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ANNUAL REPORT 2022



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FOREWORD BY THE RESIDENT COORDINATOR

On behalf of the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in the Republic of Kazakhstan, I have the pleasure of inviting you to read this 2022 United Nations Country Results Report. The report takes stock of the progress made in 2022 by the United Nations (UN), together with its many partners, in supporting Kazakhstan to achieve its national priorities and the goals set in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development operationalised in the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2021-2025 (UNSDCF). It further discusses key development trends, emerging issues and their implications for national SDG priorities and provides an overview of what our priorities and ambitions are for 2023.

2022 marked the 30th anniversary of Kazakhstan's membership in the UN. However, this year has also been challenging. Emerging from the COVID-19 pandemic and impacted by the war in Ukraine, the country was shaken by the January 2022 unrests in which 238 people lost their lives. The political response by the Government generated a profound governance and constitutional reform, aiming at strengthening the social contract and improving efficiency of the state and protection of rights of people. It enhanced implementation of the 'Listening State' model, accelerated the diversification of the economy, and strengthened inclusive service delivery. Additionally, the reforms opened new pathways for cooperation and enhanced further alignment of the UNSDCF with national priorities and plans.

As the UN entered into the second year of implementation of the Framework, it recorded deepened joint advocacy, increased alignment with national priorities, and strengthened human rights-based approach and evidence-based policy advice. We supported important policy changes, like the development of the Social Code, Youth Policy Concept 2023-2027, and the Law on Counter-Trafficking in Persons. The UN has also engaged in a series of platforms dedicated to SDGs and regional cooperation like the SDG Summit in Almaty, the 7th Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions, and organised visits of the UN Deputy Secretary-General and the President of the General Assembly to Kazakhstan.

The UN-Government partnership continued to strengthen and is manifested in the newly reinvigorated SDG Coordination Council under the Prime Minister of the Republic Kazakhstan. In 2022, Kazakhstan also presented its Voluntary National Review (VNR) at the high-level forum in New York. In 2023, we look forward to further enhancing our cooperation with the Government, civil society, academia, and the private sector!



Michaela Friberg-Storey
UN Resident Coordinator in Kazakhstan
March 2023

THE UN COUNTRY TEAM IN KAZAKHSTAN

The UN began its operations in Kazakhstan in early 1993 after the country's accession to the UN in March 1992. 27 UN entities make up the UN Country Team (hereinafter UN) in Kazakhstan, led by the UN Resident Coordinator, the UN Secretary General's designated representative.

To facilitate country-based and regional operations, the UN is located in two cities of Kazakhstan: Astana and Almaty.

The UN Country Team in Kazakhstan is comprised of **20 resident organizations**



and **7 non-resident entities**





CHAPTER 1. KEY DEVELOPMENTS IN THE COUNTRY AND REGIONAL CONTEXT



Kazakhstan is an upper-middle income country, and the world's largest landlocked country with a population of 19.7 million people.¹ In 2021, the Human Development Index (HDI) stood at 0.811 (Very High) — which ranks the country 56 out of 191 countries and territories.² In 2022, Kazakhstan faced new development trends and emerging issues. In January, the country witnessed unprecedented protests triggered by lifted price controls on liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), which doubled the LPG price overnight. During the unrest that followed, 238 people lost their lives. The political response to the crisis generated constitutional reforms including decoupling of the executive branch from political parties, a single 7-year Presidential term, a new Constitutional Court, and abolishment of the death penalty. President Tokayev's mandate was renewed in the snap elections called on 20 November 2022. Three new regions were established in Kazakhstan in 2022: Abai, Jetisu and Ulytau.

The January 2022 unrests augmented the need to recalibrate social protection and address risks to development, and vulnerability of different social groups. Children and youth make up 50 per cent of the nation³ and are over-represented among the poor. According to a recent UN/World Bank study, 19 per cent of adults and 22 per cent of children live in self-classified poverty.⁴ In 2022, Kazakhstan progressed 15 positions in the World Economic Forum Global Gender Gap Index^{5,6}. Yet, the gender income gap persisted with women earning 21.7 per cent less than men (25 per cent in 2021)⁷. In 2020, Kazakhstan ranked 70 (out of 181) in the Global Youth Development Index.⁸ However, young people are more likely to work in low-qualified/high-risk/low-paid jobs, with persistent gender gaps in employment.⁹ Stigma

and discrimination against persons living with HIV remains a barrier in young people's access to knowledge on prevention.¹⁰

In 2022 the war in Ukraine combined with the post-COVID-19 challenges pushed the inflationary levels to 20.3 per cent — the highest in two decades, disproportionality affecting poor households, as food prices grew considerably. However, the coordinated socio-economic response by the Government off-set the most serious impact on vulnerable groups. Despite the negative impact of the war, the economy grew by 3.2 per cent in 2022 and reached approximately \$220.5 billion¹¹ due to a sharp increase in global oil and gas prices. The highest growth was recorded in the construction (9.4 per cent), agriculture (9.1 per cent) and ICT (8.0 per cent) sectors. Kazakhstan boosted exports by 39.9 per cent equivalent to \$84.4 billion. Yet, heavy carbonization remains a key development challenge. Kazakhstan ranked 20 amongst the world's largest carbon emitters for which 80 per cent of carbon emissions stem from the energy sector.¹² According to a World Bank assessment in 2021, the country will be increasingly prone to natural disasters such as earthquakes, floods, drought, avalanches, and landslides unless emissions are significantly reduced along with other disaster risk reduction measures.¹³



HDI: 0.811



GDP: \$220.5bln



CHAPTER 2. KEY DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS IN THE COUNTRY

QAZAQSTAN RESPÝBLIKASY SYRTQY ISTER MINISTRILIGI

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN

МИНИСТЕРСТВО ИНОСТРАННЫХ ДЕЛ РЕСПУБЛИКИ КАЗАХСТАН



Active and meaningful participation of a wide set of stakeholders is vital to achieving the 2030 Agenda. The UN's support to Kazakhstan is made possible by our many valued partners. These include government institutions at the national, regional and local levels, civil society organisations (CSOs), private sector companies, bilateral and multilateral donors, as well as academia and international financial institutions (IFIs).

The Government of Kazakhstan is the key partner for the UN. National ownership and government leadership are indispensable in achieving the SDGs. The close Government-UN collaboration is evident not only through the UN's support to the Government, but also in the country's support to the UN as a key financial enabler of UN programming in Kazakhstan. In 2022, the Government reaffirmed the country's commitment to the SDGs by the restructured SDG Coordination Council under the Prime Minister, strengthening the national SDG architecture coordinated by the 5 cross-ministerial working groups (SDG "5P"¹⁴), and the SDG Monitoring Committee.

Civil society organisations (CSOs) remain a close partner for the UN, with at least a fifth of all programme support being delivered in partnership with CSOs. The UN engages CSOs through multiple avenues, including policy dialogues, advocacy and service provision. CSO are essential in the UN's mission of reaching the most vulnerable groups and responding to emerging issues, including COVID-19. In 2022, the UN continued strengthening the dialogue between the Government and civil society to enhance mainstreaming of the Leave-No-One-Behind (LNOB) principle in national plans.

The private sector is more important than ever, as the world recovers from COVID-19. Private sector companies continued to be trusted and valued actors and stakeholders for the UN in 2022. This enabled several new initiatives such as promoting sustainability in business through support of several companies joining the Global Compact Framework. The UN further intensified collaboration with the national Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) Club, consisting of 40 companies actively involved in promoting the SDGs and ESGs in Kazakhstan.

The contributions of **financing partners, including bilateral and multilateral donors**, as well as various global funds, are essential for the implementation of UN activities in the country, and the organisation continued to benefit from their generous support in 2022.

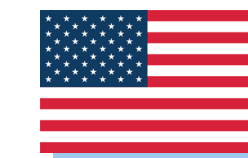
Top Three External Financing Partners in \$ to the UN System in Kazakhstan in 2022



