

REPORT
**ON THE MONITORING VISIT OF THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT
OF THE UN MULTI-PARTNER HUMAN SECURITY TRUST FUND FOR THE ARAL SEA
REGION IN UZBEKISTAN, TO THE REPUBLIC OF KARAKALPAKSTAN**

Programme: “Empowering Youth Towards a Brighter Future through Green and Innovative Development of the Aral Sea region”

Participating UN Organization(s): The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Duration: December 2022–April 2024

Budget: US\$1,740,001

The main goal of the Joint Programme: Promote integrated green and innovative resilience building of communities, through empowering rural youth and women, by equipping them with digital entrepreneurship and social innovation skills, thereby increasing their employment opportunities and adaptability to the Aral Sea crisis consequences.

Objectives:

- Support effective monitoring of implementation of the Integrated Roadmap for donor coordination in the Aral Sea region.
- Increase access to livelihoods, decent employment, social infrastructure through digitalization and equipment with digital skills, for the most vulnerable youth and women in three target districts of Karakalpakstan (Chimbay, Kegeyli, Karauzyak).
- Promote climate change adaptation measures through climate smart agro practices to increase the food and environmental security of the population, thereby proposing the model of the integrated green local development of communities.

Trip/mission member (s):

- Uktam Abdurakhmanov, Head of Technical Secretariat, MPHSTF TS
- Umid Khudoyberdiev, Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist, MPHSTF TS

Accompanied by:

- Alisher Utemisov, Programme Manager, UNDP
- Berdibek Nagmetov, Task Manager, UNDP
- Sultanbek Baymuratov, Task Manager, UNDP
- Murat Mustapaev, Task Manager, UNDP
- Andrey Krylov, National Consultant, UNDP
- Sagitjan Ayitjanov, Programme Officer (WASH), UNICEF

Destination: Nukus city, Karauzyak, Kegeyli, Chimbay districts of the Republic of Karakalpakstan.

Date: 3-5 June 2024

Objectives of the visit:

- To monitor the final results of Joint Programs approved by the MPHSTF Steering Committee under the Third Call for Proposal.

The present report summarizes the current progress of the JP vis-à-vis the Work Plan. The report also provides findings from the meetings held with local authorities, project partners and beneficiaries, and from the site visits. Specific recommendations are developed from the monitoring visits for further consideration of the JP team.

CURRENT PROGRESS:

Objective 1: Support the Monitoring of Implementation of the Integrated Roadmap for Effective Donor Coordination in the Aral Sea Region (UNDP)

The UNDP, in collaboration with UNICEF and FAO, has embarked on a mission to enhance the effectiveness of donor coordination in the Aral Sea region. This initiative is rooted in the joint program's commitment to ensuring that donor aid is streamlined, efficient, and impactful.

Progress and Challenges:

1. **Development of Monitoring Platform:** As per the project document and approved budget, the joint program, under Output 1.2 (UNDP), has developed a monitoring platform of grant projects. This system initially aimed to facilitate effective donor coordination in the Aral Sea region and the government has scaled up the platform for donor coordination in whole Uzbekistan. Upon the development phase concluded, the platform went through rigorous testing with stakeholders to ensure its seamless functionality. The platform has been handed over to the national partner, the Ministry of Investments, Industry, and Trade of the Republic of Uzbekistan, for further management.

2. **Training and Capacity Building:** To maximize the utility of the platform, there was a need to organize training sessions for representatives of state organizations. Therefore, training of 40 public officials from different ministries was organized during 17-19 April 2024. These sessions equipped participants with the skills to use the platform effectively, especially in updating and inputting data.

3. **Budgetary Considerations:** Given the intricacies of the project and the need for extended timelines, there was a proposal to extend the implementation period of Result 1.2 by four months, up to April 30, 2024. This extension was financed by reallocating the unspent budget of Component-1 from 2023, not exceeding USD 100,000.

Outcome 2. Increase access to livelihoods, decent employment, social infrastructure through digitalization for the most vulnerable youth and women in three target districts of Karakalpakstan

Output 2.1. Creating of conditions for young entrepreneurs to engage in innovative service delivery (UNDP)

Activity 2.1.4 Develop institutional capacity of 3 monocenter and IT Park in the target districts for enhanced quality and sustained provision of training programmes in IT and digitalization for young people with the specific focus on young and women.

