



INSC/2019/406735

Stakeholder Engagement for Uranium Legacy Remediation in Central Asia Phase II

Final Project Report (2019-2023)

Implementing Agency:	UNDP Istanbul Regional Hub for Europe and the CIS in partnership with Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)
Atlas Project ID:	00119164
Project Title:	Stakeholder Engagement for Uranium Legacy Remediation in Central Asia – Phase II
Project Duration:	05 July 2019– 31 December 2023 (as per the extended contract)
Country / Region:	Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan / Central Asia
Funding Partner:	European Commission: € 1,400,000 Parallel/in-kind contributions: UNDP: € 154,839 OSCE: € 84,641
Responsible Parties:	Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) UNDP Country Office in Kyrgyzstan UNDP Country Office in Tajikistan UNDP Country Office in Uzbekistan
UNDP Gender Marker:	GEN1
UNDP Digital Technology Marker:	No digital technology utilized (note: not part of the ProDoc.)
UNDP Digital Results Marker:	No contribution to digital transformation of society and inclusive digital ecosystems (note: not part of the ProDoc.).
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Acronyms

ANRSAS	The Agency for Nuclear and Radiation Safety of the Academy of Science of the Republic of Tajikistan
CBRN SSA	The Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Safety and Security Agency
CDP	Community Development Plan
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States
CO	Country Office
DIM	Direct Implementation Modality
EBRD	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
EC	European Commission
ERA	Environmental Remediation Account
EU	European Union
IRH	UNDP Istanbul Regional Hub
MES	Ministry of Emergency Situations
MFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MSMF	Ministry for the Support of the Mahalla and the Family of the Republic of Uzbekistan
NGO	Nongovernmental Organization
OSCE	Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
PEICs	Public Environmental Information Centers
ProDoc	Project Document
PWD	Person with a Disability
RRF	Rapid Response Facility
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
TMA	Tailings Management Agency
ToT	Training of Trainers
ULSs	Uranium Legacy Sites
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
WISUTEC	WISUTEC Umwelttechnik GmbH

1. Executive Summary

Reported period: 05 July 2019– 31 December 2023

The final report captures the key achievements and milestones achieved throughout the duration of the Stakeholder Engagement for Uranium Legacy Remediation in Central Asia (Phase II) project from 2019 to 2023.

The project continued to deliver its activities for the safe governance of uranium legacy sites with active engagement of the local communities living in the pilot areas, aiming to reduce risks to their health, livelihoods, and environment.

Throughout its implementation, the project remained committed to delivering on the activities outlined in the ProDoc. The information exchange was assured through regular virtual working level meetings conducted between the representatives of national authorities, UNDP and OSCE, as well as community representatives at the local level, ensuring proper coordination between all partners and beneficiaries.

The project activities were conducted in line with the following outcomes agreed in the ProDoc.

1. Increased understanding of local and national decision-makers and community members about uranium waste risk and its impact on people, livelihoods, and environment.
2. Reinforced implementation of the legal and regulatory framework through community engagement in the safe governance of legacy sites.
3. Uranium legacy risk reduction in target communities through gender sensitive social economic development projects.
4. Regional cooperation, project management and quality control.

The **first component** of the project ensured increased understanding of local and national decision-makers and pilot communities about uranium waste risk and safety measures, through working level commissions, consultation meetings, trainings, and public hearings on radioactive safety. The project closely worked with the Public Environmental Information Centers (PEICs) and national decision-makers for mitigating risks from uranium legacy sites. Throughout the project implementation, **132 consultations were held**, engaging local populations from various sites across Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan. These consultations informed over 2,500 individuals about radioactive safety measures, public access to environmental information, and planned remediation works. Training sessions for stakeholders and the development of educational modules equipped institutions and individuals with comprehensive knowledge to address uranium waste risks. This led to increased understanding among stakeholders about the impacts of uranium waste on people, livelihoods, and the environment. The **awareness and outreach efforts directly impacted over 4,550 individuals** across the three countries. Notably, the opening of the **Museum of the History of Mailuu-Suu and the Uranium Heritage of Kyrgyzstan** provided a platform for open discussions on radiation safety and tailings reclamation, engaging approximately 2,100 visitors, including students and tourists. Additionally, the project implemented **31 types of small-scale safety measures**, totaling over 50 interventions, demonstrating a comprehensive approach to addressing environmental challenges associated with ULS.

The **second component** of the project encouraged for more inclusive uranium legacy site (ULS) management with a view to improve local citizen's knowledge on their legal rights and responsibilities

regarding ULS governance by building trust between regulating authorities and local communities. Each programme country conducted an analysis of its legislative frameworks to enhance public awareness and access to information on ULSs. Results and recommendations were disseminated through brochures and leaflets to support citizen awareness in ULS management and radioactive safety. Roundtable discussions, field visits, and working-level meetings with key partners were organized. Throughout the implementation, the project conducted **44 dialogues with the participation of 2,650 people**, including at least 841 women. These dialogues facilitated exchanges between the public and decision-makers, **promoting inclusive governance on ULSs** in Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.

Within the **third component**, the project implemented tailor-made interventions in all three programme countries, considering community needs and results from the socio-economic and legal framework assessments. Through extensive consultations and working-level meetings with partners and national stakeholders, the project developed **customized solutions for implementing community-level pilot projects**. Operational procedures were established, including a small grant facility in Kyrgyzstan, a small business pilot modality in Uzbekistan, and pilot-demonstration projects in Tajikistan. In total, **35 socio-economic pilot projects were implemented**, covering areas such as **environmental protection, small-scale infrastructure development, health measures, and support for small businesses**. These initiatives promoted local ownership, enhanced community resilience, improved socio-economic conditions, and provided employment opportunities and skills development.

The regional and the **fourth component** ensured effective **project management and monitoring** through close coordination with partners and stakeholders. Despite challenges posed by COVID-19 and geopolitical sensitivities, project implementation remained on track in accordance with agreed working plans. **Regular coordination meetings and calls** facilitated information exchange between national authorities, UNDP, OSCE, and local community representatives. Coordination calls with OSCE and UNDP country offices and updates during **European Commission Planet Cluster meetings** ensured ongoing communication and alignment with project objectives. A monitoring matrix was developed in line with **EC's OPSYS log-frame system**, and active participation in regional dialogues and conferences further promoted project visibility. Regional events such as conferences, webinars, and exchange visits showcased project progress, including inception workshops, knowledge exchange sessions, and study tours. The project concluded with a final closure and regional knowledge exchange workshop in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, in 2023, attended by representatives from Central Asian states, the European Commission, OSCE, UNDP, and other partners, ensuring comprehensive dissemination of project results and lessons learned.

The project utilized 100% (EUR 1,639,545.28) of the funds allocated for the reported period of implementation. The details are available under Annex 3 with an overview of the final financial report. The following table indicates the budget utilization overview:

Box 1. Budget utilization overview. For details, please refer to Annex 3.

Description	Amount EUR
The Total Cost of action as per article 3.1 Special Conditions	1,639,480.00
The EU Contribution in EUR as per article 3.1 Special Conditions	1,400,000.00
The EU Prefinancing in Eur:	
The 1st instalment received on 18/07/2019	324,560.00
The 2nd instalment received on 22/04/2021	448,028.00
The 3rd instalment received on 08/03/2022	227,412.00
The 4th instalment received on 17/03/2023	380,000.00
The Total Project Costs (reporting period)	1,639,545.28
Request of the fifth instalment	20,000.00

Throughout the project implementation, the major risks were recognized in relation to escalation of severe restrictions on movement and physical distancing, which inevitably impacted the way the project engaged communities, especially for planned face-to-face activities in the field. Considering these challenges connected with the pandemic and the various variants (such as the omicron variant), the project ensured continuity of its successful engagement with local stakeholders and pilot communities in collaborative decision-making through online means, remote engagement tools, trainings in small groups, including active participation of community leaders, and thus securing dynamic efforts for achieving safe and inclusive governance of the uranium legacy sites.

It is important to note that political situation in the region - especially between Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, created additional risks to sustain regional cooperation. Furthermore, overall instability (due to Ukraine crisis) resulted in certain challenges in the region such as migration crisis, economic instability, high inflation rates, supply chain problems due to sanctions, etc., impacting on the efficiency of the project implementation. The project team worked closely with participating governments and all partners, justifying the positive contribution of the Uranium 2 project activities linked with socio-economic and environmental dimensions in the region.

It's also worth to note that, the project requested a **no-cost extension until December 31st, 2022**, to compensate delays in project implementation due to the impact of COVID-19 pandemic in 2020-2021, which had caused delays in implementation of activities under Outcome 1 and Outcome 4 (linked with travel restrictions, as well as in-person meetings/consultations). As a follow up to the no-cost extension and based on requests from Govts and with the kind support from EC, the project received a **cost extension until December 31st, 2023**. An addendum to the official contract was signed on 16 December 2022 between EC and UNDP.

2. Introduction

Geographical coverage: Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.

Project partners: Governments of Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan, OSCE, Aarhus centers, EBRD, EC, local authorities, and local communities.

The uranium legacy causes serious threat to livelihoods, human health, and the environment in Central Asia. According to rough estimations around 1 billion tons of waste from mining and processing radioactive ores is stored on tailings sites across the region. This is largely the legacy of the Soviet Union where Central Asia served as the main uranium supplier to its nuclear industry for nearly 40 years. Various assessments carried out on radioactive risk in the region show that many of high-risk legacy sites are insufficiently secured, the waste containment structures are often inadequate and frequently damaged, and they lack adequate technical expertise and maintenance. These legacy sites pose serious risks to the environment and public health, including physical, radiological, and toxicological risks to people and animals living close to the sites. Many of the uranium legacy sites are concentrated along the tributaries to the Syr-Darya River, that runs through the Fergana Valley – the agricultural centre of the region shared by the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan – which might potentially cause transboundary implications. The Project (Phase II) builds upon the Phase I of the *Stakeholder Engagement for Uranium Legacy Remediation in Central Asia*, which was the first stand-alone comprehensive programme in the region, aiming to increase public awareness and engagement in uranium risk management.

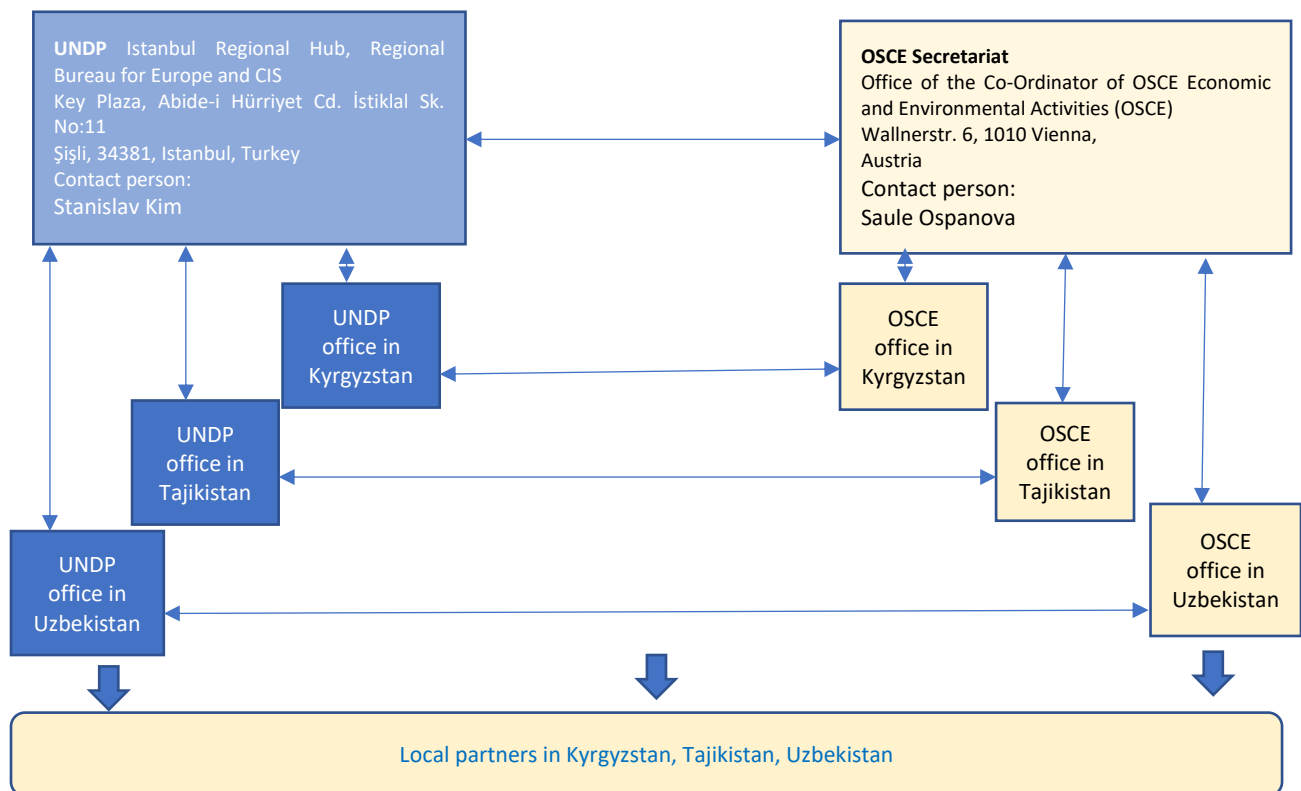
The objective of the Phase II project was to reduce risk of the negative impact of the uranium waste on people, livelihoods, and environment through raising awareness and supporting people-centered, gender sensitive, risk-informed solutions in legacy sites at the level of local communities in Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan. This objective was achieved through implementing targeted public advocacy and outreach campaign; building upon the successful awareness raising work of the Phase I; improving implementation of the regulatory environment through effective community engagement in the decision making process in the legacy sites; strengthening national and cross-border cooperation in uranium legacy remediation, and carrying out targeted community level socio-economic interventions to reduce the risk of ULSs in at-risk communities.

