

UNITED NATIONS IN TAJIKISTAN

Annual UNDAF Results Report



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Abbreviations

CoES – Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defense
DaO – Delivering as One
DRM – Disaster Risk Management
DRR – Disaster Risk Reduction
FAO – Food and Agriculture Organization
FSMS – Food Security and Monitoring System
GBV – Gender Based Violence
GoT – Government of Tajikistan
HACT – Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers
ILO – International Labour Organization
IP – Implementing Partner
IRC – Information and Resource Center
MDGs – Millenium Development Goals
MoA – Ministry of Agriculture
MoHSPP – Ministry of Health and Social Protection of Population
NGO – Non-Governmental Organization
OCR – Ombudsman for Children’s Rights
ODS – Ozone Depleting Substance
OHCHR – Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
OMT – Operations Management Team
RC – Resident Coordinator
SDGs – Sustainable Development Goals
SUN – Scaling Up Nutrition
UN – United Nations
UN WOMEN – United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
UNAIDS – Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNCG – UN Communications Group
UNCT – UN Country Team
UNDAF – United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNDP – United Nations Development Programme
UNECE – Economic Commission for Europe
UNESCO – United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA – United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR – United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF – United Nations Children's Fund
UNODC – United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNRCCA – United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia
UPR – Universal Periodic Review
VAW – Violence Against Women
WFP – World Food Programme
WHO – World Health Organization

UNITED NATIONS IN TAJIKISTAN



MESSAGE FROM THE UN RESIDENT COORDINATOR

MS PRATIBHA MEHTA

As the United Nations (UN) Resident Coordinator, I am pleased to launch the 2016 UNDAF Results Report which coincides with the 25th anniversary of Tajikistan's membership in the UN.

This report presents the collective contributions made by the UN system in support of Tajikistan's development process. It identifies key development trends and results achieved in the first year of the implementation of the UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2016-2020, as well as challenges, lessons learned and the way forward. It also outlines how UN works together to deliver and communicate results.

The report highlights the endeavors of the UN Country Team across six UNDAF Outcomes - by using the 'delivering-as-one' approach and capitalizing on the strengths and comparative advantages of different UN Agencies, as well as their regional and global networks.

The report highlights UN contributions in the formulation of the National Development Strategy 2030 and the Midterm Development Programme 2016-2020 which are aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) agenda 2030.

2016 was the first year of implementation of new UNDAF 2016-2020, signed in December 18, 2015 by the UN and the Government. This is the first UNDAF Results Report in this cycle. The report describes some challenges faced in the implementation and lessons learnt which will help in enhancing effectiveness and efficiency of UN contribution to the sustainable development.

On behalf of the United Nations system, I would like to thank our government partners, civil society organizations, business sector representatives, development partners and the people of Tajikistan for their support and engagement in the activities and endeavors of the United Nations in the country.



Executive Summary

2016 was the first year of the implementation of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) for the period 2016-2020. By outlining the role and collective contribution of the United Nations (UN) system to Tajikistan's development agenda, the UNDAF serves as a platform for the agencies to work jointly and coherently in pursuit of sustainable development. It allows the UN to bring together the complementary activities, mandates, expertise and resources of 17 different agencies operating in the country (specialized and non-specialized, resident and non-resident) and contribute to addressing the development challenges the country faces. UNDAF represents a joint commitment between the UN and the Government of Tajikistan (GoT), on the basis of which UN entities align their activities, programmes and operations with the country's development agenda.

This report documents the experience of the UN family in the implementation of the 2016-2020 UNDAF. It highlights progress, achievements and challenges in delivering a broad range of activities in pursuit of the six Outcomes/Results set in the UNDAF.

During 2016, the UN Country Team (UNCT) has collaborated on numerous initiatives, working closely with national partners to advance development in six priority areas – i) good governance; ii) sustainable economic development; iii) health, education and social protection; iv) food security and nutrition; v) inclusion and empowerment of vulnerable people; and, vi) disaster risk reduction and environment.

In the area of good governance, the UN strengthened the capacities of border guards, improved the prevention of statelessness and protection of refugees,

Executive Summary (continued)

enhanced the national mechanism for reporting on implementation of international obligations in the field of human rights, strengthened the capacity of the office of the Ombudsman for Children's Rights, aided the establishment of a free legal aid system, supported reform of the civil registration system, etc.

In the area of sustainable economic development, UN agencies promoted and supported a number of policy initiatives for sustainable natural resource management, economic growth, technological development and innovation, use of the renewable energy sources, etc. They also contributed towards strengthening the capacities of national and local governments in strategic planning, aid coordination, and provided support for the development of local businesses through the provision of micro-finance and vocational training.

In the health sector, the UN contributed to strengthening national institutions, systems, laws and policies for equitable, accountable and effective delivery of health services. The focus was on strengthening the reach and quality of service delivery by improving the institutional framework, financing incentives and capacity of health professionals, and improving access to services by enhancing awareness and knowledge among the people.

In the area of social protection, UN agencies contributed to creating both

legislative and policy conditions for the incorporation of UN-supported safety nets into a fully government owned social protection system, as well as advocated in support of increasing the share of state budget dedicated to social protection programmes.

In education, the UN contributed to building the capacity of a number of stakeholders in the early childhood, primary and secondary education sectors. Support was provided for the establishment of national school meal programmes and the schooling of children whose education was interrupted due to safety issues during humanitarian emergencies.

In nutrition, the UN contributed to the treatment of undernourished children. The capacity of medical staff in the management of acute malnutrition was strengthened both in hospitals and primary health care centers. In food safety, the UN supported the country's food safety policies and institutions, bringing them closer to international standards, and strengthened the capacities of governmental and non-governmental actors to promote food safety and prevent food-borne diseases.

UN agencies also supported several initiatives related to the promotion of gender equality, prevention of gender based violence, empowerment of youth, protection of children and support for persons with disabilities and refugees.

Executive Summary (continued)

UN agencies also contributed to improving the policy and institutional frameworks for Disaster Risk Reduction and environmental protection. In a number of disaster-prone locations, UN agencies helped re-build community infrastructure, strengthened resilience to natural disasters, and contributed to sustainable livelihoods while ensuring environmental benefits.

UN's support for Tajikistan has taken different forms - transferring international expertise and adapting good practices to national circumstances and needs, facilitating South-South exchanges, providing technical assistance, advocating for and enabling compliance with international commitments, communication for social change, conducting research and applying it to policy issues, and building up capabilities in data collection and their use to inform policy making. Across all priority areas, the agencies have systematically incorporated the UN programming principles of Human Rights, Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment, Environmental Sustainability, Capacity Development, and Resilience and Crisis Preparedness.

UN agencies have also continued to improve aid effectiveness through enhanced coordination with development partners under the Development Coordination Council. At the same time, the UN has further strengthened its inter-agency mechanism of collaboration and joint operations. Ways of working

together have been strengthened through the work of the Results Groups, UNDAF Coordination and M&E and other working groups to enhance synergies and efficiencies, avoid duplications and provide integrated solutions to the country's complex challenges.

This report also highlights a number of lessons learned during this year's implementation of UNDAF.

The UNCT counts on continued partnerships with the GoT, civil society and other national and international partners in pursuit of the objectives outlined in the UNDAF and in support of Tajikistan's development efforts.

Tajikistan

COUNTRY CONTEXT

2016 marks the 25th anniversary of Tajikistan's independence, 20th anniversary of signing of Peace Accord and the first year of the implementation of the new National Development Strategy 2016-2030 (NDS 2030) and its operational document – the Mid-term Development Programme for 2016-2020 (MTDP 2020). Both NDS and MTDP build on the achievements and lessons of previous strategies, progress with MDGs and the SDG agenda and take into account the country's emerging challenges and uncertainties. Key development priorities identified in both documents are energy and food security, transport communications and productive employment. Moreover, the SDGs are recognized by the government as an overarching framework – with 78% of SDG objectives being well-aligned with the national and sectoral strategies (UNDP/RIA Report, 2016).

After a slowdown of 6% in 2015, the economy grew by a healthy 6.9% in 2016 (WB website), driven by large public investments in construction and industry. In 2016 Tajikistan enhanced its Global Competitiveness rank from 80th in 2015 to 77th out of 138 countries (WEF World Competitiveness Report, 2016). Its score rose from 4.03 to 4.1 on a seven-point scale, due to better ground transport and electricity infrastructure, reduced regulatory burden to start a business, and an improved institutional environment. However, excessive and complicated taxation seriously affect entrepreneurship, investment and the trade potential of the country. The situation is further aggravated by the bank crisis, with half of the bank loans claimed by IMF as non-performing. Furthermore, from the recent economic downturn in the Russian Federation, to seasonal electricity, water, and heating shortages, the country faces substantial risks to livelihoods and well being. Some of these risks could potentially derail the notable improvements seen for the poor and vulnerable over the past decade. Natural disasters (floods, avalanches, landslides) create additional risks for socio-economic development and population well being. In 2016 Committee on Emergency Situations under the Government of Tajikistan reported about at least 100 small to medium natural disasters in Tajikistan, affecting thousands of people, displacing hundreds and disrupting the ongoing socio-economic processes, such as agriculture and household level income generation activities, educational and development efforts.

Despite improvements made in the health sector in the last few years, there are significant health inequalities across populations caused by social determinants. Poor child health outcomes, such as underweight, are concentrated among poor households, with significant disparity by rural/urban residency and region. Non-communicable diseases are at epidemic levels and rising. Infectious diseases HIV and TB remain a big challenge. The proportion of public health spending is rather low and accounts only for 2.2% of GDP and barely reaches 7% of overall government expenditures (GoT Report, 2014). Reliance on external funding is a risk for the sustainability and resilience of the health system, which requires further reforms in public finance management system to improve its efficiency and effectiveness in financing and supporting social sphere. Effective health financing policies, their practical expansion and ultimate countrywide implementation are critical. Public awareness of health rights and health information needs to be increased. Women, youth, children with disabilities and those living with HIV are particularly vulnerable. The poor face barriers due to high expenditure. Women are often unable to take independent decisions on health care and reproduction.

Education in Tajikistan remains an area where the rights of all children to quality, inclusive education face many challenges to be fulfilled, despite efforts of development partners and the Government of Tajikistan towards their joint goals. Children with disabilities, those from ethnic minorities, from poor households, refugees, and girls, as the most marginalized groups, continue to face challenges in accessing, retaining and completing education, starting from early childhood education throughout primary and secondary education. According to 2016 data from the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS), only 11.06% of young children had access to early childhood education programmes, which is the lowest rate in the region, affecting

COUNTRY CONTEXT

their readiness for academic achievement in primary school and increasing chances for dropout and hampered transitions to higher levels of education, especially for girls. Despite a decrease in girls' out-of-school rates in lower secondary from 9.1% to 6.2%, their transition to upper secondary education has hardly reached 74% (UIS, 2015). Disaggregated data indicate that almost 70% of children with disabilities (CWD) do not enjoy their right to education, despite there being almost universal coverage in basic education (grades 1-9). 26% of CWD receive formal education, out of whom 40 per cent still attend special segregated schools (Education Management Information System, 2015). Mainstreaming CWD in regular school is gradually happening, but without any systematic support, such as teacher training and reasonable accommodation. Key challenges in the area of education are: access to education for all children at preschool level and for particular categories of children at primary level and beyond; quality of education, especially provision of education services via a strengthened teaching and learning environment; equitable distribution and retention of skilled teachers and the need to increase financing at all levels of education; and the need to improve accountability and effective management for service delivery.

