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the People of Japan**

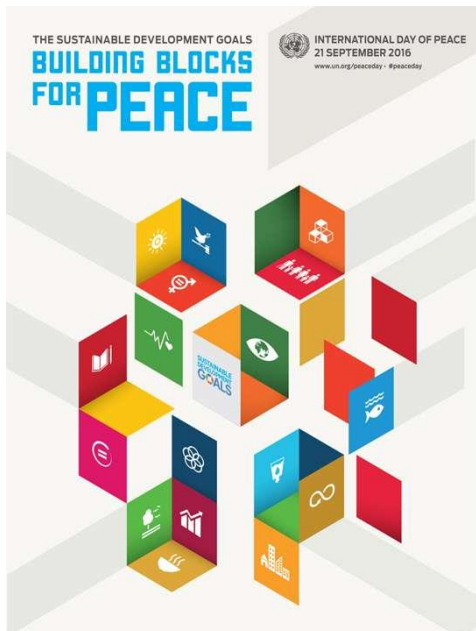


United Nations Development Programme

INTERIM PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT

**Promoting Resilient Communities to Prevent Violent Extremism in
Central Asia
January 2024 – December 2024**

Astana, January 2025



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I. PROJECT BACKGROUND

The project is designed to address the urgent need for increased investment in prevention and resilience, solidarity, and a renewed social contract, as highlighted in the UNDP 2022 Special Report on Human Security. It adopts a people-centered, context-specific, and prevention-oriented approach to build community resilience, empower youth, and prevent violent extremism while strengthening social cohesion in Central Asia.

The project's second phase includes Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, ensuring that all five Central Asian countries benefit from the interventions and that regional synergies and lesson learning are maximized. The Project is implemented in support of the Joint Plan of Action of the Central Asian countries and by building on the "Central Asia plus Japan" dialogue. It also aligns with the Secretary-General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism (PVE), UNDP's global and regional PVE programming, and UNSCR 2250 on Youth, Peace, and Security.

Throughout its activities, the project employs a gender-sensitive and gender-responsive approach, promoting the realization of UN Security Council Resolutions 1325 and 2250. It aims to ensure women's equal and meaningful participation and representation, considering them as agents of change in building community resilience. The project addresses the obstacles faced by women, such as social norms, cultural patterns, and disproportionate burdens of unpaid care work, by providing business and digital skills training, increasing financial literacy, and supporting the development of soft skills.

The project aims to complement other ongoing and planned PVE initiatives in Central Asia, fostering collaboration among UNDP, the UN family, national and international partners, and civil society. It prioritizes flexibility and adaptability to respond to changing PVE trends while promoting local ownership and leadership. The project will develop clear exit strategies to ensure the sustainability and scalability of the activities beyond the project lifecycle.

The main **Components** of the project are:

- I. Empowered societies with youth at the center,
- II. Strengthened national capacities for prevention and social cohesion,
- III. Expanded regional prevention networks.

- **Project duration:** December 2022 – December 2025
- Implementation:** UNDP Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan with strategic support from UNDP Istanbul Regional Hub.
- **Project budget:** \$4.4 million
- **Focus areas:**
- ❖ **Kazakhstan:** Kyzylorda city, Aktau city, Zhanaozen city
 - ❖ **Kyrgyzstan:** Cholpon-Ata town, Issyk-Kul region; Aleksandrovka village, Chui region; Kerben town, Djalal-Abad region; Osh city, Osh region; Uch-Korgon village municipality, Batken region
 - ❖ **Tajikistan:** Districts of Bobojon Gafurov (or Isfara city – subject to confirmation from the General Prosecutor Office), Rushon, Lakhsh, Farkhor, Panj and Nosiri Khisrav
 - ❖ **Turkmenistan:** Gokdepe etrap of Ahal region, Koneurgench etrap of Dashoguz region, Bayramaly city of Mary region, Buzmeyin etrap of Ashgabat city, Sayat etrap of Lebap region, Balkanabat city of Balkan region
 - ❖ **Uzbekistan:** Fergana region – Rishtan district; Andijan region – Khanabad district; Namangan region – Yangikurgan district; Surkhandarya region – Sariosiyo district (or other districts of priority proposed by the national partners)

II. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Project Document was formally signed on 13 December 2022. A Project Steering Committee meeting was held on 29 April 2024, where representatives from five Central Asian countries, the Embassy of Japan, and national partners of the PVE project reviewed the project's 2023 results, plans for 2024 and discussed a request for a project's non-cost extension until 31 December 2025. The project sent an official request to the Embassy of Japan seeking the extension and a change in the locations in Kyrgyzstan. In response, the Embassy of Japan in Kazakhstan issued a letter (№ДО-153/28) on 9 October 2024, confirming the project's extension until 31 December 2025.

KAZAKHSTAN

Major achievements under Output 1.1:

UNDP Kazakhstan has advanced youth engagement platforms and mutually beneficial cooperation between central and local governments, as well as with local NGOs, in pilot regions to foster positive alternatives to extremist views, develop a greater sense of belonging and peer-to-peer support among vulnerable and disadvantaged youth in the Kyzylorda and Mangystau regions.

In particular, the following activities have been implemented so far within the reporting period of the project cycle:

- The employment programme that provided financial assistance for the socially vulnerable youth of the Kyzylorda and Mangystau regions allowed participants to undergo three-month-long paid internships in various organizations and increased their chances of employment. **The total number of interns was 300 (over 60% were women).** Approximately 28% of interns (**86 participants**) could find jobs after completing the employment programme.
- A training programme aimed at developing entrepreneurial skills and accelerating start-ups in the creative economy was implemented in the Mangystau region as part of the project. As a result, **15 creative projects** from Aktau, Beineu, and Zhanaozen were developed. These projects spanned various creative industries, including crafts, music, marketing, content production, design, and architecture. The winners were awarded prize money to help them develop and implement their creative ideas, transforming them into sustainable businesses.

Major achievements under Output 2.1:

- As part of the project, Youth Camps were held for young people from NEET or socially vulnerable backgrounds aged 18 to 25. The total number of participants from the Kyzylorda and Mangystau regions was **132 persons (48% were women)**. During the Youth Camps, participants had the opportunity to undergo training sessions to master new skills in entrepreneurship, career development, project management, and financial literacy and received counseling and mentorship support.
- Training sessions aimed at preventing violent extremism through profiling and emotional intelligence were organized in the Mangystau and Kyzylorda regions, as well as in Astana, with the participation of law enforcement personnel, Youth Resource Center representatives, school administrators, and psychologists. The primary goal was to create a platform for discussing preventive strategies, particularly in engaging youth to counter violent extremism and reduce violence and crime among young people. In total, **ten training sessions** were held in the Kyzylorda and Mangystau regions between August and October 2024, with **300 specialists (69% were women)** participating overall.
- A small grants programme for local NGOs in the Kyzylorda and Mangystau regions was launched in November 2024. This programme is designed to help local NGOs implement projects to enhance the capacity of socially vulnerable youth in the area. Currently, **the call for proposals is open.**

KYRGYZSTAN

Major achievements under Output 1.2:

- Construction and renovation of **Youth centers**: consultations with local authorities in five pilots have been completed. **Land and permits for construction were secured** for lightweight youth centers in

Cholpon-Ata and **Kerben** with the design adapted from the lightweight construction project in Balykchy (pilot from the first phase of the PVE project). A tender for design and estimate documentation for above-mentioned construction to be launched by the end of January 2025.

- In **Alexandrovka**, a municipal building has been allocated for renovation, contractor has been already selected and renovation work to be started soon.
- **Kadamjai and Osh youth** centers: the city mayor's office in Kadamjai allocated space within the city hall for youth council, provided repairment works as in-kind contribution. The youth council is operational including **8 permanent members and 38 volunteers**.
- In **Osh** local youth organization "Youth of Osh" provided own building whereas UNDP to provide IT equipment and furniture. Currently tender for procurement of IT equipment and furniture for both centers (Osh and Kadamjai) are being elaborated.

Major achievements under Output 2.2:

- The project made important strides in building resilient communities by empowering youth through four days bootcamps on community building, organizing public discussions, financial sustainability of youth organizations, crowdfunding, trainings on mediation and conflict sensitivity as part of conflict prevention and PVE engaging **122 youth** selected by the results of the mapping of youth organizations with **46 young participants** from 5 project pilot locations (out of 122 more than half of them young women).

TAJIKISTAN

Major achievements under Output 1.3:

Indicator 1.3.1 (1) Number of young people strengthened their knowledge on innovative digital skills. Target: 500.

- The initiative supported **1,049 young people, including 606 women** from Bobojon Gafurov, Rushon, Lakhsh, Farkhor, Panj, and Nosiri Khisrav in gaining critical skills through trainings in computer literacy, social media, creative media, graphic design, entrepreneurship, and remote work. Mentorship was provided to active participants, and **18 youth (11 women)** received ICT prizes for top digital employment ideas.

Indicator 1.3.1 (2) Number of renovated and equipped youth facilities available for further utilization. Target: 6.

- **Five Youth Creative Corners** were renovated in Nosiri Khisrav, Panj, Farkhor, Lakhsh, and Bobojon Gafurov, while work in Rushon is set to complete in April 2025. Partnerships with local authorities and an information campaign reached all target areas, and training materials on youth engagement, leadership, critical thinking, social cohesion, and conflict prevention were enhanced to align with project goals.

Major achievements under Output 2.3:

Indicator 2.3.1: Number of local and central authorities, community leaders, local women activists, and religious leaders strengthened their capacity to effectively implement youth focused policies at the local level. Target: 300

- **15 two-day participatory trainings** were conducted for **316 national stakeholders**, including **121 women**, from Dushanbe and six districts. The sessions focused on youth-focused policy development, social cohesion, conflict resolution, and preventing violent extremism. Guidelines on youth engagement and a curriculum on youth needs assessments were developed, equipping participants to integrate youth priorities into District Development Plans and advocate for their implementation.