\$ 7.5M



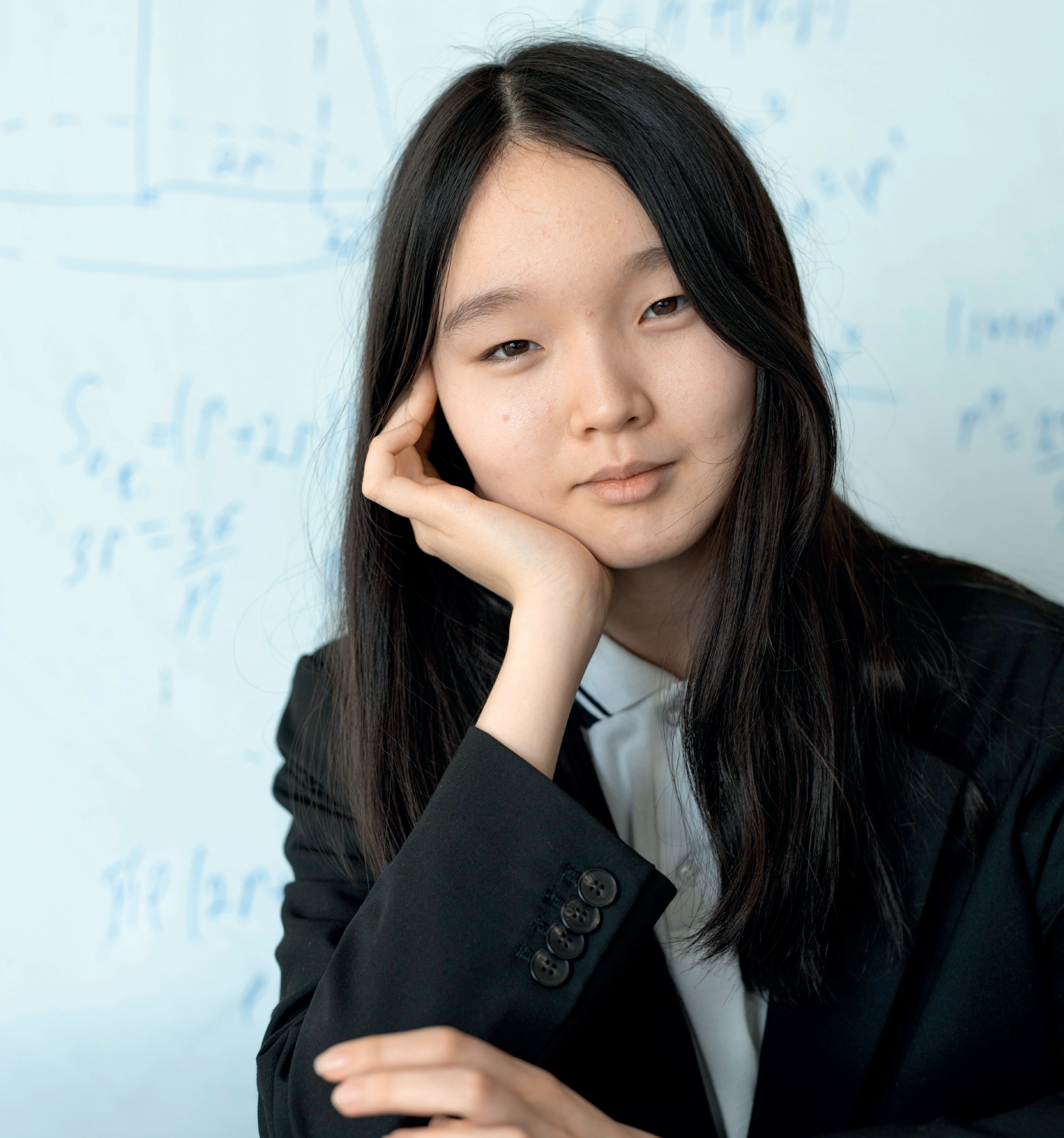
\$ 6.1M



\$ 4.2M



CHAPTER 3. UN DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT TO NATIONAL PRIORITIES IN 2022



3.1 Overview: Cooperation Framework Implementation

The “UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework for 2021-2025” signed on 12 August 2020 (hereinafter Framework) sets the strategic key principles and priorities of cooperation between the UN and Kazakhstan. The Framework was signed by the Government of Kazakhstan and the UN Resident Coordinator, as well as co-signed by 25 UN entities¹⁵. The Framework is governed by a high-level UNSDCF Steering Committee, co- chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister and the UN Resident Coordinator.

The Framework mainstreams **environmental sustainability, and gender-sensitive programming**, permeated by the **Leave-No-One-Behind (LNOB) principle**. It is tailored to the country context and reflects the UN's normative role in strengthening national authorities and policymakers' capacities in creating an enabling policy environment for sustainable development.

The Framework is structured along three Strategic Priorities (Pillars):

- 1: Empowered People:** Human Capital Development and Social Services;
- 2: Good Governance:** Effective Institutions, Human Rights and Gender Equality; and
- 3: Sustainable Development:** Inclusive Economic Growth and Environmental Sustainability.

Each Strategic Priority (Pillar) has two Outcomes:

- **Outcome 1.1.** By 2025, effective, inclusive and accountable institutions ensure equal access for all people living in Kazakhstan, especially the most vulnerable, to quality and gender-sensitive social services according to the leaving no one behind principle.
- **Outcome 1.2.** By 2025, all people in Kazakhstan, especially the most vulnerable are empowered with knowledge and skills to equally contribute to sustainable development of the country.
- **Outcome 2.1** By 2025, all people in Kazakhstan are protected and enjoy full realisation of human rights and gender equality and a life free from discrimination, violence, and threats, and equally participate in decision-making.
- **Outcome 2.2.** By 2025, state institutions at all levels effectively design and implement gender-sensitive, human rights, and evidence-based public policies and provide quality services in an inclusive, transparent and accountable manner.
- **Outcome 3.1.** By 2025, all people in Kazakhstan, especially the most vulnerable, benefit from inclusive, resilient, and sustainable economic development with improved productive capacities, skills and equal opportunities for sustainable and decent jobs, livelihoods and businesses.
- **Outcome 3.2.** By 2025, all people in Kazakhstan, in particular the most vulnerable, benefit from increased climate resilience, sustainable management of environment and clean energy, and sustainable rural and urban development.



Despite challenges, the UN recorded progress across all six Outcomes and 171 activities implemented in 2022. Nearly three quarters of activities focused on driving progress towards SDG 5 (25.7 per cent), SDG 16 (19.9 per cent), SDG 3 (14.6 per cent), SDG 4 (7.6 per cent), and SDG 8 (7.6 per cent). The results achieved reflect the transformative nature of the SDGs and seamless alignment with national priorities — the Kazakhstan 2050 Strategy, the Action Plan for the implementation of the programme “Fair Kazakhstan — For All and Everyone. Now and Forever”, the Ten National Projects, the Concept on Family and Gender Policy until 2030, the Doctrine for Carbon Neutrality by 2060, and other sectoral strategies.

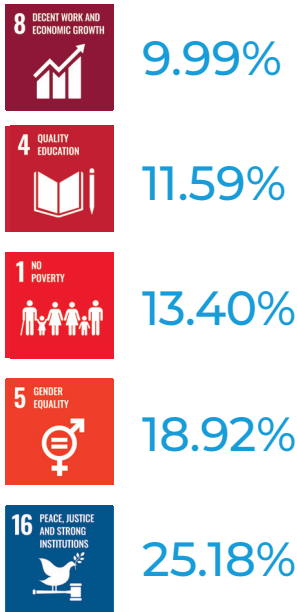
In 2022, the UN secured 97.5 per cent coverage of the \$46.9 million required resources to implement the SDG. The Figure below shows the five highest financial allocations per SDGs. Further disaggregation by pillar and outcome can be found in the section on the [Financial Overview and Resource Mobilisation](#).

The UN continued to strengthen its engagement in the country’s regions, with growing focus on the south of the country which accounts for the majority of the 3 million vulnerable citizens¹⁶. The UN in Kazakhstan has also continued initiating and joining the regional — Central Asian — programmes and projects in multiple areas, including combating gender-based violence, enhancing economic and trade cooperation, and tracking SDG progress.

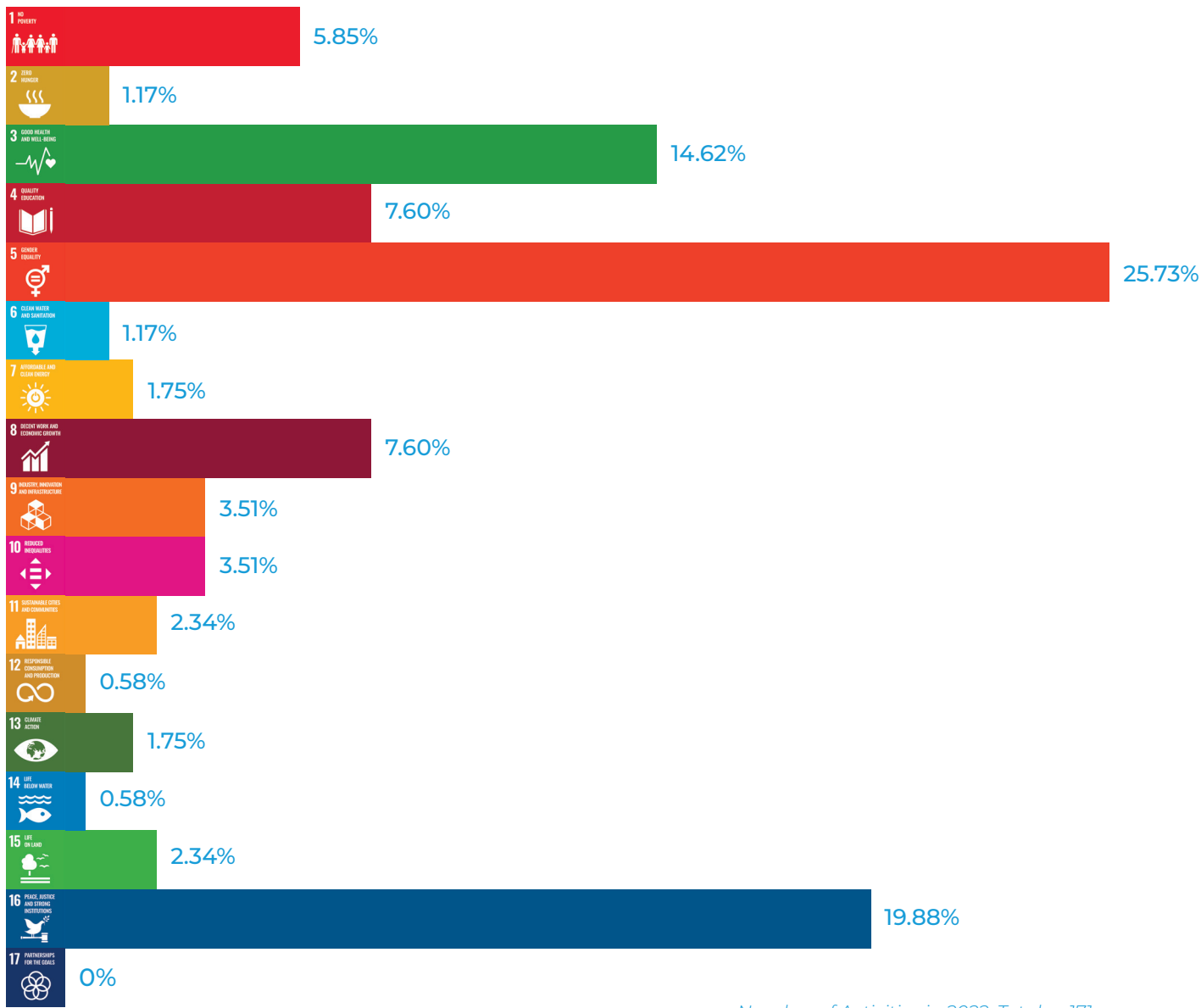


Territorial Distribution of Development Cooperation Interventions Implemented by the UN in 2022

