

# Project Document

## UNDP, UNFPA and FAO

**Programme<sup>1</sup> Title: “Unleashing young people’s and vulnerable citizens’ creativity and innovation by strengthening their adaptive capacity to address the economic and food insecurities in the exposed communities of the Aral Sea region”.**

<p>Project Duration: <u>30 Months</u></p> <p>Anticipated start/end dates: <u>01/01/2021-30/06/2023</u></p> <p>Fund Management Option(s): <b>Pass through</b> (Parallel, pooled, pass-through, combination)</p> <p>Managing or Administrative Agent: N/A (if/as applicable)</p>	<p>Total estimated budget*: <u>USD 2,100,000</u></p> <p>Out of which:</p> <p>1. Funded Budget: <u>USD 2,100,000</u></p> <p>2. Unfunded budget: _____</p> <p>* Total estimated budget includes both project costs and indirect support costs</p>
	<p>Sources of funded budget:</p> <p>- MPHSTF for Aral Sea region: <u>USD 2,100,000</u></p>

<sup>1</sup> The term “project” is used for programmes, joint programmes and projects

**Names and signatures of (sub) national counterparts, Participating UN organizations and MPHSTF Steering Committee Co-chairs**

Participating UN organization(s)	National Coordinating Authority(ies)
<p>Name of Representative: <b>Ms. Matilda Dimovska, UNDP Resident Representative in Uzbekistan</b></p> <p>Signature: </p> <p>Name of Organization: <b>UNDP in Uzbekistan</b></p> <p>Date &amp; Seal <b>05.12.2020</b> </p>	<p>Name of Head of Partner: <b>Mr. Akmalxon Ortikov, First Deputy Minister</b></p> <p>Signature: </p> <p>Name of Institution: <b>Ministry of Economic Development and Poverty Reduction of the Republic of Uzbekistan</b></p> <p>Date &amp; Seal </p>
<p>Name of Representative: <b>Mr. Yu Yu, UNFPA Representative in Uzbekistan</b></p> <p>Signature: </p> <p>Name of Organization: <b>UNFPA in Uzbekistan</b></p> <p>Date &amp; Seal </p>	
<p>Name of Representative: <b>Mr. Viorel Gutu, FAO Sub-regional Coordinator for Central Asia and FAO Representative for Uzbekistan</b></p> <p>Signature: </p> <p>Name of Organization: <b>FAO Representative Office in Uzbekistan</b></p> <p>Date &amp; Seal </p>	

**For the Steering Committee Co-chair (UN):**

*Ms. Helena Fraser, UN Resident Coordinator in the Republic of Uzbekistan, MPHSTF Steering Committee Co-chair*

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



*Date & Seal: 12-Dec-2020*

**For the Steering Committee Co-chair (Government of Uzbekistan):**

*Mr. Sardor Umurzakov, Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Uzbekistan, MPHSTF Steering Committee Co-chair*

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



*Date & Seal*

## **1. Executive Summary**

The 2nd call for proposals under the UN Multi-Partner Human Security Trust Fund for the Aral Sea region in Uzbekistan (MPHSTF) has the thematic focus on “Youth”, “Innovation” and “Health”, as well as with significant orientation to address vulnerabilities exacerbated by COVID-19 in the Aral Sea region. In line with above, UNDP, UNFPA and FAO have developed a new Joint Programme titled: “Unleashing young people’s and vulnerable citizens’ creativity and innovation by strengthening their adaptive capacity to address the economic and food insecurities in the exposed communities of the Aral Sea region” to be implemented in Karakalpakstan (2021-2023).

The proposed Programme is developed in alignment with the MPHSTF Programmatic Framework and Results Matrix to address multiple insecurity challenges in the Aral Sea region associated both with the Aral Sea crisis and COVID-19 outbreak. Thus, it promotes integration of the human security concept including the comprehensive, context specific and prevention-oriented approaches. It will use top down protection and bottom up empowerment principles. The Programme will be guided by using the comprehensive, multi-sectoral, contextualized, emphasizing on prevention, partnership and collaboration.

The Joint Programme aims at increasing the efficiency and innovations in agriculture, promoting smart and digitalized communities, with favorable infrastructures and facilitating active labour market initiatives. The implementing agencies will enhance community development, empowerment of youth and women, support the infrastructure development and creation of employment generation in rural areas, focusing on most at risk communities, facing multiple vulnerabilities.

The proposed Programme will benefit 183,200 people from 3 northern districts (Muynak-30,900; Bozatau-21,500 and Kungrad-130,800 districts) of Karakalpakstan that are the most affected by the Aral Sea disaster. The specific focus will be given to youth (14-30 age group), women and vulnerable groups of people (disabled, women-headed families, labor migrants, unemployed youth, etc.).

The Programme’s goal and objectives are fully aligned with the policies and strategies of the Government of Uzbekistan on addressing the Aral Sea crises, including the Government Strategy on Five Priority Directions of Development of the Republic of Uzbekistan for 2017-2021, the State Programme on Development of the Aral Sea Region for 2017-2021, and recently adopted Comprehensive Development Programme for Karakalpakstan for 2020-2023.

## **2. Situation Analysis**

The Aral Sea region remains the most vulnerable and deprived region of Uzbekistan. Once the fourth largest inland lake in the world, now down to 10% of its original size. The drying of the Aral Sea set off large-scale human, environmental, socio-economic and demographic insecurities for the population of Karakalpakstan.

As the climate in Karakalpakstan is naturally arid, local population is depended on water from the Amudarya delta for irrigation, and in the past on Aral Sea for fishing purposes. Following the desiccation of the Aral Sea and the reduction of water inflow in the lower reaches of the river, local

livelihoods have become increasingly threatened and multiple inter-connected human insecurities emerged. The environmental disastrous situation associated with the sea disappearance has intensified and amplified and expressed in the form of dust storms and climate change. The negative causes of tendency for agriculture, livelihoods, people and infrastructure is enormous.

Karakalpakstan occupies 37% of the total territory of Uzbekistan, whereas region's contribution (GRP) to the overall GDP of the country is only 3.5%. Karakalpakstan has a population of 1.88 million people, 49% of which reside in urban areas, while 51% in rural areas. Around 26.3% of the population in Karakalpakstan is poor as compared to 11.9% in the rest of the country<sup>2</sup>.

The service sector has substantial share in GRP equaling 44,6%, industry 32,7%, agriculture 15,2% and construction sector 7,5% respectively<sup>3</sup>. According to official statistics, the unemployment rate is 9.3% which is above the country average 9.1%.

Youth comprises of 30% of the population of the region between 14-30 ages. There are 9 higher educational institutions (25442 students), 104 professional colleges and 8 academic lyceums, 725 public education schools (344 042 pupils) that provide higher, secondary specialized education and public education to youth of the region.

### ***Impact of COVID-19 to population of Karakalpakstan with focus to youth***

The Government of Uzbekistan (GoU) has taken decisive measures to slow the spread of COVID-19 through the implementation of travel restrictions, border closure, physical distancing, risk communications, and public movement restrictions with school closures, cancellation of public events and religious gatherings, and work from home arrangements among organizations. As of May 6, 2020, 2,233 cases were recorded in the country, while in Karakalpakstan, the number of infected cases reached 109 persons, while 87 are recovered from the disease.

According to estimates of the World Bank, implications of COVID-19 to the economy of Uzbekistan would be extremely negative, and GDP growth forecasted to be as low as 1.6% compared to previous 5.6% in 2020<sup>4</sup>. In addition, due to depreciation of currencies of neighboring countries (Kazakhstan and Russia) remittances sent to Uzbekistan might fall to between 27.5-30%. Considering the fact that around 20% of households in the region depend solely on remittances from migrants<sup>5</sup> and almost half of the migrants (42,4 %) are youth (between 16-30 ages)<sup>6</sup> existing socio-economic scenes would worsen further with elevated unemployment and social distress among the young population.

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<sup>2</sup> <http://nsdg.stat.uz/goal/4>

<sup>3</sup> Invest to Karakalpakstan, 2018. UNDP. CCI

<sup>4</sup> World Bank. Fight with COVID-19. Economic situation in Europe and Central Asia. Spring 2020

<sup>5</sup> CERR, #10 (226) 2028. Social Karakalpakstan

<sup>6</sup> <https://mehnat.uz/ru/article/pervoe-polugodie-2019-goda-rezultaty-sociologicheskogo-obsledovaniya-po-izucheniyu-voprosov-zanyatosti-a-takzhe-opredelenie-chislenosti-naseleniya-nuzhdayushegosya-v-trudoustroystve>

This tendency will have an enormous negative impact to the youth of Karakalpakstan. As survey results (ISR, 2017)<sup>7</sup> show the local population depends heavily on agriculture and remittances sent by labor migrants from among family members who work mostly in Kazakhstan (9.7%) and Russia (80.8%). These sources of income were always highly insecure, susceptible to fluctuations and unstable in terms of benefits and long-term sustainability, while the COVID-19 consequences have further exacerbated the situation.

Due to COVID-19 outbreak, around 70-80% enterprises had to close their businesses until further notice in the region, where most of the employees are youth.

In Karakalpakstan, about 35% of the total number of employees is occupied in the informal sector (UNDP, 2017). In the structure of employment, the share of employment in the agricultural sector decreased to 28.0%. The largest increase in employment falls on the service sector. Therefore, given the restrictions put by the Government due to COVID-19, livelihoods of youth, who share the big chunk of engagement in the informal sector as well as in service sector was drastically impacted in form of loss of jobs and incomes.

This situation signals that the development indicators of Karakalpakstan will be further worsened due to COVID-19 outbreak, requiring support and attention to reduce negative impact on the most vulnerable groups and communities, who are already suffering from the Aral Sea crisis.

Therefore, support to the population of the region should focus on protecting small enterprises and vulnerable workers in the informal sector of economy with the focus on youth in order to build their resilience to the different economic insecurities.

### ***Youth and Digitalization***

As outlined above, youth in the region remains one of the vulnerable layers of the society that faces socio-economic challenges associated with the Aral Sea crisis. COVID-19 outbreak has further worsened the situation of the youth including the unemployment issues, especially in rural areas, due to lack of proper skill building entities, youth lead platforms, food processing plants, lack of access to broadband internet, poor sport and recreational facilities and poor development of social infrastructure facilities and degradation of environmental resources.

In the current context, it is extremely important to develop a well-tailored programmatic approach to respond to pressing socio-economic challenges and put youth on the forefront of the agenda, focusing on employment, turning disadvantaged youth of the region into prosperous leaders equipped with proper skills and capacities.

Worth to mention that, the COVID-19 pandemic forced further development of some sectors, for instance, more digitized and IT-based manufacturers, service providers has appeared on the stage by offering safe and fast services without compromising quality features of the products/services. It is the momentum to use digital transformation and increase access to Internet as one of the driving forces for socio-economic development of local communities. Especially, this is critical in the pandemic situation where distant working, learning and existence in being isolated has become a reality. In these

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<sup>7</sup> <http://www.uz.undp.org/content/uzbekistan/en/home/library/poverty/summary-project-report-on-a-socio-economic-survey-of-the-needs-o.html>



circumstances, access to on-line e-learning resources and information, and communication platforms will expedite business development processes, education processes with expanded access to various e-resources and platforms. The experience of UNDP projects on promoting access to the Internet via wifi accessibility in rural communities can be utilized including the one from Philippines<sup>8</sup>.

Government, business environment, NGOs, public services are as well attempting to embrace digitalization in an agile manner. In line with this, the Government adopted (on 28 April, 2020) a Decree “On measures for the widespread adoption of digital economy and e-government” to promote digitalization of national economy through:

- Covering all schools, healthcare facilities, rural areas, mahallas with broadband internet;
- Digitalizing 60% of government services;
- Developing “digital enterprises” by producing software and applications at techno parks, a 3-fold increase in the volume of services in this sector by 2023;
- Integrating digital services into agriculture.

Thus, the proposed Programme will take the advantage of this momentum to address the above-mentioned challenges by deploying youth lead platforms and creating an enabling environment and infrastructure to build prosperous and resilient young generation through digitalization.

### ***Agriculture***

While the agriculture occupies an important place in the structure of the economy of the region, it has a number of features related to the need to adapt the production structure to the environmental situation, degraded land and water resources and climate change.

Given the low income, more than 60% of households in the rural areas of Karakalpakstan cannot afford to buy minimum set of goods and services included in the consumer basket, to have balanced diet lacking enough proteins and vitamins due to relatively low consumption of meat, milk and dairy products, eggs, potatoes and fruits.

The current conditions of land and water resources negatively affect the effective use of the existing crop and livestock potential by the local population. Half of the irrigated land has a low fertility. In 2016, 73.4% of irrigated land had a distinctive degree of salinity depending on the geographic location, of which 30.7% - low, 35.7% - medium and 7.0% - high. A high level of salinity is typical for Muynak (96.0%) and Chimbay districts (more than 80.0%). In addition, the dynamics of the actual water use exceeds the established irrigation norms, indicating a low efficiency of water usage.

Based on existing systemic problems, it should be noted that the main priorities for the development of agriculture should include fundamental structural changes in the area of crops, based on some tailored approaches to each district and the economy, taking into account the natural, climatic and environmental conditions. Those measures should also ensure the transition to innovative technologies for efficient use of water resources and improving the quality of land potential.

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<sup>8</sup> <https://www.ph.undp.org/>

Given the specificity of the economy of the region, where the majority of rural population (youth and women) are employed in the agriculture sector as source of income, the proposed Programme will be focusing on promoting innovative agriculture practices at the household levels and helping to build the skills of the target groups in order to productively use the land resources and increase the income of the rural households, thereby, reserving access to food for rural population.

In summary, based on the provided background, the proposed Programme addresses the needs of the youth and rural vulnerable groups considering the new realities, reflected in closure of normal life and businesses, through promoting digitalization, focusing on skill building and the jobs of the future, where possible as well as promoting innovative agriculture practices.

### **3. Strategic context and Programme alignment**

#### ***Alignment to the UNDAF principles***

The proposal is aligned with the following two outcomes of the UNDAF 2016-2020:

1. **UNDAF Outcome 1:** By 2020, equitable and sustainable economic growth through productive employment, improvement of environment for business, entrepreneurship and innovations expanded for all.
2. **UNDAF Outcome 2:** By 2020 vulnerable groups benefit more from inclusive, financially sustainable and efficient social protection system
3. **UNDAF Outcome 6:** By 2020, rural population benefit from sustainable management of natural resources and resilience to disasters and climate change.

The Programme's first and second objectives and subjunctive activities are directed to respond for the UNDAF outcomes 1 and 2 at the level of the pilot districts, covering mainly youth, women and girls who are the most vulnerable groups in employment. Introduction of new ways in agriculture that aimed at effective and sustainable use of natural resources will be at the focus of the proposal. Implementation of advanced technologies best practices in the sphere of resource nature management will benefit towards of achieving the UNDAF Outcome 6.

#### ***Alignment of the proposal with the Government Policies and Strategies in addressing the Aral Sea crisis challenges***

The present Programme is developed in alignment with the state Programmes and policies especially related to socio-economic development, agro-sector development, employment creation, facilitation business initiatives and engagement of small households into entrepreneurship activities, profession skills development, start-up development and with latest policies on youth and on digital economy. In addition, in identifying the gaps and challenges of the target region, the results of the comprehensive needs assessment done by ISR in 2017 were used as well as recently issued Government Resolutions to respond the COVID-19.