The monitoring delegation's visit to the IT parks and IT Learning centers in 3 districts district provided insights into the progress of the UNDP component, specifically the IT learning center aligned with Output 2. IT-equipment, Arduino robototechnics and furniture has been delivered to IT-Parks in target districts for enhanced quality and sustained provision of training programmes in IT and digitalization for young people with the specific focus on young and women.

During the monitoring visit to Karakalpakstan, we observed significant progress in the development of institutional capacity for IT parks and training centers. Our objective was to assess the implementation and impact of Activity 2.1.4, which focuses on supporting IT education and infrastructure for youth and women in the region.

The project involved providing essential equipment and furniture to IT parks in 3 target districts and supporting youth business initiatives to establish IT training centers.

Our first site visit was to the Karauzyak district IT Park branch, which had been equipped with the necessary furniture and IT equipment. This branch serves as a training hub for unemployed youth, women, and migrant workers. The facility is designed to support training in programming, web design, mobilography, robotics, and basic computer skills.

This initiative allows individuals to transform their ideas into viable business projects through comprehensive support, including accounting, legal, marketing, and educational services. The IT Park is an extraterritorial free economic zone for IT companies, facilitating the launch and market introduction of promising startups. To date, over 150 youth and women have received training in social media marketing, robotics, and e-commerce at this branch.

One notable success story is the establishment of “Ali Academy Service” LLC by Jaksibay Kalmuratov. During our visit, we learned that Jaksibay had won a competition held by the Joint Programme to create an IT training center in the Karauzyak district. The center, located in the district Youth Center, provides programming and web design courses. It is equipped with modern IT tools and furniture, enabling effective training for youth and women in the district.

The center operates as a separate company with five employees and educates approximately 80 students per year, offering courses that range from one month to three months. These courses cover basic computer skills, and the center also serves as a venue for government staff, including those from khokimiyats and medical facilities, to enhance their qualifications. Usmonova Gulmira, a dedicated teacher, focuses on computer literacy.



Photo 1. Students of IT center in Karauzyak district

Previously, there were no such educational centers in Karauzyak. With the support of this project and through the call for proposals, a beneficiary from Chimbay managed to open this center, with teachers commuting from Nukus. The courses cost 200,000 UZS per month, but the center provides a quota for those unable to pay, allowing 2-3 out of every 10 students to study for free.

Remarkably, some students have already formed teams and secured orders from foreign countries like Russia. However, the center faces challenges in finding

qualified specialists to teach the courses. To address this, they propose using a hybrid format of education, incorporating online learning. They also prepare local students to become future teachers.

The center conducted a study showing that cities with more game clubs tend to have better learning outcomes, highlighting the high demand for their courses. Jaksibay's efforts have significantly contributed to increasing digital literacy and employment opportunities in Karauzyak, demonstrating the impactful change brought about by this initiative.

In Chimbay district, we visited another IT Park branch that has benefited from the same support. The Chimbay IT Park branch also received essential furniture and IT equipment to facilitate training programs. The initiative mirrors the efforts in Karauzyak, aiming to empower youth and women through IT education.

The IT Park here has trained more than 150 individuals in various digital skills, preparing them for the competitive IT job market. The support has been pivotal in transforming the region's digital landscape, providing a platform for aspiring entrepreneurs and tech enthusiasts.

We also observed the impact of supporting youth business initiatives in Chimbay district. Nurlan Yusupov, the winner of a competition similar to the one in Karauzyak, established "Karsoft-IT-Solutions" LLC. His training center, situated in the Chimbay district Youth Center, offers IT courses in programming and web design. Nurlan's center, fully equipped through the Joint Programme, has become a cornerstone for IT education in the district, fostering a new generation of skilled professionals.

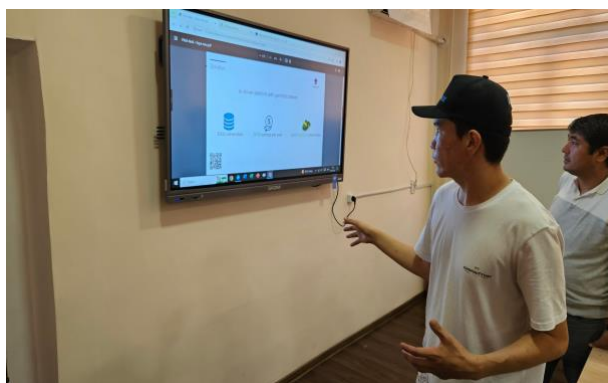


Photo 2. Shayhislam presenting his product.