Top Five SDGs by the Share of Expenditures in 2022



Share of Activities per SDG in the Joint Work Plan 2022



Number of Activities in 2022. Total — 171

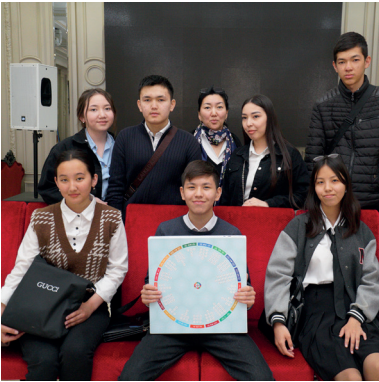
- GOAL 1: No Poverty
- GOAL 2: Zero Hunger
- GOAL 3: Good Health and Well-being
- GOAL 4: Quality Education
- GOAL 5: Gender Equality
- GOAL 6: Clean Water and Sanitation
- GOAL 7: Affordable and Clean Energy
- GOAL 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth
- GOAL 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure
- GOAL 10: Reduced Inequality
- GOAL 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities
- GOAL 12: Responsible Consumption and Production
- GOAL 13: Climate Action
- GOAL 14: Life Below Water
- GOAL 15: Life on Land
- GOAL 16: Peace and Justice Strong Institutions
- GOAL 17: Partnerships to achieve the Goal

Summary of Key Framework Results in 2022

Strategic Priority	Key 2022 Framework Results
1. Empowered People	<p>Fair social policy (e.g., Social Code adopted)</p> <p>Broad social protection (e.g., Digital Family Card, national child monitoring tools, Migration Policy Concept)</p> <p>Quality health services and COVID-19 response (e.g., National Roadmap for Immunization System 2022-2025, strengthened local authorities and health providers)</p> <p>Youth resilience (e.g., draft Youth Policy Concept 2023-2027, teacher's adaptation, Y-PEER network expanded)</p> <p>Expanded access to vulnerable groups (e.g., National HIV Monitoring and Evaluation plans, Roadmap on Comprehensive Support to Children with Disabilities.)</p>
2. Good Governance	<p>Enhanced capacities legislative alignment with international norms and UN treaties (e.g., National Concept on Family and Gender Policy until 2030, Law on Countering Trafficking in Persons)</p> <p>Expanded institutional capacity of justice sector (e.g., Prisoner's Risks and Needs Assessment Tool as a basis for allocation and programming)</p> <p>Strengthened law enforcement (e.g., around 3,000 prison and probation officers contributing to safe and human prison management through participation in the Prisoners' Risks and Needs Assessment (RNA) System pilots.)</p> <p>Strengthened integrated gender-sensitive budgeting and SDG-alignment (e.g., SDG financing dashboard.)</p> <p>Digital tools for effective civil service (e.g., AI Legal Assistant)</p>
3. Sustainable Development	<p>Spearheading climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction (e.g., Strategy for Achieving Carbon Neutrality until 2060, Concept on Green Economy, country submission of the 8th National Communication and 5th Biennial Report to UNFCCC)</p> <p>Youth economic empowerment (e.g., Apprenticeship Scheme, Centre for Vocational Training)</p> <p>Women entrepreneurship (e.g., Women's Entrepreneurship Centres)</p> <p>Sustainable rural and urban development (e.g., Revised Ecotourism Standard, expansion protected areas, SDG7 Roadmap, Astana and Almaty Smart City Profiles)</p>

Voluntary National Review

In 2022, the UN supported Kazakhstan's work on the 2nd Voluntary National Review (VNR), which assesses the progress made by the country in implementing the 2030 Agenda. The UN fostered country-wide consultations engaging more than 2,500 people in all regions. Simultaneously, the UN supported voting for the top five SDG priorities for the people of Kazakhstan, involving a wide set of stakeholders such as women, youth, elderly, and persons with disabilities. According to the voting, the most important priorities were SDG 3 (Health), SDG 4 (Education), SDG 1 (Poverty), SDG 8 (Work and Economic Growth) and SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation) — all featuring prominently in UN programming in 2022. Additionally, the UN supported the development of a country Roadmap for the implementation of the SDGs in Kazakhstan based on the recommendations for accelerated progress. The VNR report was presented at the High-level Political Forum in July 2022 in New York.





Rinat Balgabaev — an Advocate of HeForShe in Central Asia

As part of the HeForShe campaign, well-known Kazakh blogger Rinat Balgabaev became a prolific advocate for the Central Asia campaign. Rinat is a PR consultant, producer and screenwriter of such films as “Run” on survivors of domestic violence, “Don’t touch” on harassment and “Uyat emes” on reproductive health.

Rinat shares the values of HeForShe and uses his vast audience on social media to speak out against violence.

“Men, do not be shy, help, protect, explain to children that violence is wrong, it should not exist in any form”

Rinat Balgabaev calls.

The global initiative, HeForShe, is a solidarity movement for gender equality developed by UN Women to engage men and boys as advocates and founded in the idea that gender equality is an issue that socially, economically and politically affects each person in society.



Spotlight Initiative Regional Programme for Central Asia and Afghanistan



Violence against women and girls is one of the most widespread human rights violations. The Spotlight Initiative — the EU-UN partnership, is the world’s largest dedicated effort to end all forms of violence against women and girls by 2030. In 2022, the completed Phase I of the Spotlight Initiative Regional Programme for Central Asia and Afghanistan recorded significant progress in changing social norms and addressing legal and institutional gaps on sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). It also supported data collection on SGBV and empowered grassroots CSOs in elimination of violence against women and girls.

Key 2022 Highlights:

- ▶ Regionally, 1.32 million people gained competencies on sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV);
- ▶ Over 10,000 persons increased awareness on positive masculinity, key to prevent violence;
- ▶ Eleven analytical legal reviews and three regional studies on multi-sectoral response to sexual and gender-based violence improved capacities of regional stakeholders on SGBV in Central Asia;
- ▶ 275 crisis centres’ representatives increased their capacities on a comprehensive response to SGBV cases, significantly improving SGBV survivors’ access to quality services;
- ▶ 130 local government representatives improved their expertise on gender-responsive budgeting in the context of prevention and response to SGBV;
- ▶ Over 4,000 CSO representatives increased competencies on approaches to enhance protection against all forms of violence against women and girls;
- ▶ 31 grassroots CSOs and three crisis centres empowered as key agents in SGBV response through a grant programme of \$544,228.

Phase II of the Spotlight Regional Programme commenced in January 2023. The Government of Kazakhstan allocated additional funding to the SGBV activities enhancing the results of the Regional Spotlight Programme for Central Asia and Afghanistan.



UN in Kazakhstan's Support to Afghanistan

In 2022, the UN continued supporting resilience of Afghan people. The air-bridge between Afghanistan and Kazakhstan established in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Kazakhstan and with support of the UN Resident Coordinator continued to operate in 2022: 33 flights took place for the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan. The Government's readiness to temporarily host international staff from Afghanistan critically enabled the UN to continue delivering vital assistance to the people of Afghanistan. Further, despite the Taliban's ban on study-abroad opportunities for women, the UN continued providing support to educational opportunities, which resulted in 31 Afghan women completing academic programmes through the joint EU-UN Afghan Women Empowerment Programme.



Between January 2020 to February 2023, 1,497,783 cases of COVID-19 and 19,068 deaths were recorded in Kazakhstan. As of January 2023, a total of 33,563,811 vaccine doses have been administered. In 2022, the UN supported the development of national testing guidelines and revised treatment protocols for COVID-19 in adults and pregnant women. Additionally, the UN provided technical assistance to revising the national infection prevention control (IPC) guidelines.

The UN Supported National Laboratories and Enhanced Capacities of Healthcare Workers:

- ▶ 40,000 PCR tests, consumable and laboratory supplies, and 147,000 antigen tests delivered;
- ▶ More than 8,178 doctors and nurses trained on effective and evidence-informed management of patients with COVID-19;
- ▶ 2,400 specialists trained on variant detection, antigen tests, biosafety and security and laboratory management;
- ▶ More than 4,200 healthcare professionals accessed online training on evidence-based knowledge on COVID-19 response in Kazakh and Russian;
- ▶ 15 national mentors trained on quality management in laboratories with continuous visits to the oblasts and cities to cover 29 clinical and public health laboratories;
- ▶ 1,000 health care professionals trained on guidelines on infection prevention control (IPC) of COVID-19.

The UN partnered with 30 national and international stakeholders to synthesise key government health, social and economic interventions limiting the impact of COVID-19 on people at risk of being left behind and/or living with, or at risk of contracting HIV. Further, the UN gathered evidence on gaps in access to sexual and reproductive health and HIV services for internal migrants and international migrants from Russia, Türkiye and Kazakhstan.


To counter vaccine hesitancy and misinformation, 1 million risk communication materials were distributed and more than 300,000 people accessed information on vaccination. Finally, the UN supported the development of a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) on Health Crisis Communication for future preparedness.




3.2 UN Results in 2022

OUTCOME 1.1


By 2025, effective, inclusive and accountable institutions ensure equal access for all people living in Kazakhstan, especially the most vulnerable, to quality and gender-sensitive social services according to the leaving no one behind principle




Child Well-Being Index supported




51,000 persons with disabilities received proactive services through the Digital Family Card




Technical and expert support to the development of the adopted Social Code



More than 1,000 school medical workers strengthened competencies on healthy nutrition



More than 300,000 people accessed information on vaccination



Technical support to the development the Migration Policy Concept for 2023-27

Strengthened social policy and broad social protection

Following the January 2022 unrests, the UN recalibrated its support aimed at improving social safety nets. This included expert and technical assistance to **the adopted Social Code, the Migration Policy Concept, the Child Well-being Index**, and the Multidimensional Child Poverty Index, which improved access to social assistance, education, employment, and medical care including to refugees and asylum-seekers. The UN bridged data gaps on the number of persons in need of urgent support, delivering **proactive services to 51,000 persons with disabilities** through development of the methodology of the Digital Family Card — the centrepiece of the new social protection system, which empowers local-decision makers with real-time data. In the regions, the UN supported the establishment of the Institute of Advisors to Akims and Ministers, thereby increasing protection of the rights of persons with disabilities, along with providing support to the Roadmap on Comprehensive Support to Children with Disabilities at the national level. To increase resilience of vulnerable populations, the UN provided multipurpose cash grants (MCGs) to 161 vulnerable refugees and asylum-seeker households, as well as delivered in-kind humanitarian assistance to the 103 most vulnerable refugees and asylum-seeker families in the Almaty and Shymkent regions.