The following key government priority document were considered during the Programme proposal development:

- **The State Programme on Development of the Aral Sea Region for 2017-2021 (PP-2731)**, as of January 18, 2017, which focuses on improving the environmental and socio-economic situation, living conditions of the population, and effective implementation of investment projects to mitigate the environmental disaster in the Aral Sea region;



- **Special Programme for complex Social-Economic development of Muynak district for the period of 2019-2021**, that envisions the implementation of 195 projects (Social infrastructure development - 120 projects, and Entrepreneurship development -75 projects), with overall funding of approximately USD 3.4 billion;
- **Resolution of the President of Uzbekistan form March 7, 2019 (#4235)** on “Measures to further enforce guarantees of labor rights and support entrepreneurship of women”
- **Decree of the President of Uzbekistan from October 23, 2019 (# 5853)** on “Strategy for development of agriculture of the Republic of Uzbekistan for 2020-2030”
- **Decree of the Cabinet of Ministers of Uzbekistan (48) from January 18, 2019** “On approving the Concept on implementation technology of “Smart City”
- **Decree of the President of Uzbekistan (ID-10574) on approval of the concept National Strategy “Digital Uzbekistan – 2030”.**
- **Decree of the President of Uzbekistan (PP-4699) from April 28, 2020** “On measures for the widespread introduction of the digital economy and e-government”.
- To reduce the share of informal economy – **Resolution on the introduction of temporary labor certificate for self-employed citizens №566 09.07.2019**
- **Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan** on “Government Policy on Youth” as of 24 August 2016.
- **Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan** on “Startups” (under discussion) (ID#17135) as of 27 April 2020.
- **The decree on implementation of the National system for the development of professional qualifications and competencies.**
- **On measures for the comprehensive socio-economic development of the Republic of Karakalpakstan in 2020-2023**

***Contribution to achieving the SDG(s), other international commitments on the issue at national level***

The Programme will enable the achievement of nine SDGs in the most vulnerable and remote region of the country. Specifically, the project will contribute to the achievement of the following:

- SDG 1. No Poverty – through its work on promotion of active labour forces, employment generation and professional skills building the Programme will contribute to poverty reduction rate in the region, where those unemployed will have access to job opportunities and improve their living level;
- SDG 2. Zero Hunger – by facilitating the development of agro-production and engagement of youth, farmers into the new agro-businesses, using innovative solutions, the Programme will contribute to increase and diversify the food productions and allow increased access to more nutritious food varieties, which is one of the challenging factors in the region;
- SDG 3. Good Health and Well-being - the Programme will help young people will be better equipped with knowledge on healthy lifestyle especially during COVID-19 outbreak;
- SDG 5. Gender Equality- Gender mainstreaming will be done at all levels of Programme implementation, the Programme will specifically empower women’s participation in agro-plots and business initiatives establishment as well as during the process of start-up initiations;
- SDG 6. Clean Water and Sanitation – the Programme will facilitate better access to social services including drinking water and WASH, etc.;

- SDG 8. Decent Work and Economic Growth – the Programme will create opportunities for establishing new business initiatives and start-ups, this will allow creation of new jobs and facilitate decent work. Building professionals educated at mono centres will facilitate the establishment a pool of qualified experts that will have better chances to be employed and contribute to economic growth of the region;
- SDG 9. Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure – by bringing new innovations including the access to digital solutions, the communities will be developed and empowered to learn, develop businesses thus contributing to better life of communities;
- SDG 11. Sustainable cities and communities – the Programme will facilitate better access to basic services including water, electricity and digitalization, this will allow the communities be more sustainable and advanced;
- SDG 15. Life on land – the Programme will consider land degradation while introducing innovative agriculture practices, thereby, proposing new innovative solutions in agro-processing sector. Farmers and youth will be better equipped with knowledge and technologies on agro-farming technologies

#### ***Expected project/Programme results aligned with the MPHSTF Results framework***

The Programme overall goal and objectives are fully aligned with the MPHSTF Programmatic Framework and Results Matrix as they contribute to addressing multiple human insecurities of people, living in the most vulnerable districts of Karakalpakstan.

- **The Objective 1:** “Reduce the vulnerabilities of unemployed, unskilled youth and women and returning migrants through the empowerment and promotion of essential entrepreneurial skills, and youth-led innovations in the region” will contribute to Outputs 4 and 5 of Outcome 2 of the **MPHSTF Results Matrix**.
- **The Objective 2:** “Create an enabling environment for employment and income generation for rural households and communities including youth and women through capacity building in advanced/innovative agro-practices, establishing agro-cooperatives and piloting new agro-initiatives to contribute to food security in the region” will contribute to Output 2 of Outcome 1 and Outputs 8 and 9 of the Outcome 3 of the **MPHSTF Results Matrix**.
- **The Objective 3:** “Enable the development of smart communities through digitalization, better access to social infrastructure and community engagement with focus on youth” will contribute to Output 6 of Outcome 2, Output 7 of Outcome 3, Outputs 12 and 13 of Outcome 4 and Output 16 of Outcome 5 of the **MPHSTF Results Matrix**.

#### ***Promotion of and piloting innovative approaches in dealing with the problem***

Building on the best practices and lessons learnt from the past initiatives, the proposed proposal envisions implementation of new approaches in community development by introducing modern digitalization approach in different spheres of the community entities. A special attention will be paid to integrating digital approach between the educational institutes and industrial sectors such as agriculture sector and income generation through creation of new job places. Apart of these, the project will consider capacity building in integration of digital approach in different sectors such as public healthcare or educational sectors. Implementation of the digitalization approach will increase effectiveness in community management, will provide transparency of the locally ongoing activities and will help in promotion of the communities’ needs for getting additional assistance.

The project will help community youth in creation of a new type of platform that brings up the rural youth and district administration for discussion of issues that the rural youth face in day-to-day life. It will facilitate youth engagement in community management, planning and implementation of projects that most appropriate from the views of the young generation.

The project will support the community youth and vulnerable women in attaining knowledge and skills in integrating the best innovative technologies in agriculture sector, including the introduction of water saving technologies, crop diversification, horticulture and hotbeds development and establishing fishery ponds.

In collaboration with the partner, the project envisions new approaches in effective using of natural resources through piloting at small size household plots. The project will try new scheme of engaging young unemployed rural youth through training them to different qualifications that are in demand and equipping them with necessary tools.

### **The proposed project goals and objectives:**

The proposed project is in line with the thematic directions specified in the 2nd call for Proposals within the MPHSTF.

The Programme will address the development crisis caused by the Aral Sea drying, which is further exacerbating due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It will support the youth and at risk communities most vulnerable to economic hardship and social disruption through (i) protecting small enterprises and vulnerable workers in the informal economy through skills building and promoting locally generated innovative start-ups; (ii) preserving access to food for rural population (with strong focus to women and youth) through introducing effective agriculture practices at the household levels; and (iii) promoting social protection through improving access to basic services (ensuring continuity and quality of water) and enabling digitalization of communities. All proposed activities will be gender equality imperative.

Therefore, the project aims at increasing the efficiency and innovations in agriculture, promoting smart and digitalized communities, with favourable infrastructures and facilitating active labour market initiatives.

### ***The Programme has the following three objectives:***

- *Objective. 1: Reduce the vulnerabilities of unemployed, unskilled youth and women and returning migrants through the empowerment and promotion of essential entrepreneurial skills, and youth-led innovations in the region (UNDP, UNFPA);*
- *Objective. 2: Create an enabling environment for income generation for rural communities (with focus to youth and women) through promoting innovative agriculture practices and piloting new agriculture initiatives (FAO, UNDP);*
- *Objective. 3: Enable the development of smart communities through digitalization, better access to social infrastructure and community engagement with focus on youth (UNDP).*

***Objective 1. Reduce the vulnerabilities of unemployed, unskilled youth and women and returning migrants through the empowerment and promotion of essential entrepreneurial skills, and youth-led innovations in the region (UNDP, UNFPA).***

*Output 1.1. Mono-vocational training centers are capacitated and have tools to provide professional trainings to unemployed youth, women and migrants on the jobs demanded in the local market (UNDP).*

An assessment of youth employment situation and returning migrants in the Aral Sea region is conducted to identify vocational/professional needs and the most demanded jobs at local market.

Capacity of existing platforms such as mono-centres/vocational training centres under the Ministry of Employment and Labour Relations will be enhanced to promote technical skills building for unemployed youth, women and migrant workers. This will include technical skill building for at least 90 youth and women on the jobs demanded most in the market (i.e in the areas of. web Programme development, 3D digital game creation, custom services, digital product marketing, system administration/architect, data governance and management systems, hotel service sector, catering services, food production sector and also more technical and construction related jobs) engaging partners (Worldskills, KOICA). This work will be built on UNDP' experience on employment creation and youth and women empowerment as well as using the experience and platforms of the Ministry of Employment and Labour of Karakalpakstan.

Through professional skill building and tailored training Programmes youth, women, migrants and vulnerable groups will be able to receive qualifications on demanded and future jobs and engage in entrepreneurial activities and employed in different sectors of economy. Young women will be encouraged to participate in both training Programmes and engagement in establishing their own businesses.

*Output 1.2. Enable environment for youth entrepreneurship development created through establishing new businesses and start-up initiatives using innovative and impact-based technologies and solutions (UNDP)*

This work will be facilitated jointly with the Ministry of Employment and Labour Relations (MoELP), the Youth Agency and Karakalpak branch of the Tashkent Information Technology Institute (TATU) by establishing Innovation lab/Co-working center. A platform, where various ideas, solutions will be generated and initiatives like hackathons, start-up competitions will be realized. Within the platform the innovative ideas and initiatives will nurture next generation of entrepreneurs, by providing problem solving and algorithmic thinking skills, business development skills, self-confidence tips, planning and management skills, strategic visioning, and tools to use new IT solutions, including the web platforms and social media. As a result of this initiative, it is expected to generate new ideas, tools and applications that can facilitate growth and development of the region with the participation of youth.

Through this platform enabling environment for start-up development and youth business initiatives will be created with a well-thought support Programme, stimulating young population to get prepared for business management, future jobs and having leadership skills. Creating conditions for innovative business development and inclusion of youth in this process will be facilitated by initiating competitive process of startup initiatives supported by seed funding of the project. Contests will be organized for the best startup projects on various areas including web development, IT, E-commerce, Health, Environment, Public services and etc.

*Output 1.3. Home based, family and individual entrepreneurship initiatives supported to provide additional income opportunities to the most vulnerable (UNFPA).*

Analysis will be conducted on benefits of home based and family businesses with proposed best practices from the international experience. Young family-based entrepreneurship activities will be facilitated through building their self-confidence, work in teams and development of small businesses. Specific training programmes will be tailored out to support vulnerable youth (widow, divorced, women left behind due to migration of their family members etc.) in starting up their business activities.

In addition, women will be trained in hygiene to prevent spread of COVID-19 and other infections, family planning, gender equality, social skills, family budget planning, entrepreneurship skills and business plan development. 18 competitively selected community leaders will be trained to become facilitators to promote gender equality in their communities, to identify and help women to start income earning family business.

***Objective. 2: Create an enabling environment for income generation for rural communities (with focus to youth and women) through promoting innovative agriculture practices and piloting new agriculture initiatives (FAO, UNDP).***

Within this objective, the proposed Programme is planning to combine joint efforts on integrated management of water resources, crop diversification, horticulture and hotbeds development, livestock and fishery development through capacity building in advanced/innovative agro-practices, establishing agro-cooperatives and piloting new agro-initiatives to contribute to food security in the region, with the strong focus on youth.

### ***Potential for crop diversification***

Crop diversification is comparatively new approach in Karakalpakstan. Farmers used to produce mainly cotton and winter wheat. For other crops, there is no resource base including technology, knowledge about crop production and marketing. At the same time, climate conditions of the Karakalpakstan allow to produce various agricultural crops, and on some of them to harvest 2 different crops in one year (a mungbean, soybean, sorghum, cucumber etc.) that sometimes leads to over-saturation of a home market. Forage, cereals, and legume crops have continued to be the major crops grown by the private sector in Karakalpakstan.

Growing fodder crops for fresh fodder, hay, silage has potential to reduce the feed gaps experienced by many smallholder crop and livestock farmers. There is an opportunity to introduce sweet clover, field pea, pear millet to the existing crop production system in the region under no-till. Farmers are growing a limited number of forage crops in agriculture; farmers who grow fodder crops use old varieties and poor agronomic practices e.g. sub-optimal seeding rate and fertilization that of the forage crop yield is low. In addition, it allows farmers to cultivate and conserve fodder to fill the winter-feed gap.

### ***Opportunities of fishery sector development***

The loss of the fishery industry is further exacerbated by ever degrading land resources and devastated economic livelihoods in Karakalpakstan. Uzbekistan, like many of the countries in Central Asia, has abundant inland water resources, namely rivers and lakes, which are suitable for freshwater aquaculture. However, due to the collapse of collectivized farms, lack of interest in commercial operations or

producer associations by local farmers, and the limited capacity of the government extension and research facilities, there is currently low production of fish compared to the resource potential. For example, although the government has provided feed mills in some regions, fish farmers do not have adequate knowledge of basic fish nutrition and modern production methods to utilize these feed mills. Food safety of fish products and pond water quality are other areas lacking in education and trained practitioners at the national level.

***Promoting Horticulture Development as means of food security and natural resources management tool***

Based on the FAO best-practices, the project would promote reducing the effect of climate change and the greenhouse gas emissions in the Aral Sea Basin through introducing:

- commercial fruit tree propagation systems to the local farmers and nurserymen, which will further help them to increase the quality and quantity of the produced trees in the region.
- commercial fruit tree varieties that are more suitable to Aral Sea Basin.
- strengthen the capacities of local nurseries not only with knowledge, but also with true to type plant materials that can be further propagated.

It is intended to apply the horticulture development from following human security lens:

- ensuring environmental security aimed at reducing the effect of climate change by growing more fruit trees;
- ensuring food security aimed at covering the demand gap in local markets for fruits;
- economic security by increasing income sources of dehqan and farming enterprise using as cash crop;
- in addition, the programme anticipates strengthening the institutional capacity of existing institutions and introducing the network of extension services in horticulture development.

*Output 2.1 Produce evidence-based research on environmental protection of Aral Sea region fostering innovative solutions to rehabilitate and upgrade the existing irrigation system and agricultural land restoration (UNDP).*

Irrigation systems in the Aral Sea region are represented by the outdated infrastructure built more than 40-50 years ago with an efficiency of: 0.56 (Karakalpakstan); 0.60 (Khorezm) and 0.63 (Bukhara). Therefore, unproductive loss of water in irrigation system is about 40% of the total water withdrawal from sources. The GoU is working towards the rehabilitation and modernization of the obsolete irrigation systems in the Amudarya river valley, a major water contributor to the Aral Sea. However, this work requires concerted actions of multiple players including the international community, UN agencies and IFIs.

In September 2019, European Investment Bank, as the EU Climate Bank, expressed readiness to support the GoU to achieve one of its national priorities and protect the environment in the Aral Sea region and facilitate transition to a greener economy. EIB plans a two-tier investment program for the Aral Sea: the first tier considers rehabilitation and modernization of the obsolete irrigation systems in the Amudarya river valley, a major water contributor to the Aral Sea; the second will allow for restoration

of agricultural land in the area, degraded over decades by saline intrusion, and now covered in salt because of decades of inadequate, irrigation system usage.

The two measures will reduce the amounts of water currently drawn from the Amudarya river for irrigation and allow the river to contribute more water to the Aral Sea. The EIB investment will also allow Uzbekistan to stop further environmental damage in the Aral Sea region, mitigate and alleviate the negative climate, environmental, economic and social effect of extensive and inadequate irrigation in the Uzbekistan part of the Aral Sea basin. The partnership will contribute towards a more sustainable, environment-friendly economy in Uzbekistan.

In order to receive the EIB loan, GoU aims to prepare a Feasibility Study (FS), therefore, within this frame of this output, it is planned to provide inputs to the Feasibility Study by making three research works in the following areas:

- comprehensive management of water resources in the basin of Amudarya river;
- review of the general irrigation plan of the basin of Amudarya;
- analysis of the plan of land use and afforestation of the Republic of Karakalpakstan.

This work will entail joint cooperation with the Ministry of Water Resources, Ministry of Agriculture, State Forestry Committee and engagement of international expertise experience in preparation of comprehensive studies in similar areas, the experts of the local research originations will be also involved in the process of preparing the proposed studies. The research process will consider international experiences and best available practices and solutions using the innovative system thinking, while proposing mechanisms, and governance tools applicable to water management systems.

*Output 2.2 Ensure food security for youth and rural population by transforming innovative knowledge and skills in adopting efficient agriculture practices (UNDP, FAO)*

For this, comprehensive study of knowledge, skills, institutional and capacity gaps amongst dehkans, farmers, educational institutions and extension service centers on horticulture, crop diversification, fishery and livestock development will be done. Based on study findings, specific training topics will be identified for capacity building and focus areas for extension services. Capacities of the local farmers and nurserymen in commercial fruit tree propagation systems will be enhanced to increase the quality and quantity of the produced trees in the region.

Practical field trainings for 150 farmers on the best practices of the FAO initiatives in the region in introducing commercial fruit tree varieties that are more suitable for the Aral Sea region will be organized. Aquaculture sector in the region will be promoted to contribute to livelihoods of smallholders and domestic food security and nutrition. Delivery of the best practices and skills will be ensured to improve the fish value chain, including private sector marketing and processing of fish according to international standards, as well as food safety training on handling of fish for 150 stakeholders to improve access to international markets.

Knowledge products will be prepared for farmers and youth and capacity building will be facilitated on new crop varieties, as well as technologies for growing salt and drought resistant crops, including 10 field workshops on practices of conservation agriculture as well as 5 field workshops for 125 youth on water saving technologies.



Skills on livestock development opportunities of the rural population (with focus to youth and women) and farmers will be improved through developing knowledge materials and capacity building on cattle breeding and veterinary services, including 10 field workshops on practices of cattle feeding and nutrition components, forage preparation, artificial insemination, enhancing veterinary services on disease prevention and treatment for 150 youth, farmers and veterinarians. Capacity of at least 4 extension service centers in the horticulture, agriculture, fishery and livestock sector (water saving technologies, hotbed production, crop diversification, plant protection, seeds production, cattle breeding and veterinary services etc.) will be improved by conducting a series of workshops and providing educational materials.