UNDP Istanbul Regional Hub for Europe and the CIS (IRH) implemented the project under the Direct Implementation Modality (DIM) with participation of OSCE and UNDP Country Offices (COs), as responsible parties. OSCE was considered as a Grant Beneficiary within EU-UNDP Contribution Agreement.

UNDP Istanbul Regional Hub Climate and Disaster Team was responsible for the oversight, project management, coordination and reporting. National-level activities under the responsibility of the UNDP were implemented directly through the UNDP Country Offices in beneficiary countries. The OSCE-led activities were implemented by the OSCE (Secretariat and the OSCE Field Operations in Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan) in close partnership with local partners and stakeholders. The OSCE and its Aarhus Centers were the direct implementing partners of the public awareness and outreach component of the project.

At the regional level, UNDP IRH was in direct communication with UNDP COs and the OSCE to ensure adequate and prompt information exchange. Regular online discussions involving IRH, OSCE Secretariat, OSCE Field Operations and UNDP COs were conducted to ensure proper coordination between the implementing partners. UNDP COs and OSCE Field Operations within the three beneficiary countries remained in close communication and cooperation with the respective national and local authorities and EU delegations.

The following diagram describes a detailed structure of an organizational setup for Phase II.



The project contributed significantly to the implementation of **UNDP IRH RPD** (Regional programme document) **Outcome 3**. "Building resilience to shocks and crises through enhanced prevention and risk-informed development" or more specifically to **RP Output 3.1**. "Evidence-based assessment and innovative planning tools and capacities developed regionally for use by countries to enable implementation of gender-sensitive, risk-informed prevention and preparedness to limit the impact of natural hazards, pandemics and conflict".

Activities under the project Outcome 1 and Outcome 2 contributed to the strengthening of local authorities and local population capacity and equipped them with the tools and knowledge on how to be involved in the process of uranium waste management.

Activities under the project Outcome 3 served to set up the local measures that would help local communities develop alternative livelihoods and reduce the likelihood of exposure to contaminated toxic materials.

Also, project activities directly and indirectly contributed to achievement of several SDGs:

- SDG Goal No. 3 — Target 3.9: By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution. *Indirectly.*
- SDG Goal No.5 — Target 5.5: Ensure women’s full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life. *Directly.*
- SDG Goal No. 6 — Target 6.3: By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials. *Indirectly.*
- SDG Goal No. 12 — Target 12.4: By 2030, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle. *Directly*
- SDG Goal No. 11 — Target 11.b: By 2020, substantially increase the number of cities and human settlements adopting and implementing integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, resilience to disasters, and develop and implement, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, holistic disaster risk management at all levels. *Indirectly.*
- SDG Goal No. 15 — Target 15.1: By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and in uranium wasteland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements. *Directly.*
- SDG Goal No. 16 — Targets 16.6: Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels and 16.7 Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels and 16.10 Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements. *Directly.*

3. Progress Review: Key Activities and Results, 05 July 2019– 31 December 2023

3.1. Overall progress against outcomes

EU OUTCOME 1: Increased understanding of local and national decision-makers and community members about uranium waste risk and its impact on people, livelihoods, and environment

Responsible Party: OSCE, in cooperation with Aarhus Centers, and in coordination with UNDP.

Involved partners and beneficiaries: Local communities, key stakeholders (teachers, healthcare workers, national authorities, etc.), children, local NGOs, Project Management Unit of the ERA fund in Uranium Legacy Sites where ERA is operational.

This component had an objective to open a dialogue, disseminate the information, increase the level of knowledge of local stakeholders about the risks of ULS and benefits of remediation, and risk management activities at uranium legacy sites. Main actions under this component involved activities such as creating working commissions on radioactive safety, organization of meetings, public hearings, and informal consultations on-site and media coverage.

The project closely worked with the PEICs and national decision-makers, focusing on stakeholder engagement for mitigating risk from uranium legacy sites in the pilot countries. Throughout the project, **132 consultations** were organized focusing on radioactive safety with participation of the local population from MinKush, Shekaftar and MailuuSuu (in Kyrgyzstan), Istiqlol and Goziyon (in Tajikistan) and Yangiabad and Charkesar (in Uzbekistan), including active participation of the managers of PEICs and local NGOs. As a result of these consultations, more than 2,500 people were informed about **radioactive safety measures**, public access to environmental information and planned remediation works in the legacy sites.

Notably, initiatives such as **training sessions** for stakeholders and the development of **educational modules** have equipped key institutions and individuals with the knowledge necessary to address uranium waste risks comprehensively. Consequently, the project has contributed to an increased understanding among stakeholders about the multifaceted impacts of uranium waste on people, livelihoods, and the environment.

The efforts undertaken through **awareness and outreach activities** under this component resulted in a significant impact on communities, with a direct reach extending to **at least 4,550 individuals**, encompassing both men and women across Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, and Kyrgyzstan.

Furthermore, the **Museum of the History of Mailuu-Suu and the Uranium Heritage of Kyrgyzstan** was opened on 16 June 2022, providing a platform for everyone to participate in open discussions on various topics, such as radiation safety and reclamation of uranium tailings. The museum experience had been characterized by interactivity, featuring historical materials, storytelling activities, and a recording booth for personal reflections, and visited by **approximately 2,100 people (including students and tourists)**

visited the museum Moreover, it fostered a culture of open dialogue, inviting participants to engage in discussions on critical topics such as radiation safety and the reclamation of uranium tailings.

The project implemented **31 types of small-scale safety measures** in total, resulting in over 50 separate interventions, indicative of a comprehensive approach to addressing environmental challenges. Details are provided under output 1 activities.

EU OUTCOME 2: Reinforced implementation of the legal and regulatory framework through community engagement in the safe governance of legacy sites

Responsible Party: UNDP (Output 2.1), OSCE (Output 2.2)

Involved partners and beneficiaries: UNDP IRH, OSCE, National and local authorities, local communities, specialized groups, local NGOs, UNDP country offices in beneficiary countries.

This outcome aimed to encourage more inclusive ULS management with a view to improving local citizen's knowledge on their legal rights and responsibilities regarding ULS governance by building trust between regulating authorities and local communities.

Each programme country conducted an analysis of its legislative frameworks to improve public awareness and access to information on ULSs. Results and recommendations were disseminated through brochures and leaflets to support citizen awareness in ULS management and radioactive safety. Roundtable discussions, field visits, and working-level meetings with key partners were organized, alongside the establishment of working groups.

Under this component, throughout the implementation, the project conducted **44 dialogues with the participation of 2,650 people**, including at least 841 women. These dialogues facilitated exchanges between the public and decision-makers to promote inclusive governance on ULSs in Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.

EU OUTCOME 3: Uranium legacy risk reduction in target communities through gender sensitive social economic development projects

Responsible party: UNDP in coordination with OSCE.

Involved partners and beneficiaries: UNDP, OSCE, local authorities and local communities, NGO, specialized groups, local NGOs.

This outcome aimed to set up the most appropriate community outreach framework based on a preliminary socio-economic assessment of the local communities and country's respective legal and institutional frameworks, which informed tailor made interventions (i.e., pilot-demo projects, grant facility, and business projects) suitable to each country context and community needs.

Through extensive consultations and working-level meetings, the project collaborated closely with partners and national stakeholders to develop **customized solutions** for implementing community-level pilot projects. This involved establishing operational procedures such as a small grant facility in Kyrgyzstan, a small business pilot modality in Uzbekistan, and pilot-demonstration projects in Tajikistan. A total of **35 socio-economic pilot projects were implemented**, addressing a range of areas including environmental protection, small-scale infrastructure development, health measures, and support for

small businesses. These initiatives aimed to foster local ownership, enhance community resilience, improve socio-economic conditions, and provide employment opportunities along with skills development. Details are available under output 3 activities.

EU OUTCOME 4: Regional cooperation, project management and quality control

Responsible Party: UNDP (Output 4.1) and OSCE (Output 4.2).

Involved partners and beneficiaries: UNDP, OSCE, local authorities and local communities, NGO, specialized groups, local NGOs.

UNDP IRH ensured the project management and monitoring in close coordination with partners and stakeholders. Despite the COVID-19 induced limitations and geopolitical sensitivities in the region, the project implementation was on track and in consistent with the working plans agreed between the project partners. The information exchange was assured by regular coordination (working level) meetings and calls conducted between the representatives of national authorities, UNDP and OSCE, as well as the community representatives at the local level.

Coordination calls were organized with OSCE and UNDP country offices, and updates were provided during European Commission **Planet Cluster meetings** on a quarterly basis. The project developed a monitoring and evaluation framework in line with **EC's OPSYS log-frame** system and actively participated in international dialogues and conferences.

Regional conferences, webinars, and exchange visits were conducted to showcase project progress and outcomes, with highlights including inception workshops, knowledge exchange workshops, and study tours to observe pilot projects. The project concluded with a final closure and regional knowledge exchange workshop attended by delegates from Central Asian states, the European Commission, OSCE, UNDP, and other partners. Details are provided under output 4 activities.

3.2. Progress against each output

EU Output 1.1. Deepened stakeholders' awareness and outreach at local and national levels. (OSCE lead)		
Output indicators	ProDoc targets	Progress against targets
<i>1.1.1 # of consultations among local stakeholders on radioactive safety</i>	Baseline (2018): 0 Target 2023: 9 Target Y3: 9 (3 per country) Target Y2: 9 (3 per country) Target Y1: 9 (3 per country)	01 Jan 2023 – 31 Dec 2023: 24 consultations (20 in Kyrgyzstan; 2 in Tajikistan; 2 in Uzbekistan). 01 Jan 2022 – 31 Dec 2022: 36 consultations (20 in Kyrgyzstan; 10 in Tajikistan; 6 in Uzbekistan) 05 July 2021 - 31 Dec 2021: 23 consultations (13 in Uzbekistan; 10 in Kyrgyzstan) 05 July 2020 – 04 July 2021 (Y2) results: 13 consultations 05 July 2019 – 04 July 2020 (Y1) results: 36 consultations + an inception workshop Cumulative total: 132 consultations + an inception workshop.
<i>1.1.2 # of people covered by awareness and outreach campaigns (if possible, gender disaggregated)</i>	Baseline (2019): 0 Target 2023: 1500 Target Y3: 1000 Target Y2: 1000 Target Y1: 1000	01 Jan 2023 – 31 Dec 2023: 2,049 people (864 women; 1,185 men) 01 Jan 2022 – 31 Dec 2022: 657 people (307 women; 350 men) 05 July 2021 - 31 Dec 2021: 743 people (370 women; 373 men) 05 July 2020 – 04 July 2021 (Y2) results: 541 (260 women; 281 men) 05 July 2019 – 04 July 2020 (Y1) results: 560 people (196 women; 364 men) Cumulative total: 4,550 people (1,997 women; 2,553 men)
<i>1.1.3 # of visitors to the educational museum on uranium mining</i>	Baseline (2019): 0 Target 2023: 1000 (at least 400 students) Target Y3: 1500 (at least 600 students) Target Y2: 500 (at least 250 students)	01 Jan 2023 – 31 Dec 2023: around 900 visitors including students (around 50%) and tourists (10%). 01 Jan 2022 – 31 Dec 2022: around 1200 visitors including students and tourists (10%). 05 July 2021 - 31 Dec 2021: construction is ongoing. Cumulative total: around 2,100 visitors including students and tourists.

Activity 1.1.1: Organize trainings and regular consultations among local stakeholders on radioactive safety and planned remediation works.