Outcome 1.1 brings together the efforts of



SDG targets:



Zhannat and Roza — United by a Common Cause

Separated by thousands of kilometres, united by a common cause — they both share a common vision. Both are advisers on ensuring rights and improving the quality of life of people with disabilities. Zhannat Yessmaganbetova lives in Atyrau, a city in western Kazakhstan, Roza Akzharkenova lives in the southeast.

At the end of 2021, through an initiative by the UNDP and the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of the Population of the Republic of Kazakhstan, a project was launched to develop an Institute of Advisors to Akims and Ministers fostering greater inclusion on disability issues. At the moment, 13 Akims of Kazakhstan's regions, four ministers, the head of the "Atameken" National Chamber of Entrepreneurs and several city Akims have advisers.

Increased resilience of families

In 2022, the UN supported the National Roadmap for Healthy Nutrition, the Youth Policy Concept 2023-2027, and the Family Couple’s Health Passport within the expansion of the National Health Insurance Plan. To address the double burden of malnutrition — undernutrition found alongside obesity, the UN conducted wide-scale school meal assessments, and **improved the competencies of more than 1,000 school medical workers**. To further improve school safety, 68 epidemiologists and 150 school health workers gained expertise on water, sanitation, hygiene/infection prevention control (WASH/IPC). Additionally, 1,540 school psychologists, 100 primary healthcare workers and 238 educators were trained on mental health and substance abuse prevention. To enhance social protection for families with children, more than 100 representatives of ministries and CSOs improved their skills, alongside support extended to local administrators on provision through the Family Support Centres. To ensure access to quality asylum procedures and referral mechanisms, 58 representatives of competent authorities in 17 regions increased their capacities on international refugee protection standards. Additionally, 800 frontline workers were equipped with case management tools to decrease separation risks faced by children with disabilities, along with 156 local officers trained on the Essentials of Migration Management 2.0 (EMM 2.0) for improved assistance to internal migrants.

Effective delivery of quality health services

In 2022, the UN implemented several key interventions aimed at effective service delivery with a particular focus on immunisation and reproductive health services. This included advice to the National Roadmap for Immunization System 2022-2025, along with promotion of the EGU.KZ vaccine calculator used by 175,323 people and more than **300,000 people accessed information of vaccination**.

The UN promoted safe abortions developing the approved Clinical Protocol on Medical Abortion, and trained 100 specialists from seven regions on effective antenatal, perinatal and neonatal care. To improve information access to reproductive health services, the UN continued promoting the SRH.ORG.KZ website, improving the competencies of 182 medical university faculty members and 120 primary health care professionals. Additionally, the UN supported access to quality reproductive health services for persons with disabilities through facilitating the creation of a national pool of “easy-to-read” interpreters and distributing ‘A matter of Importance: Your Reproductive Health and Reproductive Rights’ to 34 specialised libraries.

Expanded access of vulnerable groups to services

The Leave-No-One-Behind principle remained at the core of interventions. For example, more than 200 vulnerable refugees and asylum-seekers were supported in receiving quality health services, including for the treatment of acute diseases. Additionally, the UN provided technical support in aligning national legislation with international practice, ensuring enhanced inclusion of vulnerable populations into state healthcare services such as refugees and asylum-seekers. Further, the UN helped strengthen access to quality services of persons living with HIV. For example, 11,986 men having sex with men (MSM) and 27,126 people who inject drugs received free contraceptives. To promote healthcare access, the UN supported the verification of an NGO-driven solution that maps over 30 verified HIV-friendly health facilities in Google and Yandex maps. Additionally, the UN ensured increased capacities of 40 members of parliament, improving competency to enhance compliance of national policies and legislative framework such as the National HIV Monitoring and Evaluation Plans and the National protocol on HIV self-testing adopted in 2022.



Challenges:

- Gaps in child-specific public expenditures
- Persisting inadequate refugees’ access to healthcare, social protection, pension, and insufficient inclusion in state allowances for vulnerable families
- Vaccine hesitancy and misinformation

OUTCOME 1.2

By 2025, all people in Kazakhstan, especially the most vulnerable are empowered with knowledge and skills to equally contribute to sustainable development of the country



826 girls gained expertise in in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM)



Over **7,000**
schools covered
in expanded pilot
monitoring internet
speed



More than
1,2 million
young people
empowered on climate
change



2 million
people improved social,
and behavioural change
communication skills



15,000
adolescents empowered
on sexual and
reproductive health



Over **73,500** people accessed key HIV-related materials

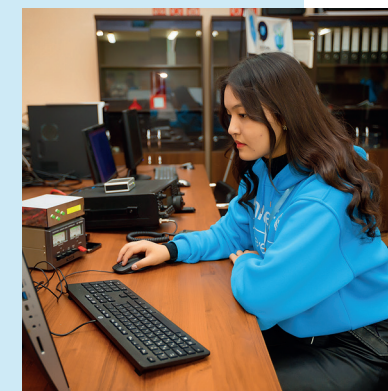
Outcome 1.2 brings together the efforts of



Strengthened inclusiveness of education

To ensure adaptation of the education system to new realities, the UN continued promoting the online schooling approaches and integrating the sustainability perspectives into educational standards. For instance, to bridge the gap of unevenly dispersed internet access, the Giga pilot monitored internet speed in 38 schools and **helped the government expand the programme to over 7,000 schools.** To reduce risks of dropouts among vulnerable refugee families, the UN further provided tablets to 35 high-school and university students. To enhance the accessibility of remote learning for students with disabilities, 250 teachers improved their capacities on the “easy-to-read” tool — EDU-OPEN.KZ. Given children’s growing internet presence, the enhanced teachers and caregivers’ digital intelligence through a capacity-building programme. Additionally, the UN supported enhanced integration of sustainable development and inclusion into state educational standards by developing 25 curriculums, along with recommendations on the rights of refugees and asylum-seekers within the Youth Policy Concept and the UN National Consultations Report presented at the Transforming Education Summit (TES).

SDG-targets:



Nanosatellites of Hope

Amina Pusurmanova's involvement in the UniSat program, a satellite development initiative run by UNICEF Kazakhstan, has helped her grow in the field of STEM. Through her work on the programme, she has gained hands-on experience in satellite design, testing, and deployment. This has provided her with a deeper understanding of the various technologies and techniques used in the field and has allowed her to apply her knowledge in real-world situations.

Working on the UniSat program has also given Amina the opportunity to collaborate with a diverse team of professionals from various STEM backgrounds. This has allowed her to expand her network and gain insights from different perspectives, further enhancing her understanding of the field. As part of her work with UNICEF, Amina is dedicated to bringing technology and connectivity to children and communities in need. The UniSat program has been a valuable learning experience for Amina, and she is grateful for the opportunities it has provided her.

Enhanced youth resilience

To enhance resilience and life opportunities of young people, several interventions were successfully completed. For example, 15,142 adolescents enhanced their employability through a review of the Youth Resource Centres (YRCs) model. Further, to promote gender equality, **826 girls gained expertise in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM)**. To ensure inclusion, 25 young persons with disabilities were equipped with basic skills on leadership and leading an independent life. Simultaneously, **more than 1.2 million young people were empowered on climate change and disaster risk reduction resilience** through #BeSafe. Overall, 3,838 school children, 1,411 teachers, and 361 volunteers gained practical skills on disaster simulations, fires, and other emergencies. Social and emotional learning were further supported through 125,296 adolescents aged 10-14 engaging in capacity building in 1,300 schools in seven regions. To promote the right to sexual and reproductive health **more than 15,000 youth were trained by Y-PEER volunteers**, along with 173,000 youth consultations delivered through the ASPAN chatbot. Additionally, support was extended to the local level, increasing the competencies of 64 schoolteachers in Atyrau on sexual education standards in schools.

Empowered families

Competencies and knowledge are essential to empower families for safe and prosperous development in the country. In 2022, over **2 million people improved social and behavioural change communication skills** to prevent violence against children. Simultaneously, 1,000 parents with children with disabilities improved their caretaking skills, along with 338 parents empowered with knowledge on legal support mechanisms. Further, to strengthen the evidence-base for family policy, 501 parents with children with autism participated in the sociological

survey supported by the UN. To promote a comprehensive home-visiting system, the UN supported revised guidelines and procedures, which resulted in 350 families in Turkestan identified as eligible for emergency supplies. Faith is integral to the lives of many, through which the UN supported capacity building of 18 ustazes (religious teachers) on teaching the “Basics of a Healthy and Prosperous Family in Islam” together with the Spiritual Administration of Muslims of Kazakhstan (DUMK).

Improved life opportunities for marginalised groups

Active and meaningful participation of vulnerable populations figured prominently in UN activities. For instance, 13 refugee youth accessed higher education through DAFI scholarships. Through actively engaging persons living with HIV, **over 73,500 people accessed key HIV-related materials**. The UN continued promoting the Teennergizer platform, which empowered 200 adolescents living with HIV on countering stigma and discrimination. To promote integrated service delivery, the UN trained health professionals on provision of youth-friendly services and recorded significant progress (70 per cent) in the implementation of the Youth Health Centres (YHCs) work plan, which integrates service delivery to adolescents living with HIV and other chronic diseases through 30 YHCs. Additionally, 65,000 subscribers accessed the SHYN.KZ knowledge platform supported by the UN, empowering people in rural areas and those at risk of being left behind.




Challenges:

- Uneven quality of internet connectivity
- Misconceptions related to sexual and reproductive education in schools
- Persisting HIV-related stigma




OUTCOME 2.1


By 2025, all people in Kazakhstan are protected and enjoy full realisation of human rights and gender equality and a life free from discrimination, violence, and threats, and equally participate in decision-making




Law on Countering Trafficking in Persons supported




25 women-leaders enhanced capacities to run for public office in 2023




Support to the implementation of the National Concept on Family and Gender Policy 2030



8,000 persons identified through a country-wide anti-statelessness campaign



620 people with undetermined nationality assisted in receiving identity documents



3,000 prison and probation officers strengthened capacities on ensuring safe and humane custody

Enhanced compliance with international standards and UN treaties

Broad and effective application of international legal norms are key to secure fair equal treatment of all citizens. In 2022, the UN supported progress on enhanced compliance of national legislative frameworks through support to **implementation of the National Concept on Family and Gender Policy until 2030**, deepened policy discussion on the Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan on Prevention and Addressing Domestic Violence, and strengthened evidence on workplace harassment accelerating progress towards the ratification of the ILO Convention 190 on Elimination of Harassment and Violence in the World of Work. Additionally, the UN provided technical assistance to the **Law on Countering Trafficking in Persons**, along with strengthening the national Anti-Money Laundering/Combating the Financing of Terrorism system within the Act on Counteraction of Legitimization of Incomes Received by Illegal Means, and Financing of Terrorism. To promote women’s political participation, the UN built the capacity of **25 women-leaders potentially running for public office** in 2023 and expanded the network of certified trainers on women’s political participation.