*Output 2.3 Better job opportunities for rural youth by engaging them in agriculture sector (UNDP, FAO)*

*Project will assess the agriculture opportunities for youth, owners of the homestead lands and farmers in target districts.*

It will further create a platform for youth engagement by establishing youth cooperatives within small farm enterprises. Each cooperative will employ 25 young people in the agriculture sector. The project will provide equipment/machinery and enhance the capacities of the selected farms involved in the implementation of the youth cooperatives.

Technical support will be provided to the International Innovation Center under the President's Administration (based in Nukus) in order to establish a training facility for youth, farmers, rural population and other stakeholders on conservation agriculture practices (greenhouse 100-150 sq.m, drip irrigation/buried diffuser systems etc). The project will support the youth cooperatives to establish 3 demo plots (1.0 ha each) within farm enterprises through providing the necessary water saving technologies (drip irrigation/ buried diffuser systems on alternative energy) and other materials. Institutional infrastructure will be improved through technical support to at least 3 extension service centers in the horticulture, agriculture, fishery and livestock sector (water saving technologies, hotbed production, crop diversification, plant protection, seeds production, cattle breeding and veterinary services etc.) by providing necessary tools, equipment and technology.

*Output 2.4 Support vulnerable groups (with focus to youth and women) in self-employment through promoting innovative technologies in crop production, horticulture and aquaculture (UNDP).*

The project will conduct an assessment of the agriculture opportunities of the owners of the homestead lands/farmers in target districts. Based on that, the most vulnerable households will be selected and further involved to the homestead land production opportunities. Fifty selected rural households in the target districts will be supported to adopt the practices of conservation agriculture through providing the necessary water saving equipment and other materials (hotbeds 100 sq. m, drip irrigation sets etc.). Three fruit tree nurseries will be established by supporting farms, contributing as well to increased quality and quantity of the trees produced in the region. Other three farms will be supported to upgrade the existing fishery ponds, enhancing the livelihoods of smallholders and the domestic food security and nutrition. Three veterinary points will upgrade their tools and equipment with project support, to provide better veterinary services to the population and enhance the quality of the livestock.

***Objective 3. Better access to social infrastructure and community engagement with focus on youth, adolescent and women***

*Output 3.1 Empowered vulnerable remote communities through use of advanced digital technology (UNDP).*

UNDP will assess the levels of youth engagement in modern community digitalization, including at schools, colleges and youth centers. The assessment will provide evidences and results to facilitate the creation of favourable smart/digitized environment with modern IT classrooms, with Internet access. It will also help identify challenges in access to basic resources (water, electricity) in order for the Programme to provide targeted support to ensure that youth facilities are well equipped and prepared for youth to be educated and capacitated.

As rural communities have limited access to internet, the Programme will work with private mobile operators to ensure coverage of target communities with Internet using the optical-fiber cables. Joint cooperation is envisioned with Internet providers/mobile operators, Mininfocom and Programme supported through provision of internet cables, or installation of the Very Small Aperture Terminals (VSAT) in communities to ensure access to Internet (wifi). The experience of UNDP project from Philippines will be utilized on access of rural communities to free wifi. The Programme will work with Mininfocom on opportunities for cooperation and joining efforts and resources of the UNDP, the Government, mobile operators to ensure access to Internet.

Access to Internet will give more opportunities for all groups of the community: farmers can have access to various monitoring applications, and see market prices changes and then adjust their agro-planning accordingly; teachers and school children, especially while having distance learning education process, have better access to Internet education resources, materials, can use Zoom to communicate; and unemployed youth have more opportunities to get information about scholarships, access to education on-line resources, opportunities to apply for education grants and find employment opportunities via on-line job resources.

The Programme will organize trainings on computer literacy jointly with the Karakalpak Branch of the Tashkent University of Information Technologies to ensure increased knowledge of rural youth in computer literacy and technical digitalization of rural public organizations (schools, colleges, youth centers etc.) where Programme will equip the latter with computers, Internet, sensor screens, interactive panels, etc.

Jointly with the local experts special training materials will be tailored for selected groups; TOTs and Master classes will be conducted for local specialists by the professional IT experts of Karakalpak Branch of the Tashkent University of Information Technologies on web development tools with further creation of at least 3 websites for selected schools/colleges/youth centers and district departments for public education. The ICT materials for school children and beginners will be developed and disseminated.

Through creation of a community youth network/communication platform among the pilot districts the project will facilitate rural youth exchange of ideas, experiences and best practices. An on-line webdata will be created under the district Education and Youth department of Khokimiyats to help at least to 100 (20 per district) unemployed youth to find a job. All these measures would allow the communities have digitalized platforms and tools for self-development, access to new skills and on-line education resources, and have expanded job opportunities. As a result, youth of target districts will have access to digitized education facilities and better access to Internet.

*Output 3.2 Strengthened social cohesion through youth engagement in community planning, decision-making and rehabilitation process (UNDP).*

At the outset of the project, UNDP will analyze the state of affairs of rural youth in target communities creating “Youth” database, with detailed disaggregated data on gender, level of education, professions and employment status. These data will be crucial for targeted approach of the project, ensuring that “No one is left behind”.

These data will be further used for inclusive and participatory community mobilization workshops and development of community plans, ensuring young people actively participate in the local dialogue platforms. The Community Development Plans (CDPs) developed for each target community will, focus on the needs of the rural youth and will further serve as a community roadmap to assist rural youth in improving their communities. The CDP will be presented to the district administration to be approved and included to the district development planning. This approach/tool has been proven as an effective method in community planning and will be utilized for the needs of the rural youth.

Identifying various groups in community representation is important as this will ensure that not only elderly people have their voice in community decision making but also youth, women and migrants have their voices in identifying their priority needs. The statistical data collected and involvement of all population groups will allow that CDP develop will integrate their wills and proposals. Based on those priorities identified, the Programme will facilitate the community based project related to improvement of social infrastructure including rehabilitation and improvement of social/health/education facilities so that are more advanced and able to provide social services to communities using the digital technologies and innovations.

Implementation of social-infrastructure projects aimed at youth needs (school/ sports/ library/ recreation centers/ health-points/ water/electrification, etc.) will be conducted through the community youth engagement. This practical step will demonstrate the process of community development starting from the community mobilization/priority identification, implementation and final result of having improved conditions for the rural population with a special attention to the rural youth.

*Output 3.3 Strengthened community capacities and facilities to respond to the pandemic and ensure longer-term recovery.*

Through this output the project will support at least two selected schools identified based on the assessment made by UNICEF led UNICEF/UNODC/UNFPA Joint Programme “Investing in a resilient future of Karakalpakstan by harnessing the talents of youth and improving water, sanitation, hygiene and nutrition during and after COVID-19” among schools in target regions to improve their access to drinking water and sanitation and enhance SWASH facilities. This output will complement the efforts of the UNICEF led Joint Programme in order to ensure scalability and impact of the initiative on SWASH in target regions. This will allow to deliver as One UN by facilitating comprehensive approach in support to the enhanced awareness raising and equipping schools with proper WASH systems increasing the level of hygiene and protecting health of school children including girls in selected target districts. Those initiatives will be organized jointly with UNICEF led Joint Programme in close cooperation with the district departments of health, education department and community leaders.

Educational materials will be published and disseminated among the community members, school staff, youth centers and etc.

***Beneficiaries:***

Overall number of beneficiaries: The proposed Programme will benefit to 183.200 people from 3 northern districts (Muynak-30,900; Bozatau-21,500 and Kungrad-130,800 districts) of Karakalpakstan that are the most affected by the Aral Sea disaster. The specific focus will be given to youth (14-30 age group), women and vulnerable groups of people (disabled, women-headed families, labor migrants, unemployed youth, etc.)

Under Objective 1, the Programme envisions to cover over 1,472 direct beneficiaries comprised of rural youth and women. It includes expected youth beneficiaries on skill building (90 youth), youth under promoting start-up projects (12 youth/students), 10 young families and 36 women (together 120 people) who benefit from business initiatives and start-up projects. Besides, the UNFPA capacity-building sub-component will directly benefit 360 women from communities of the three districts by equipping them with skills to enhance their income opportunities, and 18 community leaders to enhance their skills to generate new entrepreneurship opportunities in their communities.

Under Objective 2, the Programme envisions covering more than 795 direct beneficiaries. The component will enhance the capacity of 300 women and youth on applying new agricultural practices, create job opportunities for 75 youth through establishing agricultural cooperatives, 3 demonstration plots (3 fruit tree nurseries, 3 fishery farms and 3 veterinary points) with total beneficiaries of 90 people and 30 rural women on self-employment. Additional, 300 beneficiaries will raise their awareness on modern agricultural technologies through supported extension service centers.

Under Objective 3, the program plans to cover 1,200 direct beneficiary youth through ICT capacity building courses, community digitalization initiatives and platforms, ICT infrastructure development and social infrastructure projects. This will cover students of senior grades from 6 schools (120 students), 300 youth from 15 communities, 600 schoolchildren from 3 schools.

To sum up, the proposed UNDP Joint Programme will benefit 3287 direct beneficiaries (including family members making it in total 10.407) throughout all 3 objective areas and 220 000 indirect beneficiaries representing the overall population of three target districts.

***Participation of local communities and/or civil society including Youth in decision-making processes, design, implementation and M&E.***

The project is intended specifically to involve youth in local decision-making process. For this purpose, it is planned to organize capacity building for rural youth in local planning, resource management, Human Security approach, localization of Sustainable Development Goals, etc.

Enhancing the capacities of youth and communities to collect, analyze and use a range of data relevant to youth and gender responsive decision-making through promoting Community Development Planning will be in the core of the proposed project.

Through the Ministry for Support of Makhalla and Family and Youth Agency, the rural youth will be engaged in designing of new project proposals for submission to be funded by the government and non-government foundations that are aimed to the creation of new work places in the remote locations.

The project will facilitate engagement of rural youth in conducting monitoring the process of implementation of social infrastructure projects aimed to improving rural facilities that are identified and prioritized by the local youth.

### **Mainstreaming of gender and women's empowerment**

The proposed project will have gender mainstreaming considerations as one of the interconnected and cross cutting development aspects, especially in the context of strengthened Government focus and prioritization towards gender equality. The Programme will be in line with the **“Development Strategy of Uzbekistan for 2017–2021”** identifying the priorities for increasing the socio-political activity of women, strengthening their role in government and society, increasing economic independence and ensuring the employment of women and young people, especially those living in rural areas.

In addition, the Programme will consider two laws on **“Guarantees of equal rights and opportunities for men and women”** and **on “Protection of Women from Harassment and Violence”** approved in September 2019 by the Government.

The Programme envisions to empower women lead activities by building and enhancing their skills in family business/entrepreneurship management, through rebuilding their confidence and supporting them by psychological training.

The project will have strong gender focus, with two-pronged focus on women's empowerment: (i) on enhancing women's role in decision making at local level, and (ii) on innovative pilot initiatives specifically targeting rural women. This will be done as follows:

- Enhancing women's role in decision making through capacity building and by improving women's access to public and municipal services (including access to water).
- Identifying women in difficult social-economic situation, encouraging them to participate in the training program to promote their self-confidence, and capacitate them to consider new income opportunities by opening family and individual entrepreneurship;
- Jointly with the Ministry for support of makhalla and family and BWA co-funding income generation project proposals among the trained rural women/youth who are willing to start their own business and showcase the successes for upscale.
- Job creation activities are gender-sensitive, which means active involvement and participation of women throughout its implementation. In terms of the overall implementation of the activity and its monitoring, gender equality will figure at all stages of the project implementation (to ensure gender sensitive policies and action plans), monitoring and evaluation.
- One of the criteria for the selection of the trainees and trainers for the capacity-building activities will be the gender balance. Therefore, the activity will contribute to improving women's livelihoods. In addition, women experts and specialists will be involved in the implementation of the activities conducted within the activity.

Gender balance will be equally supported within the project. Taking into consideration the specifics of local situations and availability of jobs as well as activeness of young women and girls, the project will conduct women empowerment activities and facilitate their engagement in the community activities at the same level as men as much as it will be possible.

The first Objective will focus on training and stimulating entrepreneurship among vulnerable women; specifically, it will directly benefit 360 women through trainings, and indirectly additional 360 women through trained community leaders.

Under the Component 2, 30 women will get self-employment opportunities through support of the Programme, while within the Component 3 the rural women/youth will be primarily benefiting from the improved social infrastructures.

### ***Sustainability of the Programme results***

#### **The following activities will ensure the Programme sustainability:**

The Programme will be implemented in close partnership with the Ministry for Economic Development and Poverty Reduction, Ministry for Support of Makhalla and Family and other state partners and in accordance with the State Programmes aligned to the Aral Sea region. Within the first objective the Programme will create an innovative youth platform for generation of new ideas, self-development, exchange of ideas and identifying new project ideas to establish new business projects and startups. By this, the knowledge that Programme will deliver to youth will be transformed into new business initiatives, thereby forming a new generation of youth that is capable to grow and sustain in the ever evolving business environment.

The sustainability of the second objective will be facilitated through better knowledge of youth, women and communities to adapt new practices so this will be definitely applied and replicated if practices are successful. Under this component the work with relevant national organizations responsible for facilitation of the agro-processing development will be organized to ensure that established demo-plots, or agro enterprises created are fully integrated into the local economic system and make contribution to the region's economic development.

Participatory and inclusive approaches in needs prioritization at community levels within the third objective will ensure that voices of all layers of the communities are heard, including youth and women, and that no one is left behind. The CDPs developed in this way will be proposed for integration into the district development plans and to link with the state budget allocations for the target communities.

The Programme will develop Monitoring Matrix with indicators for each activities of the community development plans. Along with the Youth Agency the project will conduct M&E trainings and joint monitoring over the planned activities. Further the ownership over the M&E will be handed over to the Youth Agency, who by the period of completion of the project will be fully capable to continue this activity.

### ***Strengthening national capacities, institutions and support to local actors***

The comprehensive approach that covers main spheres of Human Security Concept is divided into three components of the proposed project. Each component ensures capacity building of their relevant state

partners. The first component of the Programme will facilitate building capacity of relevant ministers and staff of mono centres to better promote active labour force facilitation and employment generation, professional skills delivery. The second objective will build the capacities of local farmers including youth and women on the best agro-processing practices and best technologies and solutions, crop diversification, fishery production tips and benefits, tree planning peculiarities, etc. The third objective will work with youth and women to train them how to use advanced digital technologies and how those technologies may be beneficial to improve their lives and get jobs.

Overall, national partners' capacities will be strengthened through:

- Providing practical support, demonstration of new approaches in poverty reduction through implementation of effective technologies;
- Enhancing of skills of local authorities in effective implementation of modern approaches in community development;
- Creation of enabling environment for further snowballing of the project activities through attracting additional resources.

Capacity building activities of the Programme will be strengthened by providing practical assistance within each component's framework. Combination of these elements and empowerment will ensure positive results in strengthening both technical and intellectual capacities of the national partners.

### ***Cost Efficiency and Effectiveness***

For efficiency purposes, the existing organigram of the ongoing UNDP-UNESCO Joint Project "Addressing the urgent human insecurities in the Aral Sea region through promoting sustainable rural development" (funded by the MPHSTF) will be maintained for the implementation of the proposed project.

The project implementation will be carried out by the UNDP project team in Nukus, jointly with the involvement of the experts of UNFPA and FAO, which possess relevant knowledge and expertise in delivering results at community level. Based on the accumulated best-practices from the two phases of the UN Joint Programme in Karakalpakstan as well as ongoing two joint projects lead by UNDP jointly with UNFPA and UNESCO, the project implementers (UNDP, UNFPA, FAO) have generated proven experience in joint implementation of income generation and social infrastructure projects in the region jointly with government institutions and communities based on cost-sharing modality via Community Development Planning integration mechanism that could be expanded within the proposed project.

This would help enormously to efficiently implement the proposed interventions, ensure their sustainability and mitigate relevant risks. Water supply projects in the rural communities will be implemented jointly with the "Tuyamuyun" State Unitary Enterprise within the Ministry of Housing and Communal Services on cost-sharing modality, where the "Tuyamuyun" State Unitary Enterprise will allocate funds from the State Programme for 2019- 2020, therefore increasing the efficiency of the project.

Moreover, community projects will be implemented jointly with local communities through involving their existing financial and human resources. In the process of selecting projects, the project will closely collaborate and coordinate with the Local Government Partners such as the Council of Ministers of Karakalpakstan, Ministry of Economic Development and Poverty Reduction, Ministry for Support



of Mahalla and Family, Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and NGOs Business Women Association and other stakeholder to ensure their support and avoid duplications and fragmented approaches.