TURKMENISTAN

Major achievements under Output 1.4:

- The project conducted assessments of Technical and Vocational Education and Training Institutions (hereinafter – TVET institutions) to identify specific training needs of TVET staff and to develop their capacity to accommodate youth and provide them with technical skills. To empower **5 TVET institutions** and enhance their administrative efficiency and training capabilities, IT equipment was procured. This investment aims to support the development of professional skills among vulnerable youth and youth from low-income families. Additionally, the project leverages the existing capacities of TVET institutions to provide training for youth in welding, mechanics, accounting, and other fields.
- Another initiative involves **equipping TVET institutions** with sewing equipment. This will empower youth from low-income families and marginalized groups, enabling them to find jobs in the textile industry after completing technical sewing courses.
- **Mentorship and Training Support** through online Mentorship Platform, which facilitates mentorship programs with youth (link: <https://sites.google.com/view/halypacylyk-platformasy/bas-sahypa>). Encouraged youth to join online webinars from **11 volunteer mentors** (selected from 32 applicants). In-Person Training Sessions conducted for **137 youth from 6 pilot sites** (July-August 2024), where topics covered Basics of successful entrepreneurship Establishment of Education-Information Centers and will equip Youth to find job in rural areas.
- Developed a Protocol and Regulations for the establishment of **6 education-information centers** at MLSP Employment Departments. Procured and delivered furniture and IT equipment for these centers. The project team is awaiting final approval for the Protocol. The establishment of 6 education-information centers will foster vulnerable Youth to attend seminars and trainings, enhance their IT skills, and provide opportunities to create CVs and apply for job advertisements.
- Turkmenistan CO is the first pioneer in implementing **Massive Open Online Courses** (hereinafter – MOOCs) in Central Asia. Through **UNDP's FutureSkills4All Initiative**, vulnerable youth and youth from low-income families were encouraged to participate and develop professional skills utilizing the Coursera platform and receive certificates. A total of **711 youth** was enrolled. Participation reached over **1,100 young people and women**. MOOCs allow us to sort data and receive accurate information. In total, **1,074 certificates** were received through this platform. As these courses have equipped Youth with professional certificates Project expecting significant results of employment after completion this initiative. Survey to count how many Youths got employed implemented at the end of initiative and will be tracked until the end of this year.

Major achievements under Output 2.4:

- With the engagement of international consultants' capacity building and enhancement of local mechanisms with frontline service providers were undertaken to support communities and build resilience. This was done by conducting a comprehensive analysis of youth employment in Turkmenistan, incorporating international best practices. Online and offline training was conducted for **60 front line providers**.
- Enhanced Capacity of Youth: A total of **180 youth** received in-person training (November 13-14, 20-21) and 90 youth will benefit from individual counseling sessions, equipping them with essential skills for employment and entrepreneurship. The project successfully conducted two rounds of in-person training sessions for 180 youth on MHPSS.

UZBEKISTAN

Major achievements under Output 1.5

The project contributes to Uzbekistan's efforts to implement the national action plan and SDGs by building community resilience, empowering youth, and strengthening social cohesion to prevent violent extremism and radicalization.

- Supported the national efforts within the “National Strategy to Counter Extremism and Terrorism” (2021), aimed at **creating an effective state policy** to fight extremism and terrorism, with a focus on preventing youth radicalization, promoting women’s rights, addressing extremism in migrant communities, and combating online extremism through coordinated public, private, and civil society engagement.
- During the reporting period of the project “Promoting Resilient Communities to Prevent Violent Extremism in Central Asia (PVE-2)”, UNDP in Uzbekistan conducted extensive preparatory work, including consultations with national partners in target regions (Fergana, Andijan, Namangan, Surkhandarya), and hiring consultants to support planned interventions.
- Bilateral meetings with key stakeholders, including heads of IT parks, youth agencies, and regional government officials in Fergana, Andijan, Namangan, and Surkhandarya, as well as with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Youth Agency in Tashkent were held to coordinate and discuss the implementation of project activities, especially the activities #1.5.2.1 and #2.5.2.
- A **specialized Youth Hub** was set up in partnership with Termez State University to provide psychological and legal support, foreign language training, business development programs, and entrepreneurial skills. The hub serves both university students and vulnerable youth from nearby communities, addressing diverse needs, and recently launched a Japanese language program.
- The project envisages to **set up three more youth hubs** in target regions: Fergana, Andijan and Namangan. Within the reporting period, project reached an agreement with the national partners on the location and the buildings for the hub. Procurement and construction have been launched for the youth hubs in that regions.
- An agreement was made with national partners to conduct training for **400 youth** in Fergana and Andijan (December 2024 – February 2025), focusing on modern skills such as social media marketing, freelancing, digital sales, and network engineering to enhance employability. To ensure the sustainable impact if the trainings, it is planned to provide employment and self-employment for the at least 100 participants upon the completion of the intervention.

Major achievements under Output 2.5

- In November 2024, the project helped facilitate the signing of an **MOU between the Association of Mahallas of Uzbekistan and the UNDP in Uzbekistan**, setting the stage for community-based activities. The MOU focuses on:
 - 1) Improving social services in mahallas through administrative reforms, digital transformation, and case management;
 - 2) Supporting youth employment, particularly for vulnerable groups;
 - 3) Recommending improvements to legislation and services for vulnerable populations, including people with disabilities and returnees from conflict zones;
 - 4) Enhancing staff capacity through training;
 - 5) Collaborating on preventing violent extremism and youth radicalization in at-risk communities.
- An **Agreement was reached** with the Administration of the Fergana region and preparatory work has been completed to organize capacity building workshops for the 120 community members (women leaders, youth leaders, also local nurses) on social work. The events will take place in border sites of the country – Fergana and Sokh (Enclave zone) districts.

REGIONAL COMPONENT

Major achievements under Output 3

- The “Youth for Resilience in Central Asia” Forum held in Almaty and gathered **over 100 participants**, including experts, stakeholders, and youth from all five Central Asian nations, to explore strategies for preventing violent extremism. The event emphasized the importance of youth employment as a critical approach, with key government officials from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan taking part. Participants engaged in discussions, shared best practices, and identified opportunities for regional cooperation. Sessions covered topics like youth empowerment, the role of

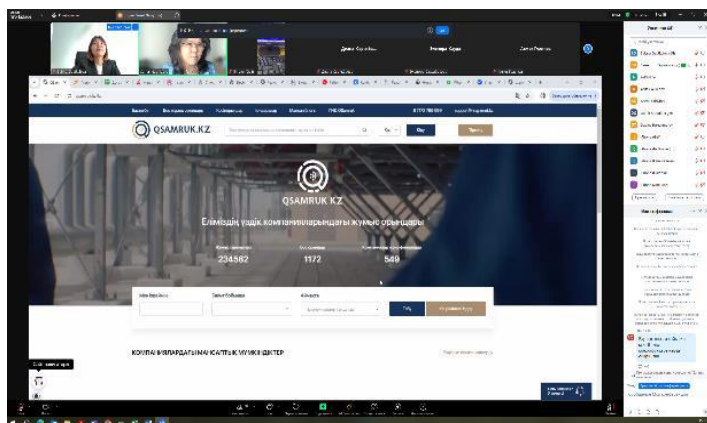
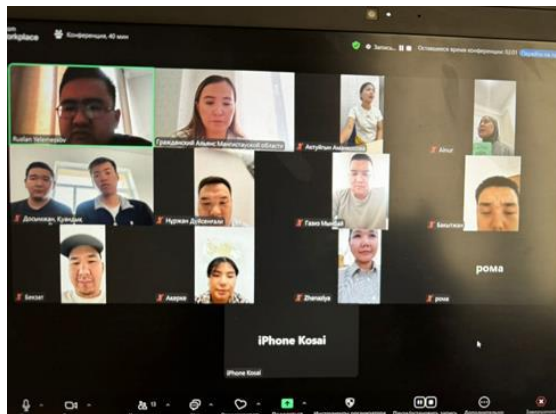
religious communities, and initiatives from the NGO and private sectors. An SDG game highlighted issues and pointed areas for future development in the region.

III. IMPLEMENTATION RESULTS

KAZAKHSTAN

1.1.1 Strengthen the capacity of the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of Population of Kazakhstan and other authorities at central and local levels to effectively incorporate the interests of youth in developing and implementing state employment programmes.

Three-month subsidized apprenticeship supplemented by professional trainings, for 300 socially vulnerable youth in Kyzylorda and Mangystau regions were implemented. The programme provided expanded opportunities for further employment of socially vulnerable youth by providing work experience through subsidized internship and related training sessions focused on personal development, effective communication, youth support mechanisms, and mental health. A total of 300 interns (over 60% were women) participated in the programme. 278 youth participated in internships across various organizations in Kyzylorda and Mangystau regions, including Kyzylorda, Karmakshi, and Kazaly districts, as well as Aktau, Zhanaozen, and Beineu districts and in collaboration with "Samruk Kazyna" JSC (a Kazakhstan investment holding established in 2008 to promote national welfare and modernize the economy), 22 young people completed internships with Samruk Kazyna's group companies, such as Kazakhtelecom, Kazpost, Kazakhstan Temir Zholy, and QazaqGaz in the Kyzylorda region. Following the internship, more than 86 participants (28%) were permanently employed (including 2 young people with "Samruk-Kazyna" JSC).



On 11-12 December 2024, UNDP organized Women in STEM Leadership Programme for 12 young women from the Kyzylorda and Mangystau regions. STEM Leadership Programme is designed to develop young women's leadership potential, interpersonal skills, and self-confidence. The initiative aims to foster a new generation of women who understand their rights and are actively engaged in making positive changes in their communities.



1.1.2 Provision of technical assistance to central and local governments in building, improving, and maximizing capacities in the development of design estimate documentation to cover the gaps in infrastructure needs and planning so that vulnerable young people are provided with proper social infrastructure facilities and engaged in local development.

Negotiations were conducted and proposals were received for providing technical assistance to central and local governments in developing design estimate documentation for infrastructure facilities. These facilities are aimed at supporting the development of vulnerable youth in the Kyzylorda and Mangistau regions. The project faced challenges throughout the year in hiring a civil engineer. After five months, the issue was resolved, and a civil engineer was selected to create the design estimate documentation and to travel to the pilot regions to engage in discussions with local governments and gather the necessary data as part of the Project. The development of design estimate documentation for infrastructure projects is expected to be finished in 2025.

1.1.3 300 youth from vulnerable settings prepared to withstand shocks and crises based on individual development plans and individualized coaching on proactive problem solving, resilient attitudes, effective relationships and local support structures, and emotional health.

As part of the project, a training program was implemented in the Mangystau region to develop entrepreneurial skills and support start-ups in the creative economy, engaging over 250 young participants. The six-week educational program, held in Aktau, Zhanaozen, and the Beineu district, featured weekly online sessions. The curriculum included topics such as business plan development, idea pitching, digital marketing tools, financial management, intellectual property protection, and the integration of technology and innovation in creative industries. In addition to the online sessions, participants also met in person every week. The program concluded with a Startup Presentation Day, where teams showcased their projects to a jury and potential investor. As a result, 15 creative projects were developed across various industries, including crafts, music, marketing, content production, design, and architecture. The winning teams received prize money to help further develop and implement their creative ideas, turning them into sustainable businesses.



UNDP and the Embassy of Japan conducted a monitoring mission in the Mangystau region. The mission's goal was to track the implementation of the project and engage with participants in internship and training programs. During the visit, the delegation met with the Deputy Akim of the Mangystau region to discuss the importance of involving youth and opportunities for further collaboration between local authorities and UNDP. The delegation also visited a creative industries training session, where participants presented successful entrepreneurial 15 creative projects from Aktau, Beineu, and Zhanaozen, developed by participants in during a 10-week program designed to enhance entrepreneurial skills and accelerate creative startups for youth in Mangystau. The delegation also visited the Children's Wellness Centers, Bope Time and Taza Like, where interns are gaining valuable practical experience. During the visit, they had the opportunity to observe the day-to-day operations of these organizations, engaging with staff and participants to gain insights into the programs. The delegation also learned about the significant contributions made by the interns, highlighting their essential roles in supporting the initiatives and fostering the overall mission of the centers. This visit provided a deeper understanding of how the internships are benefiting both the interns and the communities they serve.