Social protection services in Tajikistan are still fragmented and do not make up an integrated, comprehensive system of complementary benefits and services. Benefits are small, poorly targeted and inefficiently managed. Community-based services are poorly developed and the social work profession is in its early stages of development. The most vulnerable groups in the society are persons with disabilities, people with poor access to information on entitlements, people with incomplete documentation and all those who rely solely on state benefits and services. Gender inequality is pervasive, despite a legal framework that protects women's rights. Violence against women is widespread and women's rights awareness and their participation in decision-making is low. Persons with disabilities face stigma and discrimination and suffer from negative perceptions, lack of legal provisions, poorly developed services and poor coordination. Youth have huge potential that is only partly tapped, have limited economic opportunities, face poor quality services that are not 'youth friendly', and are not 'heard' in decision-making.

Despite considerable efforts made by the government to address major food insecurity and malnutrition issues, problems related to poor nutrition are serious and affect the entire population, placing in particular women and children in a vulnerable position due to their special needs and socio-economic characteristics. According to a 2012 Demographic and Health Survey, 26% of children under age five were stunted and come mostly from poor households, with significant disparities between rural and urban areas. The survey found that 10% of children are wasted, placing Tajikistan under 'serious' wasting cut-off as per the WHO benchmark.

Despite many improvements, namely in establishing state legal aid centers, improving civil registration mechanisms, rule of law and access to justice still need more effort to strengthen the autonomy of the judiciary and capacity of justice sector institutions. The lack of a transparent and sustainable legal aid system make the most vulnerable people, especially women in rural areas, at-risk youth and persons with disabilities, unable to access the justice system effectively.

In 2016 under the 2nd cycle of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), Tajikistan received 203 recommendations out of which 153 and noted 45. Among others, Tajikistan committed to ratify the Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities, the second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to adopt a comprehensive National Human Rights Action Plan and to criminalize domestic violence.

In the area of environmental protection, a number of strategies and programmes have been adopted and are under implementation. Still, there are gaps in policy and management of natural resources, biodiversity and ecosystem services, which affect employment and livelihoods of the poor. Providing sufficient funding for environmental protection measures and effective use of natural resources remain key challenges.

Joint Results

2016



CONTRIBUTING UN AGENCIES



- FAO – Food and Agriculture Organization
- ILO – International Labour Organization
- OHCHR – Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
- UN WOMEN – United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
- UNAIDS – Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
- UNDP – United Nations Development Programme
- UNECE – Economic Commission for Europe
- UNESCO – United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
- UNFPA – United Nations Population Fund
- UNHCR – United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
- UNICEF – United Nations Children's Fund
- UNODC – United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
- UNRCCA – United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia
- WFP – World Food Programme
- WHO – World Health Organization

DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

Recognizing that success is built on strong partnerships, we express our gratitude to our international development partners who have partnered with us to make a difference in the lives of the people of Tajikistan. Collaboration with these partners has made it possible for UN agencies to mobilize the necessary funds and to achieve the progress that is presented in this report.

- European Union
- GAVI, the Vaccine Alliance
- Global Environment Fund
- Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria
- Government of Australia
- Government of Austria
- Government of Canada
- Government of Denmark
- Government of Finland
- Government of France
- Government of Germany
- Government of Italy
- Government of Japan
- Government of Luxembourg
- Government of Netherlands
- Government of Norway
- Government of Slovakia
- Government of Sweden
- Government of Switzerland
- Government of the Czech Republic
- Government of the Russian Federation
- Government of the United Kingdom
- Government of the United States of America
- Japan Association for World Food Programme
- UN Peace Building Fund
- UN Agencies Thematic Funds
- United Kingdom Conflict Stability and Sustainability Fund
- United Nations Human Security Trust Fund
- United Nations Partnership to Promote Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- World Bank Group
- Private donors from Spain, the Republic of Korea, Italy, Japan, Sweden, and the United States of America

UN CONTRIBUTION



1 Good Governance

Key areas of work: Support for judicial and legal reforms; promoting human rights; assisting the civil registration reform; building effective border management and support for refugees and stateless people.

2 Sustainable Economic Development

Key areas of work: Institutions and policies for employment and economic development; livelihoods and job creation; energy efficiency and access to energy.

3 Health, Education and Social Protection

Key areas of work: Health policies and programmes; early childhood; primary and secondary education; social protection.

4 Food Security and Nutrition

Key areas of work: Support for nutrition policies; treatment and prevention of malnutrition; assistance for food safety and food security strategies, research and awareness raising.

5 Inclusion and Empowerment of Vulnerable Groups

Key areas of work: support for vulnerable groups, especially women, children, youth, refugees, people with disabilities, etc.

6 Disaster Risk Reduction and Environment

Key areas of work: Disaster risk reduction and management; environmental protection and sustainable management of natural resources.

1

GOOD GOVERNANCE



UNDAF OUTCOME 1

People in Tajikistan have their rights protected and benefit from improved access to justice and quality services delivered by accountable, transparent, and gender responsive legislative, executive and judicial institutions at all levels.

CONTRIBUTING AGENCIES

- UNDP
- OHCHR
- FAO
- UN Women
- UNECE
- UNESCO
- UNFPA
- UNHCR
- UNICEF
- UNODC
- UNRCCA



70% population aware of registering civil acts.



3 national development strategies developed.



Open Budget Index scores between 41 to 60.

SITUATION

Key priority areas for the government in 2016 were the improvement of the mechanism through which the country reports on international obligations in the area of human rights, the strengthening of the institutional infrastructure for the protection of children's rights, and the establishment of free legal aid centers to help poor and remote communities access legal advice where the court system is overburdened and slow. In the area of criminal justice, the focus was on building the capacity of the law enforcement and the criminal justice system, facilitating better contacts among relevant prosecutorial and judicial authorities, and supporting institutions responsible for international and regional cooperation to tackle more effectively drug related threats and crimes.

Another area of significant importance was the reform of the civil registration system. A UN-supported functional review of the civil registration system revealed capacity gaps in service delivery resulting from weak implementation of policies. Problems are especially acute in remote areas where services are unavailable and unaffordable, largely as a result of accessibility factors.

Tajikistan also faces a number of border-related challenges, including the smuggling of goods and drugs, human trafficking and refugees. With the help of UN and international partners, the government has made significant efforts to strengthen border management and accord asylum seekers and refugees due protection and access to basic services. Still, many challenges remain, especially in the area of refugee rights and protection, where refugees in violation of the "rule of stay" law require intervention in order to avoid deportation.

Another serious problem is the extent of statelessness. According to UN estimates, there are about 42,000 stateless people in the country – the highest number in Central Asia. The government is considering accession to the "1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons" and "1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness" and is working towards the adoption of an amnesty law which will enable persons with expired or invalid documents to legalize their stay in Tajikistan.

UN CONTRIBUTION

JUDICIAL AND LEGAL REFORM

- In the framework of the second Universal Periodic Review (UPR), the UN assisted the government in implementing the recommendations of the Universal Periodic Review, supported the establishment of the Commission on the Implementation of International Obligations in the field of human rights and facilitated the engagement of civil society in the reporting process.
- Thanks to UN advocacy, the Office of the Ombudsman for Children's Rights (OCR) was established and supported with technical assistance on monitoring seven residential childcare institutions (which were trained on how to implement OCR recommendations). Also, a rapid assessment of OCR's complaint mechanism was conducted, which led to recommendations on how to improve its accessibility.
- The capacity of law enforcement and justice professionals to defend children's rights was strengthened. 10 new judge master trainers and 10 new police master trainers (including 2 women) at the Supreme Court and the Ministry of Interior were trained. Also, the national system for child rights data was strengthened in collaboration with the Statistical Agency, line ministries and local governments.
- The UN further supported the establishment of a free legal aid system. Following the adoption of the Concept on State Guaranteed Legal Aid and the establishment of the State Agency Legal Aid Centre, state run legal aid was piloted in 6 districts. This marked the beginning of transition from NGO-run to state-run legal aid. Another contribution was to raise the legal awareness of vulnerable and marginalized groups, especially women and children.

CIVIL REGISTRATION

- The UN supported a comprehensive review of the civil registration legislation, followed by a feasibility study for the establishment of a customized electronic registration system. It also supported the implementation of a baseline study to measure user perceptions of the proposed reform process and to guide further implementation of the reform.
- At the sub-district (jamoat) level, the UN supported the compilation and publishing of birth and death data and provided on-the-job training for statistics specialists. Also, population handbooks were developed in the Tajik language and were disseminated among local decision-makers.
- The UN-supported awareness raising activities with local communities and authorities, especially in poor, rural and isolated locations, enhanced people's understanding of their rights and opportunities in the area of civil registration.

BORDER MANAGEMENT AND SUPPORT FOR REFUGEES AND STATELESS PEOPLE

- In the area of border management, the UN assisted with the review of the National Border Management Strategy, provided training to 127 border guards and customs officers on integrated border management and renovated three border crossings.
- UN agencies supported the establishment of an inter-ministerial working group to draw up standard operating procedures for referrals of asylum seekers at the border. Support was also provided for the development of regulations on the implementation of the National Refugee Law. At the local level, the UN helped with the development of guidance on border referral systems for asylum seekers.
- The UN also assisted with the establishment of an Inter-Ministerial Working Group on Nationality and Statelessness to oversee the formulation of implementing regulations of the Constitutional Law on Nationality.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Under the 2nd cycle of UPR, Tajikistan received 203 recommendations, of which it supported 153 and noted 45. With UN support, it committed to ratify the Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities and the second Optional Protocol of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to adopt a National Human Rights Action Plan and to criminalize domestic violence.
-

- Thanks to continued UN support, 170 children who had committed minor offences were diverted from the criminal justice system to six district Centres for Additional Education in Sughd (including 21 girls) and Khatlon (19 girls) regions. They received psychosocial support, and parents trained to prevent re-offending.
 - About 7,500 vulnerable people, including 5,000 women and 575 persons with disabilities, received free legal aid. Furthermore, 14,000 people - 75% of whom women - were trained to claim their rights and demand public services.
-

- The UN-supported review of the civil registration legislation resulted in 60 recommendations considered by the Ministry of Justice for adoption.
 - More than 10,000 people in Devashtich and Rasht districts were sensitized about the importance of civil registration.
-

- The UN supported the identification of about 24,000 people of undetermined nationality, of whom 8,000 had their nationalities confirmed and about 50 (children) received birth certificates.
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2

SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



UNDAF OUTCOME 2

People in Tajikistan benefit from equitable and sustainable economic growth through decent and productive employment, stable energy supply, improved access to specialized knowledge and innovation, and favourable business environment, especially for entrepreneurs and farmers.