The expertise of each participating agency will be used in order to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the project activities. For instance, while UNDP will be working in selection target communities and households for project support, the UNFPA and FAO will be providing necessary capacity building activities for the same target groups, thereby increasing the value-added and benefit for the local population

#### 4. Results Framework

Table 1. Logical Framework

<b>Title of the Programme:</b>	Unleashing young people's and vulnerable citizens' creativity and innovation by strengthening their adaptive capacity to address the economic and food insecurities in the exposed communities of the Aral Sea region									
<b>UNDAF Priority Area</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- UNDAF Outcome 1: equitable and sustainable economic growth through productive employment, improvement of environment for business, entrepreneurship and innovations expanded for all;</li><li>- UNDAF Outcome 2: By 2020 vulnerable groups benefit more from inclusive, financially sustainable and efficient social protection system</li><li>- UNDAF Outcome 6: rural population benefit from sustainable management of natural resources and resilience to disasters and climate change.</li></ul>									
<b>Relevant National SDG(s)</b>	SDG 1. No Poverty; SDG 2. Zero Hunger; SDG 3. Good Health and Well-being; SDG 5. Gender Equality; SDG 6. Clean Water and Sanitation; SDG 8. Decent Work and Economic Growth; SDG 9. Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure; SDG 11. Sustainable cities and communities SDG 15. Life on land.									
<b>Expected Results (Outcomes &amp; outputs)</b>	<b>Indicators</b>								<b>Means of verification/ Frequency</b>	<b>Responsibilities (PUNOs and national partners)</b>
	<b>Indicator description</b>	<b>Baseline</b>		<b>Targets (cumulative)</b>						
		<b>Value</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Year 1</b>		<b>Year 2</b>		<b>Year 3</b>		
				<b>S1</b>	<b>S2</b>	<b>S1</b>	<b>S2</b>	<b>S1</b>		
<b>Programme outcomes</b>	Contribution to the MPHSTF outcomes Programme Outcome 1 to MPHSTF Outcome 2. The employment and income generation opportunities for local communities increased Programme Outcome 2 to MPHSTF Outcome 1. The stress on local communities due to the deteriorating environmental situation reduced and Outcome 3. Local community access to affordable and healthy food and clean drinking water secured Programme Outcome 3 to MPHSTF Outcome 2. The employment and income generation opportunities for local communities increased, Outcome 3. Local community access to affordable and healthy food and clean drinking water secured, Outcome 5. The living conditions of local populations improved, with particular focus on vulnerable groups such as women, children and youth									

<b>Outcome. 1: Reduce the vulnerabilities of unemployed, unskilled youth and women and returning migrants through the empowerment and promotion of essential entrepreneurial skills, and youth-led innovations in the region (UNDP, UNFPA)</b>	# of youth (disaggregated by sex) strengthened their skills through access to professional education centers/points and engaged in entrepreneurship activities	N/A	2019	0	0	500	700	1000	Programme training reports/analytical report	UNDP, MoELR, Youth Agency, local khokimiyats
<b>Programme outputs</b>	<p>Programme Outcome 1, Output 1.1 and 1.2 to MPHSTF Outcome 2, Output 5. Skills and knowledge of local communities to participate in new industries are to become entrepreneurs, as well as, adaptability to new work conditions for employability are improved</p> <p>Programme Outcome 1, Output 1.3 to MPHSTF Outcome 2, Output 4. New income opportunities in sectors adjusted to local conditions (e.g. agriculture, ethno-tourism, infrastructure and housing construction, service industry) are created</p>									
<b>Output 1.1.</b> Mono-vocational training centers are capacitated and have tools to provide professional trainings to unemployed youth, women and migrants on the jobs demanded in the local market.	# of youth equipped with necessary technical skills have prepared	37	2019	6	18	36	54	90	Programme/training/analytical reports	UNDP, MoELR, Youth Agency
	# of youth employed (informal/formal);	54	2019	3	10	18	30	50	National statistics/analytical reports	
	# of skill building platforms enhanced their professional portfolio.	0	2019	0	1	1	2	3	Programme/ MoELP/ analytical reporting	
<b>Output 1.2.</b> Enabling environment for youth entrepreneurship development created through establishing new businesses and start-up initiatives using innovative and impact-based technologies and solutions.	# of youth enhanced their skills through mentorship and start-up initiatives;	50	2019	0	10	20	30	60	Programme MoELP/Youth Agency/training reporting/Quarterly/semiannual progress reports	UNDP, MoELR, Youth Agency, Ministry of Higher and Secondary-Specialized Education, CCI
	# of youth led innovation club established;	0	0	0	0	0	1	1		
	# of start-up projects developed;	0		0	0	0	1	3		
	# of knowledge based jobs created	0	2019	0	0	0	3	9		
<b>Output 1.3.</b> Home based, family and individual entrepreneurship initiatives supported to provide additional opportunities to the most vulnerable.	# of women enhanced their knowledge on home based entrepreneurship;	235	2019	0	120	180	240	360	Project reports, pre-post assessment reports of trainings, registration records of established business entities	UNDP, UNFPA, Ministry of Mahalla and Family Affairs, CCI
	# of family based and individual entrepreneurship established;	27	2019	0	0	0	5	10		
	#of community leaders trained in business facilitation skills;	0	2019	0	6	6	12	18		

<b>Outcome 2: Create an enabling environment for income generation for rural communities (with focus to youth and women) through promoting innovative agriculture practices and piloting new agriculture initiatives (FAO, UNDP)</b>	# of households have increased their income generation opportunities through adaptation of innovative technologies agricultural practices	N/A	2019	0	25	25	50	200	Programme training reports/analytical report	UNDP, FAO, Youth Agency, Ministry of Agriculture
<b>Programme outputs</b>	Programme Outcome 2, Output 2.1 to MPHSTF Outcome 1, Output 1. Local management practices and knowledge of ecosystem services are improved  Programme Outcome 2, Output 2.2, to MPHSTF Outcome 1, Output 2. New technologies in the area of water purification, agroforestry, afforestation, and soil stabilization are piloted;  Programme Outcome 2, Output 2.3, 2.4 to MPHSTF Outcome 3, Output 8. Local production, processing, storage and sale of diverse, affordable and high-quality food is increased.									
<b>Output 2.1</b> Produce evidence-based research on environmental protection of Aral Sea region fostering innovative solutions to rehabilitate and upgrade the existing irrigation system and agricultural land restoration.	# of research work conducted;	1	2019 (Monitoring Dried Bed of the Aral Sea)	0	1	1	1	1	TOR and Research Plan Research Reports	UNDP, Ministry of Investment and Foreign Trade of the Republic of Uzbekistan/Karakalpakstan, Ministry of Water Resources, Ministry of Agriculture, Karakalpakstan State Forestry Committee
	# of round tables organized;	0		0	1	1	2	2	Round Table Report	
	# of research reports (summary and full reports) printed;	0		0	50	100	150	300	Contracts with printing company; Published Research Reports	
<b>Output 2.2</b> Ensure food security for youth and rural population by transforming innovative knowledge and skills in adopting efficient agriculture practices (UNDP, FAO)	# of capacity building activities delivered	55 <sup>1</sup>	2019	0	5	7	10	15	Training Reports Monitoring visits	UNDP, FAO, International Innovation Center in Aral Sea Region (IICASR), Karakalpakstan Ministry of Agriculture, Nukus Branch of Tashkent Agrarian University, Kegeyli Branch of Horticulture and Greenhouses
	# of people improved knowledge and skills in horticulture	TBD <sup>2</sup>	2019	0	50	100	100	150	Extension Service Center registration documents	
	# of people improved knowledge and skills in aquaculture	TBD <sup>3</sup>	2019	0	50	100	100	150	Progress Annual and Quarterly Progress Reports	
	# of people improved knowledge and skills in conservation agriculture practices	TBD <sup>4</sup>	2019	0	50	100	100	150		

	# of people adopted new practices on water saving technologies, hotbed production	5904 <sup>5</sup>	2019	0	25	25	50	75		Development Agency named after M. Mirzaev, Joint Stock Company "Karakalpak Baliq", fishery organizations, etc.
	# of extension service centers representatives enhanced their capacity in providing extension services	10	2019	0	6	12	24	36		
	# of fruit tree nursery established	3 <sup>9</sup>	2019	0	0	1	1	2		
	# of fishery ponds established	0	2019	0	0	1	1	2		
<b>Output 2.3</b> Better job opportunities for rural youth by engaging them in agriculture sector.	# of youth cooperatives established;	10 (pasture cooperatives)	2019	0	0	0	1	2	Cooperative registration documents	UNDP, FAO, Ministry of Employment and Labour Relations (MELR), District khokimiyats, Youth Agency, Council of Farmers, IICASR
	# of youth engaged in agriculture through the employment scheme;	47,830 <sup>6</sup>	2019	0	0	25	50	75	Monitoring visits, Progress	
	# of households improved income generation opportunities;	0	2019	0	0	25	50	75	Annual and Quarterly Progress Reports	
	# of farm enterprises improved technical capacities;	0	2019	0	0	1	2	3	MOUs and transfer acts with beneficiaries	
<b>Output 2.4</b> Support vulnerable groups (with focus to youth and women) in self-employment through promoting innovative technologies in crop production, horticulture and aquaculture.	# of women improved capacities in agriculture;	3182 <sup>7</sup>	2019	0	0	20	40	60	Training Reports	UNDP, FAO, Ministry of Mahalla and Family, Youth Agency, Council of Farmers
	# of women engaged in homestead land production;	3 <sup>8</sup>	2019	0	0	20	40	60	Monitoring visits	
	# households improved income generation opportunities	3	2019	0	0	5	10	15	MOUs and transfer acts with beneficiaries	
<b>Outcome 3: Enable the development of smart communities through digitalization, better access to social infrastructure and community engagement with focus on youth (UNDP).</b>	# of rural internet users have access to digitalization tools	N/A	2019	0	0	200	400	600	Progress Reports	UNDP, Ministry of Mahalla and Family, Youth Agency
	# of population has increased access social services (drinking water, renovation of health care	N/A	2019	0	0	200	400	600	MOUs and transfer acts with beneficiaries	UNDP, Ministry of Mahalla and Family, Youth Agency

	facilities and electrification) in target communities									
<b>Programme outputs</b>	Programme Output 3.1, 3.2 to MPHSTF Outcome 2, Output 6. Investments in local infrastructure serving local communities (e.g. energy, access roads, service industry, banking) are increased Programme Output 3.3 to MPHSTF Outcome 3, Output 7. Local infrastructure investments for access and distribution of clean water are increased									
<b>Output 3.1</b> Empowered vulnerable remote communities through use of advanced digital technology.	# of public organizations	0	2019	1	1	3	3	3	Progress Annual and Quarterly Progress Reports	UNDP
	# of trained specialists	0	2019-20	18	18	18	18	18	Training Reports	
	# of schools connected to Internet	0	2019-20	3	3	3	3	3	Visit reports	
<b>Output 3.2</b> Strengthened social cohesion through youth engagement in community planning, decision-making and rehabilitation process.	# of trained young people	860	2019-20	30	30	60	60	60	Training Reports	UNDP
	# of conducted workshops	36	2019-20	3	3	6	6	6	Training consultant report	
	# of CDPs	36	2019-20	3	3	6	6	6	Number of CDP	
	# of social projects	36	2019-20	2	2	3	3	3	Transfer acts with beneficiaries	
<b>Output 3.3</b> Strengthened community capacities and facilities to respond to the pandemic and ensure longer-term recovery in cooperation with UNICEF led Joint Programme.	# of trained school children on WASH	0	2019	100	100	200	200	200	Training report	UNDP/UNICEF
	# of schools provided with drinking water	8	2019	1	1	2	2	2	Visit reports	

<sup>1</sup>Output 2.2, 55 demonstration meetings and workshops focused on climate change adaptation and on increasing climate change resilience held with participation of 6,948 people (23% female) from the target local communities. Source: UNDP/Adaptation Fund Project in Karakalpakstan

<sup>2</sup>TBD – # of people improved knowledge and skills in horticulture will be determined from FAO based on ongoing regional project reports.

<sup>3</sup>TBD – same as above;

<sup>4</sup>TBD – same as above;

<sup>5</sup>5,904 people (26.4 % of which are women) dehkans, farmers, pastoralists and representatives of local communities (51,208 people) served by the 3 Extension Services Centers with consultations on innovative and climate resilient agro conservation and water saving practices. Source: UNDP/Adaptation Fund Project in Karakalpakstan

<sup>6</sup>47,830 - This is the total number of pasture cooperative members who overall benefitted from 10 cooperatives established. Source: UNDP/Adaptation Fund Project in Karakalpakstan. In case of this proposal action, it is envisioned to provide seasonal job opportunities for 125 rural youth under 3 cooperatives.

<sup>7</sup> Direct stakeholders are 9,642 (3182 women) stakeholders adopted and benefited from: use zero tillage and crops residue retention at soil, mulching, water sorbent use, bio-protection of crops and improvement of land fertility, fodder production as well agro-technical mechanisms

<sup>8</sup>3 woman-led hotbeds established at household plots and school in Kanlikol, Chimbay and Takhtakupir pilot districts.

<sup>9</sup>3 fruit tree nurseries in Beruniy and Kegeyli districts established under FAO project entitled “Integrated natural resources management in drought-prone and salt-affected agricultural production landscapes in Central Asia and Turkey (‘CACILM2’). Source: FAO Uzbekistan Representative Office.



## **5. Management and Coordination Arrangements**

In the proposed project the Project Steering Committee will be established to effectively coordinate project activities with all partners. The Project Steering Committee will serve as a mechanism for review, analysis and taking necessary decision and actions in the course of the project implementation. The Project Steering Committee members will include local stakeholders, civil society and public organizations, participating UN agencies (UNDP, UNFPA, FAO), relevant government departments (Ministry of Economy and Poverty Reduction of Uzbekistan, Council of Ministers of Karakalpakstan), as well as other international partners of the Project. The Project Steering Committee decisions will be made in accordance to standards that shall ensure management for development results, best value money, fairness, integrity and transparency. This Committee will ensure that required resources are committed and will arbitrate on any conflicts within the project or negotiate a solution to any problems between the projects and external bodies. The Project Steering Committee will be meeting on a regular basis at least twice a year.

The proposed project will be administered by UNDP jointly with the Ministry of Economic development and poverty reduction of Uzbekistan and the Council of Ministers of Karakalpakstan. Close coordination with the national government (key ministries and institutions) will ensure alignment with strategic priorities and timely feedback on the course of the project implementation.

While the Project Steering Committee will be held in Tashkent, the project will be implemented by the Project team to be based in Nukus (administrative centre of the Republic of Karakalpakstan), and supported/supervised by the UNDP CO. The responsibility of the daily monitoring of implementation of the project will lay with the Project Manager and implementation team.

For efficiency purposes, the existing organigram of the ongoing UNDP-UNESCO Joint Project “Addressing the urgent human insecurities in the Aral Sea region through promoting sustainable rural development” (funded by the MPHSTF) is maintained, with the majority of the project team to be located in Nukus office, while PR Specialist and Procurement Assistant are to be based in Tashkent. For the day-to-day implementation of proposed project, 3 Specialists will be deployed in addition to the existing Organigram of the ongoing UNDP-UNESCO Joint Project.

The Strategic and management support will be provided to the Project Manager and teams of the respective UN agencies’ offices in Tashkent. The participating UN Agencies (UNDP, FAO, UNFPA) will also assign respective focal points in order to ensure smooth and constant communication and joint work to deliver the expected project results.

The Project Manager stationed in Nukus will be responsible for the overall project coordination, with focus on monitoring of project implementation and reporting, dialogue with national and regional authorities, NGOs, as well as on resource mobilization. The Project team in Nukus will be tasked with on-the ground implementation of the planned activities, including close dialogue with communities, regional authorities and other stakeholders involved in the project implementation, and support the Project Manager in monitoring progress.

The project progress reports will be consolidated by the leading agency of the Programme implementation (UNDP) based on the inputs from all participating agencies and project team.

### ***Stakeholders engagement in project development and implementation***

The process of proposal development was inclusive and consultative. The following Ministries have been engaged into this consultative process:

1. Ministry of Economic Development and Poverty Reduction of Uzbekistan
2. Ministry of Investment and Foreign Trade of Uzbekistan

3. Council of Ministers of the Republic of Karakalpakstan
4. Ministry of Employment and Labour Relations in Karakalpakstan
5. Ministry of Health of Karakalpakstan
6. Ministry of Water Resources of Uzbekistan
7. International Innovation Centre of Aral Region under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan
8. Ministry for Support of Mahalla and Family
9. Council of Farmers of Karakalpakstan
10. District Khokimiyats
11. Youth Agency
12. Academic institutions
13. Local mobile operators
14. FAO
15. UNFPA

Specifically, during the discussions with Ministry of Employment and Labor Relations, the Ministry assured with the full support and confirmed that proposed activities are in line with the Government reform agenda especially in the area of employment and youth support.