2.1.1 300 youth in challenging contexts and their families will be provided counseling and mentorship support in response to early signs of radicalization.

Two Youth Camps, organized as part of the project, targeted young people aged 18 to 25 from NEET (Not in Education, Employment, or Training) or socially vulnerable backgrounds, including those who are unemployed, informally employed, or have only completed secondary education. The camps, held from 24–30 June and 29 July – 4 August 2024, at SDU University in Almaty region, provided a total of 132 participants (with equal participation from both men and women) from Kyzylorda and Mangystau regions with valuable training and mentorship.

The primary goal of the camps was to equip participants with tools for personal and professional development, helping them identify career goals, learn new skills, and improve their productivity. The program focused on a variety of topics, including career orientation, leadership, time management, non-violent communication, and critical thinking. Participants also received training on digital literacy, entrepreneurship, financial literacy, and public speaking, as well as practical guidance on starting and running a business, including social entrepreneurship.

In addition to skill-building workshops, the camps offered a supportive environment where participants could share their personal stories, set future goals, and engage with their peers in a positive, collaborative setting. The overarching objectives were to enhance the participants' competencies in entrepreneurship, career development, and financial literacy, while fostering a sense of motivation and peer leadership, encouraging them to pass on their knowledge and drive further initiatives within their communities.

Overall, the Youth Camps aimed to empower young people from vulnerable backgrounds by providing them with the skills and confidence needed to make informed career choices and take proactive steps toward their future.

2.1.2 Platforms for 200 multi-disciplinary specialists in select regions (national authorities, local authorities, law enforcement, religious leaders, police officers (including women), psychologists, school administrators, media, local authorities, youth resource centers, women and youth organizations, volunteers) are created to serve as an early-warning network at a local level, to foster close cooperation between engaged parties, and to work collectively on PVE, crime prevention, proactive resolution of issues of youth in vulnerable communities.

2.1.3 Capacity-building initiatives are organized for at least 100 representatives from central and local governments and law enforcement to strengthen institutional capacities in implementing the PVE strategy to prevent and address violent extremism.

The activities 2.1.2 and 2.1.3 include training sessions designed to promote interagency collaboration in the early detection and prevention of violent extremism were organized. These sessions targeted a wide range of participants, including representatives from various sectors, including central government agencies, local executive bodies, law enforcement, the clergy, psychologists, school administrators, youth resource centers, and women's, youth, and volunteer organizations. The training focused on sharing knowledge and best practices in areas such as criminal profiling, preventive work with youth, and the prevention of violence and crime. Between August and September 2024, 10 two-day training sessions were held for 300 participants (69% were women), with 30 participants per session, across Kyzylorda (5 sessions), Aktau (4 sessions), and Astana (1 session). The training sessions focused on preventing and identifying extremism among young people, equipping participants with practical tools to address this issue. Topics covered the socio-psychological characteristics of terrorists, methods for establishing psychological contact with extremists, crowd dynamics, psychological influence on mass phenomena, and mass profiling. Additionally, the training emphasized psychological work with adherents of destructive religious movements and the development of emotional intelligence in psychologists for preventing violent extremism. Overall, the sessions aimed to equip participants with effective strategies and mechanisms for early intervention and the prevention of extremism in their respective fields.



2.1.4 At least 3 participatory advocacy initiatives with the participation of central and local authorities in select localities are organized to foster more inclusive and peaceful societies engaging at least 1,000 local community members.

A small grants program for local NGOs in the Kyzylorda and Mangystau regions was launched in November 2024. This program is designed to help local NGOs implement projects to enhance the capacity of socially vulnerable youth in the area. Currently, the evaluation of received proposals is ongoing.

Communications and Visibility:

- The communication efforts for the training sessions encompassed news pieces on the UNDP Kazakhstan website and social media posts. The partners and participants actively shared the materials on social media, ensuring proper visibility on a local level.



#	Platform	Link
1	UNDP Kazakhstan (Web)	UNDP Kazakhstan conducts educational training on youth radicalization prevention and developing emotional intelligence in law enforcement United Nations Development Programme
2	UNDP Kazakhstan (Web)	UNDP delivers training for psychologists and school administrators in Kyzylorda and Mangystau regions United Nations Development Programme
3	UNDP Kazakhstan (Instagram)	https://www.instagram.com/p/C_Atvj1MIE8/?img_index=1
4	UNDP Kazakhstan (Instagram)	https://www.instagram.com/p/DAPzNa2u8M6/?img_index=1
5	UNDP Kazakhstan (Facebook)	UNDP Kazakhstan - 13-23 тамыз аралығында облыс орталықтары — Ақтау...
6	UNDP Kazakhstan (Facebook)	UNDP Kazakhstan - БҰҰДБ мен Жапония үкіметі Орталық Азияда...
7	UNDP Kazakhstan (X)	https://x.com/UNDPKAZ/status/1823669186234617997
8	UNDP Kazakhstan (X)	https://x.com/UNDPKAZ/status/1823979180146532429
9	UNDP Kazakhstan (X)	https://x.com/UNDPKAZ/status/1841741516827504733

- The visibility of the Youth Camps was ensured via news pieces on the UNDP Kazakhstan website and social media posts, and the reporting video. The partners and participants actively shared the materials on social media, ensuring proper visibility on a local level.



#	Platform	Link
1	UNDP Kazakhstan (Web)	UNDP launched the Youth Camp in Almaty United Nations Development Programme

2	UNDP Kazakhstan (YouTube)	Building Skills and Connections: UNDP Youth Camp in Almaty
3	UNDP Kazakhstan (Instagram)	https://www.instagram.com/p/C9cH5zaILh-/?img_index=1
	UNDP Kazakhstan (Instagram)	https://www.instagram.com/p/C8mGWA-IG0o/?img_index=1
	UNDP Kazakhstan (Instagram)	https://www.instagram.com/p/C8yfCYKCA-2/
3	UNDP Kazakhstan (Instagram)	https://www.instagram.com/p/C-Ai5FyskC-/?img_index=1
4	UNDP Kazakhstan (Facebook)	(6) UNDP Kazakhstan - Бүгін, Жастар дағдыларының дүниежүзілік күніне... Facebook
	UNDP Kazakhstan (Facebook)	UNDP Kazakhstan - Алматыда жастардың әлеуетін шыңдап,...
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8	UNDP Kazakhstan (X)	https://x.com/UNDPKAZ/status/1817919451049726168
9	UNDP Kazakhstan (X)	https://x.com/UNDPKAZ/status/1819628273845907541
10	UNDP Kazakhstan (X)	https://x.com/UNDPKAZ/status/1819703571341889744
11	UNDP Resident Representative in Kazakhstan (X)	https://x.com/KasiaWawiernia/status/1819708062455808104
12	UNDP Tokyo (X)	https://x.com/UNDPTokyo/status/1821445594214522984

- The visibility activities of the internship programme included a human-interest video featuring two interns from the Kyzylorda and Mangystau regions. One of these interns secured a job even before completing the internship. Several additional human-interest stories are planned for production in 2025, allowing time for participants to find employment successfully.



#	Platform	Link
1	UNDP Kazakhstan (Web)	Internships to prevent violent extremism: UNDP promotes resilience for youth United Nations Development Programme
2	UNDP Kazakhstan (YouTube)	Internships to prevent violent extremism: UNDP promotes resilience for youth
3	UNDP Kazakhstan (Instagram)	https://www.instagram.com/p/DCIseYKuea7/
4	UNDP Kazakhstan (Facebook)	https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=9151617494849968
5	UNDP Kazakhstan (X)	https://x.com/UNDPKAZ/status/1859177554294263942

- The communication efforts to highlight the training programme aimed at developing entrepreneurial skills and accelerating start-ups in the creative economy of the Mangystau region featured news pieces and social media posts. The visibility was also enhanced in the context of the joint visit of the UNDP Resident Representative in Kazakhstan, Katarzyna Wawiernia, and the Ambassador of Japan, Jun Yamada, to the Mangystau region.



#	Platform	Link
1	UNDP Kazakhstan (Web)	Entrepreneurial skills development and startup acceleration programme for creative industries in the Mangystau Region United Nations Development Programme
2	UNDP Kazakhstan (Web)	UNDP launches programme to develop entrepreneurial skills and accelerate creative startups for youth in Mangystau region United Nations Development Programme
3	UNDP Kazakhstan (Web)	Creative Industries Demo Day in Mangystau: 15 promising business projects United Nations Development Programme
4	UNDP Kazakhstan (Web)	UNDP Resident Representative in Kazakhstan and the Ambassador of Japan visited the Mangystau region United Nations Development Programme
5	UNDP Kazakhstan (Instagram)	https://www.instagram.com/p/C-5XCb4io-m/
6	UNDP Kazakhstan (Instagram)	https://www.instagram.com/p/C_iXw-Osxo3/?img_index=1
7	UNDP Kazakhstan (Instagram)	https://www.instagram.com/p/DA_XAtMs0PO/?img_index=1
8	UNDP Kazakhstan (Facebook)	(9) UNDP Kazakhstan - Қазақстандағы БҰҰДБ Маңғыстауда облыс... Facebook
9	UNDP Kazakhstan (Facebook)	(9) UNDP Kazakhstan - Бүгін Ақтау қаласындағы Yessenov University... Facebook
10	UNDP Kazakhstan (Facebook)	(9) UNDP Kazakhstan - Бүгін БҰҰДБ-ның Қазақстандағы Тұрақты өкілі... Facebook
11	UNDP Kazakhstan (X)	https://x.com/UNDPKAZ/status/1831688113485177242
12	UNDP Kazakhstan (X)	https://x.com/UNDPKAZ/status/1846170256085045561
13	UNDP Kazakhstan (X)	https://x.com/UNDPKAZ/status/1844674024833421603
14	UNDP Kazakhstan (X)	https://x.com/UNDPKAZ/status/1844770348522230079
15	UNDP Resident Representative in Kazakhstan (X)	https://x.com/KasiaWawiernia/status/1844688475125149995
16	UNDP Resident Representative in Kazakhstan (X)	https://x.com/KasiaWawiernia/status/1844768412309799274

KYRGYZSTAN

1.2.1 Increasing youth's meaningful participation in local development, decision-making, conflict prevention and preventing violent extremism through construction of 5 Youth Centers, benefiting at least 1000 young men and women indirectly

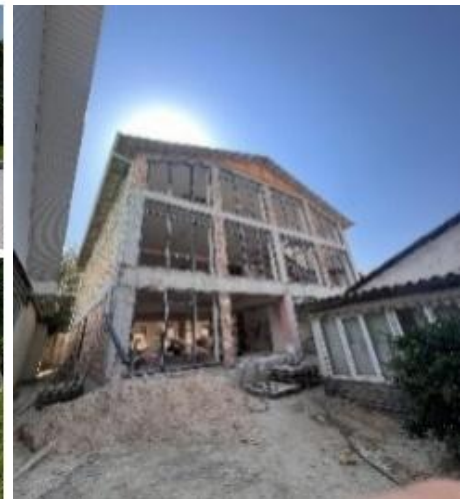
Consultations with local authorities regarding the construction of youth centers in five pilot locations have been completed. Land allocation and construction permits for Light Construction Building obtained for Cholpon-Ata and Kerben, 100 sq. meters each. The design of centers is taken from previously developed Light Construction Building

Project for Balykchy (150 sq. meters) from the first Phase of PVE project. Currently UNDP works on tender documents for elaboration of design and estimate documentation.