Additionally, we encountered Shayhislam Seitibaev's project, Supa AI. Although his initial proposal for a 3D animation school wasn't selected for funding in a highly competitive review by the Joint Programme supported by international partners, Shayhislam didn't give up. After attending the "ICT Week-Uzbekistan" funded by the programme, where he met successful entrepreneurs, he returned inspired to start Supa AI—an educational initiative focusing on artificial intelligence. Today, Supa AI is rapidly expanding, with

plans to reach a global audience, illustrating the resilience and entrepreneurial spirit fostered by the Joint Programme.

The monitoring visit highlighted the substantial progress made in developing IT infrastructure and education in Karakalpakstan. The initiatives under Activity 2.1.4 have significantly contributed to enhancing the digital skills of youth and women, providing them with better employment opportunities and empowering them to participate actively in the IT sector.

The success stories of Jaksibay Kalmuratov, Nurlan Yusupov and Shayhislam Seitibaev underscore the transformative impact of these initiatives. By providing the necessary infrastructure and support, the Joint Programme has enabled these individuals to create sustainable businesses that not only benefit them personally but also contribute to the broader community.

All conditions have been created to accommodate the needs of youth, including those who are unable to pay, by offering opportunities to study on grants. However, a significant concern remains regarding how to attract more youth to these programs. Enhancing outreach and advertising these opportunities, particularly in schools, could play a critical role in informing and engaging more young people. By raising awareness about these educational possibilities, we can ensure more youth take advantage of the resources available to develop their skills and advance their careers in the IT sector.

Going forward, continuous monitoring and support will be crucial to ensure the sustainability and further success of these initiatives. Expanding partnerships with state programs and private entities will also help diversify funding and support, ensuring that the IT parks and training centers continue to thrive and serve their communities effectively.

Outcome 2. Increase access to livelihoods, decent employment, social infrastructure through digitalization for the most vulnerable youth and women in three target districts of Karakalpakstan

Output 2.2 Skills of young women and men to become as next generation of smart digital entrepreneurs are improved (UNDP)

The project has demonstrated significant progress in enhancing the digital skills of young people, particularly women, and fostering an environment conducive to digital entrepreneurship. 150 women and men participated in the workshops on the topic "Electronic commerce - a modern need," where the experts explained the basic concepts of e-commerce. During the seminars, explanations were given on the basic principles and participants of e-commerce, as well as the requirements of the legislative acts of the Republic of Uzbekistan in the field of e-commerce.

Also at this interactive seminar, participants were informed about the current legislative acts of the Republic of Uzbekistan in the field of e-commerce and the development of e-commerce in Uzbekistan, in particular in the Republic of Karakalpakstan.

Using the example of the "OLX" online platform and the "Uzum" marketplace, the participants of the seminar were explained the processes of registering a participant in the platforms as "Buyer" and "Seller", the step-by-step placement of information and use of these platforms, as well as the conditions and opportunities for participants on the marketplaces were explained. In addition, the conditions and opportunities provided for creating their own electronic stores on the online platform any.market were explained.



Photo. Practical exercises from SMM training.

For example, ten of the most accomplished graduates from the e-commerce courses were selected to participate in an experience exchange program in Tashkent. This program offered them the chance to network with successful entrepreneurs and prominent IT experts, as well as to attend the "ICT WEEK Uzbekistan-2023" event. This will help the beneficiaries to find decent jobs or start their own business in the near future.

In addition, based on the principles of inclusion, to support people with disabilities and their ability to participate in social, economic and political life short information seminars were held for 110 people with disabilities in the Kegeyli, Karauzyak and Chimbay districts on the topic "Opportunities for receiving interactive government services in electronic form."

The conditions and possibilities for using applications, registering with an individual OnelD account and using an electronic digital signature were also explained. Using an example in various areas (citizenship, education, social protection, housing and communal services, real estate, transport, etc.) of various categories of public services (registration at the place of permanent residence, placing a child in kindergarten, applying for compensation and subsidies for people with disabilities, obtaining information on credit history, etc.) methods of applying and receiving services in electronic form through a single interactive portal my.gov.uz were shown and explained.



