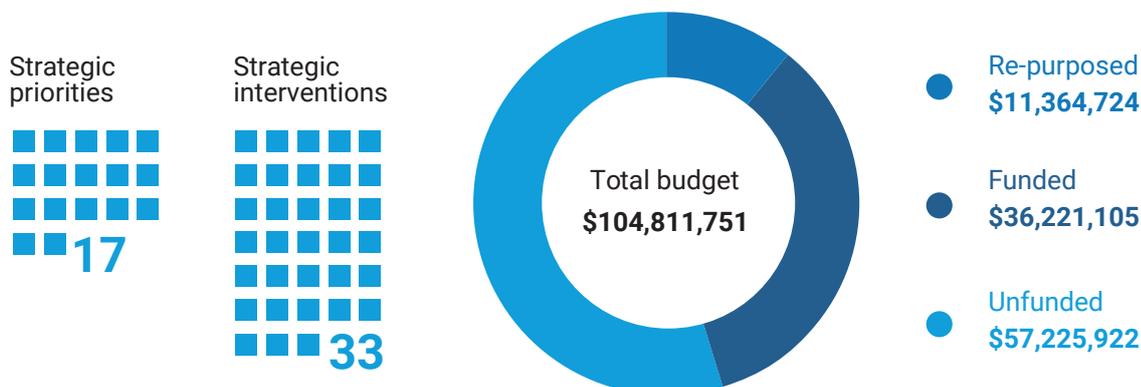
The UNCT leveraged important collaborative partnerships with United Nations regional entities. From the very beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic the UN provided policy recommendations to the Government and one of the recommendations was the creation of a "green corridor" between neighbouring countries for the uninterrupted supply of essential goods. Based on the UN's recommendation, the President of the Kyrgyz Republic called the members of the Eurasian Economic Union to work together to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 health crisis. Specifically, the country has initiated a "green corridor" for import of food and medical supply among the countries. Building on this, the Resident Coordinators in the region held a joint discussion to explore how the UN in the region can best support authorities to learn lessons from the impact of COVID-19 and design efficient transport corridors to enable more effective responses to future crises. Based on the above, the Resident Coordinators have invited the UNECE and the UN-OHRLS, together with the DCO, to lead a dialogue with governments in the region on transport corridors. Based on UN policy advice, the authorities in the region committed to address the issues of connectivity and trade to be prepared for the second wave of COVID-19.

The flagship "COVID-19 in the Kyrgyz Republic: Socioeconomic and Vulnerability Impact Assessment and Policy Response" resulted from the collective exercise and close cooperation between the UN System

through leadership of the United Nations Development Programme, the Asian Development Bank, and the Economic Policy Research Institute of the Ministry of Economy. The UN five policy notes on the health response, the informal economy and employment, social protection and food security, migration and remittances were prepared as part of the COVID-19 Impact Assessment. They provided a focus on integrated measures in response to the COVID-19 development crisis and helped decision-makers set longer-term recovery policies that aim to reduce structural poverty and inequality, with the aim of attaining the SDGs and leaving no one behind.

In 2020 under overall leadership of the UN Resident Coordinator, the technical leadership of UNDP and the UN Country Team in the Kyrgyz Republic, the UN system in Kyrgyzstan finalized the development of its **UN Framework on Immediate Socio-economic Response to COVID19 in Kyrgyzstan**. This Framework has been informed by dialogue and collaboration with Government partners through the four working groups – on budget, on food security, on health, and on economic recovery.