CONTRIBUTING AGENCIES

FAO	UNHCR
UNDP	UNECE
UN Women	UNESCO
ILO	UNODC



20% of population below poverty line by 2020.



Average annual increase of agriculture production at least by 10% in the 5 year period; By 2020, at least 20% of domestic food demand met by domestic production.



Access to cost-efficient and sustainable energy insured for at least 200,000 people in rural areas for 12 hours in winter time.



Employment rate general population: at least 60%.

SITUATION

Despite a challenging external environment, Tajikistan's economy had a healthy performance in 2016, growing at about 6.9% (WB website). Domestic factors continued to drive growth, and both the construction and industrial sectors expanded as the economy's focus shifted from consumption to investment. 2016 was the first year of the implementation of the NDS 2030 and its operational MTDP 2020, which have prioritized the energy, food security, transport communications and productive employment sectors. Significant public investments in construction and industry boosted economic growth. Tajikistan's competitiveness ranking in the Global Competitiveness Report of the World Economic Forum rose from 80th to 77th among 138 countries, mainly as a result of better ground transport and electricity infrastructure, reduced regulatory burden to start a business, and a slightly improved institutional environment.

Negative external pressures continued in 2016, especially those related to remittances from Russia. The number of Tajik migrants in Russia continued to decline due to Russia's ongoing economic challenges, the decline of the ruble's exchange rate and severe migration regulations. According to the "People's well-being in Tajikistan" report (WB, UNICEF, GIZ, IOM and WFP, 2016), only 25% of returned migrants could find a new job in Tajikistan. At the same time, migration continues to be a major coping livelihood strategy for more than 30% of households, followed by self-employment and agriculture. The agriculture sector remains one of the most important sectors of the economy. Its contribution to GDP amounts to about 23%. Almost 2/3 of the active enterprises are agribusinesses and about 66% of the population is engaged in the agricultural sector. Cotton, fresh and dry fruits, vegetables and onions are the main agricultural exports.

The ongoing economic challenges have impacted the well-being of the population, with the bottom 40% of households being the most affected. A World Bank analysis of non-monetary poverty revealed that the key dimensions associated with non-monetary poverty are deprivations in 'education', poor access to 'sewerage', and poor 'heating'.

UN CONTRIBUTION

INSTITUTIONS AND POLICIES FOR EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

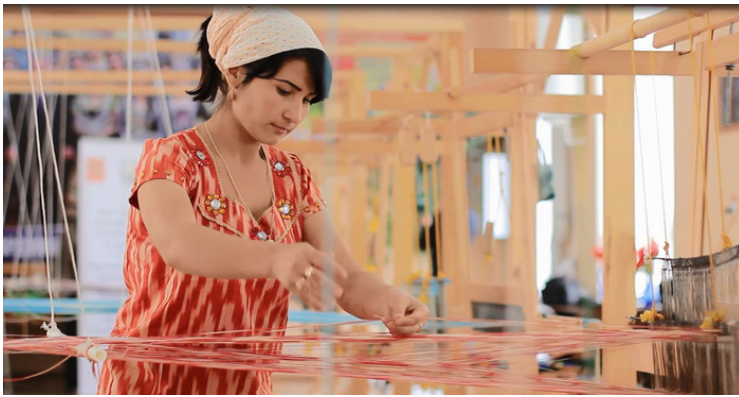
- In the area of economic development, the UN supported the formulation of a range of strategies and policies at the national and sub-national level. Key examples are the NDS (2030), MTDP (2020) and the development programmes of three provinces and a number of districts (covering 98% of all 67 districts).
- Support was also provided for the development of the State Programme for Export Promotion and Increased Competitiveness, the National Action Plan for Improvement of Investment Climate in Agriculture and Agribusiness, the Needs Assessment of the Ministry of Agriculture and the State Veterinary Inspection Service, the Strategic Environmental Assessment, etc.
- In the area of labour market and employment, the UN supported the Ministry of Labour, Migration and Employment in piloting a Skills Needs Assessment to determine employers' needs for labour. Also, support was provided in aligning the Labour Force Survey questionnaire with the latest Resolution of the 19th International Conference of Labour Statisticians and with SDG indicators.

LIVELIHOODS AND JOB CREATION

- Another area of UN support in 2016 was the development of local businesses through the provision of micro-finance and vocational training. This contributed to improved livelihoods, human security and employment for the population of rural and remote districts with high levels of poverty.
- Moreover, through targeted support in specific sectors, UN agencies strengthened the financial stability of local producers, improved their competitiveness in the local market and contributed to an increase of local production.
- UN interventions in this area had a particular focus on migrant families, vulnerable women, female-headed households, people with disabilities and other marginalized groups. Interventions were designed and delivered to strengthen their capacity to engage in business activities and generate income.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND ACCESS TO ENERGY

- UN helped around 40 households (about 240 people, 40% women) to ensure better living standards through renewed access to energy.
- Also, thanks to the implementation of an innovative pilot crowdfunding campaign, the UN contributed to energy efficiency improvements in schools that benefited 113 schoolchildren (48 girls, 65 boys).
- Further support was provided to improvements in access to energy through trainings for men and women on the installation of solar panels. Sustainable energy solutions were provided to 20 households of Dusti district and 20 households of Khizstevars jamoat by helping them installing solar water heaters.



HUMAN STORIES

I am Mijgona Jalilova and I was born in 1989 in the small village of Kushdevor, Navgilem Jamoat, Isfara District. My childhood dream was to become a tailor, create beautiful outfits for women and delight them with my products. Family life did not turn out to be happy, so I had to leave my husband's family. That was a difficult period for me, as I needed support and understanding. However, I decided to continue my studies and get a profession. I enrolled in design courses in Khujand city and began tailoring at home. That provided me with a small income, but still I continued looking for a job. In 2015, I was lucky to take a course on adras weaving. After successfully completing the 12-week training, I became specialized in this type of activity.

The challenge of weaving adras is the complexity of the process, which requires a lot of patience and endurance. But when different yarns under your hands turn into something concrete, with a harmonious combination of colors, you get pleasure from the work. Adras absorb the palette of our region's nature, starting from high snow-capped mountains, turbulent rivers, green flowering valleys and fruit gardens. I am proud of the result of our work. We produced 14 new types of adras, with different colours, textures and patterns. The samples captured the hearts of the customers.

Mijgona benefited from UNDP's "Livelihood Improvement in Tajik-Afghan Cross-border Areas" project which supported the creation of three workshops for the production of adras in Isfara and Vose districts of Rasht, as well as the training of more than 50 young women.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Supported the construction of the Small Hydro Power Station "Sorvo" in Romit jamoat (off-grid).
- Improved energy efficiency in Guzgef School No. 87 and in Vahdat district in Romit jamoat (off-grid).
- Trained 30 women on "do-it-yourself" installation of solar water heaters.

- About 170,000 people (including around 90,000 women) benefited from improved livelihoods.
- About 1,500 full-time jobs were created (including around 1,300 for women) through support for agricultural value chains and provision of micro-credits.
- About 230,000 people (including around 100,000 women) benefited directly from 78 social and economic infrastructure projects, whereas the estimated number of people benefiting indirectly from improved access to water, energy, land, healthcare and education is estimated to have been around 700,000.

- Provided income generation initiatives for about 3,500 rural women through active participation in productive activities.
- Supported the employment of 68% of asylum seekers and refugees. 112 of them got job placements.
- Supported with apprenticeship programmes 99 asylum seekers and refugees.
- Provided entrepreneurship and business training to 147 asylum seekers and refugees.
- Provided targeted support for value chains of local producers and processors in a variety of sectors.

3

HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL PROTECTION



UNDAF OUTCOME 3

People in Tajikistan benefit from quality, equitable and inclusive health, education and social protection systems.

CONTRIBUTING AGENCIES

UNICEF	UNESCO
WHO	UNFPA
ILO	UNHCR
OHCHR	UNODC
UNAIDS	WFP
UNDP	



40,000 children with disabilities receiving social pensions. 370,000 primary grades school children receive daily hot meals.



Neonatal mortality rate from 22% to 16% (per 1,000 live births).



Transition rate 85% from basic to secondary general education.

SITUATION

Tajikistan's health system faces numerous challenges, including the quality of services and the allocation of financial resources. The proportion of public spending on health is rather low at 2.2% of GDP and barely 7% of overall government spending (Health Policy Analysis Unit, MoHSP, 2014). Reliance on external funding is a risk for the system's sustainability and resilience. The National Health Strategy for the period 2010–2020 prioritizes improvements in the health sector and in particular the development of primary health care based on family medicine. The government has approved the National Comprehensive Strategic Plan for Health Sector Financing Reforms for 2015–2018, which identifies a number of measures for safeguarding citizens from financial risks related to the use of health services. Also, the Strategic Plan for the Development of Family Medicine-based Primary Health Care 2016–2020 identifies entry points for transforming service delivery and aligning health sector priorities with global and regional commitments, including the SDGs.

Results in the health sector have been encouraging in the last few years. Over 2000–2013, the maternal mortality rate decreased from 89 to 44 per 100,000 live births. Under-five child mortality has declined substantially from 93 to 58 per 1000 live births between 2000 and 2012 ("Level and trends in child mortality" report, 2013). The slowest reduction rate is observed in newborn mortality with 40% of deaths occurring in the first four weeks of life. Preventable and treatable pneumonia and diarrhoea still remain leading causes of child deaths. Contraceptive prevalence is 28% and shows a declining trend compared to 38% in 2005 (MICS, 2005). Unmet need for family planning is reported as being 23% (Tajikistan Demographic and Health Survey, 2012). Major adolescent health risks are unhealthy behaviours, mental health issues and early childbearing. HIV prevalence has increased over the past decade, though it still is in a concentrated stage with a 13.8 per 100,000 HIV incidence in 2015 (MoHSP). The tuberculosis incidence is estimated at 100 (with mortality rate of 6.9) per 100,000 (Tajikistan Tuberculosis profile). Over the past 5 years there has been an increase in the number of detected HIV/TB co-infection cases, reaching 3.2 per 100,000 in 2013. 2012 data show that 88% of children aged 18–29 months had received all basic WHO-recommended vaccinations (Tajikistan Demographic and Health Survey, 2012). Non-communicable diseases account for 59% of all deaths, with 47% of all cases in 2008 due to cardiovascular diseases (WHO, 2014).



The rights of children to quality and inclusive education face many challenges across the country, despite efforts by the government and development partners. Many children with disabilities or from ethnic minorities, poor households and refugee communities continue to face challenges in accessing, retaining and completing education, starting from early childhood through primary to secondary education. In 2015, only 12% of young children had access to early childhood education, which is the lowest rate in the region (UNESCO Institute for Statistics, 2016). Despite a drop in girls' out-of-school rates in lower secondary from 9% to 6%, their transition to upper secondary education has hardly reached 74% (UNESCO Institute for Statistics, 2016). Also, recent research shows that the ordinary diet of schoolchildren is poor in many essential micronutrients, which negatively influences growth, development, school performance and overall health.