In Alexandrovka, a municipal building has been allocated for renovation. Based on elaborated bill of quantities for renovation, through tender process UNDP already selected contractor and renovation work to be started soon. Kadamjai and Osh youth centers: the city mayor's office in Kadamjai allocated space within the city hall for youth council, provided repairment works as in-kind contribution. The youth council is operational including 8 permanent members and 38 volunteers.

In Osh local youth organization "Youth of Osh" provided own building whereas UNDP to provide IT equipment and furniture. Currently tender for procurement of IT equipment and furniture for both centers (Osh and Kadamjai) are being elaborated.

During the reporting period, youth centers in pilot locations were established or are in various stages of construction or renovation. These centers are intended to provide a safe space for youth to gather, learn, and participate in community activities. Partnerships with local municipalities have been instrumental in securing the necessary resources, including land, buildings, and funding for equipment and furniture.



1.2.2 Facilitate cohesive PVE action planning and capacity building both at central and local levels and implementation Youth Action Plans to ensure sustainability of PVE interventions at the municipal level by engaging (building capacities) of at least 100 representatives

The efforts to establish sustainable youth action groups have commenced. A mapping exercise identified 218 organizations, groups, and opinion leaders in the pilot locations. Following validation and surveys of 155 representatives, it was determined that 55 of them are no longer active. Based on this analysis, recommendations were made to improve the effectiveness of youth initiatives. Training sessions were held to strengthen the collaboration between youth groups, local authorities, and other stakeholders. These sessions covered topics such as the mission and role of youth organizations in community development, financial sustainability, youth and media, community building, and social innovations in preventing violent extremism (PVE).

2.2.1 Establish 5 socially mixed Youth Action Groups (at least 100 members in total) to empower and promote youth's meaningful engagement and civic participation in social dialogue, peacebuilding, preventing VE, local development and decision-making

2024 significant progress was made in identifying and capacitating young youth leaders laying the groundwork for establishing five socially mixed youth action groups in pilots. Through the bootcamps young participants were

able to voice their needs and initiate developments of the youth action plans in pilot locations. The bootcamps focused on:

- The mission and role of youth organizations in the development of the area (including issues of cooperation with local governments and building a positive world);
- Financial sustainability of youth organizations, social business, crowdfunding (including taxation topics);
- Youth and media, the use of media tools in promoting youth policy at the local level;
- Community building, public speaking, organizing public discussions and other socially significant events;
- Social innovations in the activities of youth organizations.

2.2.2 Facilitate an inclusive Youth Action Planning to bring upfront youth's needs and priorities and enhance youth's civic participation and voice in pursuit of inclusive and sustainable development solutions and decision making

Currently, a tender process is underway to select a partner for the implementation of a campaign aimed at strengthening youth civic engagement in local decision-making processes. This campaign will consist of two components: Facilitating the strengthening of youth's role as a primary social capital at the local level through the formation of youth action groups in pilot locations; Enhancing youth potential through training and the development of strategic documents at the local level integrated into local development plans. This initiative will help strengthen youth action groups and their role in decision-making processes at the local level including PVE.

2.2.3 Enhancing national ownership and leadership towards young people's aspirations, well-being and development by strengthening national PVE action planning, local mechanisms, partnering abilities and institutional capacities of municipalities

Collaborative efforts with the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Kyrgyzstan were conducted to enhance national capacities for prevention and social cohesion. Two-day workshops were held nationwide with the first day focused on local government bodies implementing territorial interagency commissions for countering extremist activities at the oblast level, as well as in the cities of Bishkek and Osh. The second day targeted officers from the Internal Affairs bodies of Kyrgyzstan, prosecutors, and judiciary representatives to discuss the implementation of specific provisions of the Law of the Kyrgyz Republic "On Countering Extremist Activities". Approximately 900 participants from all seven regions of the country attended. Under these workshops, a working group of experts developed recommendations and a joint work plan on PVE on the national level, which are planned to be accepted by National bodies during the first meeting of the interaction commission. This meeting will discuss the current situation review on the prevention of extremism in Kyrgyzstan and the results of the workshops. The workshops aimed to implement the laws of Kyrgyzstan on countering extremism.

Between 22 May and 3 July, a series of seminars took place across various regions of Kyrgyzstan for local self-government representatives, mayors, law enforcement, prosecutors, and judicial bodies, aiming to introduce strategies for countering extremism and provide insight into the Cabinet of Ministers' Program and Action Plan for 2023-2027. The seminars revealed several key findings, including a lack of awareness about national counter-extremism efforts, significant shortages of training materials and resources, and a strong demand for ongoing professional development in areas like legal frameworks, media literacy, and cybersecurity. Participants also identified challenges such as weak coordination between state bodies, local authorities, and civil society, as well as concerns about extremist groups, unauthorized religious activities, and the reintegration of repatriated individuals from conflict zones.

To address these challenges, recommendations were made to enhance interagency cooperation by establishing a working expert group, create an online platform for sharing resources, improve training programs for relevant personnel, and produce multimedia educational materials to raise awareness about extremism. Additionally, stronger oversight of religious institutions and increased community engagement with youth, women, and ethnic minorities were emphasized. The seminars highlighted the need for a comprehensive approach to counter extremism in Kyrgyzstan, focusing on improving resources, coordination, training, and community involvement to strengthen prevention efforts across the country.



Challenges encountered during the implementation period include delays in securing permits for construction, difficulties in coordinating with local authorities, and limited funding availability at the outset of the project. Despite these challenges, the project has adapted its strategies to ensure continued progress and remains committed to achieving its goals of enhancing community resilience and youth engagement.

2.2.4 Building capacities of 5 Youth Action Groups (at least 100 members in total), municipalities and other development actors in conflict prevention, social cohesion, multi-cultural cooperation, leadership, tolerance, diversity, inclusive local development and decision-making by providing seed-funing

The project has successfully formed youth action groups, which are actively engaged in decision-making processes and local development initiatives. These groups have been trained in areas such as financial sustainability, community building, and social innovation, ensuring that they are well-equipped to contribute meaningfully to their communities.

A mapping of existing youth organizations in the pilot locations identified 218 groups, of which 155 were validated. However, 55 organizations were found to be inactive. The mapping revealed key challenges, including limited support from local authorities, financial instability, youth inactivity, and staffing issues, which hinder the effectiveness of youth policies.

Recommendations for addressing these challenges include strengthening collaboration with local self-government bodies through joint projects, organizing educational programs for youth and staff, diversifying funding sources such as attracting grants, and increasing youth engagement through enhanced information campaigns. Key challenges that need to be addressed are financial instability, lack of qualified personnel, and insufficient infrastructure and resources for implementing initiatives.

Project contributed to building resilient communities through youth engagement providing 4 youth bootcamps to empower youth and foster resilience in communities as part of PVE efforts. The bootcamps took place in Bishkek and Osh bringing together 97 (21 participants from 5 project pilots) participants under age of 35 years old (65 young women and 32 young men) including representatives of youth organizations and committees, youth councils and centers, activists and youth specialists representing local governance. The training sessions focused on building youth capacities to prevent violent extremism by exploring how youth organizations can contribute to regional development through integrating youth issues and needs to public social and economic plans, mobilizing resources effectively, and leveraging media tools to strengthen community resilience and networks. Additionally, 25 youth from 5 pilots underwent training on conflict sensitivity as part of the comprehensive approach to PVE. This training equipped youth with the tools to identify potential sources of tensions within their communities. Integrating conflict-sensitivity is essential in addressing the root causes of violent extremism as it enables youth to navigate complex dynamics and contribute to sustainable development. These efforts align with UNDP's commitment to empower youth as key drivers of community cohesion and stability.



2.2.5 Nurturing young male and female champions for further creating a net of young peacebuilders (at least 300 young people) to challenge the radical and hostile trends and narratives in their own communities and beyond, in social media and strengthening their mediative and peacebuilding capacities to serve as counsellors and mediators

This activity will be covered under the launched tender process in 2025.

Coverage in media:

#	Platform	Link
1	UNDP Kyrgyzstan (Web)	https://www.undp.org/kyrgyzstan/blog/development-solutions-center-preventing-extremism-undp-kyrgyzstans-integrated-development-approach
2	Social media (instagram)	IDEA Central Asia Достор жана курбулар, силерди 12-августта, саат 10:00дөн 17:00гө чейин Эл аралык жаштар күнүн майрамдоого чакырабыз! Бул жылы жаштар... Instagram
3	Social media (instagram)	IDEA Central Asia Приглашаем к участию в программе «Биргебиз»! ⚡ В рамках данной программы вы сможете получить новые знания, а также выстроить связи с... Instagram
4	Social media (LinkedIn)	https://www.linkedin.com/posts/undpkg_preventing-violent-extremism-the-ministry-activity-7272556365032677376-R7UK?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_android
5	Social media (LinkedIn)	https://www.linkedin.com/posts/undpkg_the-youth-for-resilience-in-central-asia-activity-7256612150322884610-U4P?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_android
6	Social media (LinkedIn)	https://www.linkedin.com/posts/undpkg_on-october-17-alexandra-solovieva-undp-activity-7252904552360755200-kQ77?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_android
7	Social media (LinkedIn)	https://www.linkedin.com/posts/undpkg_conflictsensitivity-undpkg-socialcohesion-activity-7247901154326564864-j94B?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_android

TAJIKISTAN

1.3.1 Strengthen the skills of at least 500 young men and women on hard and innovative skills including in digital sphere, (IT skills, social media marketing, branding, IT programming, and artificial intelligence) utilizing the existing platforms at the local level and renovation and equipping of 6 new youth facilities

1,049 young people including 606 women from the districts of Bobojon Gafurov, Rushon, Lakhsh, Farkhor, Panj, and Nosiri Khisrav were supported in gaining critical thinking skills through a series of targeted trainings on computer literacy, social media management and branding, creative media production, graphic design, innovative entrepreneurship, and remote work skills. Following the trainings, mentorship was provided for the most active participants, who presented their digital employment ideas in local pitching sessions. To support local digital employment initiatives, 18 young people, including 11 women, with top ideas from each district were awarded ICT prizes.