SERF at a glance



In summary, in 2020 the UNCT continued serving as a collaborative space for integrated analysis of the country's socioeconomic problems, foresight and to co-create development solutions for achievement of UNDAF results. However, this is a work in progress and going forward in 2021 and beyond it will continue to harness transformative leadership towards attainment of the 2030 Agenda by creating stronger linkages not only between

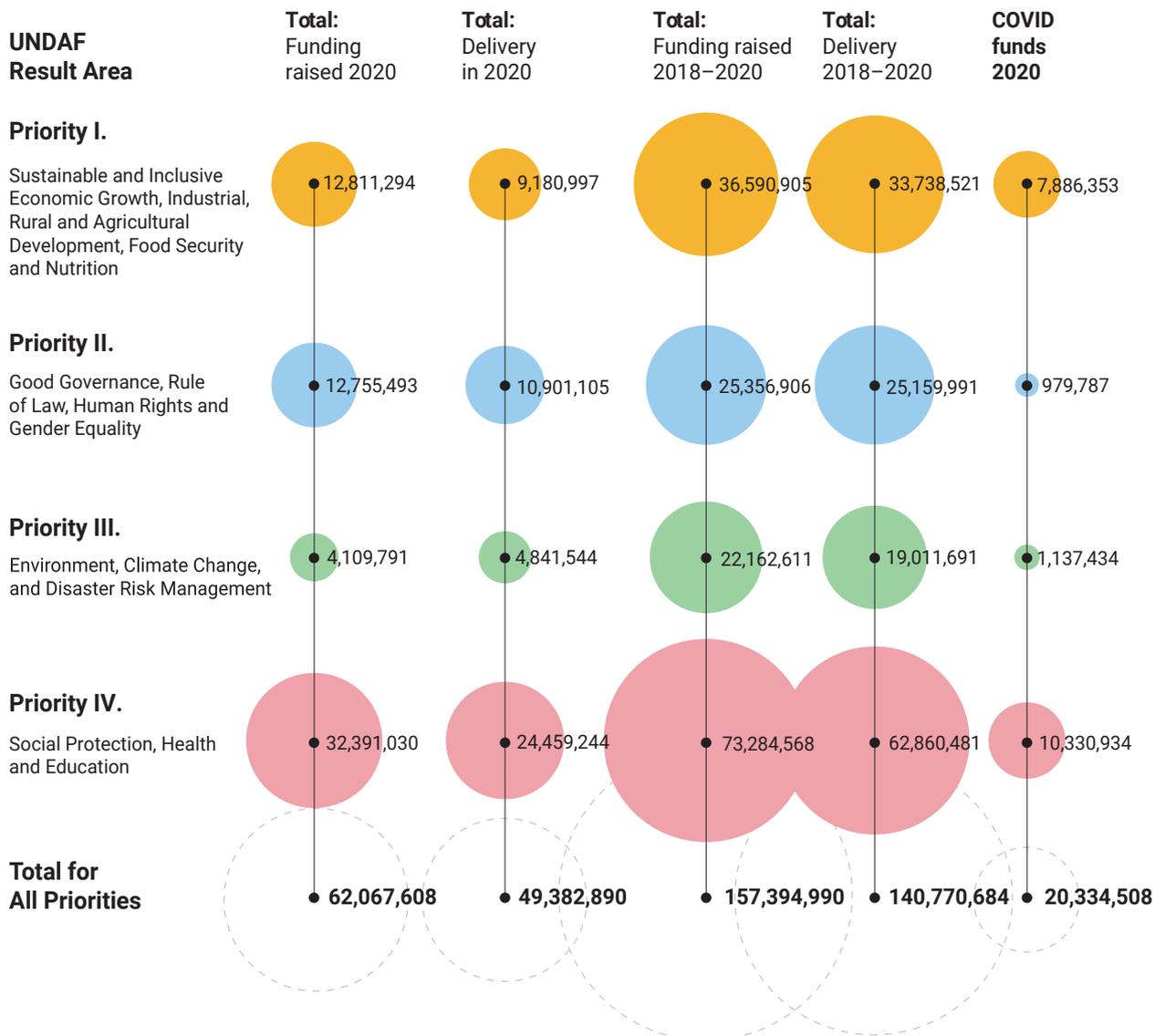
Cooperation Framework and CPD outcomes but also agencies' mandates and resources. In 2021 the UNCT will start developing its new United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework that will guide the work of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic and the UN system during 2023–2027.