An inception workshop was held on 26th of November 2019, in cooperation EC, involving delegates from three Central Asian states (Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan) as well as representatives of local communities, NGOs and international organizations. Furthermore, over the implementation period, the project organized **132 consultations** in total with the local population in MinKush, Shekaftar and MailuuSuu (in Kyrgyzstan), Istiqlol and Goziyon (in Tajikistan) and Yangiabad and Charkesar (in Uzbekistan), including active participation of the managers of PEICs and local NGOs. As a result of these

consultations more than 2500 people were informed about radioactive safety measures, public access to environmental information and planned remediation works in the legacy sites.

In complementary to these initiatives, the project also conducted a number of training sessions for local and national stakeholders and developed educational modules, such as the module developed for the training centre under the Ministry of Emergency Situations, in close cooperation with the Tailings Management Agency in Kyrgyzstan (available on the [link](#) provided). Similar efforts have been also made available to teachers, school kids, community representatives and residents in target areas of Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan through educational manuals/modules developed on radioactive safety (see examples [here](#)).

The culmination of collaborative efforts through inception workshops, extensive consultations, and targeted training sessions has yielded significant outcomes in increasing awareness and understanding among both local and national stakeholders regarding the risks associated with uranium waste. By engaging delegates from Central Asian states, representatives of local communities, NGOs, and international organizations, the project has effectively disseminated information on radioactive safety measures, environmental risks, and planned remediation works in legacy sites.

Activity 1.1.2: Organized awareness-raising campaigns and outreach activities at local, national, and regional levels

At least **4,550 people (1,997 women; 2,553 men)** were directly covered by awareness and outreach events through regular consultations, trainings and meetings organized at local and national levels, in complementary to the activity 1.1.1.

In **Uzbekistan**, information campaigns were organized with a particular focus on radiation safety, targeting pilot communities in Yangiabad and Charkesar, in close cooperation with the local government authorities, OSCE, UNDP, Ministry of Emergency Situations, Ministry of Health, and NGO Ekomaktab. More than 3,000 awareness raising materials (brochures and information handouts) were distributed and adapted to the local needs, as well as translated into the local language. Examples can be found [here](#).

In **Tajikistan**, the Aarhus Centre in Khujand covered more than 140,000 target audience in social media and disseminated awareness and outreach publications – e.g., more than 40 publications on radioactive safety and environmental security issues disseminated, mainly through website and social media channels such as Facebook and Instagram.

In **Kyrgyzstan**, three educational video spots on radioactive safety measures have been created and broadcasted through the social media channels / pages of the Ministry of Emergency, Aarhus Centres and OSCE. More than 2500 booklets were printed out and distributed within the pilot sites, engaging a broader audience at the pilot communities. Considering the size of the videos, the project team can provide the video files separately upon request. Furthermore, the project developed a mobile application tool on “Radioactive Safety Measures”, which was integrated into the system of the Ministry of Emergency Situations Crisis Management Center of Kyrgyzstan, underscoring a commitment to enhancing accessibility and preparedness at the national level.

Collectively, these initiatives have not only expanded knowledge and awareness but have also empowered communities and decision-makers to actively address uranium waste risks, thereby

reinforcing the foundations for sustainable and resilient development in the region. For further details, please visit the progress reports submitted to the commission.

Activity 1.1.3: Established educational museums on uranium mining in the vicinity of a uranium legacy site.

Within the earlier stages of the project implementation, the construction activities of the museum were delayed due to the Covid-19 pandemic. On 16 June 2022, the former uranium-mining town Mailuu-Suu in the Jalal-Abad province celebrated the opening of the **Museum of the History of Mailuu-Suu and the Uranium Heritage of Kyrgyzstan**. The museum was established in close collaboration with OSCE, UNDP, Mailuu-Suu City Hall, the Ministry of Emergency Situations and other partners.

Over the implementation period, **approximately 2,100 visitors (including students and tourists)** visited the museum and learned about the history and tradition of the industrial town and the effects of the mining and uranium tailing pits on the health of the local population and ecosystems. The museum provided an interactive experience through historical materials, stories and memories in the recording booth, while offering a platform for everyone to participate in open discussions on various topics, such as radiation safety and reclamation of uranium tailings.

For example, the Green patrols members, schoolchildren and teachers at the schools in Mailuu-Suu town conducted a number of open classes on radioactive safety measures and tourism development, while information [brochures](#) on radioactivity safety were disseminated among the visitors.



Figure 1. Students visited the uranium museum.

It's worth noting that the project collaborated with the Ministry of Environment of Uzbekistan and local governmental authorities in Yangiabad, Uzbekistan, to explore the establishment of the Uranium Production History Museum. For the potential next phase of the project, a suitable building was identified, and an agreement was reached with the Ministry of Environment of Uzbekistan to establish a similar museum in Yangiabad village.

EU Output 1.2: Implemented small-scale measures in place to bridge safety and information. (OSCE lead)

Output indicators	ProDoc targets	Progress against targets
<p>1.2.1 # of initiatives promoted and implemented by the Green Patrol</p>	<p>Baseline (2018): None</p> <p>Target 2023: 15</p> <p>Target Y3: 18</p> <p>Target Y2: 18</p> <p>Target Y1: 9</p>	<p>01 Jan 2023 – 31 Dec 2023: 20 (4) Small-scale learning competitions such as video competitions, essays, tree planting activities and environmental performance studies. (16) Open class learning initiatives on environmental problems (6 in Uzbekistan; 6 in Tajikistan; 4 in Uzbekistan)</p> <p>01 Jan 2022 – 31 Dec 2022: 16 (12) Open class learning initiatives (10 in Tajikistan; 2 in Uzbekistan) (4) Small-scale school competitions & learning initiatives, such as clean-up activities, video classes, essays, environmental performance, etc.</p> <p>05 July 2021 - 31 Dec 2021: 5 learning initiatives in total (2 in Uzbekistan and 3 in Kyrgyzstan, in form of an online class.)</p> <p>05 July 2020 – 04 July 2021 (Y2) results: 18 (Green patrol groups conducted 18 learning initiatives on environmental issues, including activities on small-scale school competitions.)</p> <p>05 July 2019 – 04 July 2020 (Y1) results: 1 (first time prototype testing)</p> <p>Cumulative total: 60 initiatives promoted and implemented by Green Patrols.</p>
<p>1.2.2 # of small-scale safety measures implemented</p>	<p>Baseline (2018): None</p> <p>Target 2023: 10</p> <p>Target Y3: 9</p> <p>Target Y2: 9</p> <p>Target Y1: 3</p>	<p>01 Jan 2023 – 31 Dec 2023: 11 types of measures.</p> <p>01 Jan 2022 – 31 Dec 2022: 8 types of measures, leading to a minimum of 50-separate interventions.</p> <p>05 July 2021 - 31 Dec 2021: 6 measures in total.</p> <p>05 July 2020 – 04 July 2021 (Y2) results: 4</p> <p>05 July 2019 – 04 July 2020 (Y1) results: 2</p> <p>Cumulative total: 31 types of measures leading to over 50 separate interventions.</p>

Activity 1.2.1: Set up 'Green Patrols' groups in the selected at-risk communities.

The "Green Patrol" groups, operating within the context of environmental education and sustainable resource management in Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, and Kyrgyzstan, has undertaken various activities to foster environmental awareness and action within schools.

Over the implementation period, **60 initiatives** were promoted and implemented by the Green Patrol Groups. These initiatives included activities such as youth and school competitions, as well as organizing tree planting campaigns, conducting waste management workshops, hosting educational seminars on biodiversity conservation, and spearheading community clean-up activities, amongst others spanning over the implementation period.

The project also developed guidebooks for teachers and Green Patrol groups, facilitating learning activities on environmental education and sustainable resource use. Pilot schools were equipped with educational materials and stationary items to support the establishment of ecological classrooms, serving as the foundation for Green Patrol initiatives. For further details, please visit the progress reports submitted to the commission.



Figure 2. Green Patrols are getting together in Kyrgyzstan.



Figure 3. Green Patrols are running eco-classes in Tajikistan.

The collective impact of these endeavors extends beyond individual schools, resonating throughout local communities and beyond. By nurturing a generation of environmentally conscious individuals and fostering collaborative action, the Green Patrol groups have played a pivotal role in driving positive environmental change across the region.

Activity 1.2.2: Small-scale safety measures around the legacy sites in place

The project implemented various initiatives in Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan aimed at promoting environmental sustainability, tourism development, and safety measures, particularly around uranium legacy sites. Over the implementation period, the project applied **31 types of small-scale safety measures** in total, resulting in over 50 separate interventions, indicative of a comprehensive approach to addressing environmental challenges.

For example, in Uzbekistan, the project purchased **laboratory equipment** to enhance educational facilities and raise awareness among students through practical experiments. Additionally, **tree planting activities** were carried out near uranium legacy sites in Yangiabad and Charkesar to contribute to environmental conservation efforts. Furthermore, **dosimetry equipment** was procured and handed over to the national partner – the Ministry of Emergency Situations regional departments in the pilot locations, providing local community members with access to the equipment as needed to carry out independent radioactivity measurements.

In Kyrgyzstan, the project organized a Tourism Development Forum in Mailuu-Suu last year, resulting in the approval of a roadmap by the local authorities to develop the tourism sector in the city. **Training**

sessions for touristic guides were conducted, and a stakeholder engagement plan covering 2023-2027 was developed and approved in collaboration with the Ministry of Emergency and Mailuu-Suu Major's office. In Tajikistan, the project installed **information boards** in target project areas in cooperation with the National Nuclear Agency to provide essential information to local communities.

Furthermore, safety measures were enhanced with the procurement of additional **safety signs** for radioactivity sites. Moreover, **guidebooks** were developed for teachers and green patrols, focusing on environmental education and sustainable use of natural resources, which serve as valuable resources for addressing environmental challenges and promoting responsible resource management across the region.

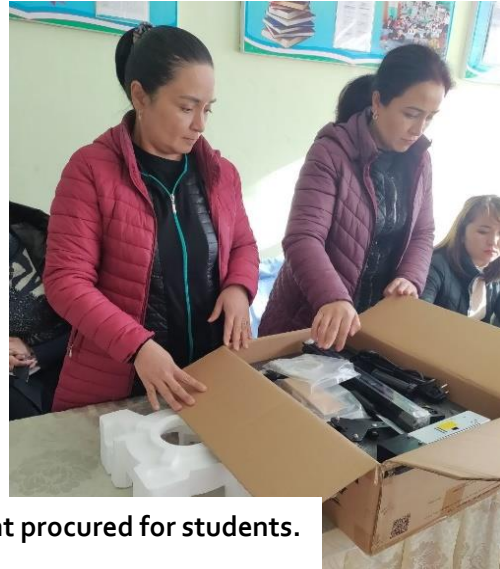


Figure 4. Laboratory equipment procured for students.



Figure 5. Tree planting activities conducted.



Figure 6. Safety signs delivered.

These measures have not only increased awareness and understanding of environmental and radioactivity issues but have also empowered communities and stakeholders to actively participate in sustainable development efforts. For a comprehensive overview of the measures applied, please visit the progress reports submitted to the commission.

EU Output 2.1: Increased public knowledge of local communities on their legal rights for participation in ULSs management. (UNDP lead)

Output indicators	ProDoc targets	Progress against targets
2.1.1 Residents' rights' centered assessment (were possible with sex and age disaggregated data)	Baseline (2018): No assessment Target 2023: 0 Target Y3: 0 Target Y2: 0 Target Y1: 3	01 Jan 2023 – 31 Dec 2023: n/a , completed in previous reporting years for all countries. 01 Jan 2022 – 31 Dec 2022: n/a , completed in previous reporting years for all countries. 05 July 2021 - 31 Dec 2021: 1 (Note: Tajikistan completed the review of institutional, legal and policy frameworks.) 05 July 2020 – 04 July 2021 (Y2): 0 (Note: Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan achieved their targets in Y1.) 05 July 2019 – 04 July 2020 (Y1) results: 2 Cumulative total: 3

Activity 2.1.1: Conduct assessment of the legal framework that supports the citizen’s right to participate in the management of ULS.

This component focused on promoting more inclusive management of ULSs by enhancing local citizens' knowledge of their legal rights and responsibilities related to ULS governance, thus fostering trust between regulating authorities and communities. Each program country conducted an analysis of its legislative frameworks, aiming to enhance public awareness and improve access to information related to ULSs, ultimately contributing to more effective management and remediation efforts. Results and recommendations were disseminated through brochures and leaflets to support citizen awareness in ULS management and radioactive safety.

An example from Kyrgyzstan is available [here](#): “What should I know about legislation on uranium tailings and how to get access to uranium tailings related information”. Similar efforts have also been applied in Uzbekistan (“Legislative framework for citizens' participation in the local management of uranium tailings and access to information in the Republic of Uzbekistan”) and Tajikistan (“Regulations for remediation of contaminated sites”) through recommendations and informative brochures.