The senior officials of the Youth Agency of Karakalpakstan, the Ministry for Support of Mahalla and Family of Karakalpakstan as well as the management of the Tashkent Information Technology University, Nukus branch were consulted on the proposed interventions. Overall, capitalizing on the support and inputs of national partners, proposed Programme document has been developed in line with UN MPHSTF strategy and outlines key directions including youth and innovations.

The proposed Programme will also engage national and regional authorities and institutions, local communities, and mahalla/community members. The Programme puts a strong focus on community engagement, training and bottom up empowerment tools, which will contribute to improved user interaction and ownership by local communities and key stakeholders and further promote the sustainability of the Programme in the long-term.

During the implementation phase of the Programme close interactions and coordination will be made with national and international partners active in the region to ensure better coordination and increase of efficiency of results of all actors working in the Aral Sea region.

During the Programme implementation a Stakeholder engagement plan will be elaborated as a part of the Partnership strategy developed for the Programme.

The key partner of the project is the Ministry of Economic Development and Poverty Reduction of the Republic of Uzbekistan, which is a public administrative body that develops and implements long-term strategies and comprehensive programmes on economic development of the country, pursuing well-thought and balanced socio-economic policy. It works on ensuring macroeconomic stability, sustainable, balanced and dynamic economic development, creation of jobs, strengthening targeted social protection, sustainable and steady growth of living standards and development of social infrastructure. The Ministry ensures balanced and integrated economic development of the regions of the country, optimal and efficient development and distribution of productive forces on the territory of the republic. The Ministry will coordinate the project activities at national level.

Another key partner is the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Karakalpakstan, which is the Supreme executive authority of the Republic of Karakalpakstan - the region that most suffers from the Aral Sea crisis. The structure of the Council of Ministers of Karakalpakstan includes the Chairman, Vice-Chairmen, ministers, chairmen of state committees, heads of large state owned enterprises and associations. The

Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Karakalpakstan is the member of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan. The Council of Ministers works on maintaining law, order and security of citizens in the region; the economic, social and cultural development of the territories; formation and implementation of the local budget, establishment of local taxes and fees, formation of extra-budgetary funds. The Council of Ministers will coordinate the project activities at the regional level.

The Ministry of Labour and Employment, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry for Support of Makhalla and Family of Karakalpakstan, Karakalpakstan Board of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Business Women Association, Youth Agency are the project partners in supporting youth employment and household income generation initiatives. The representatives of these institutions will be engaged in the project activities and will be part of project review committee to select priority income generation projects developed by the youth of the region.

The Ministry of Housing and Communal Services in Karakalpakstan is the main partner in implementing drinking water supply projects. The project will further enhance partnership with the Ministry through joint implementation of clean drinking water supply projects in remote communities. On the community levels, the direct partner during the construction phase is the Village Council of Citizens (VCC), the district Municipalities, the district Water supply departments.

Three Ministries of Water Resources, Ministry of Agriculture and the State Forestry Committee of Uzbekistan will be involved to facilitate the work on preparing the research base including three studies on irrigation and water management systems in the Aral Sea region.

International Innovation Center in the Aral Sea Region will be involved in program capacity building activities on water saving technologies and establishment of training facility on conservation of agriculture practices.

In addition, other relevant ministries and Khokimyats of the target districts of Karakalpakstan will be involved in the implementation of the proposed project activities.

### ***Partnership with development partners***

The project will develop its partnership strategy focusing on the wide range of development partners present in the country as well as those abroad. On agricultural practices, the project will work closely with FAO and GIZ to promote new innovative solutions in agriculture, to support farming in applying new creation agro methods to create jobs and income-generating opportunities, particularly in disadvantaged regions. MASHAV – Israel Development Agency will be fully engaged in support to provision of expertise and capacity building of local community members on various issues including agricultural practices, crop production, water management and etc., as Israel is one of the advance countries in managing work in drought areas. Knowledge transfer will be conducted through exchange visits of agricultural producers, agronomists and expert on tourism development from other region of Uzbekistan to ensure that the best and successful practices are replicated and new ideas on promoting income generation opportunities, agriculture practices are obtained. Partnership with the European Commission (EC) will be established taking into account UNDP's successful past experience in implementing area based development initiatives, specifically community development, income generation, employment creation and facilitation of development of small businesses in rural areas.

## **6. Fund Management Arrangements**

The proposed project will be implemented under the pass-through funding modality. UNDP will be the lead/convening agency in implementing this project. Therefore, UNDP will be responsible for consolidating Narrative reports and submitting them to the MPHSTF Secretariat and UNDP MPTF Office.

Each Participating UN Organization will establish a separate ledger account under its financial regulations and rules for the receipt and administration of the funds disbursed to it by the Administrative Agent from the Fund Account. That separate ledger account will be administered by each Participating UN Organization in accordance with its own regulations, rules, policies and procedures, including those relating to interest.

Each Participating UN Organization will use the funds disbursed to it by the Administrative Agent from the Fund Account to carry out the activities for which it is responsible as set out in the approved programmatic document, as well as for its indirect costs.

The implementation of the project activities will be the responsibility of the Participating UN Organizations and will be carried out by each Participating UN Organization in accordance with its own applicable regulations, rules, policies and procedures including those relating to procurement as well as the selection and assessment of implementing partners. Accordingly, personnel will be engaged and administered, equipment, supplies and services purchased, and contracts entered into in accordance with the provisions of such regulations, rules, policies and procedures.

Ownership of equipment and supplies procured, and intellectual property rights associated with works produced, using funds transferred to the Participating UN Organisations under the Memorandum of Understanding between the PUNOs and UNDP MPTF Office on operational aspects of the MPHSTF will be determined in accordance with the regulations, rules, policies and procedures applicable to such Participating UN Organizations, including any agreement with the relevant Host Government, if applicable.

Where a Participating UN Organization wishes to carry out its Fund activities through or in collaboration with a third party, it will be responsible for discharging all commitments and obligations with such third parties, and no other Participating UN Organization, nor the Administrative Agent, will be responsible for doing so.

Within the proposed project, there is no plan for the transfer of cash to the national implementing partners.

## ***7. Arrangements for Monitoring, Reporting and Evaluation***

Project monitoring and evaluation will be regularly conducted in accordance with the established procedures of UNDP, UNFPA and FAO, and will be ensured by these UN agencies. Regular progress review will be conducted by the relevant project staff, and quality assurance will be conducted by the UNDP CO. Regular meetings with local and national partners will be held in order to discuss the progress of the Project, identify risks, challenges and opportunities and find necessary solutions.

The overall development of the M&E system for the project will take into account the specific recommendations documented based on the results of the Mid-Term and Final evaluations of the first and second phase of UN Joint Programme in Karakalpakstan.

### ***Methodologies for monitoring and reporting of the key outcomes of the project/Programme***

To monitor the progress of the project, a baseline (quantitative and qualitative indicators) established and documented in this project proposal will be regularly assessed in order to document the progress, and deploy corrective measures as might be applicable in consultation with the Project Board. At the end of the project,

an impact assessment will be carried out to assess the effectiveness and impact of project to improve the livelihoods of the target population in the region.

The project will also work with the MPHSTF Technical Secretariat in the process of monitoring of the results achieved. The baseline and the impact assessment will be combined in an analytical study provided to the MPHSTF on the 'before' and 'after' results of the MPHSTF investment and in order to draw lessons for similar cases. UNDP, UNFPA and FAO will ensure that their internal and component specific monitoring systems are aligned with the endorsed M&E plan.

The results of the monitoring will be brought to the attention of the Project Board, which serves as a mechanism for review, analysis and taking necessary decision and actions in the course of the project. UNDP, UNFPA and FAO will facilitate the process of the field monitoring jointly with national partners through visits to the project sites, meeting with beneficiaries and getting direct feedback on the progress and results of the project. Such feedback mechanism is designed to improve the relevance and effectiveness of project interventions.

The day-to-day technical and financial monitoring of the implementation of the project will be a continuous process, and part of the implementing partner's responsibilities. To this aim, the project shall establish a permanent internal, technical and financial monitoring system and elaborate regular progress reports (not less than annual) and final reports. Every report shall provide an accurate account of implementation of the project activities, difficulties encountered, changes introduced, as well as the degree of achievement of its results (outputs and direct outcomes) as measured by corresponding indicators, using as reference the Logical Framework matrix (for project modality) or the partner's strategy, policy or reform action plan list (for budget support).

#### ***Estimated allocation of resources for M&E.***

The proposed project has allocated in total US \$ 50,000 for M&E activities, including the costs of one project staff on M&E, and regular monitoring visits

#### ***Annual/Regular reviews:***

The project team will regularly report to the Project Board, which will review the project progress and will ensure effective coordination of the project activities with all partners, and will provide strategic guidance to the project.

#### ***Project Evaluations:***

The proposed project is for 30 months, therefore in line with the UN regulations on M&E, there is no final evaluation planned for this project. Therefore, the results measurement related to the effectiveness, efficiency and timeliness of the project implementation will be covered by the project internal monitoring system through the periodic impact analysis.

The Steering Committee and/or Participating UN Organizations will recommend a joint evaluation if there is a need for a broad assessment of results at the level of the Fund or at the level of an outcome within the Fund. The joint evaluation report will be posted on the website of the Administrative Agent (<http://mptf.undp.org/>).

#### ***Reporting:***

Project reporting will be conducted in line with the reporting requirements of the UN MPHSTF for the Aral Sea Region within the timeframes indicated in the MOU between the Participating UN Organizations and UNDP MPTF Office as follows:

#### ***Financial Reports***

1. Each Participating UN Organization will provide the Administrative Agent with the following financial statements and reports prepared in accordance with the accounting and reporting procedures applicable to the Participating UN Organization concerned, as set forth in the TOR. The Participating UN Organizations will endeavour to harmonize their reporting formats to the extent possible.

- (a) Annual financial report as of 31 December with respect to the funds disbursed to it from the Fund Account, to be provided no later than four (4) months (30 April) after the end of the calendar year; and
- (b) Certified final financial statements and final financial reports after the completion of the activities in the approved programmatic document, including the final year of the activities in the approved programmatic document, to be provided no later than five (5) months (31 May) after the end of the calendar year in which the financial closure of the activities in the approved programmatic document occurs, or according to the time period specified in the financial regulations and rules of the Participating UN Organization, whichever is earlier.

### ***Narrative Reports***

2. UNDP as the lead agency will provide the Administrative Agent and MPHSTF Technical Secretariat with the following narrative reports prepared in accordance with the reporting procedures applicable to the Participating UN Organization concerned, as set forth in the TOR. The Participating UN Organizations will endeavour to harmonize their reporting formats to the extent possible.

- (a) Annual narrative progress reports, to be provided no later than three (3) months (31 March) after the end of the calendar year; and
- (b) Final narrative reports, after the completion of the activities in the approved programmatic document, including the final year of the activities in the approved programmatic document, to be provided no later than four months (30 April) after the end of the calendar year in which the operational closure of the activities in the approved programmatic document occurs.

UNDP as the lead agency will be responsible for preparation and submission of consolidated financial and narrative reports to the MPHSTF Technical Secretariat and Administrative Agent. The annual and final reports will be results-oriented and evidence based. Annual and final narrative reports will compare actual results with expected results at the output and outcome level, and explain the reasons for over or underachievement. The final narrative report will also contain an analysis of how the outputs and outcomes have contributed to the overall impact of the Fund. The financial reports will provide information on the use of financial resources against the outputs and outcomes in the agreed results framework.

## **8. Legal Context or Basis of Relationship**

### ***Basis of Relationship***

Participating UN organization	Agreement
UNDP	In accordance with the Certificate of Accreditation (# 024) issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan, dated on April 14, 1999 (Registration # 024).

	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the United Nations Development Program dated June 10, 1993 (entered into force on April 7, 2005)
FAO	<p>In accordance with the Certificate of Accreditation (# 026) issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated December 15, 2014 (Registration # 026).</p> <p>Membership agreement between the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) dated November 2, 2001.</p> <p>Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) for Establishment of the FAO Representation in the Republic of Uzbekistan dated June 5, 2014.</p>
UNFPA	<p>UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund, is an international development agency that promotes the right of every woman, man and child to enjoy a life of health and equal opportunity.</p> <p>UNFPA established its Country Office in Uzbekistan in 1993. The Fund is currently implementing its fourth Country Programme 2016-2020, with a focus on promoting reproductive health and rights; ensuring full implementation of women's and men's rights, opportunities, and responsibilities; and advancing national capacities in using population data for development Programmes.</p>

In November 2018 - five UN Agencies (UNDP, UNFPA, UNESCO, UNICEF, UNODC) signed the Memorandum of Understanding with the UNDP MPTF Office on operational aspects of the MPHSTF, which marked the official establishment of the MPHSTF for the Aral Sea region in Uzbekistan. UNDP and UNESCO are considered Participating UN Organizations to this newly established MPHSTF for Aral Sea Region and are members of the UNCT.

The Government of Uzbekistan and the UNCT have signed and pledged to adhere to the Uzbekistan UNDAF document, whereby the UN agencies will work closely with the Government of Uzbekistan towards achieving Uzbekistan's national development priorities under the five-year Action Strategy for Development, Agenda 2030, the Sustainable Development Goals framed by Post-2015 global development agenda, and all other commitments under ratified UN conventions.

The UNDAF 2016-2020 document, which is the basis of cooperation between the Government of Uzbekistan and the UNCT, is a critical programming instrument for the UN System to provide coherent and harmonized response to national priorities and in line with the nascent Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for the post-2015 period, tailored to the local context. In particular, it is focused on benefitting the most vulnerable populations in the country, linked to Uzbekistan's obligations under its ratification of various international human rights instruments.

The Government of Uzbekistan has consistently worked to address the negative consequences of the Aral sea catastrophe and to maintain the ecological balance in the Aral sea basin. In his speech, at the 72nd session of the UN General Assembly in New York, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, once again

drew attention to the environmental challenge, and underlined that the Aral Sea problem requires the joint efforts of all central Asian countries.

The 2030 Development Agenda puts a strong emphasis on “leaving no one behind”, and on focusing first on populations lagging furthest in development. During his visit in June 2017, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres stated that the Aral sea crisis «is probably the biggest ecological catastrophe of our time. And it demonstrates that humankind can destroy the planet».

The UN MPHSTF for the Aral sea region in Uzbekistan, under the aegis of the UN, serves as a unique unified platform for international development cooperation and the mobilization of donor resources to implement integrated measures. The UNDAF for Uzbekistan (2016-2020) contains two key thematic areas that directly correspond to the needs of the people of the Aral sea region.