3 construction companies were selected for the renovation of 5 Youth Creative Corners in the districts of Nosiri Khisrav, Panj, Farkhor, Lakhsh, and Bobojon Gafurov. All five facilities were successfully renovated and completed

on schedule. The tendering process for renovating a creative corner and equipping it with IT equipment and furniture in the remote, mountainous Rushon district took longer than originally planned. The provision of equipment and furniture is expected to complete in late December 2024, while renovation work in the creative corner of Rushon district is scheduled to complete in April 2025.

Activity 1.3.2 Capacity development of at least 500 young men and women as well as Youth led CSOs on leadership, local development processes, identification of youth needs and priorities and PVE, critical thinking, problem solving etc. to promote their meaningful participation in the local development processes as well as increase their resilience towards violent narratives.

A local public organization has been contracted for implementation of the task. The organization has established a partnership with the Committee on Youth Affairs and Sports under the Government of Tajikistan, its local departments, District Councils on Youth Affairs, and local authorities, securing stakeholder engagement and support for sub-project activities. Information campaigns through local TV, radio, and social media channels were conducted to inform targeted youth about upcoming capacity building interventions, with at least one message of each type shared in every target area. Additionally, existing training materials for activities on youth engagement, leadership, critical thinking, social cohesion, and conflict prevention were modified and enhanced to better support project goals. Capacity building trainings are expected to complete by February 2025.

Activity 2.3.1 Strengthen the capacity of at least 300 local and central authorities, community leaders, local women activists, and religious leaders to effectively implement youth focused policies at the local level (based on the developed Toolkit on PVE under the STRIVE project).

A local public organization “National Association of Volunteers of Tajikistan” was selected to carry out training program on inclusive youth-focused policy development for central and local authorities, community leaders, and activists. In addition, guidelines for meaningful youth engagement in local development and a curriculum on youth needs assessment were developed for national stakeholders. Fifteen two-day participatory trainings were conducted for 316 national stakeholders, including 121 women, from Dushanbe, Bobojon Gafurov, Rushon, Lakhsh, Farkhor, Panj, and Nosiri Khisrav districts. The sessions focused on developing and implementing youth-focused policies, engaging youth in preventing violent extremism, promoting social cohesion, and resolving conflicts using the PVE Toolkit. Participants also learned to conduct youth needs assessments, identify priorities across social, economic, political, cultural, and security spheres, integrate these priorities into District Development Plans (DDPs), and advocate for their implementation with support from the private sector and development partners.



Coverage in media:

#	Platform	Link
1	UNDP Tajikistan (Facebook)	https://www.facebook.com/share/v/6J3oAY1EFK8dTayf/
2	Facebook	https://www.facebook.com/share/v/zq1YFQTEKUHSVYMo/ ; https://www.facebook.com/share/v/Kk1c6sU67KKQDzKd/ ;
3	Facebook	https://www.facebook.com/share/v/bfasB7ETmNk6XuHH/
4	Facebook	https://www.facebook.com/reel/1523615578507460
5	Facebook	https://www.facebook.com/share/p/mK5i9u8y7b6G8gau/

Output 1.4: Young men and women with low level of education provided with respective vocational trainings for employment (hard skills training) along with receiving mentoring support to increase their economic empowerment and strengthen community resilience

1.4.1 Young men and women with low level of education provided with respective vocational trainings for employment (hard skills training) along with receiving mentoring support to increase their economic empowerment and strengthen community resilience

Mentorship and Training Support through online Mentorship Platform, facilitating mentorship programs with youth (link: <https://sites.google.com/view/halypacylyk-platformasy/bas-sahypa>). This platform encouraged youth to join online webinars provided by 11 volunteer mentors. In-Person Training Sessions conducted for 137 youth from 6 pilot sites (July-August 2024), where topics covered Basics of successful entrepreneurship and will equip Youth with hard skills to find a job in rural areas.



Effective partnerships with Khyakimliks and local communities have facilitated the identification of target groups, mobilization of resources, and the implementation of project activities at the local level. Specifically, the involvement of Technical and Vocational Education and Training Institutions (TVETs) has enabled the production of professional training programs for youth. The project provides support to TVET institutions by equipping them with IT and sewing equipment.

1.4.2 Building national capacity in promoting employment opportunities as one of the directions in increasing resilience of communities to VE by enhancing technical capacity of employment departments under the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Population to develop mechanisms of supporting vulnerable youth with the aim of addressing socio-economic vulnerability and building their resilience against violent extremism

Developed a Protocol and Regulations for the establishment of six education-information centers at MLSP Employment Departments. Procured and delivered furniture and IT equipment for these centers. The project team is awaiting final approval from the Cabinet of Ministers for the Protocol, which will enhance engagement with vulnerable youth, increase the capacity of centers in rural areas, and ensure the sustainability of the project's goals.

Turkmenistan CO is the first pioneer in implementing Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) in Central Asia. Through UNDP's FutureSkills4All Initiative, vulnerable youth and youth from low-income families were encouraged to participate and develop professional skills utilizing the Coursera platform and receive certificates. A total of 711 youth was enrolled. Participation reached over 1,100 young people and women. MOOCs allow us to sort data and receive accurate information. In total, 1,074 certificates were received through this platform. As these courses have equipped Youth with professional certificates Project expecting significant results of employment after completion this initiative. Survey to count how many Youths got employed implemented at the end of initiative and will be tracked until the end of this year.



2.4.1 Capacity of Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Population, Youth Organization, Women Union, Law Enforcement at central and local levels and local administrations strengthened to enhance national ownership of PVE programs, to strengthen local mechanisms with the aim of supporting communities to build resilience against violent extremism

Engaged International Consultant Elena Zotova to conduct a comprehensive analysis of youth employment in Turkmenistan, incorporating international best practices of improving professional skills and employability of vulnerable youth and analysis of the current employment situation of youth aged between 18-35 in Turkmenistan, based on consultations with national partners and UN Agencies involved in Situational Analysis on Adolescents and Youth in Turkmenistan.

2.4.2 Youth in challenging contexts and their families provided with counselling and mentorship support in response to early signs of radicalization (Based on STRIVE Asia experience of integrating MHPSS).

In-person and online trainings were conducted for government officials, youth organizations, NGOs, and women's unions to strengthen local mechanisms in order to support building resilience against violent extremism.

Two rounds of in-person MHPSS training were conducted for 180 youth in 13-14 and 20-21 November 2024.



Coverage in media:

#	Platform	Link
1	UNDP Turkmenistan (Web)	https://www.undp.org/turkmenistan/projects/turkmenistan-country-component-regional-project-promoting-resilient-communities-prevent-violent-extremism-central-asia
2	UNDP Turkmenistan (Web)	https://www.undp.org/turkmenistan/press-releases/undp-and-embassy-japan-turkmenistan-celebrate-international-youth-day-youth-and-peace-workshop
3	UNDP Turkmenistan (Web)	https://www.undp.org/turkmenistan/press-releases/undp-supports-youth-entrepreneurship-turkmenistan

4	UNDP Turkmenistan (Web)	https://www.undp.org/turkmenistan/press-releases/undp-empowers-youth-sustainable-agriculture-training-turkmenistan
5	UNDP Turkmenistan (Web)	https://www.undp.org/turkmenistan/news/undp-seeks-volunteer-mentors-help-build-stronger-communities-turkmenistan
6	UNDP Turkmenistan (Web)	https://www.undp.org/turkmenistan/press-releases/undp-holds-seminar-youth-employment-focus-gender-aspects
7	UNDP Turkmenistan (Web)	https://www.undp.org/turkmenistan/blog/futureskills4all-empowering-turkmenistan-youth-employability-and-resilience
8	Turkmenistan Altyn Asur (Web)	https://turkmenistan.gov.tm/ru/post/88987/turkmenistan-predstavlen-na-regionalnom-forume-v-almaty
9	Online Mentorship Platform Developed by National Consultant facilitates mentorship programs with youth	https://sites.google.com/view/halypacylyk-platformasy/bas-sahypa

UZBEKISTAN

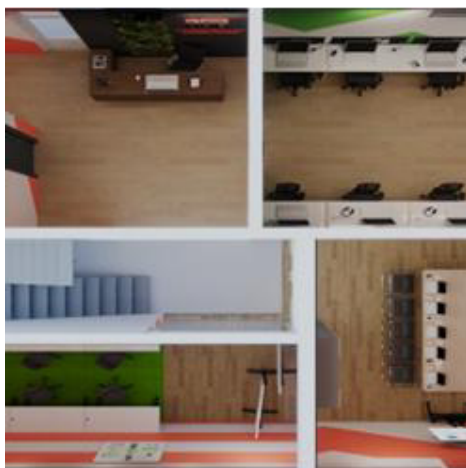
1.5.1 Establish effective partnerships and platforms to bring together business and youth (especially vulnerable groups) and ensure that business provides skills development trainings for the young people with further opportunities for their employment (e.g. private sector organizes the trainings for the youth (including vulnerable youth) and explore the opportunities to employ them). As a result, 1500 unemployed young women and men will be trained and at least 700 will be employed thereafter

The agreement has been reached with the national partners and preparatory work has been completed for conducting the skills development courses for the youth, which will be held in Fergana and Andijan, covering 400 young people (January- February 2025). The trainings aim at equipping the youth with the modern skills (social media marketing, freelancing in the international and domestic markets, digital sales and services, basics of network engineering and internet technologies) to facilitate their decent employment. To ensure the sustainable impact if the trainings, it is planned to provide employment and self-employment for the at least 100 participants upon the completion of the intervention.

The list of the participants has been formed to ensure the inclusivity and gender mainstreaming. The audience composition is as follows: youth with disabilities – 38%, young women – 38% and young men – 29%.

1.5.2 Special institutions are set up in four pilot regions (especially in the remote areas) to provide legal, psychological support to more than 500 youth (including vulnerable youth) and ensure better dialogue among communities in three regions with youth at the center. These institutions will include public advisory groups, legal clinics, youth hubs providing legal, psychological and other support

The network of specialized centers is crucial to amplify national efforts to support the youth. These centers would offer thematic trainings and seminars to improve foreign language proficiency, free legal aid through dedicated legal clinics, and business development programs led by experienced trainers to foster entrepreneurial skills and support youth start-ups. As part of the UNDP “Promoting Resilient Communities to Prevent Violent Extremism in Central Asia” project, a Youth Hub in Termez has been established in partnership with Termez State University. This Youth Hub is well-positioned to reach those in need of its services most. The Youth Hub will provide psychological and legal support not only to university students or young people, but also to the most vulnerable groups of youth at risk living in nearby local communities. The university’s wide student body affords the hub to cover the youth from diverse backgrounds and address their specific needs. Recently the youth hub has launched the special programs for learning the Japanese language as well.