Outcome 3. The evidence-based climate change adaptation measures and agricultural resilience with focus on smart agro practices and green approaches are enhanced (UNDP, FAO)

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and FAO have been at the forefront of implementing evidence-based climate change adaptation measures and enhancing agricultural resilience in the Aral Region. The focus has been on smart agricultural practices and green approaches, aiming to fortify the resilience of rural households, farmers, and green communities. Aligned with the broader objectives of the MPHTSF Results Matrix, Programme Outcome 3 has made significant strides in various areas:

Output 3.1 Data repository on the evidence-based monitoring of the dried Aral Sea bed established (UNDP)

Overall, four expeditions were conducted by the Scientific Information Center of the Interstate Coordination Water. The SIC ICWC conducted comprehensive expeditions from 2019 to 2023, spanning 2.7 million hectares in collaboration with various scientific experts. They assessed soil, created maps, identified salt and dust transfer areas, and studied soil cover formation. Additionally, they researched hydrogeological conditions, plant life, and afforestation dynamics.

Output 3.2. Diversification of livelihood strategies introduced including the enabling activities in the agriculture resilience (FAO).

The training initiatives conducted in Kegeyli, Karauzyak, and Chimbay districts have made significant strides in empowering the local communities, particularly in areas of sustainable agriculture and rural e-commerce. A total of 289 participants were educated on modern farming techniques such as mulching, crop cultivation resistant to water scarcity and soil salinity, and various water-saving irrigation methods like drip, sprinkling, and subsoil irrigation.

As a continuation of trainings, 350 households were provided with seeds which are resilient to salt and drought so that local people mitigate climate change impacts. In addition, 45 drip irrigation systems were provided to households who are from Kegeyli, Karauzyak, and Chimbay districts. Importantly, before implementing drip irrigations systems and sowing seeds, they participated in the trainings mentioned above so that they got to know about water saving technologies in detail and sowings seeds in the local conditions.



Additionally, six training sessions focusing on rural e-commerce were held, involving 261 people who developed business plans and engaged in practical e-commerce exercises. These sessions aimed to enhance the direct connection between rural producers and the market, emphasizing the development of smartphone applications suitable for Karakalpakstan to facilitate transportation and delivery of products.

Furthermore, training seminars on green finance were organized to educate the participants on business plan development, online banking, and applying for loans and grants. This training, attended by 261 people from the pilot districts, included interactive sessions with banking professionals and practical exercises in online banking. To support them practically, 45 electronic devices were provided to the participants so that they could implement

practically what they had learned in the trainings, namely e-commerce, or online banking practices etc.

Another set of training seminars focused on handicrafts and business marketing in agriculture, attended by 136 youth and women. These sessions highlighted “Aral Sea” region product branding and included practical activities like sewing, supported by the distribution of 45 sewing machines across the districts.



In addition, FAO also promoted local handicrafts and business in rural areas in social networks like Instagram and Telegram. More than 450 members of the channels have received information, short videos, success stories, business opportunities etc.

Overall, these training programs are designed to foster sustainable development and improve the economic prospects of these communities by equipping them with the skills and tools necessary for modern agricultural practices and entrepreneurship.

Output 3.3: Promoting the climate adaption practices through innovative, smart and green approaches to build the resilience of the rural households, farmers and green communities (UNDP)

Activity 3.3.1 Provide access to clean drinking water for the population of at least 2 remote communities in the three target districts.

Efforts to provide access to clean drinking water in remote communities have been marked by significant achievements.



Photo 7. Water pumping equipment, Kegeyli district

water distribution point for residents without access to water lines and included desalination equipment of limited capacity. In addition, the equipment was outdated and, due to wear, was inoperable. This situation hindered the ability to provide all residents with access to clean drinking water. As a result of this project, 1,484 residents, including 799 women, now have

Kegeyli District: During the monitoring visit, the team inspected the reconstruction site of the desalination station and the construction of the water supply network in Kegeyli. The villages of Shuyt, Aranshi, and Tokmangit are remote communities in the Kegeyli district, characterized by a substantial population. In Shuyt, a water purification facility had been functioning since 2006-2007. Initially, this facility served as a retail

access to clean drinking water. The water supply network has been extended to cover 8,638 meters, significantly enhancing the community's access to potable water. The desalination equipment installed has a capacity of 10 cubic meters per hour, ensuring a steady supply of clean water.



Photo 8. Functioning desalination equipment in Chimbay district

Chimbay District: In the Chimbay district, another desalination station has been operationalized. This station, serving a population of 800, provides clean water for one hour daily. The installation of 7.5 km of pipelines has been instrumental in ensuring efficient water distribution. The Chimbay initiative highlights the adaptability of the project.

The progress in both districts is addressing water scarcity. Infrastructure development, combined with the procurement of state-of-the-art purification equipment, sets the stage for long-term sustainability. While the duration of water supply is limited to one or two hour, it signifies a crucial first step in addressing water scarcity. The focus now should be on enhancing the duration and consistency of the water supply, ensuring that the needs of the entire community are met.