## 9. Work plan and Budgets

Table 2. Work Plan for: “Unleashing young people’s and vulnerable citizens’ creativity and innovation by strengthening their adaptive capacity to address the economic and food insecurities in the exposed communities of the Aral Sea region”

Period (Covered by the WP) 30 months

	UN organization	Implementing partner	2021				2022				2023		Planned budget in USD	
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2		
Objective 1. Reduce the vulnerabilities of unemployed, unskilled youth and women and returning migrants through the empowerment and promotion of essential entrepreneurial skills, and youth-led innovations in the region (UNDP, UNFPA)														
Output 1.1. Mono-vocational training centers are capacitated and have tools to provide professional trainings to unemployed youth, women and migrants on the jobs demanded in the local market (UNDP)														
Activity 1.1.1. Assessment of youth employment situation in the Aral Sea region conducted and identified priority jobs required at the local market; Available data and information from the MoELR and Ministry of Mahalla and Family Affairs has been obtained; Socio-economic impact of COVID-19 to youth identified and recommendations developed on better employment opportunities for youth	UNDP	UNDP, MoELR, Youth Agency	X	X										\$6,000.00
Activity 1.1.2. Enhancing capacity of existing platforms: mono-centres/vocational training centres with the Ministry of Employment and Labour relations on technical skills/skills building for unemployed youth. Organize technical skill training covering 90 youth by mentoring them	UNDP							X	X	X	X	X		\$133,850.00

throughout the training (i.e. in welding, plumbing, language courses and service delivery for home appliances) engaging partners (Worldskills, KOICA);														
Subtotal of 1.1.														\$139,850.00
Output 1.2. Enabling environment for youth entrepreneurship development created through establishing new businesses and start-up initiatives using innovative and impact-based technologies and solutions (UNDP)														
Activity 1.2.1. In cooperation with partners (Youth Agency and regional universities establish an Innovation lab/Co-working center/Hackathons to nurture next generation of start-uppers thorough mentorship and guidance, ICT application development	UNDP	UNDP, MoELR, Youth Agency, Ministry of Higher and Secondary-Specialized Education, CCI	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X		\$110,000.00
Activity 1.2.2. Developing youth business initiatives and start-ups through building capacity of young and their preparedness to manage businesses and building skills on leadership	UNDP		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		\$44,500.00
Activity 1.2.3. Creating conditions for innovative business development and inclusions of youth in this process by initiating competitive process of startup initiatives supported by seed funding by the project	UNDP		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		\$39,000.00
Subtotal of 1.2.														\$193,500.00
Output 1.3.1 Home based, family and individual entrepreneurship initiatives supported to provide additional income opportunities to the most vulnerable														
Activity 1.3.1.1. Develop young family based entrepreneurship activities via building their self-confidence, work in team and small business	UNDP	UNDP, UNFPA, Ministry for support of Mahalla and Family, CCI					X	X	X	X				\$30,000.00
Subtotal of 1.3.1.														\$30,000.00

Output 1.3.2. Home based, family and individual entrepreneurship initiatives supported to provide additional income opportunities to the most vulnerable (UNFPA)													
Activity 1.3.2.1 Develop young family based entrepreneurship activities via building their self-confidence, work in team and small business	UNFPA	UNDP, UNFPA, Ministry for support of Mahalla and Family, CCI											\$10,000.00
Activity 1.3.2.2. Develop young family based entrepreneurship activities via building their self-confidence, work in team and small business	UNFPA												\$144,224.30
Activity 1.3.2.3 Recommendations/analysis on IT tools and application in relations to youth employment	UNFPA												\$14,000.00
Subtotal of 1.3.2													\$168,224.30
Objective 1 Subtotal													\$531,574.30
Objective 2. Create an enabling environment for income generation for rural communities (focused to youth and women) through promoting innovative agriculture practices and piloting new agriculture initiatives (FAO, UNDP)													
Output 2.1 Produce evidence-based research on environmental protection of Aral Sea region fostering innovative solutions to rehabilitate and upgrade the existing irrigation system and agricultural land restoration (UNDP)													
Activity 2.1.1. Conduct research work on water resources management, development of plans for irrigation system, land use and afforestation for Aral Sea region	UNDP	UNDP, Ministry of Investment and Foreign Trade of the Republic of Uzbekistan/Karakalpakstan, Ministry of Water Resources, Ministry of Agriculture, Karakalpakstan State Forestry Committee	X	X				X	X				\$156,500.00
Subtotal of 2.1.													\$156,500.00
Output 2.2 Ensure food security for youth and rural population by transforming innovative knowledge and skills in adopting efficient agriculture practices (UNDP, FAO)													

Activity 2.2.1. Conduct comprehensive study and monitoring for mapping the target audience institutional and individual capacity gaps in horticulture, crop diversification, fishery and livestock development.	FAO	UNDP, FAO, International Innovation Center in Aral Sea Region (IICASR), Karakalpakstan Ministry of Agriculture, Nukus Branch of Tashkent Agrarian University, Kegeyli Branch of Horticulture and Greenhouses Development Agency named after M. Mirzaev, Joint Stock Company “Karakalpak Baliq”, fishery organizations, etc.	X	X	X	X	X	X									<b>\$40,715.89</b>	
Activity 2.2.2. Transforming innovative knowledge and skills of rural youth and local farmers in adopting efficient agriculture practices	FAO		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X					<b>\$101,108.41</b>
Activity 2.2.3. Technical support to the farm enterprises in establishing nurseries and fishery ponds through procurement of the necessary equipment/machinery	FAO							X	X									<b>\$26,400.00</b>
Subtotal of 2.2.																	<b>\$168,224.30</b>	
<b>Output 2.3 Better job opportunities are ensured for rural youth by engaging them in agriculture sector (UNDP, FAO)</b>																		
Activity 2.3.1 Assessment of the agriculture opportunities for the youth and establish 3 youth cooperatives within small farm enterprises as an employment scheme for rural youth	UNDP	UNDP, FAO, Ministry of Employment and Labour Relations (MoELR), District khokimiyats, Youth Agency, Council of Farmers, IICASR	X	X													<b>\$4,000.00</b>	
Activity 2.3.2. Technical support to the farm enterprises through procurement of the necessary equipment/machinery	UNDP		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				<b>\$117,500.00</b>	
Activity 2.3.3. Technical support to the International Innovation Center for Aral Sea Region (IICAS) in establishing a training facility on conservation agriculture practices	UNDP							X	X	X	X						<b>\$73,296.73</b>	
Activity 2.3.4. Procurement of the necessary water saving technologies for 3 youth cooperatives	UNDP							X	X	X	X						<b>\$45,000.00</b>	

[illegible]

Activity 3.2.3. Implementation of social infrastructure projects aimed at youth facilities	UNDP				X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	\$171,100.00
Subtotal of 3.2.													\$186,550.00
<b>Output 3.3 Strengthened community capacities and facilities to respond to the pandemic and ensure longer-term recovery</b>													
Activity 3.3.1 Improving capacities of rural youth on transmittable diseases including COVID-19 including construction of necessary WASH facilities	UNDP	UNDP	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	\$82,800.00
Subtotal of 3.3.													\$82,800.00
Objective 3 Subtotal													\$383,650.00
Project management UNDP													\$361,871.50
Total cost													\$1,962,616.82
Indirect support costs (7%)													\$137,383.18
TOTAL BUDGET													\$2,100,000.00

Table 3.1. Detailed budget for UNDP

Detailed description	Budget Categories*	Item line budget						
		Unit	Unit Cost (in USD)	Number of Units	Year 1 (Jan-Dec, 2021)	Year 2 (Jan-Dec, 2022)	Year 3 (Jan-Jun, 2023)	Total
Objective 1. Reduce the vulnerabilities of unemployed, unskilled youth and women and returning migrants through the empowerment and promotion of essential entrepreneurial skills, and youth-led innovations in the region (UNDP, UNFPA)								
Output 1.1. Mono-vocational training centers are capacitated and have tools to provide professional trainings to unemployed youth, women and migrants on the jobs demanded in the local market (UNDP)								
Activity 1.1.1. Assessment of youth employment situation in the Aral Sea region conducted and identified priority jobs required at the local market; Available data and information from the MoELR and Ministry of Mahalla and Family Affairs has been obtained; Socio-economic impact of COVID-19 to youth identified and recommendations developed on better employment opportunities for youth								
Hiring NCs. Assessment of current status of the unemployed and unskilled youth (including women/girls) and their propensity to vulnerability due to the COVID-19 impact. Tailored recommendations developed to tackle identified challenges for the target groups.	Contractual services (including consultants, meetings, workshops and conferences)	Months	\$500.00	4	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00
Hiring NCs. Needs of migrants and their family members in terms of capacity/skill development and potential areas for entrepreneurship engagement identified.	Contractual services (including consultants, meetings, workshops and conferences)	Months	\$500.00	4	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00
Hiring NCs. Conduct survey on demanded jobs in the region and analyze professional trends among youth. Review existing capacity of platforms (monocenters, youth centers, etc.).	Contractual services (including consultants, meetings, workshops and conferences)	Months	\$500.00	4	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00
Subtotal of 1.1.1.					\$6,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$6,000.00

<b>Activity 1.1.2. Enhancing capacity of existing platforms: mono-centres/vocational training centres with the Ministry of Employment and Labour relations on technical skills/skills building for unemployed youth. Organize technical skill training covering 90 youth by mentoring them throughout the training (i.e. in welding, plumbing, language courses and service delivery for home appliances) engaging partners (Worldskills, KOICA);</b>								
<b>Purchasing equipment.</b> 3 existing youth platforms enhanced in order to transform them into capacity building centers.	Equipment	Set	\$20,000.00	3	\$20,000.00	\$40,000.00	\$0.00	\$60,000.00
<b>Providing catering/training.</b> 90 unemployed, unskilled youth identified and trained in 3 different specializations.	Contractual services (including consultants, meetings, workshops and conferences)	Per person	\$50.00	90	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$4,500.00
Procurement of necessary item, tools (welding, plumbing and etc.) for unemployed youth.	Supplies, commodities, materials	Per Item	\$11,250.00	3	\$11,250.00	\$22,500.00	\$0.00	\$33,750.00
Catering and supplies for training	Contractual services (including consultants, meetings, workshops and conferences)	Per session	\$1,000.00	3	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$3,000.00
<b>Printing materials</b> for training (brochure, manuals, pencil, papers for specialisation)	Contractual services (including consultants, meetings, workshops and conferences)	Per material	\$20.00	100	\$1,000.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$2,000.00
Programme Associate on Women Empowerment and Youth Empowerment	Staff	Months	\$1,700.00	18	\$0.00	\$20,400.00	\$10,200.00	\$30,600.00
<b>Subtotal of 1.1.4.</b>					<b>\$34,750.00</b>	<b>\$85,900.00</b>	<b>\$13,200.00</b>	<b>\$133,850.00</b>
<b>Subtotal of 1.1.</b>					<b>\$40,750.00</b>	<b>\$85,900.00</b>	<b>\$13,200.00</b>	<b>\$139,850.00</b>
<b>Output 1.2. Enabling environment for youth entrepreneurship development created through establishing new businesses and start-up initiatives using innovative and impact-based technologies and solutions (UNDP)</b>								
<b>Activity 1.2.1. In cooperation with partners (Youth Agency and regional universities establish an Innovation lab/Co-working center/Hackathons to nurture next generation of start-uppers thorough mentorship and guidance, ICT application development</b>								
Cooperate with Youth Agency/Nukus branch of the Tashkent Information Technology Institute to establish innovation lab/co-working center/hackaton platform.	Supplies, commodities, materials	each	\$40,000.00	1	\$40,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$40,000.00



Procurement of IT equipment, office furniture, etc.	Equipment	Set	\$40,000.00	1	\$40,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$40,000.00
Develop creative and innovative thinking environment by engaging experts in this field in order to built the skills of the youth on jobs of the future (i.e. in the areas of web Programme development, 3D digital game creation, custom services, digital product marketing, system administration/architect, data governance and management systems)	Contractual services (including consultants, meetings, workshops and conferences)	Months	\$4,800.00	5	\$9,600.00	\$14,400.00	\$0.00	\$24,000.00
Miscellaneous expenses DPC	General operating and other direct costs	USD	\$1,000.00	6	\$0.00	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$6,000.00
<b>Subtotal of 1.2.1.</b>					<b>\$89,600.00</b>	<b>\$17,400.00</b>	<b>\$3,000.00</b>	<b>\$110,000.00</b>
<b>Activity 1.2.2. Developing youth business initiatives and start-ups through building capacity of young and their preparedness to manage businesses and building skills on leadership</b>								
Engaging mentors and seasoned startupper to nurture and guide local youth	Contractual services (including consultants, meetings, workshops and conferences)	Session	\$6,000.00	4	\$6,000.00	\$12,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$24,000.00
Recruitment of local consultant	Contractual services (including consultants, meetings, workshops and conferences)	Months	\$500.00	5	\$0.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,000.00	\$2,500.00
Trip to Tashkent IT-Park, Innovation Center at TIAME and abroad.	Travel	Trip	\$2,500.00	6	\$5,000.00	\$7,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$15,000.00
Printing, publication of materials	Contractual services (including consultants, meetings, workshops and conferences)	Per publication	\$1,000.00	3	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$3,000.00
<b>Subtotal of 1.2.2.</b>					<b>\$12,000.00</b>	<b>\$22,000.00</b>	<b>\$10,500.00</b>	<b>\$44,500.00</b>
<b>Activity 1.2.3. Creating conditions for innovative business development and inclusions of youth in this process by initiating competitive process of startup initiatives supported by seed funding by the project</b>								

Organization of contest for startups	Contractual services (including consultants, meetings, workshops and conferences)	Session	\$1,000.00	3	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$3,000.00
Invitation of speakers, leaders and staruppers.	Contractual services (including consultants, meetings, workshops and conferences)	Per session	\$1,000.00	3	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$3,000.00
Procurement of necessary item, tools for winners at the contest at least 3 start up projects. Contest is organized for the best startup project (IT, E-commerce, Health, Environment, Public services etc.).	Supplies, commodities, materials	Per Item	\$10,000.00	3	0	\$10,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$30,000.00
Printing, publication of materials	Contractual services (including consultants, meetings, workshops and conferences)	Per publication	\$1,000.00	3	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$3,000.00
<b>Subtotal of 1.2.3.</b>					<b>\$17,000.00</b>	<b>\$19,000.00</b>	<b>\$3,000.00</b>	<b>\$39,000.00</b>
<b>Subtotal of 1.2.</b>					<b>\$118,600.00</b>	<b>\$58,400.00</b>	<b>\$16,500.00</b>	<b>\$193,500.00</b>
<b>Output 1.3.1 Home based, family and individual entrepreneurship initiatives supported to provide additional income opportunities to the most vulnerable</b>								
<b>Activity 1.3.1.1. Develop young family based entrepreneurship activities via building their self-confidence, work in team and small business</b>								
Procurement of necessary equipment, tools, items to at least 10 young families to start their entrepreneurship activities (note: beneficiaries of the output 1.3.2. will be the primary target group for this activity)	Supplies, commodities, materials	Per Item	\$3,000.00	10	\$9,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$30,000.00
<b>Subtotal of 1.3.1.</b>			<b>\$3,000.00</b>		<b>\$9,000.00</b>	<b>\$15,000.00</b>	<b>\$6,000.00</b>	<b>\$30,000.00</b>
<b>Subtotal of 1.3.1.</b>			<b>\$3,000.00</b>		<b>\$9,000.00</b>	<b>\$15,000.00</b>	<b>\$6,000.00</b>	<b>\$30,000.00</b>
<b>Objective 1 Subtotal</b>					<b>\$168,350.00</b>	<b>\$159,300.00</b>	<b>\$35,700.00</b>	<b>\$363,350.00</b>
<b>Objective 2. Create an enabling environment for income generation for rural communities (focused to youth and women) through promoting innovative agriculture practices and piloting new agriculture initiatives (FAO, UNDP)</b>								

Output 2.1 Produce evidence-based research on environmental protection of Aral Sea region fostering innovative solutions to rehabilitate and upgrade the existing irrigation system and agricultural land restoration (UNDP)								
Activity 2.1.1. Conduct research work on water resources management, development of plans for irrigation system, land use and afforestation for Aral Sea region								
Develop detailed plan of actions for the planned three research works and conduct consultations with the relevant national partners to agree the scope of the researches	Contractual services (including consultants, meetings, workshops and conferences)	Months	\$500.00	2	\$2,500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,500.00
Recruitment of international consultant to guide the research interventions based on the international best-practices	Contractual services (including consultants, meetings, workshops and conferences)	Months	\$500.00	1	\$15,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$15,000.00
Recruitment of three national consultants (3 National Consultants)	Contractual services (including consultants, meetings, workshops and conferences)	Months	\$3,000.00	3	\$6,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$0.00	\$9,000.00
Conduct research work on the following areas: i) comprehensive management of water resources in the basin of Amudarya river; ii) general irrigation plan of the basin of Amudarya; iii) plan of land use and afforestation of the Republic of Karakalpakstan	Contractual services (including consultants, meetings, workshops and conferences)	Per research	\$40,000.00	3	\$40,000.00	\$80,000.00	\$0.00	\$120,000.00
Develop Research Reports and conduct a round table with government institutions presenting the research findings	Contractual services (including consultants, meetings, workshops and conferences)	Per event	\$2,000.00	2	\$4,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,000.00
Printing Research Reports and dissemination amongst key stakeholders on 3 research areas. Using research results as evidence based foundation for attracting investments to the Aral Sea region for promoting innovative approaches in the areas of irrigation	Contractual services (including consultants, meetings, workshops and conferences)	Per research	\$3,000.00	2	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$0.00	\$6,000.00

<b>Subtotal of 2.1.1.</b>					<b>\$70,500.00</b>	<b>\$86,000.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$156,500.00</b>
<b>Subtotal of 2.1.</b>					<b>\$70,500.00</b>	<b>\$86,000.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$156,500.00</b>
<b>Output 2.3 Better job opportunities are ensured for rural youth by engaging them in agriculture sector (UNDP, FAO)</b>								
<b>Activity 2.3.1 Assessment of the agriculture opportunities for the youth and establish 3 youth cooperatives within small farm enterprises as an employment scheme for rural youth</b>								
Conduct rapid assessment on agricultural opportunities of the youth and select <b>75</b> young people eager to engage in agricultural activities	Contractual services (including consultants, meetings, workshops and conferences)	Months	\$500.00	4	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00
Creating a platform for youth engagement through establishment of <b>3</b> youth cooperatives within small farm enterprises covering 25 people each as an employment scheme for rural youth in agriculture sector (legal advisory services for cooperative establishment, capacity building trainings on organizational management, land property issues, etc.)	Contractual services (including consultants, meetings, workshops and conferences)	Months	\$500.00	4	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00
<b>Subtotal of 2.3.1.</b>					<b>\$4,000.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$4,000.00</b>
<b>Activity 2.3.2. Technical support to the farm enterprises through procurement of the necessary equipment/machinery</b>								
Enhancing capacities of the selected <b>3</b> farm enterprises involved in the implementation of the youth engagement platform through providing the necessary equipment/machinery;	Equipment	Set	\$36,000.00	3	\$108,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$108,000.00
Miscellaneous expenses DPC	General operating and other direct costs	USD	\$500.00	19	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00	\$1,500.00	\$9,500.00
<b>Subtotal of 2.3.2.</b>					<b>\$112,000.00</b>	<b>\$4,000.00</b>	<b>\$1,500.00</b>	<b>\$117,500.00</b>
<b>Activity 2.3.3. Technical support to the International Innovation Center for Aral Sea Region (IICAS) in establishing a training facility on conservation agriculture practices</b>								