SDG-targets:



Lifting the Shadow of Statelessness

On a frosty morning in late 2021, Roza walked her nine-year-old daughter Marzhan to school through a neighbourhood of mostly vacant industrial buildings on the outskirts of Shymkent, near Kazakhstan’s border with Uzbekistan.

An ethnic Kazakh who was born in Uzbekistan, Roza moved to Kazakhstan in 2011 in search of work. Like thousands of ethnic Kazakhs who returned to their historical homeland after the independence, Roza sought to obtain legal ‘Kandas’ – ethnic Kazakh – status. She renounced her Uzbek citizenship, believing that this was a necessary step to apply. However, Roza was left with neither nationality, trapped in the position of losing her Uzbek citizenship before obtaining a new one and became an undocumented stateless person.

Six months on, the situation has changed significantly for Roza and her family. With support from Sana Sezim, a civil society partner of UNHCR, as part of the Global #IBelong Campaign to End Statelessness, Roza obtained birth certificates for all her children and identity documents recognizing her as a stateless person under Kazakh law. “I was in shock,” she said, recalling that moment. “I realised that finally I have documents... Now I am a full-fledged person, I can speak up. I can defend myself and live without fear for myself and my children.”

Outcome 2.1 brings together the efforts of





Expanded protection

Children and vulnerable groups remained at the focus of UN activities to enable realisation of human rights. For instance, 1,500 children obtained birth certificates through improved birth registration procedures, accelerating progress towards universal birth registration, including for children born outside of medical institutions. The UN has also worked to safeguard protection of the most left behind - **8,000 persons have been identified** since 2020 through a country-wide anti-statelessness campaign. Additionally, **620 people with undetermined nationality were assisted in receiving identity documents**. To promote childcare reform, the UN continued strengthening the repositioning of the professional foster care system, along with developing algorithms to monitor professional foster families. Additionally, aimed at enhancing protection of migrant children, the UN proposed amendments to the decree guiding Support Centres for Children in Difficult Life Circumstances on the placement of children without parental care.

Strengthened human-rights based treatment and effective crime prevention

In 2022, the UN continued promoting human-rights based treatment and effective crime prevention. For example, **around 3,000 prison and probation officers completed the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners** - the “Nelson Mandela Rules” (e-course). To further promote safe and humane custody, 100 prison officers and 1,600 prisoners participated in the Prisoners’ Risks and Needs Assessment System (RNA) pilots. To promote women’s role in security, 150 representatives of ministries and commissions were supported on the implementation of the National Action Plan on the UN Security Resolution 1325, along with 50 military personnel trained on women in conflict prevention and peace. Simultaneously, 200 police officers engaged in capacity building ensuring enhanced trust in policing. To combat transnational

organised crime, the UN engaged 300 representatives of competent authorities in interactive sessions on combating terrorism financing, disrupting terrorist networks, and countering money laundering. In the field, 73 customs officers gained capacities on cargo profiling and high-risk consignments, which resulted in 30 seizures by Port Control Units (PCUs) and Air Cargo Control Units (ACCU). To promote safe border-crossings, the UN further trained officers’ on referral mechanisms for migrants.

Reduced discrimination and stigma

Marginalised groups continue to face barriers to access to basic services and persistent stigma in the society. In 2022, the UN helped ensure improved protection of the confidentiality of persons living with HIV and strengthened capacities of CSOs to eliminate discriminatory criminal provisions. For instance, the UN awarded a grant to the National Union of People Living with HIV to develop a comprehensive legislative package to expand justice, including proposals on repealing provisions that prohibit women living with HIV accessing shelters for survivors of domestic violence. Additionally, the UN supported the launch of an online human-rights violation collection tool and a Telegram channel, placing the LGBTI community at the core.



Challenges:

- Remaining underrepresentation of women in decision-making
- Discrimination in access to shelters and specialised services for HIV-positive persons
- Gaps in knowledge on the phenomena of trafficking in persons



OUTCOME 2.2

By 2025, state institutions at all levels effectively design and implement gender-sensitive, human rights, and evidence-based public policies and provide quality services in an inclusive, transparent and accountable manner.



Constitutional Law on the Human Rights Commissioner supported



30% increase in corruption risks detected through artificial intelligence



Enhanced national system for policy on ageing



Enhanced transparency in the selection of judicial candidates



Over 2,000 CSOs enhanced leadership capacities on preventing SGBV



75 officials and journalists trained on multi sectoral response to SGBV

More effective civil service

In 2022, Kazakhstan ranked 28 on the UN Global E-Government Development Index and 15 on the UN Global E-Participation Index¹⁷. Digital tools are key in ensuring effective governance practices and capabilities in modern times. The UN recorded significant progress in improving capacities of civil service by supporting the development of an artificial intelligence (AI) legal expert designed by the Public Service Innovations Accelerator Lab, which **increased the detection of corruption risks by 30 per cent** and saved 100 working hours per month. Simultaneously, Kazakhstan's Public Service Agency benefitted from a new proctoring system facilitating and improving the efficiency of civil service recruitment processes in "E-Qyzmet". To **enhance transparency and accountability in the selection of judicial candidates**, the UN further tested and developed a machine learning-generated solution through the work of the Astana Civil Service Hub, strengthening efficiency and capabilities of the Supreme Judicial Council.

Strengthened institutions and enhanced provision of specialised services

Strong institutions that underpin human-rights policy are essential to expand protection. In 2022, the UN supported the new **Constitutional Law on the Human Rights Commissioner** alongside improved capacities



The Story of Aisulu — A Beneficiary of the “Komek” Crisis Centre

In 2020, we opened the Komek crisis centre in Turkestan. This region is well-known for the highest numbers of cases of sexual and domestic violence, as well as sexual abuse of minors. Our centre provides psychological and medical assistance for survivors of violence. In cooperation with the UN Women, within the Spotlight Programme, we conducted training and seminars together with psychologists. Thanks to this project, we have significantly increased our potential as well as awareness of people about our centre. As a result, the flow of visitors to the centre has grown” — says Malika Zhusupova, Director of “Komek” crisis centre.

Aisulu (name changed) is one of beneficiaries of the “Komek” crisis centre:

“I was pregnant, and my husband kicked us out of the house. I had nowhere to go with my four children. I found out about the crisis centre “Komek” on the Internet. We were immediately warmly accepted here. This centre has been supporting us for a year and two months. Psychologists helped me cope with deep depression. They also provided me with legal support. Many thanks to “Komek” crisis centre for their great work and help. I managed to survive a difficult period, overcome fears, live on for the children and move forward. My advice to survivors of violence: never harm yourself, live for yourself and children, and always contact crisis centres”.

Outcome 2.2 brings together the efforts of



SDG-target:



of 17 staff of the Office of the Ombudsperson and 12 staff of the National Human Rights Centre. The UN conducted several key initiatives unpacking country-specific gaps impeding effective delivery of specialised services, including a need to further expand the number of crisis centres for survivors of domestic violence and strengthen legal access to shelters and other critical assistance for women with disabilities and women living with HIV. To bridge this gap, the UN improved the competencies of **75 local government representatives and journalists on the provision of multi-sectoral response to sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV)**, in particular in the South. Additionally, 151 primary healthcare professionals gained expertise on comprehensive assistance to survivors of SGBV through the Clinical Protocol. As women with disabilities face multiple vulnerabilities, the UN further trained 25 social service providers on aspects of delivering assistance to persons with disabilities (PWDs) subjected to SGBV.

Elimination of SGBV

Violence against women and girls is rooted in the widely accepted social norms that fuel gender inequality. In 2022, the UN provided support to the Nationwide Study on the Prevalence of Gender-based Violence (GBV) that reached 16,000 people and improved evidence on men’s perception of gender-based violence. Simultaneously, the UN launched several campaigns and participated in key platforms to promote transformative change. For example, **2,000 CSOs and female activists who participated in the #Don’tBeSilentAsia coalition** in Central Asia enhanced their leadership capacities and knowledge on how to support national authorities in their respective countries as it relates to the elimination of SGBV. Additionally, the UN facilitated regional exchange of 26 CSOs on the Civil Society Advisory Board that resulted in several key proposals to strengthen protection at the country-level.

Strengthened policy on ageing

The needs and potential of older people remain insufficiently integrated into national systems and planning. To promote rights-based demographic policy that integrates ageing issues, the UN improved capacities of competent authorities and **strengthened the national data system on ageing**. This included support to the launch of the statistical compendium “The Older Generation of Kazakhstan” reflecting key ageing trends between 2017-2022 alongside capacity building of eight national experts on the method to measure the Active Longevity Index used in the statistical yearbook “Older people of the Republic of Kazakhstan”. Simultaneously, the UN continued to raise awareness and shift perceptions about older people through visual advocacy material highlighting the needs and status of older people in 2022 Kazakhstan.



Challenges:

- Need to further strengthen effective civil service
- Insufficient capacity of crisis centres to support survivors of SGBV
- Gaps in national capacities on ageing issues



OUTCOME 3.1

By 2025, all people in Kazakhstan, especially the most vulnerable, benefit from inclusive, resilient, and sustainable economic development with improved productive capacities, skills and equal opportunities for sustainable and decent jobs, livelihoods and businesses



200 SME representatives improved trade-related knowledge



260 young people improved employability



Update of the Concept of Green Economy until 2050 supported



1,208 new women-led businesses and 723 start-ups



Kazakhstan Trade Portal (KazTP) launch supported



39 sustainable businesses funded through microcredits

Increased economic diversification and decarbonization

Economic diversification and intensified decarbonization are key to support the country's vision towards an inclusive, resilient and sustainable economy. This priority has been emphasised by the Government of Kazakhstan at the COP27. In 2022, the UN continued strengthening capacities of authorities and policymakers, not the least through improved cross-sectoral collaboration between key government agencies and policy advice to the cornerstone **Concept of Green Economy until 2050**. To promote decarbonization, the UN further developed a report on national green-house gas inventory and strengthened evidence around the potential impacts of the EU Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (EU CBAM)' on the Kazakh economy and key sectors. Simultaneously, more than 75 private sector representatives within the national emission trading system improved their knowledge on ISO-standards on green-house gas emissions.