Output 3.3. Climate adaption practices are promoted through innovative, smart and green approaches to build the resilience of the rural households, farmers and green communities (UNDP).

Activity 3.3.2 Introduce smart agriculture practices and technologies through financing at least 1 local initiative by youth and women at the community levels; and provide necessary capacity building to 20 youth & women to support the proposed initiatives' implementation.

The push towards sustainable agricultural practices has been further exemplified through the financing of innovative local initiatives. A standout project in this regard is the establishment of a Smart Aquaponic system, a collaboration with the International Innovation Center for the Aral Sea (IICAS).



Photo 9. Smart Aquaponic system , IICAS

The International Innovation Center for the Aral Sea (IICAS) has developed a project proposal titled "Creation of a smart aquaponic system". This project aims to revolutionize the way agriculture systems in regions like the Aral Sea basin. The primary objective is to demonstrate and disseminate knowledge about the smart aquaponic system as a superior alternative to traditional fishing and open-field farming. The latter often

leads to irreversible water consumption, a critical concern in water-scarce regions.

This system incorporated a reliable Recirculated Water Supply installation designed for both fish breeding and vegetable cultivation in a hydroponic module. This dual approach ensures optimal resource utilization, with the water used for fish breeding being recycled to nourish the plants. The integration of remote control sensors and automation further enhances the efficiency of the system, allowing for real-time monitoring and adjustments.



Photo 9. Smart Aquaponic system , IICAS

The chosen site for this innovative project is the Samanbay experimental site at IICAS, spanning 378 square meters. This location not only provides ample space for the system but also serves as a demonstration site for researchers, farmers, and stakeholders to witness the benefits of the smart aquaponic system firsthand

Activity 3.3.3 Enhance access of 15 vulnerable households to innovative vertical and sustainable growing systems such as African Grower System and Hydroponics for livestock development.

The program's commitment to fostering agricultural resilience in vulnerable households is evident in its achievements. Not only has the initiative surpassed its initial target, but it has also tangibly transformed the lives of the beneficiaries.



Photo 7. Water pumping equipment, Kegeyli district

One of the beneficiaries, Saparbaev's family, was among the thirteen households that received hotbeds aimed at enhancing crop production. In July 2023, Bayram Saparbaev was provided with a 50 m2 hotbed equipped with a drip irrigation system.

Bayrambay has actively participated in agricultural training sessions provided by the Joint Programme and is now deeply involved in cultivating tomatoes within his

hotbed. He utilizes the hotbed to grow and sell tomatoes and cucumbers during the summer and late autumn, discovering that the hotbed can be a lucrative source of income.

During last monitoring visit the team witnessed essential challenges faced by beneficiary Begzoda Tlegenova's family in Chimbay district.

The monitoring team's visit to Tlegenova's household painted a stark contrast to the successes observed elsewhere. Living in challenging conditions, the family has been unable to utilize the provided equipment. The primary reason cited by the family is the scarcity of water in their area, compounded by the impending cold weather. Provided hotbeds were designed to run during the autumn and spring seasons. Considering late arrival of the equipment initiator decided to postpone the initiation of their agricultural activities to early spring of 2024. The team recommended using saved funds to drill deeper wells, ensuring a more consistent water supply for the family's agricultural activities.



Photo 11. Greenhouse at Tlegenova's during last M&E visit

This time, during our recent visit, we witnessed a different situation. The UNDP team implemented our previous recommendation, and as a result, deeper wells were drilled, providing a more reliable water supply. The hotbed was fully operational, and the beneficiary, Begzoda Tlegenova's family, was successfully using it. The family has been able to grow a variety of vegetables, and they have even started selling some of their produce. The increased income from these sales has significantly improved their living conditions.



Photo 11. Greenhouse at Tlegenova's now

The hotbed has become a source of pride for the family, showcasing the potential of innovative agricultural practices even in challenging environments. The success of this initiative not only demonstrates the effectiveness of the solutions provided but also highlights the importance of adaptability and responsiveness to on-the-ground realities. This positive outcome has reinforced the program's commitment to supporting sustainable agricultural development and

improving the livelihoods of local communities in the Aral Sea region.

This situation underscores the importance of understanding the unique challenges faced by each beneficiary and tailoring interventions accordingly. While the provision of equipment is a significant step, ensuring its utility requires a more comprehensive approach. Furthermore, Marat, who is father-in-law of Begzoda helps other beneficiaries of the program and other people in the community by sharing his experience. The UNDP team has also established Telegram group, where beneficiaries can discuss and share their knowledge, helping each other.