3.5. Key challenges and lessons learned

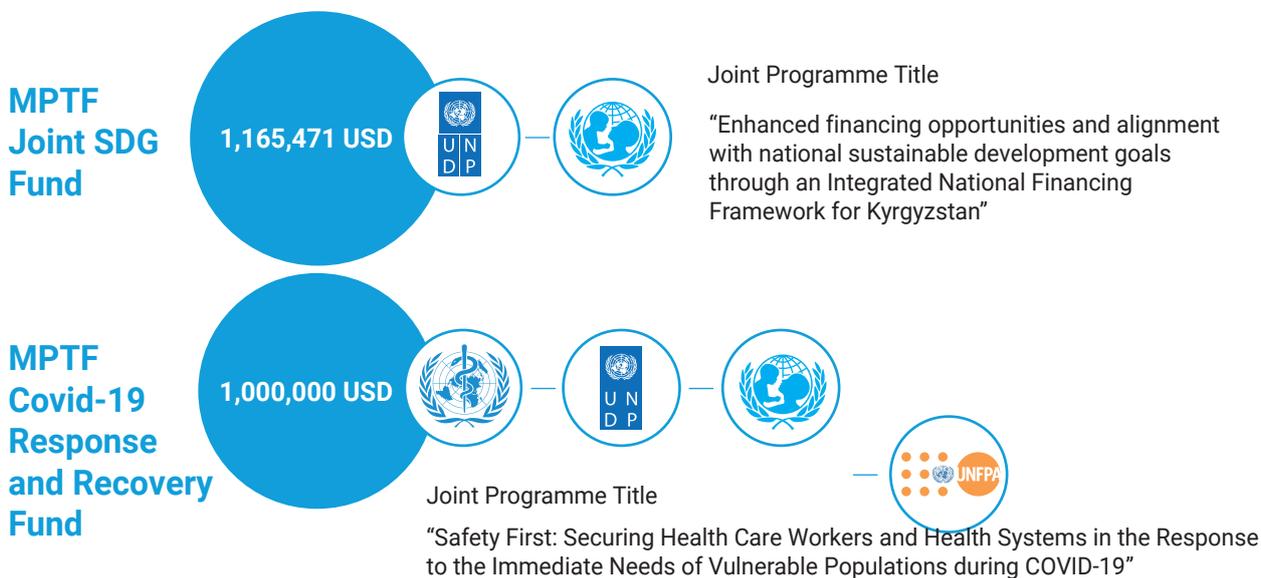
- Due to the multi-level nature of Kyrgyzstan's crisis, affecting the socio-economic, environmental and political domains in addition to the healthcare system, Kyrgyzstan's entire system has been shown extremely vulnerable at all levels. Lockdown enforcement, social distancing and other physical barriers caused significant constraints to delivery of the UN technical and humanitarian assistance, yet progress has still been achieved. It is vital to direct further support towards integrating and interlinking efforts on strengthening policy coherence and boosting the preparedness of the entire system vis-à-vis potential disasters;
- The current COVID-19 pandemic has shown the importance of health emergency preparedness and the implementation of International Health Regulations in the country. Surveillance and response systems should be disaggregated by sex, age, gender, and pregnancy status. Where relevant, special attention should be given to vulnerable populations such as persons with disabilities, HIV-positive persons and key populations such as adolescents (girls and boys,) elderly and migrants;
- Amid the drastic increase of COVID-19 cases in the country, several natural hazards including floods and a cold snap took place that caused damages and losses in infrastructure and agriculture. It is important to support local self-governments and organizations at the frontline of responses with technical and financial support. Biological hazards should be included in the National DRR strategy and an action plan should be developed to reduce the risk of biological hazards;
- Another lesson learnt, is that the agricultural sector of the economy – the only sector displaying growth at 2.1 percent in 2020 can serve as a buffer against the economic crisis and as a trigger for recovery. It is important to use momentum and direct efforts to address chronic and systemic issues in this sector in a sustainable, environmentally friendly manner;
- The Covid-19 pandemic and response showed deep divisions and inequalities, and highlighted that certain groups face greater vulnerability during crises. It is well documented that restrictions on movement had a significant impact for women who could not easily leave situations of gender-based violence and seek shelter. The work of journalists was also impeded by restrictions. The UN was requested to support CSOs supporting vulnerable groups, including LGBT+ people who were left isolated during the emergency period;
- Field-level activities during COVID crisis re-confirmed and made visible the role of CSOs in representing the voices of vulnerable groups and mobilising assistance to those groups who face the most critical situations. It is therefore crucial to ensure representation of CSOs in the crisis response decision-making bodies which will enable oversight from CSOs on activities during and after the crisis. Such monitoring would improve the targeting of assistance, guaranteeing more accountability and transparency in government interventions and in local administrations and self-governance bodies;
- The UN has had to re-consider approaches to addressing newly emerged public safety threats and tendencies in light of restrictions on movements as part of the COVID-19 response and several protection-related concerns. The coordinated one-UN approach to tackling issues that arise and continuous contacts with the line ministries, civil society, implementing partners and media helped to draw the public attention to the most serious pandemic consequences, including a spike in domestic violence cases affecting women and children;