Activity 2.1.2: Targeted meetings with stakeholders and local/national authorities

In complement to the activities conducted under Activity 2.1.1., the project organized a number of roundtable discussions, field visits, and working-level meetings with key partners. Additionally, working groups were established, such as the one in Tajikistan, which includes representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Industry and New Technologies, Nuclear Radiation Safety Agency, and UNDP. For further details, please refer to the progress reports submitted to the commission.

EU Output 2.2: Fora for dialogues between the public and decision-makers on ULSs governance created. (OSCE lead)

Output indicators	ProDoc Targets	Progress against targets
2.2.1 # of meetings among community members, academia, and local administrations	Baseline (2018): None Target 2023: 10 Target Y3: 3 (1 per country) Target Y2: 3 (1 per country) Target Y1: 3 (1 per country)	01 Jan 2023 – 31 Dec 2023: 9 meetings (2 in Kyrgyzstan; 1 in Uzbekistan; 6 in Tajikistan). 01 Jan 2022 – 31 Dec 2022: 5 meetings (2 in Tajikistan; 1 in Kyrgyzstan; 2 in Uzbekistan) 05 July 2021 - 31 Dec 2021: 6 meetings (2 in Uzbekistan; 4 in Kyrgyzstan) 05 July 2020 – 04 July 2021 (Y2) results: 15 05 July 2019 – 04 July 2020 (Y1) results: 9 Cumulative total: 44
2.2.2 # of stakeholder representatives (disaggregated by gender) aware about local communities' rights of participation	Baseline (2018): None Target 2023: 1000 Target Y3: n/a Target Y2: 60 Target Y1: 45	01 Jan 2023 – 31 Dec 2023: 310 people (around 60% men and 40% women) 01 Jan 2022 – 31 Dec 2022: 232 people (around 56% men and 44% women) 05 July 2021 - 31 Dec 2021: 581 people in total (around 54% male and 46% female) 05 July 2020 – 04 July 2021 (Y2) results: 967 people (around 64% male and 36% female) 05 July 2019 – 04 July 2020 (Y1) results: 560 Cumulative total: 2,650 (at least 841 of them were women)

Activity 2.2.1. Organize consultations and meetings among community members, academia and local administrations in the project target sites.



Figure 7. Organizing dialogues in Tajikistan.

Within the implementation period, the project organized **44 dialogues between community members, local administrations, public authorities, and PEICs**, creating fora for dialogues and promoting inclusive governance in ULS management in Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

Through these dialogues, meetings and exchange of activities, the project engaged with a total of **2, 650 people**, including at least **841 women**, while putting efforts to create a

culture of an inclusive governance in ULS management. For detailed information on these dialogues, please refer to the progress reports submitted to the commission.

EU Output 3.1: Pilot projects designed, developed and implemented in targeted uranium legacy sites. (UNDP lead)

Output indicators	ProDoc targets	Progress against targets
3.1.1 # of assessments/recommendations for pilots/ SGP development	Baseline (2018): 0 Target 2023: 0 Target Y3: 0 Target Y2: 0 Target Y1: 3	<p>01 Jan 2023 – 31 Dec 2023: n/a, completed in previous reporting years for all countries.</p> <p>01 Jan 2022 – 31 Dec 2022: n/a, completed in previous reporting years for all countries.</p> <p>05 July 2021 - 31 Dec 2021: 1 (socio-economic assessment conducted covering Istiqlol, B.Gafurov and Adrasman in Tajikistan).</p> <p>05 July 2020 – 04 July 2021 (Y2) results: 0 (Note: Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan achieved their targets in Y1.)</p> <p>05 July 2019 – 04 July 2020 (Y1) results: 3</p> <p>Cumulative total: 4</p>
3.1.2 # pilot/small grant facilities modalities developed	Baseline (2018): 0 Target 2023: 0 Target Y3: 0 Target Y2: 0 Target Y1: 3	<p>01 Jan 2023 – 31 Dec 2023: n/a, completed in previous reporting years for all countries.</p> <p>01 Jan 2022 – 31 Dec 2022: n/a, completed in previous reporting years for all countries.</p> <p>05 July 2021 - 31 Dec 2021: 1 (Pilot demo projects in Tajikistan)</p> <p>05 July 2020 – 04 July 2021 (Y2) results: 1 (Community development plans in Uzbekistan)</p> <p>05 July 2019 – 04 July 2020 (Y1) results: 2 (Grant modality in Kyrgyzstan; Business pilot projects in Uzbekistan)</p> <p>Cumulative total: 4</p>
3.1.3 # of pilot projects	Baseline (2018): 0 Target 2023: 8 (4 in KRG; 4 in UZB) Target Y3: 6 Target Y2: 6 Target Y1: 3	<p>01 Jan 2023 – 31 Dec 2023: 12 (4-pilot projects in Kyrgyzstan; 8-pilot projects in Uzbekistan)</p> <p>01 Jan 2022 – 31 Dec 2022: n/a, note: no new pilots selected. Focus was given on implementing the selected pilots in previous years. 3-proposals from 2021 withdrawn, and cumulative total revised accordingly.</p> <p>05 July 2021 - 31 Dec 2021: 12 (2-proposals in Kyrgyzstan; 7-proposals in Uzbekistan; 3-pilots in Tajikistan)</p> <p>05 July 2020 – 04 July 2021 (Y2) results: 11 (3-business pilot projects and 1-community infrastructure project in Uzbekistan; 7-grant facility proposals in Kyrgyzstan)</p> <p>05 July 2019 – 04 July 2020 (Y1) results: 0</p> <p>Cumulative total: 35</p>

Activity 3.1.1: Conduct assessment of the socio-economic situation on project sites in each beneficiary country with recommendations on the best socio-economic interventions to reduce ULS risks and proposed modalities of small demonstrative measures at local level.

In **Kyrgyzstan**, the results from the socio-economic assessment conducted within Phase 1 were used to prevent any delays in the planned activities due to COVID-19. In **Uzbekistan**, two socio-economic assessments have been conducted in the pilot regions, namely Charkesar in the Namangan region and Yangiabad/Angren in the Tashkent region. In **Tajikistan**, the project established a working group including representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Industry and New Technologies, the Nuclear Radiation Safety Agency, and UNDP. This group served as a key mechanism to identify socio-economic needs for pilot communities in close cooperation with local authorities, following up on the assessment of the socio-economic situation in Istiqlol, B. Gafurov, and Adrasman.

Based on these assessments, the project identified key areas for improving the socio-economic conditions through targeted pilot interventions. All these assessments were backed up by dialogues and training sessions within the target communities to better understand the most relevant sectors and areas for improvement to address the socio-economic conditions and create a sense of local ownership. That said, the work under this activity laid the groundwork for activity 3.1.3 and contributed across activities under different outputs. For example, as a follow-up to socio-economic assessments presented in 2020, the project purchased first aid kits (breathing bags, splint sets, probes, syringes, catheters, etc.) to better organize emergency responses, considering the remoteness of the uranium legacy sites from the regional center in Uzbekistan, contributing to small-scale safety measures (Activity 1.2.2). Details are provided in the previous progress reports submitted to the commission.



Figure 8. First aid kits procured and delivered to communities, contributing to activity 1.2.2.



Figure 9. Trainings for the pilot communities to solve socio-economic issues in Kyrgyzstan.



Figure 10. Discussing green solutions for cooperatives. Khokimiyat of Pap district in Uzbekistan, June 3, 2021.

Activity 3.1.2 Tailored solutions and operational framework for community outreach

Based on numerous consultations and working-level meetings, conducted in close cooperation with partners and national stakeholders, the project developed tailored solutions to operationalize the community outreach modality for the selection of pilot projects. This included the establishment of the following operational procedures: a **small grant facility** in Kyrgyzstan, a **small business pilot** modality in Uzbekistan, and **pilot-demo projects** in Tajikistan. It is worth noting that successful stakeholder engagement in Uzbekistan resulted in the development of a platform for Community Development Plans in the [Yangiabad](#) and [Charkesar](#) regions, which also provided a basis for selecting socio-economic pilot projects, while contributing efforts under activity 3.2.1.

Activity 3.1.3 Pilot projects and/or grant facility implemented.

The total number of **socio-economic pilot projects** implemented reached up to **35 interventions** focusing on a variety of angles, including environmental protection measures, small-scale infrastructure development and construction activities, health-related measures, as well as employment-related activities to support small businesses. These initiatives were designed to promote local ownership, build resilient communities, improve socio-economic conditions, and provide employment opportunities and skills development. Over the past few years, the project supported the following initiatives. For details, please visit the progress reports submitted to the commission.

In **Kyrgyzstan**, the following socio-economic initiatives were implemented:

1. "Dostoinoe Budushee Molodezhi-DMB" (Orlovka in Chui region) **equipped the local hospital with modern equipment for early diagnosis of diseases** among the population and increasing the capacity of local medical services. The main activity of the project was related to the acquisition and transfer of modern ultrasound equipment to the territorial hospital and training of personnel in its use.



Figure 11. Examples of the procured objects to support medical services for early diagnosis of diseases.

2. NGO "Center for Strategizing the Budget Process" (Shekaftar in Jalal-Abad region) carried out **biological recultivation of areas adjacent to uranium sites**, through landscaping and creating infrastructure (for irrigation, etc.). Project activities included training the population in methods of biological recultivation in addition to tree planting to reduce the environmental risks of ULSs from rain, mudflow, and other natural risks. Greening activities were completed, including the purchase and planting of nurseries of 1,000 nuts and 300 conifers with an irrigation system installed in Shekaftar park. Fencing was also restored, and 10 tons of glauconite meliorates were applied around the uranium tailings to neutralize heavy metals.
3. "Nurmuhammed" successfully implemented **improvements in sanitary and hygienic systems** in Shekaftar village. Additionally, three greenhouses were constructed to support nutrition systems, providing better conditions for vulnerable children.



Figure 11. Greenhouses and sanitary facilities installed.



Figure 12. Biological reclamation for the Shekaftar park in Kyrgyzstan.

4. "Daanyshman Jumgal Kabary" established the training center in Chaek, MinKush, focusing on developing entrepreneurial sewing skills.



Figure 13. Sewing equipment and skills development .

5. "Eco-Maksat" achieved the **ecological rehabilitation** of Aktuz village by restoring and greening the park, contributing to environmental improvement in the area.
6. "Bala-Kanat" **greened the area surrounding the three tailings** containing heavy metals, considering plant properties and natural climate conditions, thus contributing to environmental improvement and safety.
7. "Altyn-Balalyk" successfully ensured the safety of the children of Akylay preschool #8 by **constructing a brick fence**, providing a secure environment for the children.
8. PF "TZARCI" upgraded the **kitchen inventory**, installing new equipment to provide better conditions and quality of nutrition in the kindergarten based in Kadji-Sai.



Figure 14. Upgraded kitchen inventory in the kindergarten.

9. PA "Min-Kush Zhashtar Yumu" successfully set up the **resource center for youth** by procuring and delivering resource materials and items such as books, musical instruments, furniture, and speakers to the center.



Figure 15. Resource center in MinKush.

10. The initiative "Health" from the Public Foundation "Min-Kush Zhashtar Uyumu" aimed at **strengthening health** and improving the health culture of the population. The local hospital, which provides medical services for the entire population of Min-Kush village (comprising 6505 people, including 3255 women and 3250 men), was fully equipped with the necessary furniture and equipment such as cabinets, treadmills, couches, etc.



Figure 16. Improving health conditions.

11. The project "Improvement of Playgrounds" from the Public Fund "Protection and Support of Children and Low-Income Families" aimed at developing **social facilities** while strengthening the physical health of children. Playgrounds in the villages of Sary-Bee, Kogoy, and Kara-Zhygach were constructed and equipped for the benefit of more than 700 children from 530 families, considering the lack of other social facilities in these villages.



Figure 17. The playground was constructed and equipped.

12. The project "Heating Repair of the City Gym Building" from the Public Fund "Protection and Support of Children and Low-Income Families" aimed to create the necessary conditions for **social facilities** while strengthening the physical health and development of children, adults, women, and men. The heating system was fully repaired in the city gym building, accessible to all groups of people, to create the necessary conditions for strengthening the physical health and development of children, adults, women, and men.



Figure 18. Heating system of the city gym in Mailuu-Suu was repaired.

13. The project on the restoration of the running track from the Public Fund "Ak-Niet" aimed at the strengthening of citizens' health in Mailuu-Suu city by enhancing **social infrastructure to support sports and recreational activities**.



Figure 19. The running track of Mailuu-Suu city stadium was repaired.