Strengthened employment opportunities and skills

Systematic retraining and upskilling of workers is essential not only to enhance human capital development but also to manoeuvre post-COVID-19 labour market contingencies. In 2022, the UN modelled the most in-demand occupational skills to tailor online courses geared towards unemployed persons and persons with disabilities. To economically empower women, the UN



The Story of Assem – Rural Women Embrace Entrepreneurship as Custodians of Nature

In 2021, Assem learned about the Eco-Damu Loan Programme, which provides funding to rural entrepreneurs to open and develop their business near specially protected natural areas. After having received a loan of ₸9,000,000 Assem bought two yurts, furniture, kitchenware and household appliances to run eco-friendly guest services. Thanks to her relatives' assistance and caring people who helped install the yurts in the yard of the rented house, Assem has been running a sustainable business for more than a year.

The Eco Damu programme, implemented by UNDP, the Global Environment Facility, the Fund for Financial Support for Agriculture and the Government of Kazakhstan, aims to support rural residents residing near specially protected natural areas. The key programme priority is promoting gender equality and women's economic empowerment to increase the sustainability of local communities.

Outcome 3.1 brings together the efforts of



SDG-targets:



strengthened 14 state bodies on enhanced labour participation of socially vulnerable women alongside facilitating jobs for 183 women in difficult life situations. Additionally, 26,386 consultations were provided to 8,705 women-entrepreneurs generating **1,208 new businesses and 723 start-ups** as a result of the UN's support to 14 newly established Women's Entrepreneurial Centres. To strengthen employability, **260 young people participated in an apprenticeship scheme**, alongside 91 persons with disabilities who applied to the Centre for Vocational Training, providing employment and leadership opportunities.

Enhanced rural economic development

Economic diversification in rural areas is critical for sustainable economic growth. To promote sustainable business practices, the UN increased capacities of 177 rural entrepreneurs on government assistance programmes, alongside 112 people equipped with agro-tourism skills. Additionally, the UN facilitated microcredit funding for **39 sustainable businesses with a particular focus on women-led businesses**. To promote sustainable farming, the UN piloted smart agricultural technologies on three women-owned farms. To enhance smallholders' agrifood value chain development, 80 national and local government representatives improved their competencies on integrated local rural development, alongside support to the Concept of Rural Development 2023-2027 and the Law on Production and Circulation of Organic Products. Taking into account farmers' low capital access to finance, the UN further supported capacity building of credit associations, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs), and the Agrarian Technical University, which also supported the implementation of the Concept for Development of the Agro-Industrial Complex 2021-2030.

Effective trade procedures and exports

The UN continued promoting exports, simplification of cross-border trade procedures, developing sustainable value chains, and fostering trade exchange. For instance, 288 local producers in four regions increased their knowledge on potential export products for each region through the "One Village-One Product" pilot. To facilitate cross-border trade, the UN trained 330 private sector representatives on SMEs cross-border trade requirements. Another 65 women-led-companies were trained on trade regulations and 25 women-led SMEs increased their skills on e-commerce. Additionally, **200 representatives of SMEs** gained access to trade-related information through the **Kazakhstan Trade Portal (KazTP) launched with the UN's support**, alongside continued assistance to trade exchange such as e.g. the roundtable between Azerbaijan, Georgia, Türkiye, Iran, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan representatives resulting in a prioritised list of actions for further harmonisation.



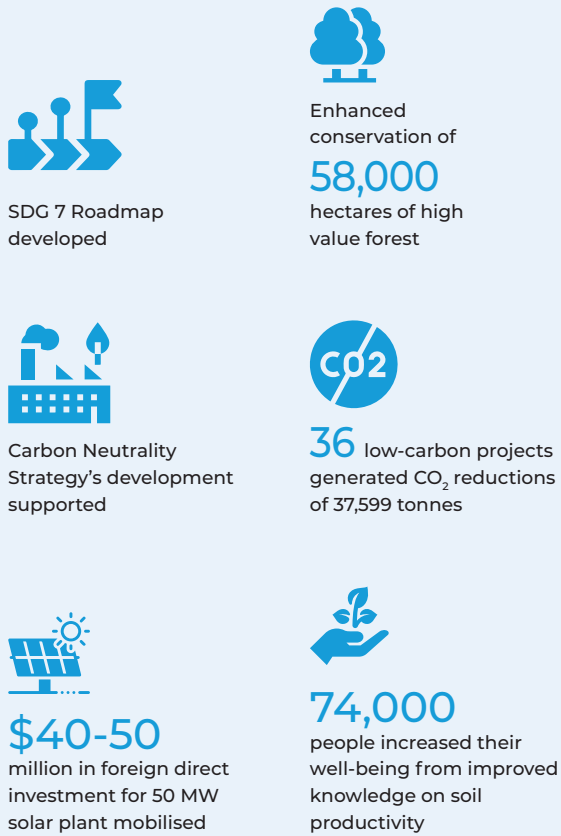
Challenges:

- Remaining gaps between professional education and labour market demands
- Persisting barriers in access to finance by farmers
- Protractedness of the trade simplification process



OUTCOME 3.2

By 2025, all people in Kazakhstan, in particular the most vulnerable, benefit from increased climate resilience, sustainable management of environment and clean energy, and sustainable rural and urban development.



Enhanced low carbon development

In 2022, the UN spearheaded cutting-edge policy advice, and supported the design and implementation of climate change policies such as **the Strategy on Carbon Neutrality until 2060** and Environmental Code by-laws, alongside providing technical advisory services on a range of topics — green-house gas emissions, fossil-fuel subsidies reform, renewable energy technologies, waste management, and biodiversity financing. Additionally, the UN supported the country's update of the Kazakhstan nationally determined contributions (NDC) and launch of the adaptation chapter. The UN further supported the country's alignment with the Industrial Accidents' Convention, developed joint action measures on pollution of the Syr Darya river, as well as supported the submission of the 8th National Communication and 5th Biennial Report to the UNFCCC alongside national policy dialogue on Integrated Water resources Management.

Strengthened sustainable urban and rural development

In 2022, the UN continued advancing policies and practices for sustainable urban and rural development. For instance, the UN enhanced South-North mobility, developed the **SDG7 Roadmap**, and facilitated private investments. Further, the UN provided analysis on the decarbonization of industry, risk analysis within the roadmap for phasing out coal-power, and recommendations advancing Renewable Energy Sources legislation.



We Have Re-programmed Ourselves — A Volunteer On #BeGreen Kazakhstan

Altynai, a young woman from Kazakhstan has joined the UNICEF's #BeGreen initiative to give back to her community and protect the environment. Despite initially feeling nervous and unsure of her abilities, she quickly found her place within the group and became an active participant in their various environmental initiatives.

Through her volunteering, Altynai gained new skills, met new people, and made a positive impact on her community. Despite facing challenges and obstacles along the way, she remained committed to the cause and continued to work towards creating a better future for her community and the planet. In the end, Altynai's experience with UNICEF's #BeGreen initiative served as a testament to the power of volunteering and the transformative impact it can have on individuals and communities.

Outcome 3.2 brings together the efforts of



SDG-targets:



To promote energy efficient practices, the UN developed several tools enhancing national stakeholders competencies on sustainable transition. Through development of the Smart City Profiles for Astana and Almaty, the UN further accelerated progress towards Goal 11 and other urban development-related SDGs. Additionally, the UN introduced the Strategic Environmental Assessment pilot in Astana and released Best Practices for Micro-, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs) on resiliency and progress towards a circular economy, alongside tools promoting critical raw material supply chain solutions, lifecycle management of pesticides, and enhanced natural gas innovations in road transportation.

Empowered rural communities

The UN continued improving the well-being and resilience of rural communities through supporting the expansion of protected areas (PA) and by enhancing conservation of **58 thousand hectares of high value forest**. In 2022, the size of PAs grew to 9.78 per cent of the country’s territory, improving the wellbeing of approximately 84,400 people. Additionally, enhanced monitoring and wildlife conservation efforts brought positive results through an increased snow leopard population to 180 and the reintroduction of the Bukhara deer and Kulan. Simultaneously, more than 100 new permanent jobs were created through the creation of the Bokeyorda Nature Reserve and the Ashiozek Zoological Reserve. To further promote rural wellbeing, 700 farmers increased their incomes from improved expertise on soil productivity, which benefitted **74,000 people in the Aral region**. To ensure women’s empowerment, piloting in four district of Community Pasture Councils (30 per cent female) increased women’s influence in community decision-making. Further, to enhance ecotourism, the UN supported the revised ecotourism standards, alongside piloting three tourist routes and five virtual tours of national parks.

Improved climate change resilience

In 2022, interventions to increase resilience, including improving conditions for energy transition and ensuring youth resilience featured prominently in the UN activities. For instance, 23 energy efficiency projects with annual reduction potential of 7299.7 tonnes of CO2 were approved, alongside the instalment of 28 hybrid wind and solar power plants of 2 kW in protected areas with annual output of 109.13 MWh/year. Additionally, ten 5-kW small-scale renewable energy systems for pilot farms and two multi-apartment residential buildings were upgraded. To ensure access to financing, the UN facilitated **36 low-carbon projects generating CO₂ reduction of 37,599 tonnes** and creating 215 temporary jobs. Investments in de-risking regulatory interventions further enabled the mobilisation of funds in renewable energy including **\$40-50 million in foreign direct investment (FDI)** in a 50 MW solar plant in Turkestan. To increase youth engagement, 361 volunteers, including 264 girls gained ecological awareness, alongside a programme introduced in three regions improving student’s knowledge about biodiversity of the country’s mountainous regions.