Conclusion

The monitoring visit to the Aral Sea region has illuminated the significant strides made by the Joint Programme in empowering youth, fostering digital entrepreneurship, and promoting sustainable agricultural practices. The initiatives undertaken have not only equipped individuals with essential skills but have also created tangible opportunities for economic growth and community development.

The establishment of IT parks and training centers, coupled with the financing of innovative projects like the Smart Aquaponic system, exemplifies the program's commitment to leveraging technology for sustainable development. The success stories of individuals like Jaksibay Kalmuratov and Nurlan Yusupov underscore the transformative impact of these initiatives, showcasing the potential for local entrepreneurship to drive positive change.

Furthermore, the focus on climate change adaptation and agricultural resilience has yielded promising results. The introduction of modern farming techniques, rural e-commerce training, and the provision of clean drinking water to remote communities have significantly improved the livelihoods of many. The expansion of sustainable agricultural practices and the adoption of innovative growing systems have not only enhanced food security but have also empowered vulnerable households.

However, challenges remain. The need for increased outreach to attract more youth to IT programs, the importance of tailoring interventions to the specific needs of each beneficiary, and the ongoing effort to ensure the sustainability of these initiatives are areas that require continued attention.

Future Outlook:

1. **Expansion of IT Education:** Building on the success of IT parks and training centers, expanding IT education programs to reach more remote communities and increasing the diversity of courses offered can further empower the youth and drive digital entrepreneurship.
2. **Scaling Up Sustainable Agriculture:** Expanding the adoption of smart agricultural practices, such as aquaponics and hydroponics, and promoting climate-resilient crops can enhance food security and improve the livelihoods of farmers.
3. **Water Management:** Exploring alternative water sources, water-saving technologies, and promoting efficient irrigation practices are crucial for addressing water scarcity and ensuring the sustainability of agricultural activities.
4. **Community Engagement:** Strengthening community engagement and participation in decision-making processes can foster a sense of ownership and ensure the long-term success and relevance of the program's initiatives.

In conclusion, the Joint Programme has demonstrated its effectiveness in addressing the complex challenges facing the Aral Sea region. By investing in human capital, promoting technological innovation, and fostering sustainable practices, the program has laid a solid foundation for a brighter future. Continued collaboration, adaptability, and a commitment to long-term sustainability will be key to ensuring that the positive impacts of this program endure and expand, ultimately empowering the people of the Aral Sea region to build a more resilient and prosperous future.

Annex 1. Indicator-Based Performance Assessment (in accordance with the JP Results Matrix from the Project Document)

	Achieved Indicator Targets	Reasons for Variance with Planned Target (if any)	Source of Verification
Outcome 1. Donor ineffectiveness in the Aral Sea region addressed through development of database of assistance, duplication of efforts avoided (UNDP)			Reports, Surveys, assessments
Indicator: Share of surveyed development Partners using the Integrated Roadmap monitoring tools to Design, Monitor, Coordinate and Evaluate New Interventions in the Aral Sea region. Baseline: N/A Planned Target for 2023: 60%	60%	Survey will be conducted in 2024	
Output 1.1. Development of holistic project proposals by the members of Working group on Sustainable Investments of the Advisory Committee is facilitated.			Reports, Availability of the training module Proposals submitted to potential Donors
Indicator 1.1.1 # of online training courses developed to enhance the capabilities of the national partners Baseline: 0 Planned Target for 2023: 1	1	Online training courses will be available on the monitoring platform in April 2024	
Indicator 1.1.2 # of project proposals by working group members developed by application of systems approach Baseline: 0 Planned Target for 2023: 2	2		
Output 1.2. Monitoring of implementation of the Integrated Roadmap for donor coordination in the Aral Sea region is enhanced.			Reports, availability of protocols and procedures Reports, Operability of the online database
Indicator 1.2.1 Availability of effective protocols and procedures for coordination and monitoring of Aral Sea interventions Baseline: N/A Planned Target for 2023: Yes	Yes		
Indicator 1.2.2 Availability of online monitoring tool/software, as database of assistance, to effectively coordinate donor assistance in the Aral Sea region Baseline: N/A Planned Target for 2023: Yes	Yes		