In **Uzbekistan**, the following socio-economic initiatives were implemented with a primary focus on supporting entrepreneurs in the pilot locations:

14. LLC Yangiabad Jemchujina Chatkala, based in the Tashkent region, undertook the initiative to establish a **laundry service** at the Yangiabad tourist base. The primary objective was to provide essential laundry facilities for tourists visiting the area. To achieve this goal, the project procured a high-efficiency ironer and an industrial washing machine and renovated the laundry room simultaneously. Resulting in the creation of at least 6 jobs, thereby not only meeting the immediate need for laundry services but also contributing positively to **local employment** within the community.
15. NGO Center Agro Information of Innovation in Uzbekistan, located in Yangiabad, Tashkent region, aimed to establish a **new production facility for processing agricultural products**. The

objective was to enhance the value of agricultural products by processing them into value-added products. To support this goal, the project procured essential equipment including convection dryers, washing tubs for fruits and vegetables, pitted mechanical slicers, greenhouses, and vacuum bag sealing machines, each in quantities of three units. For example, from October 2021 to December 2021, 10 tons of vegetables were processed and dried using the supplied equipment, including chili peppers, carrots, onions. During this period, 8 people were given an employment opportunity to work on sorting, drying and packing.

16. LLC Shahliya, based in Yangiabad, Tashkent region, aimed to expand its operations in the **textile industry** by introducing a hosiery production line. The project procured essential equipment, including a knitting machine capable of producing terry and plain socks, along with a sock netting machine, providing **job opportunities** to at least 40 people.

Furthermore, a number of pilots were co-financed by UNDP in the Charkesar region:

17. Organization of a greenhouse
18. Sewing workshop
19. Intensive gardening

Technical equipment were successfully delivered to support these initiatives such as industrial sewing machines, greenhouse structures made of galvanized steel and water pumps/boxes, amongst others.



Figure 20. Photos from the co-financed pilots' projects.

20. Campground business (Yangiabad) – supported development of **wildlife tourism** by launching a campground business in Yangiabad mountain area, providing new job opportunities to seven people living in the uranium legacy sites.
21. Private kindergarten (Charkesar) – supported operationalization of a **kindergarten business**, where 40 children benefited from good care. The private kindergarten created 12 new jobs for men and women in the region.

22. Beekeeping business project (Yangiabad) – purchasing of equipment has been completed such as hives, frames, a honey extractor and honeybees to help “Yangiabad Eco Start” family enterprise to operationalize their business on **beekeeping**, creating four new jobs while providing local population with nutraceutical products.
23. Youth education center (Charkesar) – the project addressed the growing demand for educational services in Charkesar by setting up a **youth education center**, creating at least 12 employment opportunities.

The project prepared a number of success stories from the above initiatives supported. For details, please visit [here](#).



Figure 21. Safura is empowering the Charkesar community through education.



Figure 22. Elena’s tent camp is a new way to raise an environmental awareness of children and adults in Yangiabad.



Figure 23. Dilyora’s kindergarten creates better conditions for children and adults in Charkesar.

24. Considering the infrastructural priorities identified in the community development plans, the project organized a meeting with the Angren city energy saving enterprise (AJ Hududiy Elektr Tarmoqlari) on 9 November 2020, discussing the issues of production, delivery and installation of power transformers as part of the tailored solutions for local community needs. To maintain and enhance the social infrastructure systems of Yangiabad and Charkesar regions, the project procured **7 power transformers (250kVa)**, enabling access to **uninterrupted electricity to 550 households in Charkesar and 450 households in Yangiabad regions.**



Figure 24. Installing power transformers in the pilot regions.



Figure 25. Delivering power transformers to the pilot regions in Uzbekistan.

Furthermore, the following additional proposals were selected for **business development**, which made it possible to provide residents of the uranium legacy areas with new products/services on the market while offering additional jobs. For further details, please visit [here](#).

25. Packaging and production of Herbal Tea (Chorkesar)
26. Solar panels for Kindergarten (Charkesar)
27. Expansion and development of sewing workshop (Charkesar)
28. Production and packing of dried fruits (Charkesar)
29. Electric vehicle charging station (Yangiabad)
30. Furniture for Guest House (Yangiabad)
31. Bees and beekeeping equipment (Charkesar)
32. Bakery equipment (Charkesar)



Figure 26. Production and packing of dried fruits - Qamara Jaylobova (Charkesar).



Figure 28. Expansion and development of sewing work (Charkesar), Mokhinur Ismailova.



Figure 27. Furniture for Guest House workshop, Oysha Urolova.

In **Tajikistan**, the project finalized the following demo-projects from Istiqlol and B.Gafurov:

33. The **rehabilitation of the school roofing** in Istiqlol was completed. Additionally, male and female pit latrines were constructed, ensuring hygiene and sanitation standards for teachers as well.
34. Strengthening the **public mobilization and awareness-raising capacity** of the Nuclear Agency's branch in Sougd province was completed. Communication and technical equipment were delivered to the press department of the Agency, supporting organized awareness-raising and outreach campaigns in the region on a regular basis.
35. The **construction of a wall around** the ULS in B. Gafurov was completed. The ULS in B. Gafurov was fully fenced with a 2.5 - 3 meters concrete wall, preventing people and animals from entering the ULS territory, thus reducing the risk of radiation exposure.

Activity 3.1.4 Monitoring of pilot demo projects

Throughout the project implementation, several field visits were organized with the participation of the grant committee members, MES, and other stakeholders to monitor the status and results of the pilot projects and purchased equipment. These visits also involved communicating with beneficiaries (representatives of NGOs, local authorities, and local communities) to identify possible gaps or advantages. The intention was to ensure transparency and ownership of the pilot initiatives. During these site visits, local authorities emphasized the importance and benefits of the pilot projects, which support the local community needs while enhancing the socio-economic conditions of the villages located near the legacy sites.



Figure 29. Site visits conducted to Orlovka, Ak-Tuz, Kadji-Sai.



Figure 30. Site visits conducted to Mailuu-Suu city, Sumsar, Shekaftar.



Figure 31. Images from the monitoring site visits in Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan.



Figure 32. Solar panels for Kindergarten (Charkesar).



Figure 33. Bees and beekeeping equipment (Charkesar).



Figure 34. Bakery equipment - Tychieva Nargiza (Charkesar).



Figure 35. Site visits conducted to visit the power transformers installed.

EU Output 3.2: Proposed models for socio-economic interventions to reduce ULS risks and perspectives developed for further replication across Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan. (UNDP lead)

Output indicators	ProDoc targets	Progress against targets
3.2.1. # of Recommendations for the model(s) of socio-economic interventions submitted and discussed with the regulating authorities	Baseline (2018): 0 Target 2023: 0 Target Y3: 3 Target Y2: 0 Target Y1: 0	01 Jan 2023 – 31 Dec 2023: n/a 01 Jan 2022 – 31 Dec 2022: 4 (2) Community development plans for Charkesar and Yangiabad. (2) On measures to develop green economy and green cooperatives in Charkesar and Yangiabad. 05 July 2021 - 31 Dec 2021: n/a 05 July 2020 – 04 July 2021 (Y2) results: 1 (Community foundation in Uzbekistan) Cumulative total: 5

Activity 3.2.1 Identification of key principles of a model for gender-responsive socio-economic interventions to reduce radioactive and disaster risks in Central Asia

The efforts in **Uzbekistan** towards integrating gender-sensitive disaster risk management and resilience measures into socio-economic interventions at the community level have seen significant progress over the project implementation. Throughout the implementation period, various efforts were made which offer potential for scaling up within national frameworks for similar socio-economic rehabilitation and remediation programs in Central Asia:

- “Center for Promoting the Economic Development of Regions” was finalized a [policy note](#), entitled “**On the introduction of new mechanisms for the development of cooperation in target communities**”, highlighted international best practices on community cooperation. The policy note also provided an overview of the legislation of the Republic of Uzbekistan, linked to cooperation at the local level, barriers to their development, as well as mechanisms and stages of implementation in pilot areas of uranium legacy.

- To formalize the recommendations, as well as facilitate possible implementation at the local level, resolutions of khokims "On measures to develop green economy and green cooperatives" were developed and made available for [Charkesar](#) and [Yangiabad](#).
- **Community Development Plans (CDPs)** for [Yangiabad](#) and [Charkesar](#) were developed to identify community priorities and prioritize pilot projects in the legacy sites.
- As part of the project efforts, a model known as the "**Community Foundation**" was proposed to address development and infrastructure needs related to socio-economic interventions for reducing ULS risks – this model allows for the accumulation of funds from community residents to respond to needs related to development and infrastructure improvement. The model received positive feedback from the Charkesar community.

Activity 3.2.2 Consultations with national and regional stakeholders

The regional conferences organized especially under the activity 4.1.1 provided a good basis for national and regional stakeholders to discuss models for socio-economic interventions in **Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan**, coupled with example initiatives implemented by international partners, such as EBRD, IAEA, UNECE, WISUTEC, and other partners. Furthermore, a number of roundtables were organized to discuss these models such as with the representatives of the Khokimiyats of the Pap district (Namangan region) and Angren district (Tashkent region) and the Ministry of Emergency Situations. For details, please visit the previous progress reports submitted to the commission.



Figure 36.
Roundtables
organized in
Uzbekistan.

Activity 3.2.3 Facilitate model upscaling within national frameworks.

Implemented socio-economic pilot interventions (under Output 3.1.) provided an initial basis for recommendations, solutions and case practices for an effective operational model, while providing better socio-economic conditions to the pilot communities. The communities were trained to improve their entrepreneurial skills. Products developed under the Output 3.1 and 3.2, provided a practical basis for potential upscaling within national frameworks, depending on further consultations with national partners.

EU Output 4.1: Regional cooperation and quality control enhanced. (UNDP lead)

Output indicators	ProDoc targets	Progress against targets
4.1.1. # of progress reports	Baseline (2018): 0 Target 2023: 1 Target Y3: 1 Target Y2: 1 Target Y1: 1	<p>01 Jan 2023 – 31 Dec 2023: 1 (Final project report)</p> <p>01 Jan 2022 – 31 Dec 2022: 1 (Annual progress report 2022)</p> <p>05 July 2021 - 31 Dec 2021: 1 (Bi-annual progress reporting, covering the period of 05 July 2021 – 31 December 2021).</p> <p>05 July 2020 – 04 July 2021 (Y2) results: 2 (Bi-annual progress reporting, covering the period of 5 July- 31 Dec 2020; Second year progress reporting, covering the period of 5 July 2020 – 4 July 2021).</p> <p>05 July 2019 – 04 July 2020 (Y1) results: 1 (First year progress reporting, covering the period of 5 July 2019 – 4 July 2020).</p> <p>Cumulative total: 6</p>

Activity 4.1.1 Ensure project management, monitoring and evaluation in close coordination with project partners and stakeholders.

Throughout the project implementation, UNDP IRH was on a **regular coordination and consultation** with OSCE and UNDP field and country offices for a periodic exchange on the project progress by providing technical assistance to the project implementation, as well as ensuring quality assurance in line with the ProDoc. Several working-level coordination calls have been organized by the regional team to ensure coordination and M&E of the ongoing activities with OSCE, UNDP Kyrgyzstan country office, UNDP Tajikistan country office, and UNDP Uzbekistan country office. These calls also aimed to provide technical assistance to the project implementation and ensure quality assurance in line with the ProDoc.

The regional team was also proactive in presenting the project’s ongoing and planned activities during the **donor coordination calls** undertaken by the European Commission. Over the past years, the regional team attended the Planet Cluster meetings on a quarterly basis, organized by the Commission. For each meeting, the project’s **quarterly activity plans and updates** were submitted on the EC portal, under the Planet section folder.

As per the request of the Commission, the project developed a framework for monitoring and evaluation purposes in line with the EC’s **OPSYS log-frame** system, which was approved by the EC focal point. The regional team updated the results framework on a regular basis in line with the project progress and results.

Additionally, the project team promoted the activities in a number of international dialogues and conferences such as the Conference of the Parties to the UNECE Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents. For further details, please refer to the previous progress reports submitted to the commission.

EU Output 4.2: Regional component: cross-country coordination and knowledge exchange implemented. (OSCE lead)

Output indicators	ProDoc targets	Progress against targets
4.2.1 # of best practices and experiences shared	Baseline (2018): 0 Target 2023: 4 Target Y3: 1 Target Y2: 2 Target Y1: 1	<p>01 Jan 2023 – 31 Dec 2023: 3 (1 regional knowledge exchange conference in Uzbekistan; 1 experience exchange visits of Green Patrols from Tajikistan to Uzbekistan; 1 exchange visit from Uzbekistan to Kyrgyzstan to study Uranium Museum Functioning)</p> <p>01 Jan 2022 – 31 Dec 2022: 3 (1 regional knowledge exchange workshop in Uzbekistan; 2 monitoring & experience exchange visits to Tajikistan)</p> <p>05 July 2021 - 31 Dec 2021: 1 monitoring & experience exchange visit to Uzbekistan.</p> <p>05 July 2020 – 04 July 2021 (Y2) results: 2 (1 in-country exchange visit to MailuuSuu town; 1 regional exchange visit to Kyrgyzstan).</p> <p>05 July 2019 – 04 July 2020 (Y1) results: 1 (first knowledge exchange organized within the inception workshop)</p> <p>Cumulative total: 10</p>

Activity 4.2.1 Organize regional exchange of experience between countries involved.