The project will establish three more youth hubs in target regions: Fergana, Andijan and Namangan. Within the reporting period, project reached an agreement with the national partners on the location and the buildings for the hub. Procurement and construction have been launched for the youth hubs in those regions. And designs of the hub have been drafted as well.

2.5.1 Building the capacity of targeted 25 local authorities in four pilot regions to build an inclusive system of early conflict warning and response and strengthen the institutional frameworks for conflict prevention and social cohesion through thematic trainings and workshops. At least 100 local government representatives will be equipped with necessary skills and mechanisms for participatory planning, equitable allocation of resources and service provision to prevent conflicts and violent extremism

In November 2024, the project facilitated the signing of an **MOU between the Association of Mahallas of Uzbekistan and the UNDP** in Uzbekistan, setting the stage for community-based activities. The MOU focuses on:

- 1) Improving social services in mahallas through administrative reforms, digital transformation, and case management;
- 2) Supporting youth employment, particularly for vulnerable groups;
- 3) Recommending improvements to legislation and services for vulnerable populations, including people with disabilities and returnees from conflict zones;
- 4) Enhancing staff capacity through training;
- 5) Collaborating on preventing violent extremism and youth radicalization in at-risk communities.



2.5.2 Building the capacities of pilot communities to make gender-sensitive decisions, detect early signs of conflict, implement policies tailored to the interests and needs of the communities (with focus on women, young people) through thematic trainings engaging more than 1000 beneficiaries

The capacity building trainings on social work for the members of the communities in the border areas (Sokh and Fergana districts) of the Fergana will be organized in January 2025 (120 participants). Trainings are supposed to upskill community leaders, psychologists and nurses, engaged in supporting the vulnerable groups. The trainees will be introduced to important strands of the social work such as duties of social workers, ethical principles and social work values and capacitated on gender-based approaches in reintegration, case management and exchange experience and discuss referral mechanisms in their communities.

Coverage in media:

#	Platform	Link
1	Web	https://tersu.uz/news/view/2325
2	Web	https://tersu.uz/news/view/2282
3	Telegram	https://t.me/tvsurxon/16716
4	Web	https://www.surxondaryo.uz/oz/blog/okimlik-yangiliklari/2274
5	Web	https://www.gazeta.uz/oz/2024/10/23/termez/
6	Facebook	https://www.facebook.com/100068861831602/posts/849768077328579/?mibextid=rS40aB7S9Ucbxw6v
7	Web	https://uza.uz/uz/posts/termiz-davlat-universitetida-yoshlar-markazish-boshladi_648494
8	UNDP Uzbekistan (Web)	https://www.undp.org/uzbekistan/press-releases/launch-termiz-youth-hub-new-initiative-empowering-youth-surkhandarya-region
9	UNDP Tokyo (X)	https://x.com/undptokyo/status/1848921135368573334?s=46&t=4uGImFXxUDjDjInqjSbQ-A
10	UNDP Uzbekistan (Instagram)	https://www.instagram.com/p/DCq_TZ_qf5k/?igsh=MWM0ZzE5eXM3MHl3eg%3D%3D&img_index=1

REGIONAL COMPONENT

3.1.1 1 High-Level Meeting among regional and global PVE practitioners and stakeholders, including one offline youth exchange, one online youth exchange, and two online regional training events.

An offline high-level forum on "Youth for Resilience in Central Asia" was held in Almaty within the framework of the Project to discuss strategies for preventing violent extremism in the region. The event brought together experts, stakeholders, and youth representatives from all five Central Asian countries, providing a platform for addressing challenges through youth empowerment and promoting skill development initiatives.

The main session focused on youth employment as a key strategy for preventing violent extremism and featured representatives from various Central Asian governments. Over 100 participants attended, including 20 government officials, such as Ms. Svetlana Zhakupova, Minister of Labor and Social Protection of Kazakhstan, Mr. Marat Tagaev, Deputy Minister of Culture, Information, Sport, and Youth Policy of Kyrgyzstan and Ms. Shahnoza Nodiri Anvar, Deputy Minister of Labor, Migration and Employment of Tajikistan (online).

The forum encouraged active participation, with attendees leading sessions, documenting outcomes, and sharing experiences. Its key objectives were to facilitate the exchange of ongoing PVE efforts, identify areas for regional collaboration, and establish a network of youth and local stakeholders to sustain PVE initiatives while sharing best practices.

The agenda included sessions on "Youth Employment as a Strategy for Preventing Violent Extremism", "Youth Empowerment Experiences Across Central Asia", "The Role of Religious Communities in Supporting Youth" and "NGO and Private Sector Initiatives in Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship". On the second day, an interactive SDG game "Mission 2030" was held for youth participants. As a result, there were 3 main issues such as gender equality, quality education and reduced inequality were raised. These are the potential areas for the capacity building in the regions.



Communications and Visibility:

The communication efforts for the "Youth for Resilience in Central Asia" Forum provided extensive visibility via the five Central Asian country offices and media. The content ranged from news pieces and social media posts to videos and graphic design.



#	Platform	Link
1	UNDP Kazakhstan (Web)	Central Asia joins forces with Japan and UNDP to prevent violent extremism United Nations Development Programme
2	UNDP Kazakhstan (Instagram)	https://www.instagram.com/p/DBX23mkiMkF/
3	UNDP Kazakhstan (Instagram)	https://www.instagram.com/p/DBgPGr6u-Tf/
4	UNDP Kazakhstan (Instagram)	https://www.instagram.com/p/DBqlsOHOQs9/?img_index=1
5	UNDP Kazakhstan (Instagram)	https://www.instagram.com/p/DBqyIbjCvYm/
6	UNDP Kazakhstan (Instagram)	https://www.instagram.com/p/DBtZ2skiRMC/?img_index=1
7	UNDP Kazakhstan (Facebook)	(9) UNDP Kazakhstan - Сегодня в Алматы начал работу форум «Молодежь... Facebook
8	UNDP Kazakhstan (Facebook)	(9) UNDP Kazakhstan - Бүгін Алматыда «Жастар Орталық Азияның орнықты... Facebook
9	UNDP Kazakhstan (X)	https://x.com/UNDPKAZ/status/1848220820394418594
10	UNDP Kazakhstan (X)	https://x.com/UNDPKAZ/status/1849402152550093117
11	UNDP Kazakhstan (X)	https://x.com/UNDPKAZ/status/1850856842089361822
12	UNDP Kazakhstan (X)	https://x.com/UNDPKAZ/status/1851253656634507494
13	UNDP Kyrgyzstan (Instagram)	https://www.instagram.com/p/DBtJ58NiuiQ/
14	UNDP Kyrgyzstan (Facebook)	(9) Сегодня в Алматы начался форум... - UNDP in the Kyrgyz Republic Facebook
15	UNDP Kyrgyzstan (Facebook)	(9) Video Facebook
16	UNDP Kyrgyzstan (X)	https://x.com/undpkg/status/1850783970868236442
17	UNDP Kyrgyzstan (X)	https://x.com/undpkg/status/1851193286028931250
18	UNDP Tajikistan (Instagram)	https://www.instagram.com/p/DBqtanouBBB/
19	UNDP Tajikistan (Facebook)	(9) 🌐 ⚡ Межведомственная делегация из... - UNDP in Tajikistan Facebook
20	UNDP Tajikistan (Facebook)	(9) 🌐 ⚡ Межведомственная делегация из... - UNDP in Tajikistan Facebook
21	UNDP Turkmenistan (Instagram)	https://www.instagram.com/p/DB0cZ1cCJqc/?img_index=1
22	UNDP Turkmenistan (Instagram)	https://www.instagram.com/p/DB8KNRgqs5a/
23	UNDP Turkmenistan (Facebook)	(9) 28-29 октября 2024 года делегация из... - UNDP Turkmenistan Facebook

24	UNDP Turkmenistan (Facebook)	(9) Video Facebook
25	UNDP Uzbekistan (Web)	Central Asia joins forces with Japan and UNDP to prevent violent extremism: "Youth for Resilience in Central Asia" Forum kicks off in Almaty United Nations Development Programme
26	UNDP Uzbekistan (Instagram)	https://www.instagram.com/p/DBqmabDqN_O/?img_index=1
27	UNDP Uzbekistan (Instagram)	https://www.instagram.com/p/DBqs6WHqdca/
28	UNDP Uzbekistan (Facebook)	(9) UNDP Uzbekistan - 🌐 Bugun Olmaotada Markaziy Osiyoda yoshlarni... Facebook
29	UNDP Uzbekistan (X)	https://x.com/UNDP_Uzbekistan/status/1851119920182149546
30	Khabar	https://khabar.kz/ru/news/obshchestvo/item/166027-forum-molodezh-za-ustojchivoe-razvitie-tsentralnoj-azii-startoval-v-almaty
31	24.KZ	https://24.kz/ru/news/social/item/677860-trudoustrojstvo-molodjozhi-stran-tsa-obsudili-na-mezhdunarodnom-forume
32	Kazpravda	https://kazpravda.kz/n/forum-molodezh-za-ustojchivoe-budushchee-tsentralnoj-azii-prohodit-v-almaty/
33	Soz Media	https://sozmedia.kz/52900
34	Zhambyl News	http://ru.zhambylnews.kz/obshchestvo/molodpolit/94683-s-zhakupova-proinformirovala-o-vozmozhnostyah-trudoustrojstva-molodezhi-kazahstana.html
35	InBusiness	https://inbusiness.kz/ru/last/rost-nasilstvennogo-ekstremizma-centralnaya-aziya-obedinyaetsya-s-yaponiej-i-proon
36	GURK	https://gurk.kz/news/v-almaty-proshyol-forum-molodyozh-za-ustojchivoe-budushhee-tsentralnoj-azii#google_vignette
37	Nukte	https://www.instagram.com/p/DB0gnnWuQOu/?igsh=bW44b3Z2N29ocGpu
38	UzA	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y9LxFX-ere0