- The COVID-19 pandemic forced the UN system in the Kyrgyz Republic to quickly readjust most of its programmatic activities towards online formats. As this process made clear, the UN needed to optimize and further develop digitalization of its capacity-building and consultation services. There was a need to think of additional strategies on how to reach remote rural communities. New monitoring and reporting tools were introduced via remote-based platforms (Skype, Zoom, WhatsApp) for field staff for use in project activities in addition to field trip requirements for personal safety measures (social distancing, facemasks and sanitizers);
- The Covid-19 pandemic allowed for use of new technology and has hopefully contributed to a more rapid implementation of the National Digitalization Strategy in education. However, it also revealed many challenges related to skills gaps among teachers, national partners and students as well as socio-economic disparities, which were exacerbated following the sudden shift to online in schools across the country. Digital technologies and tools should be introduced and scaled up to ensure better access of the most vulnerable populations to quality health care. Health digitalization is identified as one of the four GAP accelerators and requires better recognition and support from the GAP signatory agencies in 2021;
- Online training and activities did not have the same impact and were not as effective as offline activities. At the same time, there were positive outcomes resulting from these challenges. The UN managed to develop many other fields or activities that we were not engaged in before, such as the development of electronic platforms. The use of electronic resources made the implementation of activities cheaper and quicker, and logistics costs were reduced. Moreover, the format of work is changing. There is less time for meetings, which improves efficiency;
- The COVID-19 pandemic and the political instability in October 2020 saw constant turnover at decision-making level and for that reason a delay in some planned activities. Enormous effort was required to take some of these activities forward. It was vital to ensure the current architecture of the health system is preserved against the threat of unarticulated reforms. As always, commitment and ownership on the part of the national counterparts and a coordinated approach involving all interested stakeholders was vital;
- The events of the October 2020 political turmoil demonstrated that society demands radical changes. Alongside a vibrant civic activism, there has been a growing understanding around the urgent need for political actors to work together on enhancing political culture. This should be rooted in the rule of law and democratic principles of inclusiveness, pluralism, participation. It is therefore necessary to move towards nationwide, comprehensive and all-inclusive education/enlightenment actions that will specifically address the challenges of a polarized society and help bridge gaps between the urban and rural population in Kyrgyzstan;
- Threats to civic space during 2020 have shown that fundamental freedoms which are essential for a vibrant democracy continue to face risks and the protection of these rights must continue to be a high priority and focus of the work of the UN. Freedom of expression, freedom of assembly and association, and other key rights are not always strongly protected;
- The Covid-19 pandemic and the political crisis both highlighted challenges related to women participation in politics and decision making, growing violence and physical and verbal threats disseminated in both public and private spaces via social networks. Women leaders and women community activists played a key role in mobilizing assistance to those in need at a critical time.