Throughout the implementation, a number of regional conferences and exchange visits were conducted, with some of the key regional activities highlighted below. For further details, please refer to the previous progress reports submitted to the commission.

- In November 2019, an **inception workshop** was held in Bishkek, marking the initiation of a project.
- On 18 November 2021, a **regional webinar** was conducted to showcase the project's progress, outcomes, best practices, and lessons learned.
- October 26, 2022, witnessed a **regional knowledge exchange workshop** in Tashkent, where discussions revolved around the project's results, accomplishments, and future steps.
- A significant event occurred on September 8-9, 2023, with a **study tour** to observe pilot projects in Yangiabad, Uzbekistan. European ambassadors, representatives from EUD, OSCE, UNDP, EBRD, and officials from Uzbekistan's Ministry of Ecology and Ministry of Emergency Situations participated.
- The project journey culminated on 24 November 2023, with a **final closure and regional knowledge exchange workshop** held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, to formally conclude the project. Delegates from three Central Asian states (Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan), the European Commission Headquarters, European Union Delegations, OSCE, as well as representatives of local communities, NGOs, and other partners such as UNECE, EBRD, IAEA, and WISUTEC, were among the participants.

Furthermore, the project shared best practices between the program countries and partners through regular working-level meetings with a focus on the following areas: (i) socioeconomic development of

the locations with ULSs; (ii) awareness-raising activities; (iii) local plans on stakeholders' engagement for ULSs remediation; and (iv) youth involvement in environmental education through Green Patrol groups.



Figure 37. Photos from the regional exchange visit to Kyrgyzstan in 2021.



Figure 38. Regional knowledge exchange workshop in 2022, Tashkent, Uzbekistan.



Figure 39. Regional knowledge exchange workshop in 2023, Tashkent, Uzbekistan.



Figure 40. Photos from the experience exchange visit to Uzbekistan, in 2021.

4. Partnerships, Sustainability and Future Plans

The project's efforts across Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan have been comprehensive, involving collaboration with a wide range of stakeholders including line ministries, international organizations, and local communities to address issues around ULSs and enhance radioactive safety. Key activities included establishing grant facilities, engaging in dialogue and planning with national and international partners, and community mobilization for awareness and remediation activities. The project maintained a focus on coordination and information sharing through various platforms and meetings, including regular discussions with the EC and engagement in regional initiatives. Throughout these efforts, sustainability and stakeholder engagement were central to the approach, aiming for long-term impact, awareness, safety and socio-economic improvements.

For example, in **Kyrgyzstan**, the project grant committee served as a main driver for setting up a grant facility including members of the line ministries (e.g., the Ministry of Emergency Situations, the Ministry of Economy, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Local Government Agencies). Furthermore, on 13 June 2022, the project had a meeting with the EC delegate from the Sector for Nuclear Safety at the Directorate General for International Partnerships of the European Commission (DG INTPA) and discussed ongoing activities and key achievements from the low-value grant projects. Also, the project continued with implementing the co-operation plan for stakeholder's engagement and awareness raising during remediation process of the ULS's in Kyrgyzstan (2021-2022), which was signed by MES, EBRD, OSCE, UNDP and others.

In **Tajikistan**, the project regularly engaged with members from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Industry and New Technologies, Nuclear and Radiation Safety Agency, as well as OSCE and UNDP members for coordination of activities. For example, the project organized regular online meetings with the National Radiological Agency and the Aarhus Centre in Khujand, discussing activity plans in the target areas to raise local population awareness on radioactive safety issues.

In **Uzbekistan**, the project was on a close dialogue not only with decision-makers and national partners, but also with pilot communities on the ground for community mobilization activities. The project supported Telegram groups for the project stakeholders to share information and experiences on planned remediation works in Charkesar and Yangiabad. Two coordination meetings with the experts of the EBRD were conducted in order to plan joint activities for 2023 within the planned remediation works of the ULSs in Uzbekistan. All these activities created a sense of ownership at the community levels.

The project also closely engaged with international community on the uranium remediation related regional initiatives, platforms, programmes and projects in Central Asia, implemented by UNECE, IAEA, WISUTEC, and EBRD. For example, the regional team participated in the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the UNECE Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents on 29 November- 1 December 2022.

The ongoing discussions with the European Commission and national governments regarding the next phase of the project highlight a crucial aspect of its sustainability. The approved description of action for the third phase emphasizes building upon the foundational work of Phase 1 and Phase 2. This continuation underscores the project's commitment to long-term sustainability, ensuring that efforts to

address the legacy of uranium mining in Central Asia remain durable, effective, and beneficial to the environment, while bringing social and economic benefits to the communities involved.

Phase 3 will build on the outcomes and impacts of the preceding two phases, moving away from ad-hoc capacity building activities towards establishing and strengthening an institutional base for long-term ownership of ULSs in the three participating countries, which will contribute to the sustainability of project results.

It is worth noting that the Phase II witnessed increased engagement of local stakeholders in addressing the socio-economic needs of target communities in the three countries. The importance of targeted grant assistance in Phase II was highly appreciated by recipient countries, linking ULS management to the real needs on the ground and serving as a mechanism for civic engagement and support for ongoing uranium remediation activities by the EC and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD). This collaborative approach will persist in Phase 3 to sustain local buy-in for uranium remediation measures in priority uranium legacy sites.

The overall objective of Phase 3 will focus on reducing the risk of negative impacts resulting from uranium waste on people, livelihoods, and the environment in Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, through a programmatic approach, involving local communities in participatory socio-economic development within affected areas, supporting people-centered, gender-sensitive and risk-informed solutions at the local level.

The specific objectives of Phase III are outlined as follows:

- i) Foster engagement, enhance capacity, and raise awareness among local stakeholders in the three beneficiary countries for the remediation of Uranium Legacy Sites.
- ii) Facilitate the social and economic rehabilitation of target communities by promoting local participatory planning and budgeting, implementing gender-sensitive socio-economic community level solutions, supporting development of businesses in communities at target sites, and advancing regional cooperation.

Key stakeholders will include relevant national, regional, and local authorities and institutions, local communities, and civil society organizations dedicated to public awareness and uranium waste management in the beneficiary countries. Anticipated partners for the upcoming cycle encompass Aarhus Centers in each country, UNDP's initiatives on Climate Change and Resilience, UNDP's work on Climate Change and Health, EBRD, WISUTECH, IAEA, and other partners.

5. Gender Mainstreaming and Youth

The project aimed to ensure that both women and men would benefit from the initiatives planned for implementation in the pilot areas. In Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan, special attention was given to gender mainstreaming during the selection of pilot business projects, aiming to empower women, enhance their skills, and create job opportunities in these regions. Additionally, community engagement activities were inclusive of all groups, including the most vulnerable such as women, the elderly, youth, and people with disabilities.



Figure 41. Skills development.

In **Kyrgyzstan**, one of the pilot projects in the MinKush village, for example, focused on skills development with trainings provided on garment making and stitching skills, using the project-procured sewing equipment. Furthermore, the entire population of the Aktuz village benefited from the Eco-Maksat project, covering 827 people including women and youth with whom the project had engaged through activities such as sports, cultural events and healthy lifestyle events. The resource center established in the village of MinKush actively engaged with youth, especially in solving issues related to the uranium tailing, mainly through awareness raising and library access. Moreover, the pilot project in Shekaftar created better conditions for children such as improvements in nutrition, sanitary and hygienic services.

In **Uzbekistan**, the project collaborated with women entrepreneurs, supporting 10 women-led business initiatives. These initiatives included the expansion of a kindergarten, enabling local women to enter the workforce; the establishment of the first Education Centre, which employed female teachers and provided learning opportunities for female students; and the expansion of a dairy export business, generating income for small households, particularly women, through the purchase of dairy products. Ensuring equal opportunities for skill development and entrepreneurial capacity building was essential for the project. Some of the success stories are available below:

- [A Woman from Charkesar Empowers Her Local Community Through Education | United Nations Development Programme \(undp.org\)](#)
- [Tent Camp: A New Way to Foster Environmental Awareness Among All Ages | United Nations Development Programme \(undp.org\)](#)

Under the OSCE-led components, the project placed special emphasis on engaging with youth and women through various activities, including environmental protection, socio-economic training, and awareness-raising sessions. These activities comprised forums, competitions, and public discussions, while also supporting the Youth Green Patrols Movement. Through this movement, Green Patrols initiated their own projects, such as educational activities and school competitions (e.g., best environmental projects, greening areas, and environmental classes), thereby improving the environmental situation in their districts and inspiring others to take proactive steps toward planet protection.

6. Visibility and Knowledge Generation

The overall communication objective was to provide appropriate visibility to the project and accurately communicate the project's objectives and progress to a diverse range of groups within the programme countries, including the project's support from the European Union's Delegations.

The project not only aimed to communicate its objectives and progress but also actively generated knowledge to generate awareness and capacity building. It enhanced understanding among stakeholders about uranium waste risks, while empowering local participation in decision-making through a number of consultations, public hearings and dialogues. Through various communication tools like newsletters and videos, it disseminated knowledge and shared success stories. By updating information boards and distributing visibility materials, it ensured key messages reach diverse audiences, ultimately contributing efforts to reducing negative impacts associated with uranium waste in the region.

The project's communication and visibility activities focused on the following three key development outcomes:

- Increased understanding of local and national decision-makers and community members about uranium waste risk and its impact on people, livelihoods, and environment.
- Improved implementation of the legal and regulatory framework through development of a critical mass of understanding of the legal aspects concerning the rights of local population living in the legacy sites to participate in the decision-making process in the ULS and facilitation of participatory stakeholders' discussions.
- Reduced risk of the negative impact of the uranium waste in the targeted communities, in Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan through social-economic development pilot projects.

To ensure the visibility of the project, the project regularly updated information boards in target areas (e.g., MinKush, Shekaftar and MailuuSuu in Kyrgyzstan; Istiqlol, B. Gafurov and Adrasman in Tajikistan; and Yangiabad and Charkesar in Uzbekistan). A number of visibility materials were printed and distributed to the pilot communities such as **t-shirts, bags, thermoses, posters, booklets, and brochures** to the pilot communities.

A number of video materials were produced to showcase results from the low-value grant projects as well as stories from the local communities: [Involvement of stakeholders in solving problems related to uranium tailings in Central Asia - YouTube](#). The full video is available on the following [link](#) in English, Russian and Kyrgyz languages. Furthermore, the project distributed new editions of the [newsletter](#), focusing on the main project achievements, results and impact stories. Furthermore, a [factsheet](#) was prepared and distributed on social media channels.

Social media channels were actively used, with posts and stories made available to the public:

- <https://www.uz.undp.org/content/uzbekistan/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2021/11/undp-jointly-with-partners-raise-schoolchildren-awareness-of-dis.html>
- <https://www.uz.undp.org/content/uzbekistan/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2021/11/undp-helps-women-in-uranium-legacy-areas-develop-their-business-.html>
- https://www.uz.undp.org/content/uzbekistan/en/home/library/environment_energy/newsletter-1-2021--news-on-uranium-legacy-remediation-activities.html
- https://www.uz.undp.org/content/uzbekistan/en/home/library/environment_energy/newsletter-2-2021-news-on-uranium-legacy-remediation-activities.html

- <https://www.kg.undp.org/content/kyrgyzstan/ru/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2021/09/ultrasound-orlovka.html>
- <https://kabarlar.org/news/125265-v-gorode-orlovke-chujskoj-oblasti-otkrylsja-novyj-uzi-kabinet.html>
- <http://en.kabar.kg/news/ultrasound-examination-room-opened-in-kyrgyzstans-orlovka-village-with-the-help-of-international-donors/>
- <https://www.kg.undp.org/content/kyrgyzstan/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2021/10/trip-ngo-interest-uranium.html>
- <https://www.kg.undp.org/content/kyrgyzstan/ru/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2021/10/trip-ngo-interest-uranium.html>
- <https://www.kg.undp.org/content/kyrgyzstan/ky/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2021/10/trip-ngo-interest-uranium.html>

Figure 42. Examples from social media channels, promo materials, brochures, newsletters, etc.