	Achieved Indicator Targets	Reasons for Variance with Planned Target (if any)	Source of Verification
Output 1.3. Data Repository established to facilitate Evidence-based decision making by donors and policymakers.			Reports, Availability of the data catalogue Reports, Availability of up and running data repository
Indicator 1.3.1 # of socio-economic and Climate data catalogues developed for the Aral Sea region Baseline: N/A Planned Target for 2023: 1	1		
Indicator 1.3.2 Availability of user-friendly dynamic data repositories for the Aral Sea region, as a tool for streamlined data access for policy makers Baseline: No Planned Target for 2023: Yes	Yes		
Outcome 2. The employment and income generation opportunities for local youth, women and rural communities are increased (UNDP, UNICEF)			Reports
Indicator: # of youth and women improved income generation through decent employment and skills development in smart digital entrepreneurship, social entrepreneurship, modern business applications and digital tools Baseline: 1,220 Planned Target for 2023: 2,673	2,673 (n=1317)		
Output 2.1. Conditions for young entrepreneurs to engage in innovative service delivery are created (UNDP).			Reports Transfer acts
Indicator 2.1.1 # of in-depth market studies and consultations with the private sector and experts on the global trends on digital markets Baseline: N/A Planned Target for 2023: 2	2		
Indicator 2.1.2 # of start-ups launched Baseline: 39 Planned Target for 2023: 48	50		
Indicator 2.1.3 # of integrated digital platforms developed Baseline: N/A	3		

	Achieved Indicator Targets	Reasons for Variance with Planned Target (if any)	Source of Verification
Planned Target for 2023: 3			Progress reports, Transfer acts, field visits Transfer acts Transfer acts
Indicator 2.1.4 # of supported organization for sustained provision of IT, digitalization training Baseline: N/A Planned Target for 2023: 3	3		
Indicator 2.1.5 # of digital infrastructure projects supported and created Baseline: N/A Planned Target for 2023: 2	3		
Output 2.2. Skills of young women and men to become as next generation of smart digital entrepreneurs are improved (UNDP)			Training report/ spot checks, pre- and post-tests Master class report Training report Internship contracts
Indicator 2.2.1 # of young people (f/m) and women improved their skills in modern business applications and social media engagement. Disaggregated by gender Baseline: 60 Planned Target for 2023: 60	120		
Indicator 2.2.2 # of young people and women facilitated intensive knowledge exchange and master classes. Disaggregated by gender Baseline: 95 Planned Target for 2023: 155	155		
Indicator 2.2.3 # of young entrepreneurs (girls) had webinars with leading experts. Disaggregated by gender Baseline: N/A Planned Target for 2023: 40	40		
Indicator 2.2.4 # of young people (f/m) benefited from internship programs for young entrepreneurs. Disaggregated by gender Baseline: N/A Planned Target for 2023: 10	10		
Indicator 2.2.5 # of youth, women, disabled improved knowledge on digital technology through awareness-raising campaigns	150		

	Achieved Indicator Targets	Reasons for Variance with Planned Target (if any)	Source of Verification
conducted among target underprivileged groups. Disaggregated by gender Baseline: N/A Planned Target for 2023: 150			Training report
Indicator 2.2.6 # of digital business initiatives supported. Disaggregated by gender Baseline: 2 Planned Target for 2023: 5	5		Transfer acts
Output 2.3 Employment and innovation through building capacity of young people with the focus on women and vulnerable youth with digital, social, employability, innovation and entrepreneurship skills are fostered (UNICEF)			Partner/training reports (monthly) Field monitoring visits Partner/training reports (monthly)(every round of UPSHIFT) Field monitoring visits Partner/training reports (monthly)
Indicator 2.3.1 # of girls and young women equipped with the digital skills (disaggregated by age) Baseline: 58 Planned Target for 2023: 208	238		
Indicator 2.3.2 # of young people equipped with social innovation and social entrepreneurship skills Baseline: 212 Planned Target for 2023: 302	302		
Indicator 2.3.3 # of youth-led projects supported with seed funding and mentoring support Baseline: 33 Planned Target for 2023: 43	43		
Indicator 2.3.4 # of incubated youth-led projects which grew into income-generating startups Baseline: 5 Planned Target for 2023: 7	7		
Indicator 2.3.5 # of young people equipped with social, employability, entrepreneurship skills and financial literacy (disaggregated by gender and age) Baseline: N/A Planned Target for 2023: 400	420		