3.6. Financial Overview and Resource Mobilization



Join UN Resource Mobilization in 2020

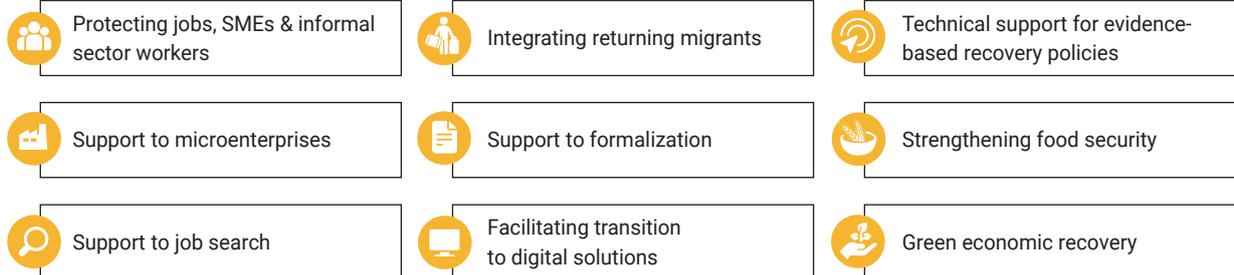


CHAPTER 4.

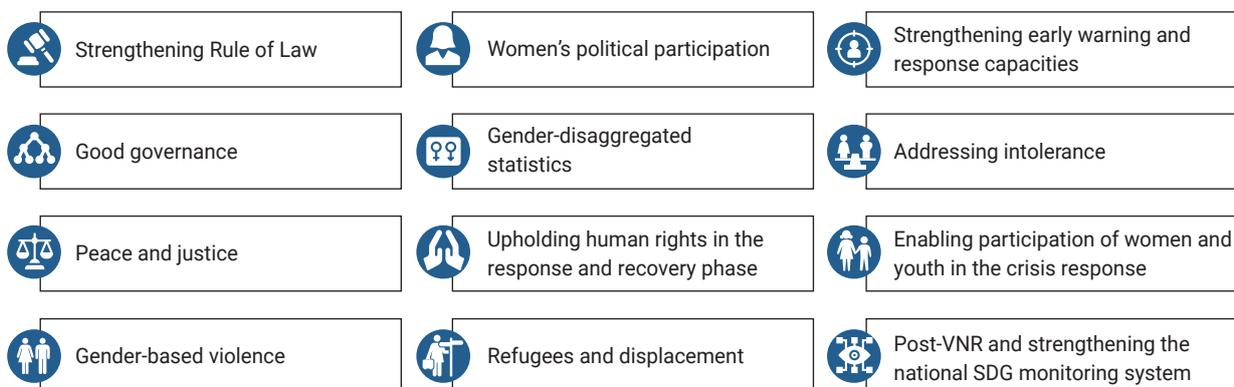
UNCT key focus for 2021



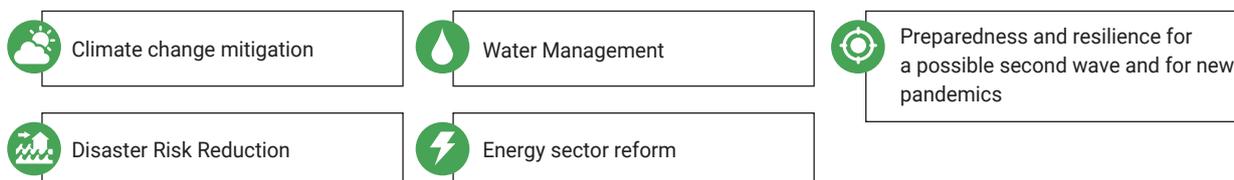
Priority I. Sustainable and Inclusive Economic Growth, Industrial, Rural and Agricultural Development, Food Security and Nutrition



Priority II. Good Governance, Rule of Law, Human Rights and Gender Equality



Priority III. Environment, Climate Change, and Disaster Risk Management



Priority IV. Social Protection, Health and Education