Technical support to the IICAS in establishing a training facility in the form of demonstration plots for youth, farmers, rural population and other stakeholders on conservation agriculture practices (greenhouse 100-150 sq.m, drip irrigation/buried diffuser systems etc.);	Supplies, Commodities, Materials	Set	\$63,796.73	1	\$0.00	\$63,796.73	\$0.00	\$63,796.73
Miscellaneous expenses DPC	General operating and other direct costs	USD	\$500.00	19	\$4,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$500.00	\$9,500.00
<b>Subtotal of 2.3.3.</b>					<b>\$4,000.00</b>	<b>\$68,796.73</b>	<b>\$500.00</b>	<b>\$73,296.73</b>
<b>Activity 2.3.4. Procurement of the necessary water saving technologies for 3 youth cooperatives</b>								
Support to the youth cooperatives in establishing 3 demo plots (1.0 ha each) within farm enterprises through providing the necessary water saving technologies (drip irrigation/ buried diffuser systems on alternative energy) and other materials.	Supplies, Commodities, Materials	Set	\$15,000.00	3	\$0.00	\$45,000.00	\$0.00	\$45,000.00
<b>Subtotal of 2.3.2.</b>					<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$45,000.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$45,000.00</b>
<b>Subtotal of 2.3.</b>					<b>\$120,000.00</b>	<b>\$117,796.73</b>	<b>\$2,000.00</b>	<b>\$239,796.73</b>
<b>Output 2.4 Support vulnerable groups (with focus to youth and women) in self-employment through promoting innovative technologies in crop production, horticulture and aquaculture (UNDP)</b>								
<b>Activity 2.4.1 Identifying the most vulnerable households to involve to the homestead land production</b>								
As a result of Activity 2.2.2., 50 young people eager to engage in agricultural activities selected, who represent the most vulnerable households;	Contractual services (including consultants, meetings, workshops and conferences)	Months	\$500.00	2	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
<b>Subtotal of 2.4.1.</b>					<b>\$1,000.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$1,000.00</b>
<b>Activity 2.4.2. Procurement of the necessary water saving equipment and other materials (hotbeds 100 sq. m, drip irrigation sets etc.) for 30 households in target districts</b>								

Support to the rural households in adopting the practices of conservation agriculture through providing the necessary water saving equipment and other materials (hotbeds 100 sq. m, drip irrigation sets, small food processing equipment, etc.) for <b>30</b> households in target districts;	Equipment	Set	\$4,000.00	30	\$20,000.00	\$80,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$120,000.00
<b>Subtotal of 2.4.2.</b>					<b>\$20,000.00</b>	<b>\$80,000.00</b>	<b>\$20,000.00</b>	<b>\$120,000.00</b>
<b>Subtotal of 2.4.</b>					<b>\$21,000.00</b>	<b>\$80,000.00</b>	<b>\$20,000.00</b>	<b>\$121,000.00</b>
<b>Objective 2 Subtotal</b>					<b>\$211,500.00</b>	<b>\$283,796.73</b>	<b>\$22,000.00</b>	<b>\$517,296.73</b>
<b>Objective 3. Better access to social infrastructure and community engagement with focus on youth, adolescent and women (UNDP)</b>								
<b>Output 3.1 Empowered vulnerable remote communities through use of advanced digital technology</b>								
<b>Activity 3.1.1. Assessment on engagement of youth in modern community digitalization</b>								
Community/youth mobilization, FGDs, situation analysis	Supplies, commodities, materials	Set	\$2,000.00	8	\$8,000.00	\$8,000.00	\$0.00	\$16,000.00
On spot research of situation	Travel	Per trip	\$50.00	5	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$50.00	\$250.00
Stationary	Supplies, commodities, materials	each	\$50.00	5	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$50.00	\$250.00
Programme Associate on Community digitalization	Staff	Months	\$1,700.00	18	\$0.00	\$20,400.00	\$10,200.00	\$30,600.00
<b>Subtotal of 3.1.1.</b>					<b>\$8,200.00</b>	<b>\$28,600.00</b>	<b>\$10,300.00</b>	<b>\$47,100.00</b>
<b>Activity 3.1.2. Capacity building and provision of technical support to promote community digitalization</b>								
National Consultant/ Expert in IT development	Contractual services (including consultants, meetings, workshops and conferences)	Months	\$500.00	4	\$500.00	\$1,000.00	\$500.00	\$2,000.00
Provision of necessary equipment/furniture to schools/colleges (building rehab) and site development	Supplies, commodities, materials	Set	\$2,500.00	10	\$12,500.00	\$12,500.00	\$0.00	\$25,000.00
<b>Subtotal of 3.1.2.</b>					<b>\$13,000.00</b>	<b>\$13,500.00</b>	<b>\$500.00</b>	<b>\$27,000.00</b>
<b>Activity 3.1.3. Support with developing necessary infrastructure to ensure the access to internet for the communities</b>								

Through consultations and engagement of the relevant partners (in the IT area and internet providers) develop necessary infrastructure to ensure the access to internet for the selected communities as a pilot.	Supplies, commodities, materials	Set	\$20,000.00	2	\$0.00	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$40,000.00
Travel	Travel	Per trip	\$100.00	2	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$200.00
<b>Subtotal of 3.1.3.</b>					<b>\$100.00</b>	<b>\$20,100.00</b>	<b>\$20,000.00</b>	<b>\$40,200.00</b>
<b>Subtotal of 3.1.</b>					<b>\$21,300.00</b>	<b>\$62,200.00</b>	<b>\$30,800.00</b>	<b>\$114,300.00</b>
<b>Output 3.2 Strengthened social cohesion through youth engagement in community planning, decision-making and rehabilitation process</b>								
<b>Activity 3.2.1 Assessment/data collection and analysis of rural youth</b>								
Hiring NC on Assessment/data collection and analysis of rural youth	Contractual services (including consultants, meetings, workshops and conferences)	Months	\$500.00	6	\$1,500.00	\$1,000.00	\$500.00	\$3,000.00
Stationary	Supplies, commodities, materials	each	\$50.00	2	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
Travel	Travel	Per trip	\$50.00	2	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
<b>Subtotal of 3.2.1.</b>					<b>\$1,600.00</b>	<b>\$1,100.00</b>	<b>\$500.00</b>	<b>\$3,200.00</b>
<b>Activity 3.2.2. Rural youth capacity building on community planning and decision making</b>								
National Consultant community mobilization	Contractual services (including consultants, meetings, workshops and conferences)	Months	\$1,000.00	2	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00
Community mobilization workshops in 3 pilot districts 6 workshops x 20 participants = 200 participants	Contractual services (including consultants, meetings, workshops and conferences)	Months	\$500.00	6	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$0.00	\$3,000.00
Miscellaneous expenses DPC	General operating and other direct costs	USD	\$500.00	19	\$1,750.00	\$4,000.00	\$1,500.00	\$7,250.00
<b>Subtotal of 3.2.2.</b>					<b>\$5,250.00</b>	<b>\$5,500.00</b>	<b>\$1,500.00</b>	<b>\$12,250.00</b>
<b>Activity 3.2.3. Implementation of social infrastructure projects aimed at youth facilities</b>								

At least 3 social infrastructure projects on providing access to clean drinking water, school/healthcare point rehabilitation, electric power supply, etc. Approximate cost of each project is 50 thousand USD.	Contractual services (including consultants, meetings, workshops and conferences)	Per project	\$1,000.00	9	\$5,000.00	\$4,000.00	\$0.00	\$9,000.00
	Supplies, commodities, materials	Per project	\$50,000.00	3	\$100,000.00	\$50,000.00	\$0.00	\$150,000.00
Stationary	Supplies, commodities, materials	each	\$50.00	2	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
Travel	Travel	Per trip	\$500.00	6	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$0.00	\$3,000.00
Miscellaneous expenses DPC	General operating and other direct costs	USD	\$500.00	18	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$9,000.00
<b>Subtotal of 3.2.3.</b>					<b>\$110,550.00</b>	<b>\$59,550.00</b>	<b>\$1,000.00</b>	<b>\$171,100.00</b>
<b>Subtotal of 3.2.</b>					<b>\$117,400.00</b>	<b>\$66,150.00</b>	<b>\$3,000.00</b>	<b>\$186,550.00</b>
<b>Output 3.3 Strengthened community capacities and facilities to respond to the pandemic and ensure longer-term recovery</b>								
<b>Activity 3.3.1 Improving capacities of rural youth on transmittable diseases including COVID-19 including construction of necessary WASH facilities</b>								
At least 2 schools provided with clean drinking water and improved sanitary-hygiene conditions (latrines/handwashers). Approximate cost of each project is 37 thousand USD. Workshops on WASH	Contractual services (including consultants, meetings, workshops and conferences)	Per school	\$3,750.00	2	\$2,500.00	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	\$7,500.00
	Supplies, commodities, materials	Per project	\$37,500.00	2	\$37,500.00	\$37,500.00	\$0.00	\$75,000.00
Stationary	Supplies, commodities, materials	each	\$50.00	2	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
Travel	Travel	Per trip	\$50.00	4	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$100.00	\$200.00
<b>Subtotal of 3.3.1.</b>					<b>\$40,100.00</b>	<b>\$42,600.00</b>	<b>\$100.00</b>	<b>\$82,800.00</b>
<b>Subtotal of 3.3.</b>					<b>\$40,100.00</b>	<b>\$42,600.00</b>	<b>\$100.00</b>	<b>\$82,800.00</b>
<b>Objective 3 Subtotal</b>					<b>\$178,800.00</b>	<b>\$170,950.00</b>	<b>\$33,900.00</b>	<b>\$383,650.00</b>
<b>Project management UNDP</b>								
Project Manager	Staff	Months	\$2,300.00	18	\$0.00	\$27,600.00	\$13,800.00	\$41,400.00
3 Team Leaders	Staff	Months	\$5,700.00	18	\$0.00	\$68,400.00	\$34,200.00	\$102,600.00
PR and Outreach Specialist	Staff	Months	\$1,500.00	18	\$0.00	\$18,000.00	\$9,000.00	\$27,000.00



Admin&Finance Specialist	Staff	Months	\$1,500.00	18	\$0.00	\$18,000.00	\$9,000.00	\$27,000.00
Procurement assistant	Staff	Months	\$1,500.00	18	\$0.00	\$18,000.00	\$9,000.00	\$27,000.00
2 Drivers	Staff	Months	\$1,500.00	18	\$0.00	\$18,000.00	\$9,000.00	\$27,000.00
4 Guards	Staff	Months	\$3,500.00	18	\$0.00	\$42,000.00	\$21,000.00	\$63,000.00
Cleaner	Staff	Months	\$560.00	18	\$0.00	\$6,720.00	\$3,360.00	\$10,080.00
IT Consultant	Contractual services (including consultants, meetings, workshops and conferences)	Months	\$80.00	14	\$0.00	\$960.00	\$0.00	\$960.00
Communication (telephone, Internet connection at the project office)	General operating and other direct costs	Months	\$150.00	18	\$0.00	\$1,800.00	\$450.00	\$2,250.00
Stationery supply	General operating and other direct costs	Commodities	\$1,500.00	1	\$0.00	\$1,500.00	\$0.00	\$1,500.00
Contractual services (courier services, broker's services, placement of vacancy/tender announcements) (UNDP)	Contractual services (including consultants, meetings, workshops and conferences)	Months	\$180.00	18	\$0.00	\$2,160.00	\$1,080.00	\$3,240.00
Utilities	General operating and other direct costs	Months	\$170.00	18	\$0.00	\$2,040.00	\$1,020.00	\$3,060.00
Transportation expenses (fuel, spare parts etc.)	General operating and other direct costs	Commodities	\$3,500.00	2	\$0.00	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00	\$7,000.00
Travel	Travel	Trip	\$300.00	20	\$0.00	\$8,000.00	\$1,100.00	\$9,100.00
Printing	Contractual services (including consultants, meetings, workshops and conferences)	Booklets	\$600.00	8	\$0.00	\$1,200.00	\$3,000.00	\$4,200.00
Miscellaneous expenses DPC	General operating and other direct costs	USD	\$2,745.25	2	\$0.00	\$3,821.50	\$1,660.00	\$5,481.50
<b>Project management Subtotal</b>					<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$241,701.50</b>	<b>\$120,170.00</b>	<b>\$361,871.50</b>
<b>Total cost</b>					<b>\$558,650.00</b>	<b>\$855,748.22</b>	<b>\$211,770.00</b>	<b>\$1,626,168.22</b>
Indirect support cost	Indirect support costs (7%)				\$39,105.50	\$59,902.38	\$14,823.90	\$113,831.78
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>					<b>\$597,755.50</b>	<b>\$915,650.60</b>	<b>\$226,593.90</b>	<b>\$1,740,000.00</b>

**Table 3.2. Detailed budget for UNFPA**

Detailed description	Budget Categories*	Item line budget						
		Unit	Unit Cost (in USD)	Number of Units	Year 1 (Jan-Dec, 2021)	Year 2 (Jan-Dec, 2022)	Year 3 (Jan-Jun, 2023)	Total
Objective 1. Reduce the vulnerabilities of unemployed, unskilled youth and women and returning migrants through the empowerment and promotion of essential entrepreneurial skills, and youth-led innovations in the region (UNDP, UNFPA)								
Output 1.3.2. Home based, family and individual entrepreneurship initiatives supported to provide additional income opportunities to the most vulnerable (UNFPA)								
Activity 1.3.2.1 Develop young family based entrepreneurship activities via building their self-confidence, work in team and small business								
Hiring NC. Development of training tools: special planner for entry-level entrepreneur and a methodological guide to the planner	Contractual services (including consultants, meetings, workshops and conferences)	Months	\$500.00	4	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00
Hiring NC. Preparation of handouts for ToT and trainings	Contractual services (including consultants, meetings, workshops and conferences)	Months	\$500.00	2	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
Hiring Translator. Translation into Karakalpak language	Contractual services (including consultants, meetings, workshops and conferences)	Per Page	\$10.00	150	\$1,500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,500.00
Hiring NC. Development of criteria for selection of local facilitators;	Contractual services (including consultants, meetings, workshops and conferences)	Months	\$500.00	1	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
Hiring NC. Development of criteria for selection of business ideas and provisions for “My family business in my homeland” business ideas fair/contest	Contractual services (including consultants, meetings, workshops and conferences)	Months	\$500.00	2	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
Hiring NC/contracting with IT company.. Development of IT platform for further on-line consultations	Contractual services (including consultants, meetings, workshops and conferences)	Months	\$500.00	4	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00

<b>Hiring NC/contracting with IT company.</b> Development of telegram channel/bot for on-line consultation on business plan/ideas development	Contractual services (including consultants, meetings, workshops and conferences)	Months	\$500.00	4	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00
<b>Subtotal of 1.3.2.1.</b>					<b>\$10,000.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$10,000.00</b>
<b>Activity 1.3.2.2. Develop young family based entrepreneurship activities via building their self-confidence, work in team and small business</b>								
<b>Catering.</b> Two 6-day training (ToT) on the preparation of facilitators for the local community to promote and expand the economic rights of women Formation of a team of facilitators / development agents / at the local community level. - selection of 6 people from each district, (should be based on competitive selection according to the criteria developed in Stage 1.	Contractual services (including consultants, meetings, workshops and conferences)	Per participant	\$20.00	200	\$4,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,000.00
<b>Hiring 2 NCs</b> on the preparation of facilitators for the local community to promote and expand the economic rights of women Formation of a team of facilitators / development agents / at the local community level.	Contractual services (including consultants, meetings, workshops and conferences)	Per day	\$80.00	28	\$2,240.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,240.00
<b>Travel</b> of consultants and Transportation and accommodation of participants Travel of consultants: \$288 x 2 persons x 2 trips= \$1152; DSA: \$49 x 7 days x 2 times x 2 persons=\$1372. Transportation and accommodation of participants: \$6,000	Travel	Per day	\$31.78	180	\$5,720.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,720.00
<b>Printing of handouts,</b> worksheets + planner and methodological guide	Contractual services (including consultants,	Per material	\$10.00	150	\$1,500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,500.00

for identification of additional sources of income	meetings, workshops and conferences)							
Stationery	Supplies, Commodities, Materials	each	\$500.00	2	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
Miscellaneous	General Operating and Other Direct Costs	each	\$500.00	4	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00
<b>Catering services:</b> 18 Trainings for women in rural remote areas. 360 women will be trained in on business plan development, entrepreneurship skills, family budget planning, social skills, gender equality, family planning, hygiene to prevent spread of COVID-19 and other infections. Totally 360 people will be trained. \$20 x 25 persons x 3 days x 18 trainings=\$27,000	Contractual services (including consultants, meetings, workshops and conferences)	Per participant	\$20.00	1350	\$4,500.00	\$22,500.00	\$0.00	\$27,000.00
<b>Hiring 2 NCs</b> on business plan development, entrepreneurship skills, family budget planning, social skills, gender equality, family planning, hygiene to prevent spread of COVID-19 and other infections Budget: each training: 20 participants, 3 facilitators, 2 national trainers, 3 days. Totally 360 people will be trained	Contractual services (including consultants, meetings, workshops and conferences)	Per day	\$80.00	120	\$2,400.00	\$7,200.00	\$0.00	\$9,600.00
<b>Travel</b> of consultants and Transportation and accommodation of participants ( \$388 x 2 persons x 6 trips= \$4656; DSA: \$41 x 65 days x 2 persons=\$5330) Total: \$9986	Travel	Per day	\$167.00	60	\$1,678.00	\$8,308.00	\$0.00	\$9,986.00