Authorities have planned to increase the coverage of pre-school programs to 30% and 40% by 2020 and 2030 respectively. The government has undertaken a major reform in curriculum development for primary education and selected subjects in secondary education. In September 2016, a new curriculum for primary education was introduced. Also, public expenditure on education has increased significantly since 2012, reaching 5.5% in 2015 (Ministry of Education). In order to increase the efficiency and transparency in budgeting for education, per capita financing has continued to be rolled out to all districts and applied at the school level.

While strong economic growth has helped lower the monetary poverty rate from 37.4% in 2012 to 31.3% in 2015, according to the GoT the country has done less well in reducing non-monetary poverty. With UN support, the government has developed a new Social Protection Strategy for the period to 2020 (at the time of reporting, the strategy is still in draft form) which envisages more comprehensive and integrated social protection. When the strategy is endorsed, the government will have a unique policy document for social protection centered on a life cycle approach. Also, the government is considering a new law on Targeted Social Assistance, which will outline procedures for the provision of targeted social assistance to poor households. More than 40 districts are planned to be covered by the scheme in 2017 and full national coverage is anticipated in 2018.

UN CONTRIBUTION

HEALTH

- In the area of health, the UN strengthened the capacity of policymakers and service providers to design, deliver and monitor programmes and to manage inter-sectoral coordination in the area of reproductive, maternal, neonatal, child and adolescent health, communicable and non-communicable diseases, etc. Working closely with a range of governmental and non-governmental organizations, UN agencies contributed to placing health equity at the center of the national SDG framework and inter-sectoral policies.
- The UN supported a range of policies and programmes - i.e. the National Action Plan on Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health, the Cervical Cancer Prevention Programme, the Midwifery Programme, the national policy and clinical protocol on elimination of HIV transmission from mother to child, the National Strategic Plan against HIV, the policy on the provision of medical services to adolescents and youth, including at risk groups, etc.
- Also, support was provided to a range of initiatives, such as safe abortion and post-abortion care standards in line with WHO guidelines, the Vaccine Independent Initiative which allows the government to procure vaccines without advance payment, the assessment of the quality of Sexual and Reproductive Health services at the primary health care level (covering 16 Rural Health Centers and 16 Health Houses), the modelling of the adolescent mental health initiative to be piloted in selected geographical areas, etc.
- In particular, the UN contributed to the enhancement of treatment, care and support of people living with HIV and TB by strengthening the enabling environment for access to services, strengthening community systems, building the capacity of national counterparts, and removing legal barriers to access.

HIGHLIGHTS



- Supported the formulation of the government's strategic plan for the development of family medicine-based primary health care (2016–2020).
- Supported the participation of the National Regulatory Authorities in the WHO Certification Scheme on the Quality of Pharmaceutical Products Moving in International Commerce.
- Conducted a profiling survey of 437 households comprising 2,381 refugees (1,194 men and 1,187 women) which assessed the degree to which refugees accessed state run medical facilities.
- Established 10 additional child friendly consultation rooms for outpatient pediatric AIDS services which involved procurement of equipment and medical instruments and renovation and design of the facilities.
- Supported the ministries of health and education to conduct a helminthological assessment and a nationwide deworming campaign reaching 1,700,000 children.

EDUCATION

- The UN contributed to building the capacity of a number of stakeholders for advocacy and increased political commitment, improved accountability in the sector, the ability to adequately programme and implement education programmes, etc. In particular, the UN focused on promoting the rights of children with disabilities to education and ensuring inclusive education.
- The UN supported the development of an Early Warning System aimed at identifying children at risk of dropping out and take relevant preventive action. It also supported teacher preparation programmes of the Tajik State Pedagogical University and the Rasht Pedagogical Institute, which resulted in 140 faculty staff applying active learning and innovative teaching techniques with future schoolteachers as a foundation for competency-based teaching and learning.
- Also, 204 teachers in mainstream schools were assisted to benefit from an in-service teacher-training programme on student-centered approaches and inclusive education. The UN also supported the creation of a network of 60 teachers skilled on inclusive education to further support the professional development of inclusive teachers in Gorno-Badakhshan.
- UN agencies supported 432 Early Childhood Education (ECE) centers, which serve about 10,000 children. The capacity of about 850 teachers was strengthened to deliver an ECE programme which is child centered and interactive in nature. 42 new ECE centers were established to contribute to local-level social cohesion in border areas with Kyrgyzstan. These centers provide spaces for communities of diverse backgrounds to come together and engage in constructive dialogue and interaction around young children's development. In addition, over 400 school administrators and school accountants were trained on financial management.
- UN supported primary school children in 2,000 schools with daily school meals, advocating for national support for the programme. Also, given Tajikistan's vulnerability to natural hazards, the UN played an important role in providing a coordinated response to three major natural disasters. UN agencies supported children whose education was interrupted during the emergency. Also, the need to reinforce systematic and sustainable Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) interventions was identified and a comprehensive school-based DRR model for resilient schools and communities was tested in two schools.

SOCIAL PROTECTION

- The UN actively promoted the social protection of vulnerable groups - people with HIV/AIDS or TB, refugees, children, people with disabilities, etc. Working closely with MoHSPP and other partners, UN agencies supported the fulfillment of the rights of people living with HIV, assisted refugees with no access to services (i.e. refugees with disabilities entitled to free medical treatment but unable to access it), provided hot meals to schoolchildren in rural areas, etc.
- UN agencies advocated for the incorporation of UN-supported safety nets into a fully government-owned social protection system and the increase of government spending on social protection. The government was further supported to develop a new Social Protection Strategy based on the life cycle approach and to prioritize the social protection of mothers and children, elderly, etc. UN agencies also assisted the Inter-ministerial Coordination Committee with the development of a National School Feeding Strategy which will lead to a country-owned school meals programme as part of the national social protection system. Also, support was provided to the creation of a unit on Social Protection Policy Analysis under MoHSPP and the establishment of an integrated system for data collection, analysis and reporting, which will boost evidence-based policy making.



HUMAN STORIES

Hadisai Mujikharfi- a young advocate of girls' right to education

Hadisa is the first girl in the Mujikharf jamoat, in the mountainous Nurabad district, to continue her studies past grade 9. None of the girls of her community have continued to higher grades in the last two decades, making it the jamoat with the lowest rate of girls' enrollment to upper secondary education in Tajikistan.

While in grade 10, with the sole support of her father, and great opposition from her brothers and other community members, she participated in the Active Girl competition implemented by NGO Youth Initiative of Tajikistan with the support of UNICEF and in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Science and the Committee for Youth, Sports and Tourism under the Government of Tajikistan. The school is part of the Girls Education Project aiming to work towards increasing the percentage of girls transitioning from compulsory to non-compulsory education in selected schools in three districts of Tajikistan- Vahdat, Rudaki and Nurobod. In a project for which her school was a pilot, Hadisa was selected as one of the young activists to be trained in strengthening the capacities of young girls by empowering them to continue their education.

This new path in front of her had its obstacles. It is a custom for girls of the Mujikharf jamoat not to leave their village unaccompanied by their father, grandfather or brother. Understanding and adjusting to the local culture, project representatives allowed Hadisa to be accompanied by her father in order to participate in a consultation workshop in Khujand with girls from other regions of the country. For the first time in her young life, Hadisa had the chance to travel outside her village, meet other young activist girls and travel together to visit girls clubs in Isfara and Babajan Ghafurov. The aim of the girls' club is to mobilize girls in working with family members, school directors, teachers and communities to support girls' education. In addition, ICT courses were provided to enhance girls' computer skills, which in turn supported their successful transition to secondary education. The schoolgirls of upper secondary grades are provided computer classes within the girls' clubs in schools and mentored by young coaches who guide them towards their future career paths.



HUMAN STORIES

With the training she received, and now part of the girls club, Hadisa has already succeeded in bringing one of her classmates to continue education to grade 10, and continues to advocate for girls' right to education in other schools of the jamoat as part of the peer-to-peer activities.

Her father's support, despite pressure from the elders of the community and his sons to unroll his daughter from school, is as inspiring as Hadisa's persistence to help girls attain their right to education and advance their role in society. With the determination of a young advocate, Hadisa's work with other girls of the village continues.

To date, UNICEF and NGO Youth Initiative Initiative of Tajikistan have supported the establishment of similar girls' clubs in 26 schools of Tajikistan. More than 2,372 girls are now enrolled in the clubs. For the majority of them, like Hadisa, this is the chance to realize the basic right to education and improve the quality of their life.

Community support and ability to access high quality inclusive education are paramount for girls in Tajikistan to gain the knowledge and skills they need to develop to their fullest capacity as members of society. Empowered, they are the ones who will be able to build, alongside their male peers, prosperous, peaceful and tolerant communities.

- Thanks to UN support, from 2,696 (1,146 girls and 1,550 boys) students identified at risk of dropping out in 50 schools, only 0.7% dropped out in 2016. Support to girls' transition to secondary education in 16 target schools resulted in 96% of girls transitioning from Grade 9 to 10. Girls' transition rate to non-compulsory upper secondary education increased by 10% in 16 schools in 3 districts.

- Support was provided to 1,279 children (591 girls and 688 boys) affected by humanitarian emergencies with formal and non-formal basic education through temporary learning classes, basic school supplies and hygiene kits.

- Supported authorities to assess the functionality of the Social Assistance at Home Units – home-based care services provided by para-social workers to elderly and children with disabilities.
- Supported a survey, led by the World Bank, on the well-being of population, designed to assess the impact of the socio-economic situation on the most vulnerable households and their children.

- Providing hot meals to 370,000 primary school-children in rural areas, UN agencies continued supporting the growing social protection system and the government's commitment to take over and expand the programme as part of the national social protection system.
- Supported the adaptation of the generic Nutrition Assessment and Counselling Support guidelines to improve treatment adherence and cure rates of TB patients.



HUMAN STORIES

Jamila adopts a healthy lifestyle

Jamila is 51 years old and lives in the Kharangon village. She has worked as a family nurse at the Primary Health Care center of her village for more than 30 years. Jamila was one of 3,000 people selected as respondents for a health survey supported by the WHO. She was interviewed about her diet, physical activity and tobacco and alcohol use during her entire life.

The survey in which Jamila participated was part of a nationwide training and survey, conducted by WHO on risk factors related to non-communicable diseases (NCD) as part of the national NCD prevention and control programme. Jamila is not very active physically - all she walks on a daily basis is about 500 meters to go to her office and return home. She has never used tobacco and alcohol. Yet, her food consumption includes high doses of sugar and oily foods.