IV. DETAILED PROGRESS AT OUTPUT LEVEL

KAZAKHSTAN

<i>Planned Activity</i>	<i>2024 target</i>	<i>Progress to date</i>
Output 1: EMPOWERED SOCIETIES WITH YOUTH AT THE CENTER		
1.1.1 Strengthen capacity of Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Population of Kazakhstan and other authorities at central and local levels to effectively incorporate interests of youth in developing and implementing state employment programmes.	300	A subsidized 3-month apprenticeship program was implemented for 300 vulnerable youth from the Kyzylorda and Mangystau regions, with 150 participants from each region.
1.1.2 Provision of technical assistance to central and local governments in building, improving and maximizing capacities in development of design estimate documentation to cover the gaps in infrastructure needs and planning so that vulnerable young people are provided with proper social infrastructure facilities and engaged in local development		Negotiations were held with local authorities from Kyzylorda and Mangystau regions through official correspondence, and proposals were received regarding the provision of technical assistance to central and local governments in developing design estimate documentation for infrastructure projects. The development of design estimate documentation for infrastructure projects is expected to be finished in 2025.
1.1.3 300 youth from vulnerable settings prepared to withstand shocks and crises based on individual development plans and individualized coaching on proactive problem solving, resilient attitudes, effective relationships and local support structures, emotional health	300	Training program to develop entrepreneurial skills and support start-ups in the creative economy, engaging over 250 young participants was implemented in the Mangystau region.
Output 2: STRENGTHENED NATIONAL CAPACITIES FOR PREVENTION AND SOCIAL COHESION		
2.1.1 300 youth in challenging contexts and their families will be provided with counselling and mentorship support in response to early signs of radicalization.	220	2 Youth Camps for 132 young people from Kyzylorda and Mangystau regions aged 18 to 25 from NEET (Not in Education, Employment, or Training) or socially vulnerable backgrounds, including those who are unemployed, informally employed, or have only completed secondary education were organized.
2.1.2 Platforms for 200 multi-disciplinary specialists in select regions (national authorities, local authorities, law	200	Between August and September 2024, 10 two-day training sessions were held for 300 participants, with 30 participants per session, across Kyzylorda (5 sessions), Aktau (4 sessions),

<i>Planned Activity</i>	<i>2024 target</i>	<i>Progress to date</i>
enforcement, religious leaders, police officers (including women), psychologists, school administrators, media, local authorities, youth resource centres, women and youth organizations, volunteers) are created to serve as an early-warning network at local level, to foster close cooperation between engaged parties, and to work collectively on PVE, crime prevention, proactive resolution of issues of youth in vulnerable communities.	100	and Astana (1 session). The training sessions focused on preventing and identifying extremism among young people, equipping participants with practical tools to address this issue.
2.1.3 Capacity building initiatives are organized for at least 100 representatives from central and local governments and law enforcement to strengthen institutional capacities in implementation of PVE strategy in order to prevent and address violent extremism.		
2.1.4 At least 3 participatory advocacy initiatives with the participation of central and local authorities in select localities are organized to foster more inclusive and peaceful societies engaging at least 1,000 local community members.	3	A small grants program for local NGOs in the Kyzylorda and Mangystau regions was launched in November 2024. Currently, the evaluation is ongoing.

KYRGYZSTAN

<i>Planned Activity</i>	<i>2024 target</i>	<i>Progress to date</i>
Output 1: EMPOWERED SOCIETIES WITH YOUTH AT THE CENTER		
1.2.1 Increasing youth's meaningful participation in local development, decision-making, conflict prevention and preventing violent extremism through construction of 5 Youth Centers, benefiting at least 1000 young men and women indirectly	5	• Youth Centers Established: Centers in five pilot locations are under construction or renovation. • <u>Cholpon-Ata & Kerben:</u> Lightweight construction planned, land allocated, permits obtained. Tender preparation is underway. • <u>Alexandrovka:</u> Building allocated, renovation tender announced, contractor selection ongoing. • <u>Kadamjay:</u> Space provided by the city hall, minor repairs completed, Youth Council with 8 members and 36 volunteers established. • <u>Osh:</u> Collaboration with "Youth of Osh" organization; new building completed; equipment procurement planned. Partnerships: Local municipalities provided land, buildings, and resources for equipment and furniture.
1.2.2. Facilitate cohesive PVE action planning and capacity building both at central and local levels and implementation Youth Action Plans to ensure sustainability of PVE interventions at the municipal level by engaging (building capacities) of at least 100 representatives	100	Will be covered in 2025
Output 2: STRENGTHENED NATIONAL CAPACITIES FOR PREVENTION AND SOCIAL COHESION		
2.2.1 Establish 5 socially mixed Youth Action Groups (at least 100 members in total) to empower and promote youth's meaningful engagement and civic participation in social dialogue, peacebuilding, preventing VE, local development and decision-making	100	Youth Action Groups: Successfully formed and trained in financial sustainability, community building, and social innovation.
2.2.2 Facilitate an inclusive Youth Action Planning to bring upfront youth's needs and priorities and enhance youth's civic participation and voice in pursuit of inclusive and sustainable development solutions and decision making	1000	Will be covered in 2025

<i>Planned Activity</i>	<i>2024 target</i>	<i>Progress to date</i>
2.2.3 Enhancing national ownership and leadership towards young people's aspirations, well-being and development by strengthening national PVE action planning, local mechanisms, partnering abilities and institutional capacities of municipalities	1	The project facilitated the implementation of regulations for collegial consultative advisory bodies, specifically the regional interdepartmental commissions, to enhance their role in countering extremists' activities at the regional level. This included advancing the application of key provisions of the Law of the Kyrgyz Republic "On countering extremists' activities" and supporting the operationalization of the Cabinet of Minister's program for countering extremism and terrorism (2023-2027). Series of two-day workshops (22 May – 3 July) across Kyrgyzstan with 900 participants from local government, law enforcement, prosecutors, judiciary, and civil society.
2.2.4 Building capacities of 5 Youth Action Groups (at least 100 members in total), municipalities and other development actors in conflict prevention, social cohesion, multi-cultural cooperation, leadership, tolerance, diversity, inclusive local development and decision-making by providing seed-funing	100	Mapping Results: Identified 218 youth organizations, with 155 validated and 55 non-functional. 122 participants under age of 35 years old (65 young women and 32 young men) including representatives of youth organizations and committees, youth councils and centers, activists and youth specialists representing local governance underwent trainings and bootcamps. The training sessions focused on exploring how youth organizations can contribute to regional development through integrating youth issues and needs to public social and economic plans, conflict sensitivity, mobilizing resources effectively, and leveraging media tools to strengthen community resilience and networks.
2.2.5 Nurturing young male and female champions for further creating a net of young peacebuilders (at least 300 young people) to challenge the radical and hostile trends and narratives in their own communities and beyond, in social media and strengthening their mediative and peacebuilding capacities to serve as counsellors and mediators	300	The adaptation and rollout of the "Insider mediator" to a locally comprehensible "Danaker" training module with a focus on youth enhanced the ability of young people to apply basic mediation techniques in their cultural settings, fostering ownership and trust. 16 youth underwent mediation training, and this will be continued in 2025.

TAJIKISTAN

<i>Planned Activity</i>	<i>2024 Target</i>	<i>Progress to date</i>
Output 1: EMPOWERED SOCIETIES WITH YOUTH AT THE CENTER		
1.3.1 Strengthen the skills of at least 500 young men and women on hard and innovative skills including in digital sphere, (IT skills, social media marketing, branding, IT programming, and artificial intelligence) utilizing the existing platforms at the local level and renovation and equipping of 6 new youth facilities.	500	1,049 young people including 606 women from the districts of Bobojon Gafurov, Rushon, Lakhsh, Farkhor, Panj, and Nosiri Khisrav were supported in gaining critical thinking skills through a series of targeted trainings on computer literacy, social media management and branding, creative media production, graphic design, innovative entrepreneurship, and remote work skills.
1.3.2 Capacity development of at least 500 young men and women as well as Youth led CSOs on leadership, local development processes, identification of youth needs and priorities and PVE, critical thinking, problem solving etc. to promote their meaningful participation in the local development processes as well as increase their resilience towards violent narratives.	500	In progress and will be covered by the end of February 2025
Output 2: STRENGTHENED NATIONAL CAPACITIES FOR PREVENTION AND SOCIAL COHESION		
2.3.1 Strengthen the capacity of at least 300 local and central authorities, community leaders, local women activists, and religious leaders to effectively implement youth focused policies at the local level (based on the developed Toolkit on PVE under the STRIVE project).	300	316 national stakeholders (local authorities, local women activists, community and religious leaders) including 121 women, from target areas took part at the training sessions focused on developing and implementing youth-focused policies, engaging youth in preventing violent extremism, promoting social cohesion, and resolving conflicts using the PVE Toolkit developed by UNDP Tajikistan.

TURKMENISTAN

Planned Activity	2024 target	Progress to date
Output 1: EMPOWERED SOCIETIES WITH YOUTH AT THE CENTER		
1.4.1 Young men and women with low level of education provided with respective vocational trainings for employment (hard skills training) along with receiving mentoring support to increase their economic empowerment and strengthen community resilience.	215	Number of young people trained and received professional mentoring support: 174
	150	Number of young people employed: 4
	6	Number of Employment Departments of the MLSP increased technical capacity to open new centers to support vulnerable youth: 6
1.4.2 Building national capacity in promoting employment opportunities as one of the directions in increasing resilience of communities to VE by enhancing technical capacity of employment departments under the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Population to develop mechanisms of supporting vulnerable youth with the aim of addressing socioeconomic vulnerability and building their resilience against violent extremism.	445	Number of vulnerable youths participated in trainings and received individual consultations on employment: 300
1.4.2 Building national capacity in promoting employment opportunities as one of the directions in increasing resilience of communities to VE by enhancing technical capacity of employment departments under the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Population to develop mechanisms of supporting vulnerable youth with the aim of addressing socioeconomic vulnerability and building their resilience against violent extremism.	300	Number of young people employed: 10
Output 2: STRENGTHENED NATIONAL CAPACITIES FOR PREVENTION AND SOCIAL COHESION		
2.4.1 Capacity of Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Population, Youth Organization, Women Union, Law Enforcement at central and local levels and	180	Number of central and local government representatives, frontline service providers capacitated to support communities to build resilience to VE: 60

Planned Activity	2024 target	Progress to date
local administrations strengthened to enhance national ownership of PVE programs, to strengthen local mechanisms with the aim of supporting communities to build resilience against violent extremism.		
2.4.2 Youth in challenging contexts and their families provided with counselling and mentorship support in response to early signs of radicalization (Based on STRIVE Asia experience of integrating MHPSS).	180	Number of young people received counselling and mentorship support: 180
	60	Number of representatives of the central and local authorities, frontline service providers capacitated to integrate MHPSS to PVE programs: the data not yet available; activity planned for 2025

UZBEKISTAN

Planned Activity	2024 target	Progress to date
Output 1: EMPOWERED SOCIETIES WITH YOUTH AT THE CENTER		
1.5.1 Establish effective partnerships and platforms to bring together business and youth (especially vulnerable groups) and ensure that business provides skills development trainings for the young people with further opportunities for their employment (e.g. private sector organizes the trainings for the youth (including vulnerable youth) and explore the opportunities to employ them). As a result, 1500 unemployed young women and men will be trained and at least 700 will be employed thereafter.	400	The agreement has been reached with the national partners to conduct the trainings for the youth, which will be held in Fergana and Andijan, covering 400 people (January – February 2025). The trainings aim at equipping the youth with the modern skills (social media marketing, freelancing in the international and domestic markets, digital sales and services, basics of network engineering and internet technologies) to facilitate their decent employment.
1.5.2 Special institutions are set up in four pilot regions (especially in the remote areas) to provide legal, psychological support to more than 500 youth (including vulnerable youth) and ensure better dialogue among communities in three regions with youth at the center. These institutions will include public advisory groups, legal clinics, youth	1	As part of the project, a Youth Hub in Termez has been established in partnership with Termez State University. Furthermore, the districts and buildings were identified and agreed with the national partners in Fergana, Andijan and Namangan for establishing the youth hubs in 2025.