<b>Printing</b> of handouts, worksheets + planner and methodological guide	Contractual services (including consultants, meetings, workshops and conferences)	Per material	\$3,000.00	2	\$2,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	\$7,000.00
Stationery	Supplies, Commodities, Materials	each	\$1,500.00	2	\$500.00	\$2,500.00	\$0.00	\$3,000.00
Miscellaneous	General Operating and Other Direct Costs	each	\$1,500.00	2	\$500.00	\$2,660.00	\$0.00	\$3,160.00
<b>Hiring NCs on</b> Counseling for trained women through the telegram channel/bot for on-line consultation on business plan/ideas development. Telegram channel/bot will allow local facilitators and trainees liaise with national consultants through to discuss ideas, progress, bottlenecks, preparation for Business Ideas Fair	Contractual services (including consultants, meetings, workshops and conferences)	Per day	\$60.00	60	\$1,500.00	\$3,000.00	\$1,500.00	\$6,000.00
<b>Catering services:</b> Business plan development practicums in Nukus One three-day workshop for each district (3 trainers, 6 facilitators and 24 trainees from relevant district)	Contractual services (including consultants, meetings, workshops and conferences)	Per participant	\$20.00	500	\$0.00	\$8,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$10,000.00
<b>Hiring 2 NCs on</b> Business plan development practicums	Contractual services (including consultants, meetings, workshops and conferences)	Per day	\$80.00	46	\$0.00	\$2,880.00	\$800.00	\$3,680.00
<b>Travel</b> of consultants and Transportation and accommodation of participants ( \$388 x 2 persons x 3 trips= \$5760; DSA: \$49 x 18 days x 2 persons=\$8200)	Travel	Per day	\$198.00	100	\$0.00	\$15,842.00	\$4,000.00	\$19,842.00
Stationery	Supplies, Commodities, Materials	each	\$500.00	2	\$0.00	\$800.00	\$200.00	\$1,000.00

Miscellaneous	General Operating and Other Direct Costs	each	\$1,000.00	2	\$0.00	\$1,800.00	\$496.30	\$2,296.30
<b>Travel</b> Contest&Fair for the business ideas UNDP/UNFPA staff + national consultant make 1 visit to each district to assess business ideas and to identify which of them will be invited to the Fair in Nukus	Travel	Per trip	\$800.00	4	\$0.00	\$1,600.00	\$1,600.00	\$3,200.00
Contest&Fair for the business ideas Selected pre-winners are invited to the Fair for presentation of their ideas/plan	Contractual services (including consultants, meetings, workshops and conferences)	Per event	\$2,500.00	2	\$0.00	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$5,000.00
Logistics assistant should be hired to assist in logistics of the events	Contractual services (including consultants, meetings, workshops and conferences)	Per event	\$2,500.00	2	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$7,000.00
Monitoring trips and other miscellaneous expenditures	Travel	Per trip	\$800.00	8	\$3,200.00	\$3,200.00	\$1,600.00	\$8,000.00
Success story writing: Hire a consultant to write success stories based on the assessment report. The consultant will make a sight visit to take relevant pictures and get interviews	Contractual services (including consultants, meetings, workshops and conferences)	Months	\$500.00	4	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00
<b>Subtotal of 1.3.2.2.</b>					<b>\$35,738.00</b>	<b>\$92,790.00</b>	<b>\$15,696.30</b>	<b>\$144,224.30</b>
<b>Activity 1.3.2.3 Recommendations/analysis on IT tools and application in relations to youth employment</b>								
Translation of all materials into Uzbek	Contractual services (including consultants, meetings, workshops and conferences)	Per page	\$10.00	500	\$0.00	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	\$5,000.00
Development of software “My family business in my homeland: how to start up”	Contractual services (including consultants, meetings, workshops and conferences)	each	\$5,000.00	1	\$0.00	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	\$5,000.00

Assessment: Hire consultants to develop assessment tools, visit districts in Karakalpakstan, make assessment and write the report	Contractual services (including consultants, meetings, workshops and conferences)	Months	\$2,000.00	2	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00
<b>Subtotal of 1.3.2.3.</b>					<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$10,000.00</b>	<b>\$4,000.00</b>	<b>\$14,000.00</b>
<b>Subtotal of 1.3.2</b>					<b>\$45,738.00</b>	<b>\$102,790.00</b>	<b>\$19,696.30</b>	<b>\$168,224.30</b>
Indirect support cost	Indirect support costs (7%)				\$3,201.66	\$7,195.30	\$1,378.74	\$11,775.70
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>					<b>\$48,939.66</b>	<b>\$109,985.30</b>	<b>\$21,075.04</b>	<b>\$180,000.00</b>

**Table 3.3. Detailed budget for FAO**

Detailed description	Budget Categories*	Item line budget						
		Unit	Unit Cost (in USD)	Number of Units	Year 1 (Jan-Dec, 2021)	Year 2 (Jan-Dec, 2022)	Year 3 (Jan-Jun, 2023)	Total
Objective 2. Create an enabling environment for income generation for rural communities (focused to youth and women) through promoting innovative agriculture practices and piloting new agriculture initiatives (FAO, UNDP)								
Output 2.2 Ensure food security for youth and rural population by transforming innovative knowledge and skills in adopting efficient agriculture practices (UNDP, FAO)								
Activity 2.2.1. Conduct comprehensive study and monitoring for mapping the target audience institutional and individual capacity gaps in horticulture, crop diversification, fishery and livestock development.								
Recruitment of group of 4 national consultants on horticulture, crop diversificatioon, fishery and livestock development	Contractual services (including consultants, meetings, workshops and conferences)	Months	\$4,000.00	4	\$8,000.00	\$8,000.00	\$0.00	\$16,000.00
Hiring National Consultant on Data Management	Contractual services (including consultants, meetings, workshops and conferences)	Months	\$1,000.00	4	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$4,000.00
Travel Costs (including study and monitoring costs)	Travel	Months	\$1,452.65	6	\$5,810.59	\$2,905.30	\$0.00	\$8,715.89
Hiring National Consultant on Monitoring of Programme Progress	Contractual services (including consultants, meetings, workshops and conferences)	Months	\$1,000.00	12	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$0.00	\$12,000.00
Subtotal of 2.2.1.					\$21,810.59	\$18,905.30	\$0.00	\$40,715.89
Activity 2.2.2. Transforming innovative knowledge and skills of rural youth and local farmers in adopting efficient agriculture practices								
Recruitment of group of 4 national consultants/trainers on horticulture, crop diversification, fishery and livestock development	Contractual services (including consultants, meetings, workshops and conferences)	Months	\$500.00	8	\$4,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,000.00
150 people improved knowledge and skills in horticulture	Contractual services (including consultants,	Per event	\$2,000.00	6	\$12,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$12,000.00



	meetings, workshops and conferences)							
150 people improved knowledge and skills in aquaculture	Contractual services (including consultants, meetings, workshops and conferences)	Per event	\$2,000.00	6	\$12,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$12,000.00
150 people improved knowledge and skills in conservation agriculture practices	Contractual services (including consultants, meetings, workshops and conferences)	Per event	\$2,000.00	6	\$12,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$12,000.00
150 people improved knowledge and skills in livestock development	Contractual services (including consultants, meetings, workshops and conferences)	Per event	\$2,000.00	6	\$12,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$12,000.00
75 people adopted new practices on water saving technologies, hotbed production	Contractual services (including consultants, meetings, workshops and conferences)	Per event	\$1,250.00	3	\$3,750.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,750.00
60 extension service centers representatives enhanced their capacity in providing extension services	Contractual services (including consultants, meetings, workshops and conferences)	Per event	\$700.00	3	\$2,100.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,100.00
Travel	Travel	Per trip	\$500.00	30	\$15,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$15,000.00
Stationary	Supplies, Commodities, Materials	Each	\$3,258.41	1	\$3,258.41	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,258.41
Publications (training modules, handout materials)	Contractual services (including consultants, meetings, workshops and conferences)	Per material	\$2,500.00	10	\$25,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$25,000.00
<b>Subtotal of 2.2.2.</b>					<b>\$101,108.41</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$101,108.41</b>
<b>Activity 2.2.3. Technical support to the farm enterprises in establishing nurseries and fishery ponds through procurement of the necessary equipment/machinery</b>								
3 fruit tree nursery supported (1 nursery planned in 2021, 2 planned in 2022).	Contractual services (including consultants, meetings, workshops and conferences)	Per event	\$4,400.00	3	\$0.00	\$13,200.00	\$0.00	\$13,200.00

3 farm enterprises in upgrading the existing fishery ponds supported (1 fishery ponds planned in 2021, 2 planned in 2022).	Contractual services (including consultants, meetings, workshops and conferences)	Per event	\$4,400.00	3	\$0.00	\$13,200.00	\$0.00	\$13,200.00
<b>Subtotal of 2.2.3.</b>					<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$26,400.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$26,400.00</b>
<b>Subtotal of 2.2.</b>					<b>\$122,919.00</b>	<b>\$45,305.30</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$168,224.30</b>
Indirect support cost	Indirect support costs (7%)				\$8,604.33	\$3,171.37	\$0.00	\$11,775.70
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>					<b>\$131,523.33</b>	<b>\$48,476.67</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$180,000.00</b>

Table 3.4. Consolidated budget

Categories		Total	Year 1 (Jan-Dec, 2021)	Year 2 (Jan-Dec, 2022)	Year 3 (Jan-Jun, 2023)	Allocation: MPTF				Allocation: Other (specify)
						Total	UNDP	UNFPA	FAO	
1	Staff	\$386,280.00	\$0.00	\$257,520.00	\$128,760.00	\$386,280.00	\$386,280.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
2	Supplies, commodities, materials	\$557,355.14	\$238,258.41	\$292,846.73	\$26,250.00	\$557,355.14	\$549,096.73	\$5,000.00	\$3,258.41	\$0.00
3	Equipment	\$328,000.00	\$188,000.00	\$120,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$328,000.00	\$328,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
4	Contractual services (including consultants, meetings, workshops and conferences)	\$524,670.00	\$246,590.00	\$247,200.00	\$30,880.00	\$524,670.00	\$274,400.00	\$109,020.00	\$141,250.00	\$0.00
5	Travel	\$98,313.89	\$38,208.59	\$49,155.30	\$10,950.00	\$98,313.89	\$27,850.00	\$46,748.00	\$23,715.89	\$0.00
6	Transfers and grants to counterparts	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
7	General operating and other direct costs	\$67,997.80	\$16,250.00	\$37,121.50	\$14,626.30	\$67,997.80	\$60,541.50	\$7,456.30	\$0.00	\$0.00
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$1,962,616.83</b>	<b>\$727,307.00</b>	<b>\$1,003,843.52</b>	<b>\$231,466.30</b>	<b>\$1,962,616.83</b>	<b>\$1,626,168.23</b>	<b>\$168,224.30</b>	<b>\$168,224.30</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
8	Indirect support costs (7%)	\$137,383.18	\$50,911.49	\$70,269.05	\$16,202.64	\$137,383.18	\$113,831.78	\$11,775.70	\$11,775.70	\$0.00
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,100,000.00</b>	<b>\$778,218.49</b>	<b>\$1,074,112.57</b>	<b>\$247,668.94</b>	<b>\$2,100,000.00</b>	<b>\$1,740,000.00</b>	<b>\$180,000.00</b>	<b>\$180,000.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>

## 10. Risks and Assumptions

There are a number of risks identified for this project. The project will address some core risks that had been identified through the previous project. Some of them include agricultural shock (draught/flood) and other natural disasters, frequent staff turnover in local government, changes in government policy, price fluctuations and increase in costs of inputs as well as weak capacity of regional authorities for data collection and statistical analysis.

Some of the barriers to effective partnering may include governance and accountability, business processes, lack of time and desire to collaborate.

Potential risks in implementation of the project activities could be the second wave of COVID-19, draught, economic downturns.

As mitigation measure for the risk with outbreak of COVID-19, the project plans activities aimed to building the capacities in the area of IT and supporting the establishment of the enterprises with the focus to the digitalization, this should help to mitigate the possible impact of the COVID-19 to the project activities. In addition, awareness raising on WASH among the most vulnerable group of community people, i.e. youth and school children will be promoted. The project is intended to implement WASH component and construct necessary conditions that help to avoid infectious transmission.

To ensure mitigation related to water shortage and draught, the project intends to use deep underground water (artesian water) to be piped out and after filtration to be used for drinking and other purposes.

To mitigate the economic downturn, the project plans to utilize available finance in most efficient ways by saving and choosing the most cost-effective options in social-infrastructure projects. The project focuses also to build the capacities of local households in the areas of effective agriculture practices, this should make the local communities more resilient to possible economy and food insecurities.

More precaution activities will be considered with the start of the project activities as it will conduct regular monitoring over the situation in the region and follow appropriate regulations that match to the situation.

### *Assumptions:*

- The Government will further strengthen preventive measures against spreading of COVID-19.
- The Government will further accelerate poverty reduction activities within the State programs developed for most ecologically aggravated regions.
- The regional authorities will be supportive and take active participation in the planned project activities.
- Reduction of employment opportunities due to COVID-19 outbreak, increase interest of youth to get new skills to have better job opportunities

*For risks ranking matrix please refer to the Table 2.*

The detailed description of risks and mitigation strategy is provided in the below table.

**Table 2. Risk Ranking Matrix**

Risks	Character	Impact	Probability	Mitigation Strategy
Limited local government commitment to the project interventions, including the community level projects, in light of bigger investment	Contextual	Medium	Low	Enhance the work on community empowerment and community mobilization involving the relevant decision makers from local government. Requirement for cost-sharing from local government and communities for

projects ongoing under government programs.				innovative projects to be implemented at community levels.
Lack of willingness/capacity of relevant ministries, government agencies and other key stakeholders such as the pasture users cooperatives to participate in the “holistic approach” in addressing the environmental issues.	Institutional	Medium	Low	Continuously work on capacity building of relevant institutions at local levels. Build on the strong commitment demonstrated at national level to addressing the consequences of the Aral Sea disaster. Ensure close alignment of the project with the large scale Government efforts on afforestation of the dried sea bed.
Increased rate of staff turnover in beneficiary institutions and erosion of institutional memory.	Institutional	Medium	High	Frequent involvement of technical staff and mid-level managers of the relevant institutions for the capacity building events and project implementation process to the extent possible.
Changing policy priorities.	Contextual	Medium	Low	Timely monitoring of policy reforms related to project interventions in order to make necessary adjustments in consultation with the project stakeholders.
Natural disasters such as droughts, sand and dust storms that might result in loss of agriculture products, thereby, increase the food insecurities.	Contextual	High	Medium	The project’s focus on enhancing and speeding up the afforestation of the dried sea bed is expected to serve as the primary mitigation effort as the afforestation will lead to sand stabilization. Enhanced focus will be given to promoting the adaptation measures to those disasters to decrease the level of negative effects from National disasters.
Low tourist potential in the region	Contextual	High	Low	Capacity building of key stakeholders in tourism management, improving the eco-tourism through developing new routes will enhance the comparative advantage and attraction of the region in tourism sector;
Saturation of local market with goods, which are planned for production within income generations projects’ scope	Contextual	High	Low	Project focus on supporting income generation projects with innovative approach, thus the project team and beneficiaries will study the supply and demand side of initiated business projects and make adjustments to production goods.