Although Jamila had over 30 years of experience in the medical profession, she had never checked the level of glucose in her blood. Moreover, she had never thought that her health complaints would be connected to obesity and diabetes. She associated her muscle pain and feeling of thirst with weather, the environment and getting tired at work. She never worried about her weight and did not take it as a serious health problem.

Dr Dilafruz Turanova is an endocrinologist at a republican clinical endocrinology center who has been trained by WHO on the anthropometric

assessment and evaluation of patients' level of cholesterol, high-density lipoprotein, triglycerides and glucose. She assessed Jamila and found that she had a very high level of glucose and triglycerides, and a slight increase in high-density lipoprotein and cholesterol. Jamila's blood pressure was higher than normal, her body mass index was moderate and blood tests confirmed that she had type 2 diabetes.

When Jamila was informed by Dr Dilafruz on her health status, she was "very surprised and scared by her diagnosis". She immediately started receiving treatment and counselling on a healthy diet and physical activities under the supervision of Dr Dilafruz. In the following three months, Jamila managed to lose 9.2 kg and control her glucose level through medicines and a healthy diet.

Following this experience, in her role as a family nurse, Jamila started providing counselling to people in her community about various health risk factors. Jamila referred to the endocrinology center 10 at-risk individuals, who were later diagnosed with diabetes and obesity.

Now Jamila feels proud that she can help people in her community prevent disability and early death by leading healthy lifestyles and detecting risk factors early on.

4

FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION



UNDAF OUTCOME 4

The nutritional status of the people in Tajikistan is improved through stable access to sufficient, appropriate and safe food, improved child feeding practices, better water and sanitation and improved access to quality health care.



SITUATION

Despite improvements in poverty reduction, the nutritional status of the population remains poor. Tajikistan scores 30 (“serious”) on the 2016 Global Hunger Index, with only 44 out of 131 countries performing worse. Problems related to poor nutrition affect the entire population, but place women and children in a particularly vulnerable position due to their special needs and socio-economic status. According to the 2012 Tajikistan Demographic and Health Survey, 26% of children under age five are stunted and come mostly from poor households, with significant disparities between rural and urban areas. The survey found that 10% of children are wasted, placing Tajikistan under the ‘serious’ wasting cut-off as per the WHO benchmark.

This situation was also confirmed by the biannual Food Security and Monitoring System (FSMS) conducted in May 2016, which revealed that the prevalence of under-nutrition among interviewed households living in rural areas is not improving (with 30.4% of children being stunted and 6 percent wasted). Poor infant and young child feeding practices contribute to malnutrition; only 20% of children receive adequate food diversity and frequency. Micronutrient deficiencies affect women of reproductive age and children under-five - 55% are iodine-deficient and 30% are anemic. Under-nutrition is a major cause of infant mortality, indirectly contributing to 35% of mortality cases of children under five. Under-nutrition costs the economy an estimated USD 41 million per year due to deaths (USD 12.5 million a year) and due to loss in productivity caused by stunting, iodine deficiency, childhood anemia and low birth weight (USD 28.5 million). The FSMS highlights a grave concern regarding the low dietary diversity and low meal frequency of young children. Only 12% of breastfed children and 33% of non-breastfed children aged 6-23 months received food from 4 or more different food groups (minimum dietary diversity). Furthermore, only 14% of non-breastfed children aged 6-23 months and 19% of breastfed children 9-23 months are fed the minimum number of times recommended per day.

Considerable efforts have been made by the government to address major food insecurity and malnutrition issues through the implementation of legislation and the development of initiatives specifically focused on food security and nutrition. The recently approved National Development Strategy 2016-2030 has identified food security and nutrition as one of the primary four strategic goals of the country.

UN CONTRIBUTION

NUTRITION

- The UN supported the efforts of the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of Population (MoHSPP) to improve treatment for undernourished children by strengthening the capacity of medical staff in the management of acute malnutrition both in hospitals and primary health care centers. UN agencies also helped the Republican Family Medicine Centre update the family medicine curricula and train family doctors from district educational branches.
- The UN supported the collection of a variety of indicators used for the monitoring and evaluation of nutrition programmes. A number of surveys and research initiatives received UN support – i.e. a nationwide nutrition survey, a formative research on infant and young child feeding to better understand the drivers (family support and cultural values) behind the nutrition statistics, a Food Environment Description survey (Feedcities) in ten randomly selected food markets in Dushanbe, the piloting of the Child Obesity Surveillance Initiative data collection and its integration into MoHSP's surveillance systems, etc.
- By promoting the SUN (Scaling Up Nutrition) movement, the UN assisted the government to unite stakeholders in a collective effort to improve nutrition. To demonstrate the effects of the SUN approach, the UN supported a study tour in Nepal for 15 representatives from Tajikistan. Furthermore, the UN jointly with other donors supported the MoHSPP to conduct a first ever National Nutrition Forum which resulted in a resolution by all participating government and development agencies to eradicate malnutrition among children.
- UN agencies have also actively raised community awareness on a number of nutrition issues. Mini-surveys revealed that between 2015 and 2016 an increased proportion of households were using iodized salt in the Rash Valley districts thanks to UN interventions that sensitized the population.

FOOD SAFETY

- The UN strengthened the capacities of governmental and non-governmental actors to promote food safety and prevent foodborne diseases. It supported the development of the national food safety strategy and national guidelines to prevent anthrax in humans and animals. Support was also provided to the development and dissemination of national guidelines on good hygiene practices based on HACCP principles. UN agencies also supported the review of the inter-sectoral activities on Codex Alimentarius, re-establishment of the national multi-sectoral working group and appointment of a new National Codex Contact Point.
- Moreover, UN agencies helped with data systems and the collection of indicators used for the monitoring and evaluation of food safety programmes.

FOOD SECURITY

- The UN assisted the government in the development of mechanisms for addressing food security through the promotion of domestic production. Support was provided at the institutional and policy level through capacity building for the National Food Security Council, the development of the National Food Security Programme and amendments to the food security legislation, which has been brought in line with international standards.
- Data systems used for monitoring and evaluating food security were strengthened with UN assistance. The UN supported the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) to conduct a food security situational analysis and biannual food security monitoring to produce an accurate picture of food security in rural areas. MoA was also supported to develop a new National Food Security Programme.

HIGHLIGHTS



Qurbonoi Teshaeva, a mother of five, was forced to move to her relatives in the Kulob district when her husband migrated to Russia to seek a better salary. Her relatives were not in a financial position to support her entire family, so Qurbonoi had no other choice but to find a source of income for herself and her children until her husband was able to send her remittances. She was able to secure a job as a part-time domestic worker but the salary was not enough to clothe and feed her children. Times were tough for Qurbonoi whose nine-month old son, Fayzali, had dramatically lost weight and often felt sick.

Qurbonoi first heard about the WFP supplementary feeding programme from nurses when she took her ill son to the hospital. In November 2016, Fayzali was admitted into the targeted supplementary feeding programme weighing 7.1 kg, 1.2 kg below the average for his height. Fayzali benefitted from the targeted supplementary feeding programme, which WFP implements in collaboration with MoHSP. During the treatment period, Qurbonoi received a take-home ration for Fayzali consisting of specified nutritious food of fortified blended flour that includes a comprehensive micronutrient vitamin and mineral mix. This blend of carbohydrates, fats, sugars, minerals and vitamins allows children to quickly gain weight, and prevents micronutrient deficiencies, detrimental to physical and mental development. Fayzali was discharged from the programme after 8 weeks of treatment, weighing 7.8 kg, or 200 gm above the minimum release weight. His mother received nutritional advice on appropriate foods and feeding practices. She believes that although she has a limited income, the knowledge she gained will help her feed her children with nutritious balanced food.

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- **Supported MoHSPP in the provision of micronutrients (Vitamin A, Iron-folic acid, Sprinkles) to pregnant and lactating women and children under 5. During 2016, the Vitamin A supplementation programme covered 98% of 6-59 months old children, whereas the micronutrient supplementation programme targeted 210,720 children in 33 of the country's 64 districts. Furthermore, about 100,000 pregnant women in 35 districts received iron and folic acid tablets as part of their antenatal care at PHC level.**
-
- **Trained 85 doctors in 64 hospitals on facility-based treatment of malnutrition.**
 - **116 doctors and nurses in 3 districts were trained on community-based treatment of moderate and severe acute malnutrition for children aged 6-59 months.**
 - **Treated 3,648 children affected by moderate acute malnutrition under the supplementary feeding programme.**
-
- **Supported MoHSP to conduct a campaign to promote breastfeeding, reaching more than 125,000 lactating mothers and 35,000 health workers. Over 60% of the population was reached.**
 - **Distributed 170 metric tons of iodized salt to 391,000 schoolchildren and 3,200 food insecure households.**
-
- **Convened more than 50 specialists from MoHSP, the State Sanitary Epidemiology Surveillance Services, and the State Veterinary Surveillance Services to discuss foodborne and zoonotic diseases, focusing on botulism and anthrax.**
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5

INCLUSION AND EMPOWERMENT OF VULNERABLE GROUPS



UNDAF OUTCOME 5

Women, youth, children, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups are protected from violence and discrimination, have a voice that is heard and are respected as equal members of society.

CONTRIBUTING AGENCIES

UN WOMEN	UNDP
UNFPA	UNHCR
ILO	UNICEF
OHCHR	WHO



25 % decrease in
Gender Gap Index.

SITUATION

Domestic violence is a common form of Violence Against Women (VAW) linked to patriarchal norms and behavior. Despite the adoption of the Law on the Prevention of Domestic Violence in 2013 and the State Program for 2014–2023, domestic violence is still largely considered a private matter, rather than a social issue and a violation of human rights. Public tolerance to VAW is high. In a recent survey conducted by OXFAM GB, 97% of men and 72% of women expressed acceptance of domestic violence. Only 36% of respondents knew about the existence of domestic violence law.

Tajikistan is also seriously affected by the problem of child labour. The prevalence of child labour has disastrous consequences on the safety, education, health and overall well-being of children. The 2013 Child Labour Survey revealed that about 500,000 children or about 23% of 5-17 year-olds are engaged in child labour. The government is committed to achieving the goal of Elimination the Worst Forms of Child Labour by 2020.

Another vulnerable group in Tajikistan are refugees. At present, some 3,000 asylum seekers and refugees live in the country, but as the situation continues to be volatile in neighboring Afghanistan, more refugees are expected to arrive. At a time when many countries are closing their borders or pushing asylum seekers back, Tajikistan continues to open its doors to refugees. As prospects of return remains elusive, these refugees have made Tajikistan their home - a safe place to educate their children and find employment to support their families.

Tajikistan has more than 125,000 people who are registered as disabled. About 20,000 of them are under 16 years old and very few attend school. There are about 1,500 children with disabilities registered as orphans. More than 2,500 children with disabilities live in residential institutions. Disability is stigmatized and many children are still kept in state institutions or hidden away at home.