Planned Activity	2024 target	Progress to date
hubs providing legal, psychological and other support.		
Output 2: STRENGTHENED NATIONAL CAPACITIES FOR PREVENTION AND SOCIAL COHESION		
2.5.1 Building the capacity of targeted 25 local authorities in four pilot regions to build an inclusive system of early conflict warning and response and strengthen the institutional frameworks for conflict prevention and social cohesion through thematic trainings and workshops. At least 100 local government representatives will be equipped with necessary skills and mechanisms for participatory planning, equitable allocation of resources and service provision to prevent conflicts and violent extremism.	0	This activity is under process. Currently the negotiations are ongoing with government and NGO partners to identify the priority areas and audience of the trainings and workshops. The concept and agenda of the events in Fergana Valley and Surkhandarya are being developed. The trainings are expected to be held in 2025.
2.5.2 Building the capacities of pilot communities to make gender-sensitive decisions, detect early signs of conflict, implement policies tailored to the interests and needs of the communities (with focus on women, young people) through thematic trainings engaging more than 1000 beneficiaries.	150	The capacity building trainings on social work for the members of the communities in the border areas (Sokh and Fergana districts) of the Fergana will be organized in December 2024-February 2025 (150 participants). Trainings are supposed to upskill community leaders, psychologists and nurses, engaged in supporting the vulnerable groups. The trainees will be introduced to important strands of the social work such as duties of social workers, ethical principles and social work values and capacitated on gender-based approaches in reintegration, case management and exchange experience and discuss referral mechanisms in their communities.

REGIONAL COMPONENT

Planned Activity	2024 target	Progress to date
Output 3: EXPANDED REGIONAL PREVENTION NETWORKS		
3.1 1 High Level Meeting among regional and global PVE practitioners and stakeholders including 1 offline youth exchange, 1 online youth exchange and 2 online regional training events.	1 High-level meeting, 1 offline youth exchange, 1 online youth exchange and 2 online regional training events	1 High-level meeting and 1 offline youth exchange were implemented during two-day "Youth for Resilience" forum in Almaty, aimed at preventing youth radicalization in Central Asia and enhancing regional cooperation. The event brought together over 100 participants from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan, including representatives from ministries and government agencies focused on socio-economic development, local authorities and front-line workers engaged in community, civil society organizations working with youth engagement, youth representatives selected for the regional youth peer network.

V. CHALLENGES AND MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

KAZAKHSTAN

Challenges encountered:	Feasible solutions:
1. Insufficient/weak capacity of local NGOs	Engage NGOs on national level with capacity to work in target areas.
2. Data collection form the regions	To improve data collection from regions the partnership with local organizations and authorities can help with accurate data gathering. Additionally, integrating existing national systems and using remote data collection tools can enhance accessibility and efficiency.
3. Low engagement of partners in targeted areas	Capacity building is one of the key elements of the project and efforts are taken to identify and close capacity gaps. UNDP continued dialogue with stakeholders to keep their engagement.

KYRGYZSTAN

Challenges encountered:	Feasible solutions:
1. Lack of awareness of existing or planned resources and activities limits access to participation.	Information campaign on ongoing opportunities for youth through social media
2. Insufficient/weak capacity of local youth NGOs in regions and/or unstable financing of the activities of organizations or its absence.	Mentorship allows learning opportunities and exchange of experience among youth NGOs.

TAJIKISTAN

Challenges encountered:	Feasible solutions:
1. Limited familiarity of local public organizations and construction companies with the Quantum system has reduced their ability to participate effectively in UNDP tenders, particularly for projects in remote and mountainous areas.	Online and offline targeted learning sessions on the use of the Quantum system and UNDP tendering procedures, outreach efforts to engage potential bidders to encourage participation.
2. Limited capacity of public organizations to effectively address sensitive topics such as PVE and youth radicalization.	Provide regular support through monitoring visits, consultations and dissemination of UNDP publication on sensitive topics.
3. Insufficient capacity of public organizations in project management, particularly in adhering to UNDP rules and procedures.	Day to day follow-ups with the partner during the project implementation through ongoing consultations and monitoring visits.

TURKMENISTAN

Challenges encountered:	Feasible solutions:
1. Challenges in coordination with national institutions: delays in establishing the 6 Education-Information Centers have slowed down project activities. This, in turn, has resulted in logistical challenges such as ensuring timely delivery and installation of equipment for 6 educational information centers and has also slowed down the operation of these centers.	Trust-building and mutual meetings and dialogues with government partners and officials to discuss the importance of project activities and partnership building. Establishment of centers for Youth, regular engagement with the national partners, encourage high level participation on various Forums, close collaboration with local TVETs.
2. Retrieval and Analysis: while UNDP TKM CO is a pioneer in MOOCs, challenges related to data retrieval and analysis have been identified during implementation of Futureskill4All initiative.	
3. M&E for employment tracking lacks sustainability, and no dedicated tool was developed for this activity. This creates challenges in accurately calculating indicators related to youth employment. Implementing a tool to track post-MOOC or other related skills development training would be beneficial for future initiatives to evaluate employment rates for youth.	

UZBEKISTAN

Challenges encountered:	Feasible solutions:
Immediate action upon receiving funds in September was bottlenecked due to the shift of the UNDP system in new one – “Quantum”, which became hindrance for the smooth flow of the project activities, which was reflected in the longer time access denial.	To cushion the impact of this issue, the project team continued with the activities not reliant on this system such as visibility actions and negotiations with national partners to reach an agreement on the format and scope of the planned interventions.

REGIONAL COMPONENT

Challenges encountered:	Feasible solutions:
Coordination of the date and theme with the participating offices	Due to the sensitive nature of the PVE theme, the project encountered challenges in shaping the focus of the high-level meeting in Kazakhstan. After discussions, it was agreed to focus on: a) Facilitating the exchange of ongoing PVE efforts and priorities among national partners, identifying key areas for regional collaboration.

	b) Strengthening the commitment and involvement of senior representatives from Central Asian authorities in PVE initiatives, complementing existing regional dialogues. c) Building a regional network of youth and local stakeholders to sustain PVE efforts and encourage the sharing of best practices and lessons learned.
Logistics issues during preparation to the event	As the event was regional and required participation from all Central Asian countries, there was a challenge in selecting a location that would offer convenient access for all participants. After evaluating various options, it was decided to hold the event in Almaty.

VI. BEST PRACTICES AND LESSONS LEARNED

Below are the key validated findings by independent experts and based on internal observations:

KAZAKHSTAN

To improve the project's effectiveness, regular surveys should be conducted to assess needs and areas for improvement. The project has been extended until 31 December 2025, allowing the team more time to complete ongoing activities and meet the targets outlined in the Annual Work Plan (AWP) more efficiently.

The implementation of laws and policies requires long-term and multi-stakeholder involvement. Collaboration with the expert group across regions highlighted a significant need to strengthen PVE efforts, improve stakeholder engagement, and increase youth participation in national initiatives. A key lesson learned was the complexity of negotiations with municipalities, especially regarding training and capacity-building efforts.

Additionally, the project emphasized the importance of forming strong local partnerships. Enhancing cooperation among municipalities, youth groups, and other stakeholders is essential to achieving sustainable success in both youth development and PVE initiatives.

KYRGYZSTAN

The integration of a programmatic comprehensive approach that combines technical capacity building with localized and context – sensitive tools proved instrumental in strengthening youth engagement in PVE in Kyrgyzstan.

The adaptation and rollout of the [“Insider mediator”](#) to a locally comprehensible “Danaker” training module with a focus on youth enhanced the ability of young people to apply basic mediation techniques in their cultural settings, fostering ownership and trust. Integrated approach to PVE such as addressing PVE through a combination of mediation, conflict-sensitivity, civic engagement and decision making creates synergies to better tackle the root causes of extremism than siloed interventions.

TAJIKISTAN

The six youth centres have been established on the basis of the Committee on Youth and Sports Affairs of Tajikistan, ensuring the ownership and sustainability of the initiative by national partners. In collaboration with the national partner, it was agreed to include the activation of these youth centres in the Committee’s endorsed 2025 plan, which is submitted to the government. This approach fosters long-term commitment and institutional support, ensuring the centres remain functional and relevant in the years to come.

One of the best practices of the project component on building the capacity of national stakeholders for effective implementation of youth-focused policies at the local level was the support provided to community (mahalla) committees in their legitimization. As a result of completing the training, committee leaders took steps to develop statutory documents, register with the government, open bank accounts, and establish management boards. In addition, the committees increased youth participation in governance, enhancing the modernity and relevance of their management structures. Within two months, 50 community committees legitimated and became fully functioning institutions of local public governance, ensuring long-term sustainability and local ownership of the project’s outcomes.

TURKMENISTAN

The project’s extension until 31 December 2025 allows for the completion of ongoing activities and achievement ensuring efficient and effective implementation.

Speed up the delivery and installation of sewing equipment to ensure timely training. Work with national partners to conduct field visits and assess the readiness of Education-Information Centers and TVETs, ensuring they are prepared to offer learning opportunities for vulnerable youth, especially in rural areas.

Build stronger collaborations with government agencies, private sector partners, and organizations (CSOs, NGOs) to leverage resources and expertise for the project’s success.

Implement regular surveys to identify emerging needs and gaps, ensuring continuous improvement and better-targeted interventions.

Strengthen the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) system to track progress, assess outcomes, and identify areas for improvement.

Develop more interactive and engaging approaches to knowledge sharing and skills development, fostering better learning experiences for youth and encourage and actively involve youth in regional initiatives focused on combating violent extremism, promoting positive participation and empowerment.

UZBEKISTAN

The held meetings with national partners indicated that some activities especially one that relate to the establishment of the youth hubs and training the youth to provide them with decent job opportunities could be more time consuming than it was initially anticipated, and the extension of the project until the end of the 2025 was very fit for purpose to deliver full outcomes of the project.

VII. FINANCIAL REPORT ON EXPENDITURES

Budget Summary 2024 (including GMS)

	Total Budget \$	2024 Budget Allocation \$	2024 Budget Utilization \$
Kazakhstan	1,451,052.10	1,144,091.54	1,113,954.00
Kyrgyzstan	652,624.60	633,059.82	143,262.28
Tajikistan	676,404.28	659,538.00	521,401.25
Turkmenistan	669,299.37	666,373.61	426,795.41
Uzbekistan	687,442.12	352,350.08	335,092.04
Regional Component	252,504.00	182,815.53	187,318.85
Total Budget	4,389,326.47	3,638,228.58	2,745,081.87