	Achieved Indicator Targets	Reasons for Variance with Planned Target (if any)	Source of Verification
			Field monitoring visits Partner/training reports (monthly) Partner/training reports (monthly) Field monitoring visit
Outcome 3. The evidence-based climate change adaptation measures and agricultural resilience with focus on smart agro practices and green approaches are enhanced (UNDP, FAO)			Reports, complex afforestation plan Reports, Training reports
Indicator: Recipient institutions efficiently plan afforestation works based on research driven data on soil composition of land on the dried bed of the Aral Sea Baseline: N/A Planned Target for 2023: Yes	Yes		
Indicator: # of jobs created in target communities per year that will result in sustainable income within the Project Baseline: 652 Planned Target for 2023: 780	780		
Output 3.1 Data repository on the evidence-based monitoring of the dried Aral Sea bed established (UNDP)			Reports
Indicator 3.1.1 # of reports on conducted expeditions to the dried bed of the Aral Sea Baseline: 2 Planned Target for 2023: 4	4		
Output 3.2 Diversification of livelihood strategies introduced including the enabling activities in the agriculture resilience (FAO)			

	Achieved Indicator Targets	Reasons for Variance with Planned Target (if any)	Source of Verification
Indicator 3.2.1 # of rural women are equipped with handicraft and other alternative income generation skills in 3 districts. Disaggregated by gender Baseline: 348 Planned Target for 2023: 448	448		Training Reports
Indicator 3.2.2 # of young people trained with e-commerce and entrepreneurship skills through workshops and training. Disaggregated by gender Baseline: 25 Planned Target for 2023: 175	175		Training Reports
Indicator 3.2.3 # of smallholder farmers are capacitated with new skills and knowledge on sustainable agriculture through Farmer Field schools. Disaggregated by gender Baseline: N/A Planned Target for 2023: 200	200		Training Reports
Indicator 3.2.4 # of smallholder farmers of targeted districts are trained and aware of existing green soft loans Baseline: N/A Planned Target for 2023: 200	200		Training Reports
Indicator 3.2.5 # of smallholder farmers are provided with new types of seeds of salt-tolerant crops and more resilient to water-shortages. Disaggregated by gender Baseline: N/A Planned Target for 2023: 350	350		Transfer acts with beneficiaries
Indicator 3.2.6 # of pilot projects/farmers equipped and tested new technologies adjusted to local conditions such as: drip irrigation equipment, installation of water wells. Disaggregated by gender Baseline: 51 Planned Target for 2023: 96	96		Transfer acts with beneficiaries

	Achieved Indicator Targets	Reasons for Variance with Planned Target (if any)	Source of Verification
Indicator 3.2.7 # of women of targeted districts are provided with equipment and items for development of their handicraft skills and generate alternative income. Disaggregated by gender Baseline: 21 Planned Target for 2023: 66	66		
Output 3.3 Climate adaption practices are promoted through innovative, smart and green approaches to build the resilience of the rural households, farmers and green communities (UNDP)			
Indicator 3.3.1 # of communities with newly established access to clean drinking water Baseline: 14 Planned Target for 2023: 16	18		Transfer acts with beneficiaries
Indicator 3.3.2 # of people have access to clean drinking water in target communities Baseline: 0 Planned Target for 2023: 2000	3,685		Transfer acts with beneficiaries
Indicator 3.3.3 # of youth and women initiatives supported for smart agro-practices and technologies at communities. Disaggregated by gender Baseline: N/A Planned Target for 2023: 20	20		Transfer acts with beneficiaries
Indicator 3.3.4 # of farmers, youth, women strengthened skills and knowledge on smart agro- practices and green growth. Disaggregated by gender Baseline: N/A Planned Target for 2023: 15	15		Training reports
Indicator 3.3.5 # of low-income households equipped with innovative agricultural African Grower System and Hydroponic. Disaggregated by gender Baseline: N/A Planned Target for 2023: 15	17		Transfer acts with beneficiaries Training reports

	Achieved Indicator Targets	Reasons for Variance with Planned Target (if any)	Source of Verification
Indicator 3.3.6 # of smallholder farmers of targeted districts are trained and aware of existing green soft loans that are already being provided by banks. Disaggregated by gender Baseline: N/A Planned Target for 2023: 300	305		Report
Indicator 3.3.7 # of the developed integrated green local development model at the community level and presented to the Government (MoEDPR) for consideration of upscaling and replication Baseline: N/A Planned Target for 2023: 1	1		
Indicator 3.3.7 # of supported green initiatives at pilot farms and enterprises in cooperation with Farmer's Council Baseline: N/A Planned Target for 2023: 3	3		