UN CONTRIBUTION

WOMEN

- The UN helped mainstream the gender perspective into the NDS and other national, sectoral and local strategies and plans. Support was provided to MoHSP to strengthen its response to Gender Based Violence (GBV) and enhance the capacity of health professionals for the provision of gender sensitive services to victims of violence. The Ministry of Interior was supported in the development of guidelines for its personnel on responding to domestic violence. The Ministry was also assisted to develop a referral mechanism that connects prevention, protection and response activities under one framework.
- A number of NGOs were supported in raising public awareness on women's human rights and prevention of domestic violence through better access to public services, including civil registration. Particular attention in these initiatives was paid to adolescent girls, especially those under the risk of early marriage.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

- One of the key areas of UN's work was the eradication of the worst forms of child labour. UN agencies strengthened the capacity of a number of actors to advocate and campaign for quality education and against child labour. They assisted the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Migration with training on addressing various dimensions of child labour. Also, services were provided to 170 working children above the minimum age for admission to employment (job counselling, training on life skills, core labour standards, entrepreneurship training, etc.)
- UN agencies supported young people to participate in decision-making processes in order to create an enabling environment for adolescent health promotion and enhance access to sexual and reproductive health information and services. The project "I want to talk" has transformed the lives of both the participating adolescents living with HIV and their parents by breaking their isolation.
- UN agencies also assisted national institutions and NGO networks to conduct evidence-based advocacy for incorporating adolescent and youth rights in national laws, policies and programmes. For example, the UN has introduced the concept of the Youth Innovation Lab, a programme for life-skills development for adolescents, and has received agreement from the government to pilot this concept in two centers for additional education. Also, UN agencies have supported the conduct of a desk review of marginalized adolescents and youth, which provided a clear snapshot of their situation.

REFUGEES, PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES, ETC.

- Another important area of UN involvement was support for people with disabilities. Amongst many contributions, the UN advocated for Tajikistan's accession to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the development of a multi-sectoral national programme for the rehabilitation of persons with disabilities (2017-2020) and the conduct of a key baseline study on knowledge, attitudes, practices and social norms related to children and women with disabilities. In selected districts, the UN supported the implementation of the national "community-based rehabilitation" approach for disabled children and adults, with the aim of preventing their institutionalization.
- The UN also contributed to the integration of refugees in local communities. Positive results of integration are seen amongst refugee children in local schools. The majority (87%) of school-age children are in school and most children are attending state schools (59% of those enrolled).



HUMAN STORIES

As her warm smile and traditional Tajik hospitality drive away the outdoor chill, Ms. Olufta Kaarbekova, 39, offers her guests freshly made Qurut, traditional dried milk bowls, and Chakka and Churgot, two types of sour milk. Things were quite different for her not so long ago, she says. “A year ago, I wouldn’t have stood here with a smile,” says Ms. Kaarbekova, whose husband abandoned her and her two children after having left for work in Bishkek. “After my husband broke all ties with us and filed for divorce, his relatives began harassing me and the children. They forced us to leave our home.”

One of the country’s most vulnerable populations, abandoned or single women lead an estimated 300,000 households in Tajikistan, a country where remittances from 1.5 million labour migrants abroad accounted for 41.7 per cent of GDP in 2014.

Excluded like many abandoned women from her former home and property, the first step in Ms. Kaarbekova’s recovery began when she became active in Asamat, a nearby self-help group that specialised in dairy production. Asamat is one of 12 innovative Rasht Valley joint economic initiatives supported by a UN Women project.

With financial support from Norway’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the project Empowering Abandoned Women from Migrant Families in Tajikistan provides comprehensive legal, social and economic support via 326 collective self-help groups to 3,000

(continues...)

HIGHLIGHTS

- **Supported the Tajik Family Planning Alliance in organizing a number of “Health Fairs” in Rasht valley. Over 4,000 women and young girls received health and legal services by qualified experts including doctors, lawyers and human rights specialists. Services included legal advice and referral to law enforcement structures, counseling and prescribing of medical treatment, contraceptive services, etc. Beneficiaries received informational materials on family planning, prophylactic measures on HIV and cervical cancer prevention, etc.**

- **Supported MoHSP in establishing within health facilities 8 “victim support rooms” in support of women.**
- **Supported information and mass media campaigns and communications activities (at least 10 campaigns held with 50,000 people covered) on the risks of early marriage.**

- **Organized International Youth Day, involving at least 40 partners and reaching more than 100,000 youth.**

- **Supported an awareness raising training for members of the Union of Employers on ending child labour in the agriculture sector.**
- **Provided capacity building support for 100 members of the “Association of Producers and Exporters of Agriculture Products” on ending child labour in the agriculture supply chains.**

HUMAN STORIES

abandoned women in two regions – 1,800 of whom, like Ms. Kaarbekova, live in the Rasht jamoat in eastern Tajikistan.

With technical business development support from the NGO Fidokor, the Asamat self-help group officially registered as a public initiative body, becoming Jirgatal's first dairy – with Ms. Kaarbekova as its leader.

“Asamat made me believe in life again. I used to have two cows and would convert their milk into different dairy products,” explains Ms. Kaarbekova. “Milk processing is what I am good at and what I do with most pleasure.”

The UN Women project supported the next step in Ms. Kaarbekova's transformation: a tiresome fight through courts and family clans to gain alimony and access to her property.

“Unfortunately, many abandoned wives must go through this fight to gain their rights,” says Mr. Saidali Saidrakhmonov, director of Surkhob, a Rasht Valley social protection NGO that supports self-help group members with legal advice.

Thanks to Surkhob, Ms. Kaarbekova now receives regular alimony and lives in a beautiful home with her daughter, 12, and son, 6. She marvels at how her life has changed. “Life is a pleasure when shared with like-minded people,” says Ms. Kaarbekova.

The daily collection point for up to 600 litres of milk in the summer from nearby villages, Asamat produces dairy products like Qurut, Chakka and Churgot that are sold as far as Dushanbe, the country's capital. Ms. Kaarbekova enthusiastically discusses new products and production methods, and is busy on plans to grow Asamat.

Asamat's initiator and local project coordinator, Ms. Aisuluv Jenaliev, who mentors Ms. Kaarbekova and helps with business development, is optimistic about the dairy's future: “Many tourists and alpinists visit Jirgatal every summer – and they prefer cheese,” she says with a wink. And Ms. Kaarbekova's next step? “I hope soon to own my own cow again,” she smiles.

6

DISASTER RISK REDUCTION & ENVIRONMENT



UNDAF OUTCOME 6

People in Tajikistan are more resilient to natural and man-made disasters and benefit from improved policy and operational frameworks for environmental protection and sustainable management of natural resources.

CONTRIBUTING AGENCIES

UNDP	UNHCR
WFP	UNICEF
FAO	UNOPS
UNECE	UNRCCA
UNESCO	WHO
UNFPA	



All districts covered by disaster risk assessments (at all levels).



Emergency Preparedness Capacity Index improved over baseline (10 of 18).



At least 5,000 green jobs created by 2020.

SITUATION

Due to its mountainous terrain and climate change impacts, Tajikistan faces many disasters such as floods, mud flows, landslides and earthquakes, which cause significant human and economic losses. In 2016, economic losses from disasters amounted to around USD 30 million. Another serious problem is the management of uranium and radioactive waste, a legacy of the Soviet Union's nuclear industry. Presently, about 15,000 people live adjacent to uranium legacy sites. A risk perception survey conducted in early 2016 revealed limited awareness of uranium issues.

Following up with the implementation of the Sendai Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Framework, the government started the formulation of a National Disaster Risk Management Strategy for 2017-2030, which outlines a number of priority actions for effective prevention, mitigation, warning and response to possible disasters. Furthermore, a number of restructuring changes were made in 2016 in the management of the Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defense (CoES), which have improved its operations and relations with international organizations. Also, coordination among the members of the Rapid Emergency Assessment and Coordination Team has significantly improved. In the area of water resources management, the government approved the "Water Sector Reform Programme for the period 2016-2025", along with its Investment/Implementation Plan. The Ministry of Energy and Water Resources was appointed as the leading agency in the coordination of national organizations and development partners in implementation of the reform programme.

In 2016, the Government of Tajikistan issued a decree on the establishment of ecological monitoring and information management. Preparations have been made for establishing the system for the collection of environmental indicators, which will contribute to the implementation of international obligations under international conventions on biodiversity conservation, sustainable land management and adaptation/mitigation to climate change.

UN CONTRIBUTION

DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

- In the DRR area, the UN supported the development of a new National Disaster Risk Management (DRM) Strategy for 2017-2030 in line with the Sendai Framework for Actions 2015-2030. It also supported the adoption of the Dushanbe Declaration by Central Asian countries, encouraging close cooperation towards the implementation of the Sendai Framework.
- Furthermore, UN agencies assisted the country to establish a baseline for the Emergency Preparedness Capacity Index and to revise the Disaster Damage Assessment Tool used to assess the level of damage caused by disasters (making it more focused on vulnerable groups). Also, the UN supported an “in-depth needs assessment”, focused on outstanding immediate relief needs and requirements of over 600 families in earthquake-affected areas.
- Technical and financial assistance was provided to MoHSP to enhance capacities of health specialists in rendering Sexual and Reproductive Health and GBV services in emergency situations, enhancing the capacity of health professionals to provide gender sensitive reproductive health services to victims of violence and promoting multi-sectoral cooperation on addressing GBV and discrimination.
- The UN also assisted with a risk perceptions and needs assessment survey of the population living near uranium tailings in the South. Information campaigns for schoolchildren, medical personnel and teachers were carried out in those areas.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

- In the area of environmental protection and sustainable management of natural resources, UN activities contributed to strengthening national policy and institutional frameworks and enhancing the capacities of key government and non-government stakeholders.
- The water sector was an area of particular focus. UN agencies facilitated policy dialogue and coordination between development partners and government institutions, as well as raising the awareness of the public on water-related issues. Support was provided to the authorities to develop the “Water Sector Reform Programme for 2016-2025”, the “Strategy for Irrigation and Drainage” and the National Conceptual Framework for Basin Planning and Management, Regulations and Charters for River Basin Organizations and River Basin Councils. Following a rapid assessment of skills and capacities of the Ministry of Energy and Water Resources and the Agency for Land Reclamation and Irrigation, UN agencies provided these two institutions with capacity building and institutional development support. Furthermore, UN agencies assisted with training of experts on hydrology monitoring and the development of an exchange of hydrology data.
- In the area of forestry, the UN assisted the Forestry Agency in developing the “Forest Sector Development Strategy” for the period of 2016-2030 which is aimed at ensuring the sustainable development of the forestry sector by balancing the environmental, economic and social functions of forests.
- Another area of UN support was regional cooperation. UN agencies facilitated regional cooperation on trans-boundary water sharing and the development of an MoU on environmental cooperation between Tajikistan and Afghanistan.
- Assistance was also provided on the sound management of hazardous chemicals including Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS). Support was focused on strengthening the strategy and policies for phasing out hazardous ODS, decreasing chemical air pollution and developing a HCFC Phase-out Strategy to meet the Vienna Convention obligations.