7. Risk and Mitigation Measures

It is important to note that political situation in the region - especially between Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan in the transborder areas of the Ferghana Valley, created additional risks to sustain regional cooperation throughout the project implementation. Furthermore, overall instability (due to Ukraine crisis) resulted in certain challenges in the region such as migration crisis, economic instability, high inflation rates, supply chain problems due to sanctions, etc., impacting on the efficiency of the project implementation.

More detail information on risk management throughout the project is in the below table:

Risk	Type	Impact (2019-2023)	Risk Level (H/M/L)	Risk management strategy (2019-2023)	Risk owner	Risk identified	Status
Political instability	Political	<p>A series of border tensions between 2 participating countries escalated in 2021-2022. Political situation in the region especially between Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan created challenges to regional co-operation.</p> <p>Overall instability (due to Ukraine crisis) resulted in further challenges in the region such as migration crisis, economic instability, high inflation, supply chain problems due to sanctions, etc., had an impact on the</p>	H	<p>The project team worked closely with the Govts and justified that Uranium 2 project activities, especially under Outcome 3, positively contributing to socio-economic dimensions in the region.</p> <p>This risk was addressed through close coordination with national authorities in each country to help deliver the necessary information to the governmental officials in the related departments. Regular dialogue with the countries of the region was used to help preventing and minimizing this risk.</p>	UNDP COs, OSCE field offices	April 2021 - 2023	Still relevant and should be in the focus of for the potential next pahse.

		efficiency of the project implementation.		<p>Considering the transboundary nature of ongoing activities, the project monitored political instability and potential border tensions between participating countries, in close coordination with UNDP COs and govt partners.</p> <p>Throughout the implementation, the project demonstrated benefits of the project, with a particular focus given on cross-country and cross-regional work to inform decision making process, while building consensus amongst all the project stakeholders.</p>			
The effects of the COVID-19 outbreak in the programme countries	Other	Health problems among the project staff, target communities and stakeholders. Difficulties with the organization of meetings, workshop, trainings.	M	The project team closely monitored the situation and organize regular online meetings, while ensuring regular coordination calls, delegation of tasks and responsibilities between the regional and country teams.	UNDP COs, OSCE field offices	2020-2023	Still relevant and should be in the for the potential next phase.
Delay with the project approval by the Govts.	Political/Operational	Delay in the implementation of project activities in Tajikistan; implementation not aligned between the programme countries.	H	The project team worked with the Government of Tajikistan (the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, ANRSAS, etc.) in coordination with the European Commission and OSCE. The team conducted	UNDP Tajikistan	July 2019	Not relevant anymore.

				several meetings with line ministries and partners to leverage joint efforts to start project implementation in Tajikistan.			
Risk of not overcoming the constraints in stakeholder engagement	Regulatory	Reluctance of the national and local officials to disclose uranium risk-related information due to sensitivity of this issue.	L	The project team demonstrated to those officials the concrete benefits that could result from the adequate disclosure of uranium risk in the communities by sharing results from the legal and socio-economic assessments undertaken in the programme countries. Via regular working meetings between Govt officials and the project team the impact of this risk was mitigated.	UNDP COs, OSCE field offices	July 2020	N/A

8. Challenges, Lessons Learned and Recommendations

Challenge #1: Adapting to Travel Restrictions and the COVID-19 Impacts

Over the project implementation, the major challenge in all three participating countries remained linked to the escalation of travel restrictions and the COVID-19 outbreak, which significantly impacted project activities, particularly in the field. Consequently, the project team transitioned to an online mode of work and maximized engagement with local experts on the ground, especially for outreach activities in the earlier stages of the implementation.

Challenge #2: Navigating Political Tensions in the Ferghana Valley

It's worth noting that the political situation in the region, particularly between Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan in the transborder areas of the Ferghana Valley, created additional risks to sustaining regional cooperation. Considering the transboundary nature of the project activities, political instability and potential border tensions between participating countries were closely monitored and coordinated with UNDP COs and government partners. The project also advocated for the benefits of cross-regional cooperation especially through high-level regional dialogues organized over the implementation period.

Challenge #3: Procurement and Supply Chain Obstacles Amidst the Ukraine Crisis

Implementation of the pilot projects and procurement of necessary items were another challenge given the supply chain problems due to Ukraine crisis and sanctions throughout the project implementation. To maximize impact in the pilot communities, the project ensured to identify the most cost-effective and practical socio-economic pilot interventions, in consultation with the project partners. In overall, the project intended to keep the various project elements (e.g., assessments, public outreach, pilot projects, meeting, and consultations) very concrete, to outline what could be realistically achieved by the authorities and civil society in the present context, and to accompany the project implementation with tailored capacity building and awareness activities and minimized risks to the extent possible.

Lessons learned #1: Building Capacity and Stakeholder Engagement to Mitigate Uranium Waste Risks

The project was important in building capacity to reduce the risk of negative impacts from uranium waste by providing a participatory platform and broader discussions involving academic and regulatory bodies, civil society organizations, remediation companies, communities, and youth. Similar efforts should continue during the next phase.

Lessons learned #2: Long-Term Commitment and Continued Efforts for Sustainable Governance of Uranium Legacy Sites

There is no "walk-away" from remediated ULS. Sustainable cooperation on the safe governance of ULSs needs long-term commitment. Activities that the project supported such as awareness raising, remediation and post-remediation work, building resilience of the communities, will be required in the future. Among other things, climate change (CC) risk assessments are also required and critical for future interventions. There is a need for continued awareness raising on the linkage of CC and security and mainstreaming CC and security considerations into national policies for comprehensive risk mitigation/management.

Lessons learned #3: Sustainable Strategies for Uranium Legacy Site Remediation and Governance

The governments need to take over with their own funding ULS remediation and post-remediation work with sustainable mechanisms in all aspects that the project supported, introducing the necessary elements in the legislation, funding schemes (ensuring stable long-term funding), education curricula, etc. Besides, institutional control is required over the ULS sites, and it may partly be optimized using advanced technology such as drones and cameras. It's worth noting that addressing ULS remediation and post-remediation work requires multi-stakeholder participation in decision-making. Therefore, the governments and future projects in a similar domain need to ensure continued dialogue with all the parties concerned, while at the same time identifying and continuously engaging with the most active segment of the population. Furthermore, given the importance of socio-economic and environmental development of the cities and settlements with ULS, it is recommended to focus on long-term strategic development in the post-rehabilitated period of these areas, with development plans and allocated funding schemes.

Lessons learned #4: Strengthening Transboundary Collaboration for Environmental Pollution Management

There is a need for more effective transboundary information exchange where possible on radiological and chemical pollution of the environment, as well as cooperation (joint projects) and exchange of best practices.

Lessons learned #5: Effective Strategies for Increasing Awareness, Promoting Peer-to-Peer Exchange, and Socio-Economic Development Projects

Employing multifaceted ways of awareness raising while also paying special attention to training of teachers and supporting green patrols is an effective way to increase understanding by the residents of the ULS risks and their rights. Peer-to-peer exchanges proved to be effective ways of exchanging best practices, with the countries already replicating those, with more plans. Similar efforts in this domain should continue in the future. It's worth noting that the funding for gender-sensitive socio-economic development projects needs to support a broad spectrum of activities - environmental, community development, and related to job creation, with the needs well identified in future projects.

Furthermore, following **recommendations** are critical for future activities in this domain:

#1 The organization of public hearings by the coordination team with involvement of experts and public authorities remains important and has to be emphasized in future activities in safe governance of ULSs.

#2 Practical actions have to be based on the trainings and information, where the local population is aware of all operations implemented regarding improvement of the ecological situation in the pilot areas.

#3 Special attention should be given to educate and inform youth, women, teachers and medical staff on radioactive safety in a more targeted way.

#4 Considering the financial, technical, and regulatory difficulties connected with rehabilitation process in ULSs, the concerned interested parties and local population should be engaged and informed at all stages of rehabilitation on a constant basis. It is particularly important to involve local communities in collaborative decision making at the site level.

#5 Continue to conduct trainings for the selected NGOs on the reporting requirements (financial and narrative) to ensure quality of the low value pilot projects, as reflected here.

#6 Establishing synergies with international frameworks remain important such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Paris Agreement, Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, and EU's Green Deal, amongst others.

Annex 1: Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring Activity	Purpose	Frequency	Implemented Action	Involved
Project Report	Progress reports presented to the EC, project board and key stakeholders.	Annually	The following reports submitted to the commission: - Final project report covering the full implementation (2019-2023). - Annual progress report 2022. - Bi-annual progress report, covering the period of 5 July- 31 Dec 2020. - Second year progress reporting, covering the period of 5 July 2020 – 4 July 2021. - First year progress reporting, covering the period of 5 July 2019 – 4 July 2020.	IRH, UNDP COs, OSCE, EC
Track results progress	Indicator progress sheet against the results indicators in the RRF regularly collected and analyzed to assess the progress.	Quarterly	Regular coordination calls with COs and OSCE were organized to address any project related challenges. Indicator progress matrix against ProDoc targets was collected and analyzed to assess the project progress and implementation on the ground. The project presented regular updates to EC during the Planet Coordination Calls, including quarterly plans.	IRH, UNDP COs, OSCE, EC
Monitor and Manage Risk	Identified specific risks that might threaten achievement of intended results. Monitored risk management actions using a risk log.	Semi-annual	Project management identified risks and actions needed. The risk log was maintained to keep track of risks and actions taken to manage the risks.	IRH, UNDP COs, OSCE
Annual Project Quality Assurance	The quality of the project implementation assessed against UNDP's quality standards to identify project strengths and weaknesses and to inform management decision making to improve the project.	Annually	Areas of strength and weakness were reviewed by the project management and used to inform decisions to improve the project performance.	IRH, COs, OSCE
Project Review (Project Board)	The project's governance mechanism (i.e., project board) hold regular project reviews to assess the performance of the project and review the Multi-Year Work Plan to ensure realistic budgeting over the life of the project.	Semi-annual	Throughout the project implementation, quality concerns or activities slower than expected were discussed by the project board and management actions were agreed to address the issues identified. The project received a no-cost extension until 31 December 2022, and which then followed by a cost extension until 31 December 2023. Addendum to the official contract was signed on 16 December 2022, between UNDP and EC.	IRH, UNDP CO, OSCE

Annex 2: Indicator Progress Matrix (Cumulative)

ACTIVITY RESULTS	INDICATORS	TARGET	RESULT	TARGET	RESULT	TARGET	RESULT	RESULT	TARGET	RESULT	TOTAL RESULTS
		Year 1	Year 1	Year 2	Year 2	Year 3	5 July 2021 – 31 December 2021	01 Jan 2022 – 31 Dec 2022 (extended period/ no-cost extension)	2023 (extended period/cost extension)	01 Jan 2023 – 31 Dec 2023: (extended period/cost extension)	
1.1. Deepening awareness and outreach at local and national levels. (OSCE lead)	1.1.1 # of consultations among local stakeholders on radioactive safety	9 (3 per country)	36 consultations + an inception workshop	9 (3 per country)	13 consultations	9 (3 per country)	23 consultations	36 consultations	9	24 consultations	132 consultations + an inception workshop.
	1.1.2 # of people covered by awareness and outreach campaigns (if possible, gender disaggregated)	1000	560 people (364 men and 196 women)	1000	541 (260 women; 281 men)	1000	743 people (370 women; 373 men)	657 people (307 women; 350 men)	1500	2,049 people (864 women; 1,185 men)	4,550 people (1,997 women; 2,553 men)
	1.1.3 # of visitors to the educational museum on uranium mining	0	n/a	500 (at least 250 students)	0	1500 (at least 600 students)	n/a	Approx. 1200 visitors including students and tourists (10%)	1000 (at least 400 students)	around 900 visitors including students (around 50%) and tourists (10%).	2,100 visitors including students and tourists.
1.2. Implementing small-scale measures in place to bridge safety and information. (OSCE lead)	1.2.1 # of initiatives promoted and implemented by the Green Patrol	9	1 (first time prototype testing)	18	18 (Green patrol groups conducted 18 learning initiatives on environmental issues, including activities on small-scale school	18	5 learning initiatives (2 in Uzbekistan and 3 in Kyrgyzstan, in form of an online class.)	16 learning initiatives (12) Open class learning initiatives (10 in Tajikistan; 2 in Uzbekistan) (4) Small-scale school competitions & learning initiatives, such as clean-up activities, video	15	20 (4) Small-scale learning competitions such as video competitions, essays, tree planting activities and environmental performance studies.	60 initiatives promoted and implemented by Green Patrols.