Challenges:

- Need to secure sufficient investments to implement the Carbon Neutrality Strategy until 2060
- Change in administrative-territorial division risks may delay the expansion of protected areas
- Need to further enable the mobilisation of funds in renewable energy



3. 3 Progress on Leaving No One Behind (LNOB)

The principle of leaving no one behind is central to the UNSDCF 2021-2025. However, vulnerable groups including persons with disabilities, women and girls, refugees and stateless persons, persons living with HIV, and others, continue facing risks of exclusion, discrimination, and poverty, as well as experience challenges with access to public services to live dignified lives.

Despite progress, women continue facing unequal access to certain jobs, discrimination due to maternity or marital status, as well as carrying a double burden of unpaid domestic work with formal employment. Additionally, female unemployment remains higher than for men (4.4 per cent compared to 2.9 per

cent).¹⁸ Since decriminalisation of the SGBV in 2017, its survivors continue facing difficulties in accessing justice, alongside barriers to access shelters for persons with disabilities, and persons living with HIV. The Gender Social Norms Index (2017-2022) also shows that 93.42 per cent Kazakhstanis hold at least one form of bias against gender equality and women's empowerment with the most significant bias recorded for physical integrity, which gauges opinions on intimate partner's violence and reproductive rights. Yet, a positive trend was recorded as the country progressed on social norms index compared to previous years.¹⁹

Further, significant progress was made on inclusion of the left behind groups. At

the Digital Bridge 2022 Forum President Tokayev stated that more than 300,000 residents of remote villages lack access to quality Internet.²⁰ Additionally, an urban-rural divide persists in terms of internet use and digital literacy.²¹ In 2021, the Government adopted the National Project — “Technological Breakthrough through to Digitalization, Science and Innovations” until 2025. Even though the country nearly reached digital gender parity, gaps exist for digital inclusion of persons with disabilities. However, there are signs of furthering the inclusion of persons with disabilities including the law signed by the President removing derogatory language towards persons with disabilities and children with disabilities.²² Additionally, “disabled person” has been changed to “person with disabilities” and “disabled child” to “child with disabilities”.

Internally, the UN is on track to substantially close the gap in the implementation of system-wide policies mainstreaming youth, gender, and disability in programmatic and operational activities. For example, HIV considerations were secured in the Youth Profile for Information Management System survey. Further, the Action Plan for the UN Disability Inclusion was adopted and a non-discriminatory employment statement with explicit reference to persons with disabilities was signed. Mainstreaming of gender and inclusion also figured prominently in joint advocacy, including for non-traditional thematic areas such as the Kazakhstani Women — Champions of a Prosperous and Sustainable World campaign of women to achieving SDGs and developing local communities, and the International Day of the Girl Child dedicated to Women in STEM.





3.4 Partnership and Financing the 2030 Agenda

Both the United Nations and the Government underscore the importance of diversifying resources and partners, particularly from the private sector, to best implement the current strategic frameworks, including the implementation of the SDGs and Agenda 2030 priorities. Identifying current and new partnerships which add value and locate sources of financial and political support are vital for the UN System in Kazakhstan. In 2022, the UN consolidated and diversified its partnerships to help accelerate the achievement of the SDGs. Several innovative partnerships were established and have already produced notable results.

Innovative Partnerships with the Government

Throughout 2022, the Government figured prominently as a convenor of ongoing flagship initiatives. Through the partnership with the Government, the UN continued to bring together a wide set of stakeholders around issues such as the creation of a

compensatory mechanism for neutralising greenhouse gas emissions, the reduction of vulnerabilities of the populations in Central Asia from glacier lake outburst floods due to climate change, enhanced green business development, industry decarbonization, cooperation through the Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE), and in sustainable public procurement.

Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF)

In Kazakhstan, the total available financing for the development of the country fell to 65 per cent of the GDP between 2016 to 2020 compared to 75 per cent in 2015. Through the Joint Programme on ‘Aligning policy and financing with SDGs towards adopting an Integrated National Financing Framework’, the UN continued to support the Government in developing tools to ensure integrated financing and budgeting frameworks, as well as increasing alignment of SDGs with national budget plans.

INFF Highlights in 2022:

1. **The formulation of the SDG-aligned climate finance strategy**, enabling the estimation of shares of public resources allocated directly and indirectly to climate change adaptation and mitigation;
2. **Methodology developed for systematising rapid integrated assessment (RIA) of national budgets**, allowing the identification of budget allocation across all 17 SDGs;
3. **Roadmap developed for implementing SDG budgeting**, further integrating the SDGs into the state budgeting system for transformation into the SDG budgeting roadmap for a five-year period;
4. **SDG costing optimised**, strengthening the preparatory work in the SDG 4.2 costing model covering a ten-year period in partnership with the Government;
5. **SDG aligned MSME financing strategy and enhanced SMEs financial inclusion**, improving capacities of national stakeholders on MSME financing and SMEs financial inclusion from the North and Central Asia subregion (Armenia, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan);
6. **Improved statistical tools to track child well-being**, ensuring enhanced targeted spending for children in the national budget through development of the **Child Budgeting Methodology** integrated into the **Child Well-being Index**;
7. **Strengthened capabilities to implement measures targeting child vulnerabilities through the development and testing of the Multidimensional Child Poverty Index methodology**, improving state capacities to routinely collect and analyse data on multidimensional child deprivations through integration into the statistical survey “Quality of Life of the Population”

Partnership with the World Bank

In 2022, the UN with the World Bank conducted a joint study ‘Listening to Kazakhstan’. Despite the result showing that approximately 23 percent of families in Kazakhstan classified themselves as poor, two-thirds of the survey respondents remained optimistic about the country’s long-term economic prospects, and a similar share said that they believe the country is on the right track with reforms. Cases of improved perceptions of the government’s support to the vulnerable – including the poor, the elderly, persons with disabilities, and children – were strongly linked to graduating from poverty and becoming more upbeat about the country’s direction. The results through this partnership point to a positive feedback loop between successful implementation of the government’s reform agenda, and the public’s support of that agenda.



3.5 Results of the UN Working More and Better Together



Six joint programmes implemented



Four new UN inter-agency working groups established



Nearly 17 million people reached through social media



Enhanced pooled funding for joint advocacy



\$1.5 million realised in cost-avoidance through BOS 2.0



Accessibility audit of the UN Common Premises conducted

Enhanced Repositioning of the UN System Delivering as One

2022 was the first year of slow recovery after the COVID-19 crisis. To promote strategic planning, the UN conducted two rounds of comprehensive 2022 updates to the Common Country Analysis (CCA), based on wide consultations to better reflect recent developments. Throughout, the document mainstreams human-rights, gender, youth, and disability, as well as strengthens joint analytical evidence through additional chapters on the implications of the war in Ukraine, country progress towards Agenda 2030, and child protection. Further, the UN successfully undertook the UNSDCF Joint Work Plan Desk Review and organised a Result Group Chairs mini-retreat, resulting in enhanced integrated policy advice to the

Government — such as for the Social Code, the Law on Counter Trafficking in Persons, the Carbon Neutrality Strategy 2060 — through readjustment of Result Group operational principles.

The coordination transaction costs were further reduced by reconfiguration of strengthened substantive dialogue platforms, which was nourished by joint advocacy and synchronised technical collaboration in existing and new thematic groups. In 2022, four new inter-agency working groups and thematic dialogues were established, strengthening the vision to deliver as One:

Existing

- Internal and External Gender-themed Groups
- Human Rights Working Group
- HIV/AIDS Joint Task Team
- (COP27) Task Team
- (PSEA) Task Team

Established in 2022

- Rule of Law Thematic Dialogue
- Youth-thematic Group
- Disability Inclusion Taskforce
- Private Sector Working Group

In 2022, the UN advanced progress on the implementation of joint programmes. The UN jointly implemented six projects and programmes, that included the finalisation of the Phase I of the Spotlight Regional Initiative. An additional \$1.06 million in new resources were mobilised from the EU for the Phase II implementation. The UN also recorded progress on implementation of joint initiatives on the Migration MPTF; Covid-19 MPTF — Digital Social Service Delivery; the Integrated National Financing Framework (SDG Fund Component 1); the Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE), and economic empowerment of Afghan women through education.





Strengthened Advocacy Through Communicating as One

In 2022, the UN recorded significant progress towards enhanced coordination for improved joint messaging and advocacy campaigning defined in the Joint Communications and Advocacy Strategy 2021-2025 and the Joint Annual Communications Plan 2022. As a result of adopting the “one UN approach” the engagement rate on social media increased by 60 per cent reaching nearly 17 million people and gained 52,000 followers on Instagram and 6,000 followers on Facebook.

Under the umbrella of the UN Communications Group (UNCG), the UN raised awareness on non-discriminatory practices, promoted positive social and gender norms, as well as increased the UN’s media presence in traditional and social media channels. Focus on improved coordination and collective messaging and advocacy positioning featured prominently in UN activities recording the joint impact of:

- **Enhanced capacities** of UN communications pooled resources, including in organisation the 30th anniversary of Kazakhstan’s membership in the UN;
- **Strengthened public awareness** of positive social norms and the harms of discrimination, including the spotlight on persons with disabilities at the UN Day 2022 inviting the first inclusive theatre in Central Asia, “Qanattylar” to perform;
- **Improved joint advocacy** and positioning furthering gender-equality, human-rights, youth and key focus areas through collectively organised UN observance days such as the 8 March International Women’s Day, Volunteer Day, Women in Diplomacy Day, 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence including a joint photo exhibition on the country’s progress towards gender equality.

Improved Efficiency of Operating as One

In 2022, the UN continued the implementation of the Business Operations Strategy (BOS) to leverage joint business operations through eliminating duplication, strengthening collective bargaining power, and maximising gains from economies of scale. As part of the BOS 2.0 annual review, the UN Operations Management Team (OMT) prioritised improved effectiveness and cost-efficiency, simplification and harmonisation of procedures, high impact/low complexity interventions, and going beyond operational procedures towards shared organisational goals. The BOS review affirmed cost savings of \$1.5 million in cost-avoidance in 2019-2021 and estimated a total cost-avoidance of nearly \$3.2 million until 2024.

To promote accessibility, the OMT secured a budgeted amount of \$20,000 for staff training on building an inclusive working environment along with the procurement of a local company to assess and improve the physical and ICT accessibility of the two UN common premises. Inclusive criteria were further mainstreamed in procurement practices and guidelines. To promote safety and security, UN female personnel and dependents were trained on women’s security awareness in the field. Additionally, efforts to promote environmentally friendly practices in the UN common premises progressed in 2022 through the establishment of a Common Premises Committee (CPC) in Astana, the installation of recycling boxes on all floors of the UN House, as well as the fitting of air quality monitors in the UN House.