HUMAN STORIES

From Flood Recovery to Resilience

In 2014, flooding and mudflows had a significant impact in southern Tajikistan and particularly the eastern parts of Khatlon Province, causing damage to more than 100 houses and killing 20 people. The Sari Chashma jamoat, whose population is concentrated along the river, was hit particularly hard. Damage, not including lost possessions or damage to infrastructure, was estimated to have been at least \$5.3 million.

A satellite-based hazard assessment identified many parts of the river valley as mud flow hazard zones, as well as at risk of flooding, which was eroding river banks and threatening crop land and structures. Recognizing the high level of threat posed by mud flows and flooding, the government decided that up to 200 families from the river-side risk areas should be relocated to Bobo Nosirov, a nearby location not under threat from mud flows or floods.

Responding to the government's relocation plan, UNDP's Disaster Risk Management Programme launched the Floods Recovery to Resilience (R2R) project to support critical recovery needs and increase social and physical resilience in severely flood-affected areas in Sari Chashma. The project used a holistic approach to initiate a wide range of actions to support livelihood recovery, water supply system repairs and upgrading, house construction and repairs to health infrastructure.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Provided 22,000 liters of aviation fuel for the evacuation of people by helicopter from isolated high mountain villages.
 - Provided 297 tons of coal to 299 disaster affected households facing harsh winter conditions following the Murghab earthquake.
 - Supplied 160 affected households with non-food items such as mattresses, pillows, bed linen, shoes, rubber boots and hygiene kits. In total, 604 people (194 female) from the Rudaki district benefited from this intervention.
 - Provided a total of 82 metric tonnes of food (fortified wheat flour, pulses, vegetable oil, iodized salt for household consumption and SuperCereal Plus for children below 5 years of age) to 4,215 people (2,539 female and 1,676 male) to support their immediate food needs.
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- Contributed to reducing the risks of flooding and mudflow in 5 districts bordering Afghanistan through the construction of flood retention facilities, cleaning of flood diversion canals, embanking of flood canals and seasonal rivers, establishment of facilities for the production of bank protection cubes, etc.
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- Provided training to over 100 local authorities, local leaders, and community members on DRR measures. Over 40% of participants were women, being most vulnerable in the absence of the male population (in migration).
 - Modeled DRR in two model schools.
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HUMAN STORIES

Livelihood supports included the provision of cows, fodder and veterinarian services, seeds, tools, fertilizers and tree nurseries. The establishment of a sustainable water supply for the Bobo Nosirov village required relocation and expansion of existing spring source to handle increased demand through spring development, pumps, pipes and storage facilities. Funding was also provided to construct 18 three-roomed houses meeting Tajik seismic design standards, using a combination of contracted construction and owner-managed completion.

Some results achieved through the project are:

- The local water supply committee has expanded the quantity and quality of water provided to new and old Bobo Nosirov residents.
- 18 households were provided with safer, stronger and more energy efficient houses, in places safe from mud flows and landslides. The new owners have a strong stake in maintaining and improving their houses, as construction involved both contractor and owner.

- The reconstruction of the Medical Center meets high technical standards. It has galvanized roofing sheets and linoleum and ceramic floor tiles. The ceiling and floors in all rooms were laid with heat insulation materials which, in combination with plastic doors and windows, preserve heat.

- Trees were planted on the hills of the relocation site to stabilize the soil and to prevent landslides. The affected were provided with fruit trees to support their livelihoods in the longer term (12,800 tree seedlings were planted).

- Affected households were provided with cows, as well as fodder and veterinary services to reduce the burden of costs and assure the animals' health and food supply.

The development of the new settlement in Bobo Nosirov and the construction of 18 houses have provided an opportunity for other disaster-affected households to move to a safer location.

DELIVERING RESULTS TOGETHER

The overall aim of the UN system in Tajikistan is to support the people and government of Tajikistan in achieving sustainable development by bringing together the collective strengths of various UN Agencies and entities. The UN system strives to provide relevant and effective support by bringing top expertise and best examples from around the world; work together as One UN to enhance impact of its Assistance; speak with one voice on UN mandate, norms and other common issues and adopt efficient business modalities to avoid duplication and reduce transaction cost for the government and UN Agencies. During the first year of UNDAF 2016-2020 implementation, several mechanisms and tools were established by the UN Country Team comprised of Heads of Resident and non-Resident UN Agencies and led by the UN Resident Coordinator to promote delivering together approach. Some examples are given below.

One UN approach to UNDAF implementation and monitoring

As mentioned in the previous chapter of this report, the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2016-2020 signed by the UN and the Prime Minister, on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan serves as the common framework for 17 UN Resident and Non-Resident Agencies for cooperation and joint results reporting. The UNDAF was formulated after a series of consultations with the Government, CSOs and development partners as a Human Rights Based framework with 6 strategic Outcome areas to help contribute to the implementation of National Development Strategy and Tajikistan's various international commitments, including SDGs. It serves as the basis for UN collaboration with various Government entities, CSOs and other partners as well as for mutual accountability between the UN Agencies and between the UN system and the Government of Tajikistan.

Several mechanisms were established in 2016 to promote accountability at various levels. At the national level, a Government and UN Joint Steering Committee (JSC) Co-Chaired by the Minister of Economic Development and Trade of RT and the UN Resident Coordinator was established to oversee implementation of UNDAF and conduct a joint review of UNDAF results. To ensure coordinated implementation using results based approach, the JSC established six Outcome Result Groups co-led by a Head of UN Agency and relevant Line Ministry and comprised of Senior Officials of UN Agencies and national implementing partners relevant to achieving the UNDAF Outcome. These Results Groups developed and adopted Joint Biannual Work Plans to ensure coordinated implementation and joint monitoring and results reporting.

To help the UNCT identify areas for cross sectoral initiatives across all UNDAF Outcomes and in results reporting, an Inter-Agency UNDAF Coordination and M&E Group comprised of Senior Officials and M&E focal points of all UN agencies was established. This Group helped in drafting a common framework to monitor results of UNDAF in 2016 and in coordinating the preparation of this very first system-wide One UN Results report in Tajikistan.

Harmonized Business Practices

Effective delivery of UNDAF results requires efficient business practices that help in avoiding duplication, reducing costs and delivering in a timely manner so resources can be freed up to support development activities. The Operations and Management Team (OMT) comprised of Operations and Administrative staff of all UN Agencies supports the UNCT in introducing new business practices for harmonization, implementing joint administrative actions and in formulating common position on procedural matters. In 2016, the OMT helped establish long term agreements to procure common services like travel, fuel, spare parts and maintenance of vehicles to contribute in efficiency gains by reducing some transaction costs of UN agencies. In addition, comprehensive common salary surveys were conducted so the UN Head Quarters can determine any revision in salaries of the National Staff. OMT was instrumental in jointly negotiating a deal for a new common premise which will co-locate a number of UN Agencies who will vacate their current premises in 2017 and is now preparing a plan to establish common services in the new premises to help reduce some administrative costs.

To ensure national ownership and sustainability of results, UNCT has been working on Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers (HACT). In 2016 the OMT finalized macro assessments of the public finance and accounting system to determine strengths and risks of cash transfer. The results indicate the need for capacity building to strengthen overall public finance management and accounting system. In 2017 UNCT will conduct a micro assessment of specific implementing partner's capacity for accounting, procurement, reporting, internal control etc., to determine a possibility of cash transfer and for capacity development support.

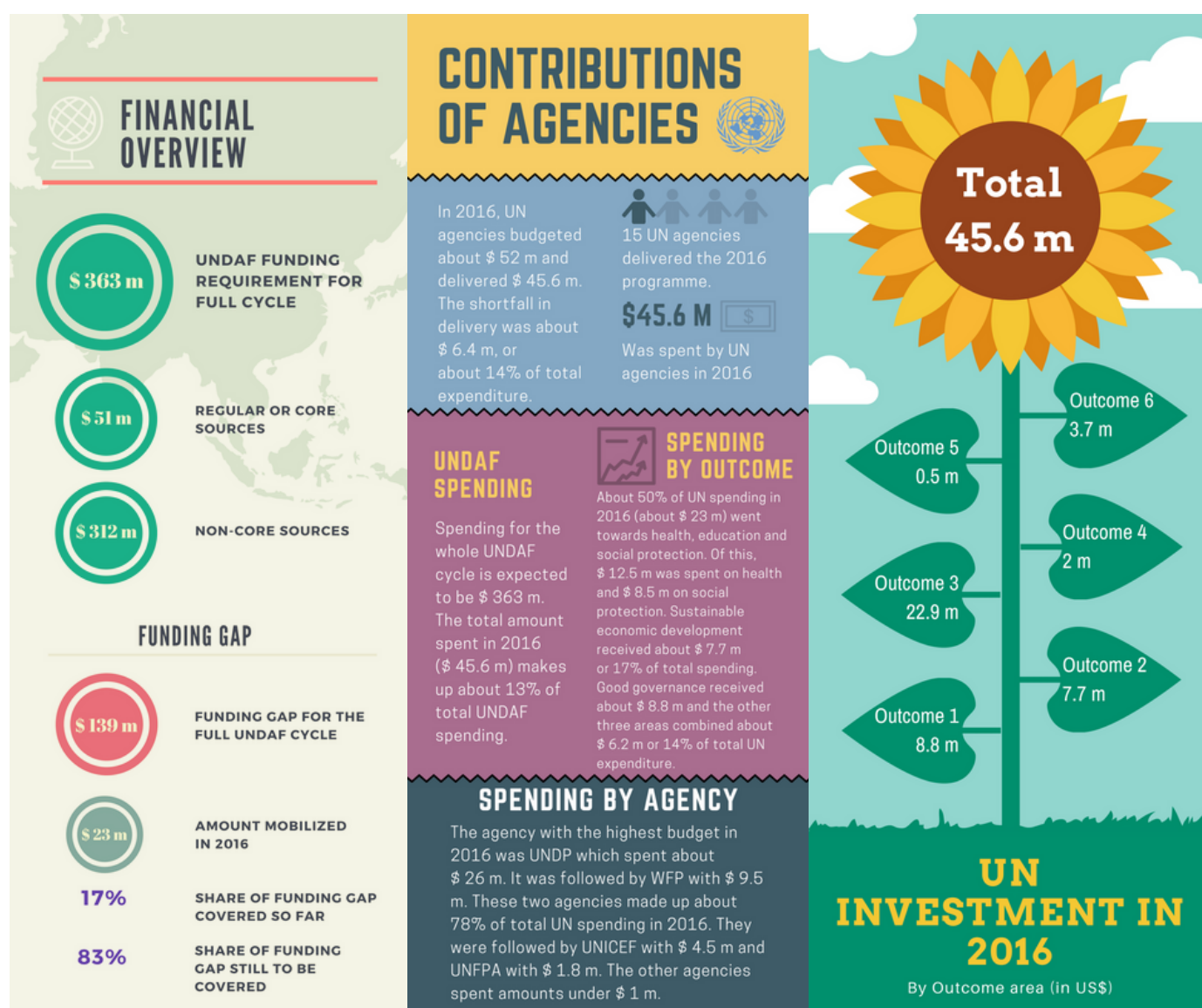
One UN Voice and Communication

“One UN voice” is an important Principle for UN coherence and effectiveness of results. The Outcome Result Groups, the UNDAF Coordination and M&E Working Group, OMT, etc. help in formulating evidence based joint UN positions and advocacy messages which are delivered in “One Voice” by the UN in various ways such as in workshops, meetings, communication events, media and through joint analysis and knowledge products. Several examples of UN joint advocacy are illustrated under the “Joint Results” chapter of this report such as promoting Human Rights based Social Protection system; Governance for disaster risk reduction; scaling up nutrition; civil registration; etc.