					competitions.)			classes, essays, environmental performance, etc.		(16) Open class learning initiatives on environmental problems (6 in Uzbekistan; 6 in Tajikistan; 4 in Uzbekistan)	
	1.2.2 # of small-scale safety measures implemented	3	2 small-scale safety measures	9	4 small-scale safety measures	9	6 small-scale safety measures	8 types of small-scale measures, leading to a minimum of 50-separate interventions.	10	11 types of small-scale safety measures.	31 types of small-scale safety measures leading to over 50 separate interventions.
2.1. Increase public knowledge on their legal rights for participation in ULSs management. (UNDP lead)	2.1.1 Residents' rights' centered assessment (were possible with sex and age disaggregated data)	3	2 assessments in Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan	0	n/a	0	1 assessment in Tajikistan	n/a (completed in previous years)	0	n/a (completed in previous years)	3 assessments.
2.2. Fora for dialogues between the public and decision-makers on ULSs governance created. (OSCE lead)	2.2.1 # of meetings among community members, academia, and local administrations	3 (1 per country)	9	3 (1 per country)	15	3 (1 per country)	6 (2 in Uzbekistan; 4 in Kyrgyzstan)	5 (2 in Tajikistan; 1 in Kyrgyzstan; 2 in Uzbekistan)	10	9 meetings (2 in Kyrgyzstan; 1 in Uzbekistan; 6 in Tajikistan)	44 meetings among community members, academia, and local administrations
	2.2.2 # of stakeholder representatives (disaggregated by gender) aware about local communities' rights of participation	45	560	60	967 people (around 64% male and 36% female)	n/a	581 (around 54% male and 46% female)	232 (around 56% men and 44% women)	1000	310 people (around 60% men and 40% women)	2,650 (at least 841 of them were women)
3.1. Pilot projects designed, developed, and implemented in targeted uranium	3.1.1 # of assessments/recommendations for pilots/SGP development	3	3 (Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan)	0	n/a	0	1 (Tajikistan)	n/a (completed in previous years)	0	n/a (completed in previous years)	4

legacy sites. (UNDP lead)	3.1.2 # pilot/small grant facilities modalities developed	3	2 (Grant modality in Kyrgyzstan; Business pilot projects in Uzbekistan)	0	1 (Community development plans in Uzbekistan)	0	1 (Pilot demo projects in Tajikistan)	n/a (completed in previous reporting)	0	n/a (completed in previous reporting)	4 pilot/small grant facilities modalities developed.
	3.1.3 # of pilot projects	3	0	6	11 (3-business pilot projects and 1-community infrastructure project in Uzbekistan; 7-grant facility proposals in Kyrgyzstan)	6	12 (2-proposals in Kyrgyzstan; 7-proposals in Uzbekistan; 3-pilots in Tajikistan)	n/a	8 (4 in KRG; 4 in UZB)	12 (4-pilot projects in Kyrgyzstan; 8-pilot projects in Uzbekistan)	35 pilot projects implemented.
3.2. Proposed models for socio-economic interventions to reduce ULS risks developed, and perspectives for further replication across Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan. (UNDP lead)	3.2.1. # of Recommendations for the model(s) of socio-economic interventions submitted and discussed with the regulating authorities	0	0	0	1 (Community foundation in Uzbekistan)	3	n/a	4 (2) Community development plans for Charakesar and Yangiabad. (2) On measures to develop green economy and green cooperatives in Charakesar and Yangiabad.	0	n/a	5
4.1. Regional cooperation and quality control enhanced. (UNDP lead)	4.1.1. # of progress reports	1	1 (First year progress reporting, covering the period of 5 July 2019 – 4 July 2020).	1	2 (Bi-annual progress reporting, covering the period of 5 July- 31 Dec 2020; Second year progress	1	1 (Bi-annual progress reporting, covering the period of 05 July 2021 – 31 December 2021).	1 (Annual progress report 2022)	1	1 (Final project report 2019-2023)	6

					reporting, covering the period of 5 July 2020 – 4 July 2021).						
4.2. Regional component: cross-country coordination and knowledge exchange. (OSCE lead)	4.2.1 # of best practices and experiences shared	1	1 (First knowledge exchange organized within the inception workshop)	2	2 (1 in-country exchange visit to MailuuSuu town; 1 regional exchange visit to Kyrgyzstan).	1	1 monitoring & experience exchange visit to Uzbekistan.	3 (1 regional knowledge exchange workshop in Uzbekistan; 2 monitoring & experience exchange visits to Tajikistan)	4	3 (1 regional knowledge exchange conference in Uzbekistan; 1 experience exchange visits of Green Patrols from Tajikistan to Uzbekistan; 1 exchange visit from Uzbekistan to Kyrgyzstan to study Uranium Museum Functioning)	10

Annex 3: Financial Report

Final financial report (05/07/2019 -31/12/2023)

Project Outputs (Activity Results)	Provisional Budget of the Action as per the Annex III					Expenses as of 31/12/2023	Commitments as of 31/12/2023	Total expenses as of 31/12/2023
	Year I in Euro	Year II in Euro	Year III in Euro	Original total budget of the action in Euro	Total budget of the action as amended on 16/12/2022			
OSCE lead Output 1.1 Deepened stakeholders' awareness and outreach at local and national levels	57 000,00	95 000,00	46 000,00	198 000,00	236 374,59	234 630,77	-	234 630,77
National consultants	10 000,00	9 000,00	9 000,00	28 000,00	35 500,00	34 860,28	-	34 860,28
Workshops and Trainings	3 000,00	12 000,00	3 000,00	18 000,00	22 700,00	22 511,56	-	22 511,56
Travel	3 000,00	3 000,00	3 000,00	9 000,00	9 500,00	8 522,77	-	8 522,77
General office expenses	1 000,00	1 000,00	1 000,00	3 000,00	640,00	612,95	-	612,95
Audio Visual Print	2 000,00	2 000,00	2 000,00	6 000,00	22 000,00	9 111,99	-	9 111,99
Contractual services	38 000,00	68 000,00	28 000,00	134 000,00	146 034,59	159 011,23	-	159 011,23
OSCE lead Output 1.2 Implemented small-scale measures in place to bridge safety and information	26 000,00	26 000,00	26 000,00	78 000,00	108 948,67	115 745,75	-	115 745,75
National consultants	5 000,00	5 000,00	5 000,00	15 000,00	25 400,00	32 702,75	-	32 702,75
Contractual services	19 000,00	19 000,00	19 000,00	57 000,00	79 048,67	80 594,82	-	80 594,82
Travel	1 000,00	1 000,00	1 000,00	3 000,00	3 000,00	1 492,08	-	1 492,08
General office expenses	1 000,00	1 000,00	1 000,00	3 000,00	1 500,00	956,09	-	956,09
Sub total	83 000,00	121 000,00	72 000,00	276 000,00	345 323,26	350 376,52	-	350 376,52
UNDP lead Output 2.1 Increased public knowledge on their legal rights for participation in ULSs management	18 564,00	1 500,00	1 500,00	21 564,00	14 814,00	14 121,47	-	14 121,47
National consultants	11 364,00	800,00	800,00	12 964,00	8 264,00	8 334,05	-	8 334,05
Workshops and Trainings	3 300,00	-	-	3 300,00	1 060,00	109,53	-	109,53
Travel	3 500,00	700,00	700,00	4 900,00	1 100,00	1 924,85	-	1 924,85
Contractual services - implementing partners NEW SUBLINE	-	-	-	-	4 100,00	3 713,31	-	3 713,31
General office expenses	400,00	-	-	400,00	290,00	39,72	-	39,72

OSCE lead Output 2.2 Fora for dialogues between the public and decision-makers on ULSs governance created	7 000,00	8 000,00	8 000,00	23 000,00	34 996,64	35 496,59	-	35 496,59
National consultants	3 000,00	3 000,00	3 000,00	9 000,00	12 343,46	12 070,15	-	12 070,15
Workshops and Trainings	1 500,00	2 500,00	2 500,00	6 500,00	14 150,00	14 715,06	-	14 715,06
Travel	2 000,00	2 000,00	2 000,00	6 000,00	8 469,74	8 677,95	-	8 677,95
General office expenses	500,00	500,00	500,00	1 500,00	33,44	33,44	-	33,44
Sub total	25 564,00	9 500,00	9 500,00	44 564,00	49 810,64	49 618,06	-	49 618,06
UNDP lead Output 3.1 Pilot projects designed, developed and implemented in targeted uranium legacy sites	154 586,00	268 479,00	59 935,00	483 000,00	669 650,00	680 994,61	-	680 994,61
National consultants	33 500,00	29 500,00	23 039,00	86 039,00	139 189,00	138 048,26	-	138 048,26
Workshops and Trainings	7 000,00	3 000,00	-	10 000,00	28 500,00	27 928,59	-	27 928,59
Travel	5 600,00	6 650,00	7 350,00	19 600,00	20 700,00	23 219,52	-	23 219,52
General office expenses	1 900,00	1 900,00	1 600,00	5 400,00	3 700,00	3 047,44	-	3 047,44
Audio Visual Print	3 100,00	3 163,00	2 946,00	9 209,00	15 809,00	18 031,16	-	18 031,16
Grants/Pilot projects	103 486,00	224 266,00	25 000,00	352 752,00	461 752,00	470 719,63	-	470 719,63
UNDP lead Output 3.2 Proposed models for socio-economic interventions to reduce ULS risks developed and perspectives for further replication across Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan	5 193,00	3 162,00	24 444,00	32 799,00	29 799,00	31 353,16	-	31 353,16
National consultants	-	-	11 500,00	11 500,00	9 500,00	6 610,24	-	6 610,24
Workshops and Trainings	2 600,00	2 600,00	12 500,00	17 700,00	17 700,00	20 873,90	-	20 873,90
General office expenses	513,00	562,00	444,00	1 519,00	519,00	503,95	-	503,95
Printing and dissemination	2 080,00	-	-	2 080,00	2 080,00	3 365,07	-	3 365,07
Sub total	159 779,00	271 641,00	84 379,00	515 799,00	699 449,00	712 347,77	-	712 347,77

UNDP lead Output 4.1 Regional cooperation and quality control enhanced	59 757,00	62 484,00	49 685,00	171 926,00	220 526,00	205 037,98	-	205 037,98
Staff (including UNDP personnel and consultants)	54 757,00	57 484,00	45 105,00	157 346,00	191 346,00	187 808,61	-	187 808,61
Travel	4 000,00	4 000,00	4 000,00	12 000,00	17 100,00	12 217,22	-	12 217,22
Professional services/audit NEW SUBLINE	-	-	-	-	6 200,00	-	-	-
Workshops and Trainings NEW SUBLINE	-	-	-	-	5 000,00	4 664,47	-	4 664,47
General office expenses	1 000,00	1 000,00	580,00	2 580,00	880,00	347,68	-	347,68
OSCE lead Output 4.2 Regional component: cross-country coordination and knowledge exchange implemented	47 868,00	54 368,00	47 868,00	150 104,00	217 116,10	214 904,97	-	214 904,97
National consultants	22 000,00	22 000,00	22 000,00	66 000,00	93 000,00	87 472,46	-	87 472,46
Staff	12 000,00	12 000,00	12 000,00	36 000,00	68 978,10	58 597,09	-	58 597,09
Workshops and Trainings	11 868,00	16 368,00	11 868,00	40 104,00	36 434,00	58 738,17	-	58 738,17
Travel	2 000,00	4 000,00	2 000,00	8 000,00	18 704,00	10 097,25	-	10 097,25
Sub total	107 625,00	116 852,00	97 553,00	322 030,00	437 642,10	419 942,96	-	419 942,96
SUB TOTAL	375 968,00	518 993,00	263 432,00	1 158 393,00	1 532 225,00	1 532 285,31	-	1 532 285,31
GSM 7%	26 317,76	36 329,51	18 440,24	81 087,51	107 255,00	107 259,97	-	107 259,97
Total	402 285,76	555 322,51	281 872,24	1 239 480,51	1 639 480,00	1 639 545,28	-	1 639 545,28

For the purpose of interpreting article 11.3 of the General conditions, the budget heading is understood as outputs.

Of the 1 639 545,28 EUR presented above 1 639 545,28 EUR corresponds to eligible expenses (as per IPSAS terminology) and there are no legal commitments currently in force between UNDP (or UNDP's implementing partners) and a third party.

The UN Operational Exchange Rate of 0,88 valid on 18/7/2019, 0,853 valid on 22/4/2021, 0,89 valid on 8/3/2022 and 0,934 valid on 17/3/2023 have been used to convert expenditure to EUR currency.

Description	Amount EUR
The Total Cost of action as per article 3.1 Special Conditions	1 639 480,00
The EU Contribution in EUR as per article 3.1 Special Conditions	1 400 000,00
The EU Pre-financing in Eur:	
The 1st instalment received on 18/07/2019	324 560,00
The 2nd instalment received on 22/04/2021	448 028,00
The 3rd instalment received on 08/03/2022	227 412,00
The 4th instalment received on 17/03/2023	380 000,00
The Total Project Costs (reporting period)	1 639 545,28
Request of the fifth instalment	20 000,00