3.6 Financial Overview and Resource Mobilization

Financial Overview

TOTAL 2022 REQUIRED RESOURCES, AVAILABLE RESOURCES, AND EXPENDITURES BY COOPERATION FRAMEWORK OUTCOME

Outcome	Required Resources	Available Resources	Expenditures
Outcome 1.1	27.5%	25.3%	22.6%
Outcome 1.2	11.2 %	8.1%	7.6%
Outcome 2.1	10.5%	12.4%	15.7%
Outcome 2.2	22.4%	25.5%	30.4%
Outcome 3.1	14.2%	13.1%	14.2%
Outcome 3.2	14.2%	15.6%	9.5%
Total	100%	100%	100%

Note: Based on the available data in UN INFO in 2022

2022 BUDGET BREAKDOWN BY AGENCY (\$)

Agency	Required Resources	Available Resources	Expenditures
FAO	5,063,595	5,063,595	4,363,595
ILO	343,348	343,348	343,348
IOM	2,400,000	2,409,187	2,409,187
OHCHR	38,165	38,165	38,165
UNAIDS	376,500	288,000	288,000
UNDP	18,582,480	18,582,480	12,758,225
UNECE	300,000	300,000	300,000
UNEP	384,000	384,000	384,000
UNESCO	1,312,786	584,918	584,918
UNFPA	1,700,000	1,430,225	1,430,225
UNHCR	1,405,195	1,181,194	1,181,194
UNICEF	3,330,000	3,457,773	3,457,773
UNIDO	25,000	25,000	25,000
UNODC	3,189,680	3,189,680	3,053,508
UN Women	2,816,920	2,816,920	2,642,601
WHO	5,614,804	5,614,804	5,614,804
Total	46,882,473	45,709,289	38,874,543

Note: Based on the available agency data in 2022

Resource Mobilisation

In 2022, the UN secured 97.5 per cent coverage of the approximately \$46.9 million required resources for the implementation of UN activities with available resources of \$45.7 million. The total expenditures reached nearly \$38.9 million, out of which 19 per cent represented core-funding and 81 per cent non-core funding. Non-core funding, in its majority, was mobilised from the Government of Kazakhstan (24 per cent), the EU (19 per cent), and the US (13 per cent).

While the Government remains the UN's largest contributor, a combination of the country's upper-middle-income status, declining core resources, and fluctuating government cost-sharing, increased the need to innovate and diversify the resource portfolio. Both the UN and the Government emphasise diversifying the source of resources and partners, particularly from the private sector, to implement the current strategic frameworks, including the SDGs and Agenda 2030 priorities encapsulated in the Cooperation Framework.

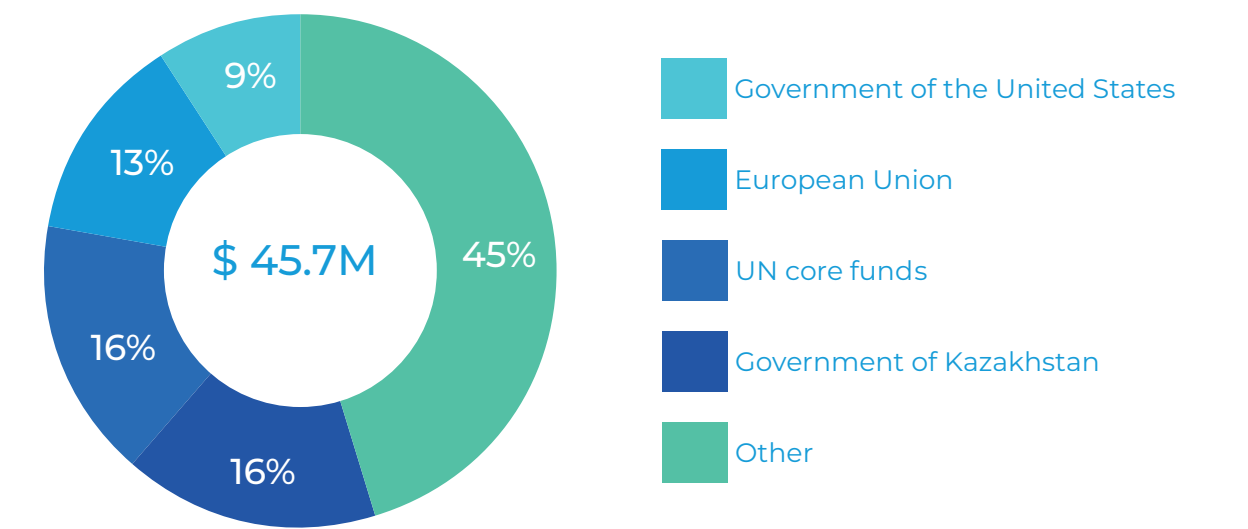
In 2022, the UN enhanced collaboration across agencies to deliver as one through the

adoption of the **Joint Resource Mobilization and Partnership Strategy**, which strengthens the vision and establishment of innovative partnership for the agenda through:

- A systematic, predictable and well-coordinated approach to soliciting, acquiring, utilising, managing, reporting, monitoring, and evaluating, and;
- Expansion of the resource base to ensure sustainable resource availability for implementation of the UN programmes in support of achievement of SDGs in Kazakhstan.

To adapt to the development environment at the global level and particularity in country context, the UN continued the work on identifying current and new partnerships, adding value and locating new sources of financial and political support, including:

- Government of Kazakhstan cost-sharing and partnerships
- Traditional (bilateral and multilateral) donors in Kazakhstan
- International Financial Institutions potential engagement
- Private Sector — increase potential for cooperation and partnerships
- Non-traditional partners — Information, Incentives, Instruments



Share of Sources of Funding to the UN System in Kazakhstan in 2022



CHAPTER 4. UN FOCUS AND PRIORITIES FOR 2023



The year 2023 will be a continuation of the current cycle of the UN engagement, in which the UN will continue providing multidimensional support to the implementation of the Kazakhstan 2050 strategy. Similar to 2022, UN will continue aligning its programming to priorities identified by President Tokayev in early 2022, including strengthening inclusive governance, “Listening State” concept, diversification of the economy, improvement of the service delivery and other. The UN will continue Kazakhstan’s efforts on streamlining SDG through its policies, including its preparation and participation in the SDG Summit in September 2023.

2022 unveiled persisting risks stemming from insufficient diversification of the economy, overreliance on extractive industries, and vulnerability to external shocks. The Ukraine war and tectonic shifts in global energy markets force Kazakhstan to find a new balance between keeping industrial production and mitigating climate change and pollution. In 2023, the UN will support the government in addressing these risks by supporting the implementation of the Concept of Carbon Neutrality until 2060, diversification of the economy and the decarbonization of industry by strengthening small and medium enterprises, entrepreneurship, digital and green innovations, as well as further engagement in empowering skills, competencies and opportunities of people that have been left behind and exposed to poverty and exclusion. Additionally, the UN will continue facilitating engagement in the COP process, as well as implementing pilot initiatives to show practical benefits of green solutions for people and the planet.

The centrality of human rights and gender equality will remain a priority for the UN in line with the Secretary General’s Call to Action on Human Rights and system-wide implementation of UN strategies. The UN will continue assisting

the Government in advancing the compliance of legislation, regulations as well as their implementation, with international human rights law and practices. The UN will continue building the institutional capacity of the relevant Government bodies and the National Human Rights Institution, along with to support the country’s fulfilment of obligations under treaty bodies and/or potential human rights mechanisms. Simultaneously, remaining adamant to eliminating gender disparities, the UN will continue empowering women, enhancing women’s political representation, preventing and responding to gender-based violence. To ensure youth resilience, the UN will continue engaging young people as the agents for change — the country’s most important growth resource, including within the Transformative Education Summit commitments. Finally, the UN will further work on its commitment within the Common Pledge 2.0 for refugee inclusion in its plans and priorities.

The UN’s support to Kazakhstan as an upper middle-income country will continue focusing on providing policy advisory services. The UN system configuration remains adequate for the tasks, represented by a variety of resident and non-resident entities, Agencies, Funds and Programmes, including regional commissions. This allows us to draw from a wide range of thematic expertise, both national and international. In 2023, continued efforts will be made to enhance operation of the non-resident Agencies in Kazakhstan. We believe that resource mobilisation in Kazakhstan is not only about mobilising funding from external donors, but garnering expertise and leveraging partnerships at strategic entry points. The expertise makes the UN uniquely positioned in supporting critical governance reforms in various sectors of economic and social life.



LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

CCA	United Nations Common Country Analysis
COP27	The 27th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
COVID-19	Coronavirus Disease 2019
CSOs	Civil Society Organisations
DAFI	Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative
DAMU	State-owned Fund for the Entrepreneurship Development “DAMU”
DGC	Department for Global Communication
ERI	Economic Research Institute
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
ESG	Environmental, Social, and Governance
EU	European Union
EU CBAM	European Union Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism
FAO	United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization
GBV	Gender-based Violence
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEWE	Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment
HDI	Human Development Index
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
IFIs	International Financial Institutions
ILO	International Labour Organization
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IPC	Infection Prevention Control
IT	Information technology
ITC	The International Trade Centre
ITU	The International Telecommunication Union
LNOB	Leave-No-One-Behind Principle
MPTF	Multi-partner Trust Fund
MSMEs	Micro Small and Medium Enterprises
NDC	Nationally Determined Contributions

NGO	Non-governmental organisation
OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
OMT	UN Operations Management Team
OSCE	Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe
PAGE	Partnership for Action on Green Economy
PSEA	Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse
PWDs	Persons with Disabilities
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SGBV	Sexual and Gender-based Violence
SMEs	Small and Medium-sized Enterprises
STEM	Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics
UNAIDS	The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNAMA	United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan
UNCG	UN Communications Group
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDRR	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UN-Habitat	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
UNRCCA	United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia
UNSDCF	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2021-2025
UNV	United Nations Volunteers
UNICEF	United Nations Children’s Fund
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
VNR	Voluntary National Review
WHO	World Health Organization



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