An Inter-Agency UN Communication Group comprised of Communication focal points of various UN Agencies assist in communicating results, advocacy messages and UN related information to a wider group of stakeholders at all levels such as national and local governments, CSOs, donors and people. In 2016, several UN joint communication initiatives were undertaken in partnership with the Government and CSOs to ensure wider outreach and more impact. For example, joint communication outreach campaigns were organized such as “16 days of Activism to Stop Violence against Women”; Campaign Against Child Labor and the UN days were used as an opportunity for public awareness and advocacy for example on World Water Day; International Youth Day; World AIDS Day; etc. In addition, information and results were widely disseminated through the UN Website, mass media and Social media.

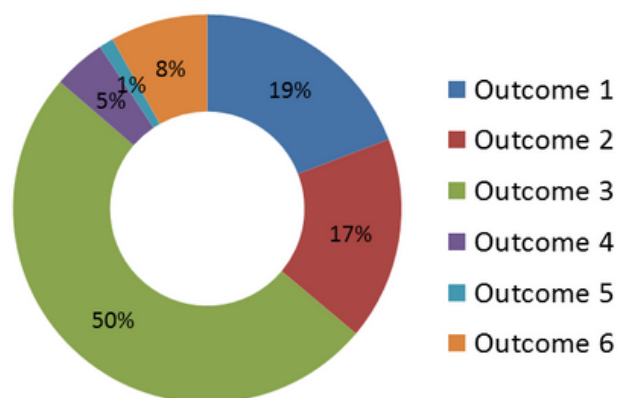
The experience of the first year of UNDAF implementation, results reporting and functioning of the various coordination and accountability mechanisms will be reviewed in the Joint Steering Committee meeting and in the annual UNCT retreat in 2017 to further strengthen the process to achieve desired results for the country.

FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION



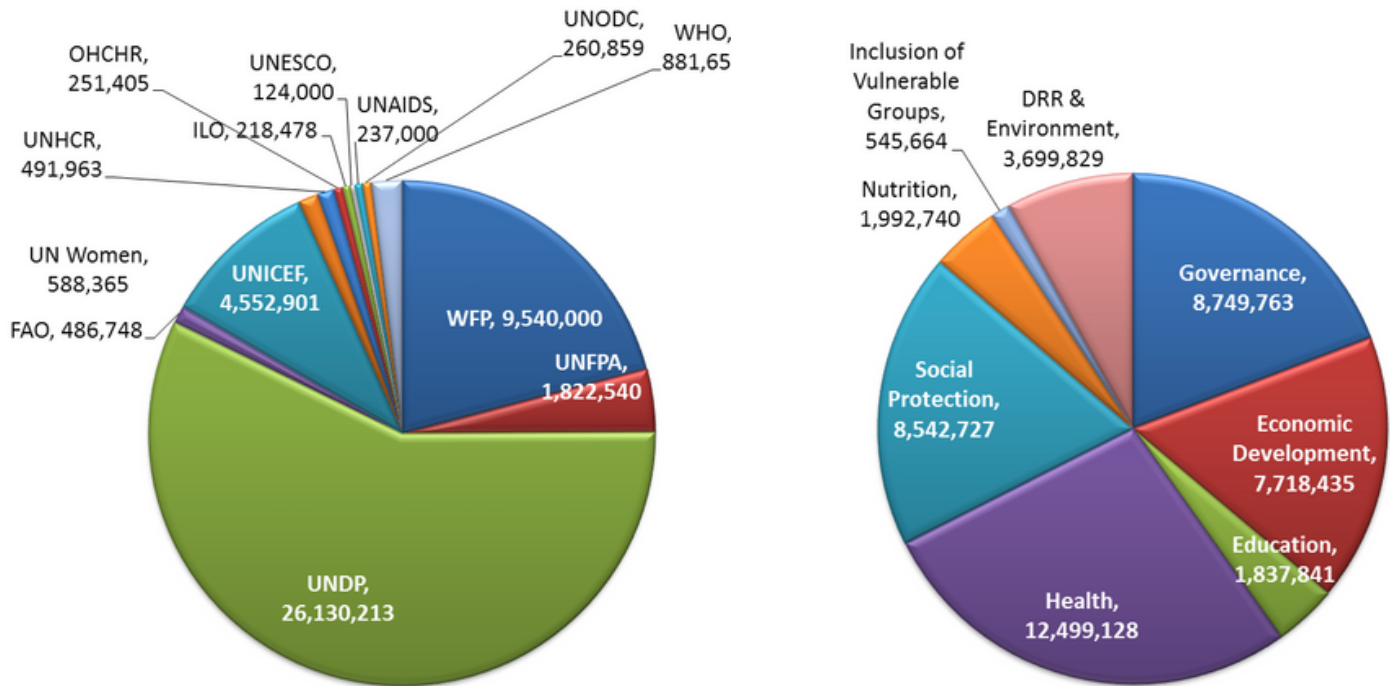
Share of Spending by Outcome

Total delivery in 2016 was 87 % due to first year of UNDAF implementation and time to plan and implement activities.



UN SPENDING IN 2016

Expenditure by agency and outcome area (in USD)



LESSONS LEARNED

In the first year of UNDAF 2016-2020 the UN and the Government of Tajikistan established an oversight mechanism – The Joint Steering Committee. To operationalize UNDAF, the UN has established 6 Inter- Agency Result Groups to promote cross sectoral support and collaboration in the implementation of all 6 outcomes. The effectiveness of this set-up very much depends on the effectiveness of the inter-ministerial coordination that needs to facilitate achieving of results.

UNDAF Coordination and M&E Group was established to facilitate planning, reporting, M&E approach and data collection. All this was aimed at creating a platform for dialogue on the implementation challenges and review of results. In November 2016, an UNDAF progress review meeting took place that was useful opportunity to take stock of how this mechanism is functioning and contributing to UNDAF implementation. It was noted that coordination and approval processes take time and there is a room to further streamline communication, enhance process efficiencies and develop capacities on both sides especially on M&E. It was also clear that only consistent representation in result groups will allow for capacity development efforts in M&E (and other areas) to be effective and sustainable. Lack of systematic approach to collection and analysis of data at the country level hampers the ability to document, monitor and evaluate progress both nationally and locally.

UNDAF Result groups have faced challenges in monitoring, evaluating and reporting in a results-based fashion for this annual report. Taking into account scarce human and financial resources, there is value added in having a single, comprehensive national M&E system that will then simultaneously service reporting on NDS, UNDAF, UPR, SDGs, etc.



This Report is the first ever one UN results report prepared in Tajikistan. A joint working group can be established to review the alignment of UNDAF results reporting with the NDS/SDG agenda as well as the frequency of reporting against capacities, time and financial resources.

IN accordance with the principles of UNDAF UN support is aimed to benefit the most vulnerable. However, in absence of vulnerability assessment, a mapping of the vulnerable population, it is difficult to plan and implement a targeted approach. A national analysis of vulnerable population would facilitate more targeted interventions and serve as a benchmark in monitoring progress on NDS/SDG and UNDAF while ensuring that “no one is left behind”.

Gender equality objectives were mainstreamed in all UNDAF Outcomes. However, monitoring results of gender mainstreaming are challenging and requires better tools including but not limited to gender disaggregated data.

In 2016 Tajikistan faced financial crisis as well as heaviest snowfalls in over 50 years. UNDAF as framework document has envisaged these risks and support in addressing these challenges. However, the ability of the UN system to provide effective and timely support in managing and mitigating the risk depends on the national institutional framework and how clearly it defines roles and responsibilities in managing any kind of risk, including the disaster risks.

UNDAF is aligned to the NDS, SDGs agenda and it will continue to serve as a tool for UN support to addressing socio-economic and environmental priorities of Tajikistan. The effectiveness and efficiency of delivery will depend on how well we operate together. The UN system delivered 87% of the USD 52M planned for 2016. Operational challenges and additional approval requirements slowed down implementation. As UNDAF is a joint commitment, co-signed by the Government and UN system, streamlined procedures would expedite delivery and ensure timely support to people of Tajikistan.

CONCLUSIONS

This report has outlined the main results of the work of the United Nations family in Tajikistan in the year 2016. As has already been noted, UN activities during this period were underpinned by the 2016-2020 UNDAF, which was endorsed by the government on December 2015 and which foresees a delivery of more than USD 360 million over the five-year period. In this first year of the implementation, UN operations involved the activities of 15 different UN entities. Most agencies have offices in the country, whereas the others provide advisory support and implement development projects from their regional or global headquarters.

As this report has shown, throughout 2016, the UN worked closely with the GoT, civil society and other national and international stakeholders in support of Tajikistan's development efforts in a number of areas – health, education, nutrition, food security, economic development, support for vulnerable groups, gender equality, good governance and rule of law, compliance with international norms and obligations, delivery of public services, disaster risk management and environmental protection. A range of activities and achievements, highlighted in this report, have contributed to tangible improvements in the living conditions of a large number of people, especially the most vulnerable and poorest. Furthermore, by building institutional capacities and strengthening national ownership, the UN actively supported the government's leadership role in pursuing the national priorities laid out in the NDS 2030.

UN support has also been crucial in advancing Tajikistan on the path to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Tajikistan has fully endorsed the SDGs at a high level and has fully aligned its National Development Strategy 2030 and Mid-term Development Programme 2016-2020 with the SDG framework. Drawing on the lessons from the MDG experience, the UN and GoT are now working closely to ensure the alignment of NDS/MDTP/SDG targets and indicators with other national, sub-national and sectoral development plans and create a single and effective M&E system that will allow progress to be tracked and implementation to be informed and led by long-term national objectives.

The UN is committed to capitalizing on the strengths, expertise and specialization of the different agencies, as well as UN's regional and global networks, in assisting the country to achieve greater synergies and results. Throughout this first year of the implementation of the UNDAF, UN entities have worked closely and coherently for increased impact, while at the same time reducing operational and transactional costs. The focus has been on complementary programming, common operational strategies and joint communications.

The UN remains firmly committed to further strengthening harmonization and collaboration through joint programming, monitoring and evaluation and mobilization of resources, as well as increasing the collective impact of interventions through more coherent services and better coordinated strategies.