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UN SYSTEM-WIDE MID-TERM UNDAF RESULTS REPORT 2016-2018





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Resilient nations.



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UNAIDS
JOINT UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMME ON HIV/AIDS



UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency



UNRCCA
The United Nations Regional Centre
for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia



UNECE



UNODC

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime



UNOPS



United Nations Entity for Gender Equality
and the Empowerment of Women



INTERNATIONAL
ORGANIZATION
FOR MIGRATION
THE UN MIGRATION AGENCY

FAO – Food and Agriculture Organization
ILO – International Labour Organization
IOM- International Organizations for Migration
UN OCHA – United Nations Office for
Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
OHCHR – Office of the United Nations High
Commissioner for Human Rights
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
UNODC – United Nations Office on Drugs and
Crime
UNHCR – United Nations High Commissioner for
Refugees
UNICEF – United Nations Children’s Fund
UNRCCA- The United Nations Regional Centre for
Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia
UNWOMEN – United Nations Entity for Gender
Equality and the Empowerment of Women
WFP – World Food Programme
WHO – World Health Organization



Foreword



On behalf of the United Nations Country Team (UNCT), I am pleased to share with you the mid-term results report for 2016-2018 of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) for Tajikistan.

This mid-term results report demonstrates collaborative effort between the UN Agencies to support the Government of Tajikistan to achieve the national priorities and SDGs.

The UNDAF (2016-2021) focuses on six priority outcomes: 1) Democratic governance, rule of law and human rights, 2) Sustainable and equitable economic development, 3) Social development (Health, Education and Social protection), 4) Nutrition and Food security, 5) Inclusion and empowerment of vulnerable groups and 6) Resilience and environmental sustainability.

This mid-term UNDAF results report 2016-2018 presents key results of joint contribution of UN Agencies in partnership with the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan at the UNDAF Outcome level achieved in collaboration with the local authorities, people as well as the civil society organizations and development partners.

We are very thankful to all our donors for their financial assistance and exemplary cooperation with the Government of Tajikistan.

Dr. Pratibha Mehta
UN Resident Coordinator in Tajikistan



UNDAF at a glance

United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2016-2021 signed jointly by UN and the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan on December 18, 2015 serves as the common framework for UN Agencies on coordinated implementation, joint monitoring and coherent results reporting.

UNDAF guides UN agencies' work at a country level and represents a joint commitment between the UN Agencies and the Government of Tajikistan at the Outcome level to support Tajikistan in achieving the national priorities set in the National Development Strategy (NDS) 2030 contributing towards implementation of SDGs.

The UN Country Team (UNCT) collaborates on numerous initiatives, working closely with national partners to advance development in six priority outcomes:

- Democratic Governance, Rule of Law and Human Rights;
- Sustainable and equitable economic development;
- Social Development (Health, education and social protection);
- Nutrition and food security;
- Inclusion and empowerment of vulnerable groups;
- Resilience and environmental sustainability;

In 2016 the UN/Government of Tajikistan Joint Steering Committee co-chaired by the Minister of Economic Development and Trade and UN Resident Coordinator was established to oversee the implementation of UNDAF, approve joint annual workplans and conduct annual review of the results achieved.



Photocredit: Didor Sadulloev

Acronyms and Abbreviations

CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women
CERD	Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
CRC	Committee on the Rights of the Child
CRPD	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
CRVS	Civil Registration and Vital Statistics
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GoT	Government of Tajikistan
HIV	Human immunodeficiency virus
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMAM	Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition
MEDT	Ministry of Economic Development and Trade
MTDP	Mid-Term Development Programme
NDS	National Development Strategy
NRM	Natural Resources Management
OCR	Ombudsman for Children's Rights
OHCHR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
RoT	Republic of Tajikistan
RH	Reproductive Health
SOP	Standards Operating Procedure
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
STI	Sexually Transmitted Infection
UN	United Nations
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNCT	UN Country Team
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	United Nations Office for High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UN OCHA	United Nations Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
UNRCCA	United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia
UN WOMEN	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
UPR	Universal Periodic Review
VNR	Voluntary National Review
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization



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Executive Summary

From 2016 to 2018, Tajikistan achieved tangible results and made remarkable progress in its political, economic, social and environmental sectors, by ensuring the participation of development partners, stakeholders, and vulnerable groups in the development process and more effective implementation of the national priorities in alignment with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The National Development Strategy (NDS-2030) and Mid-term Development Program of the Republic of Tajikistan for 2016-2020 (MTDP 2020) are two key tools for nationalization of the SDGs and its further integration into the national development policy. Thus, NDS-2030 is considered as a main document which defines the country strategic goals, for improving the quality of life and wellbeing of the people in Tajikistan and around which stakeholders achieve the national development goals and implement the SDGs.

Furthermore, the Government of Tajikistan in collaboration with the United Nations Country Team formulated the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) for the period 2016-2020 as the mechanism to support the achievement of Tajikistan national priorities as set out in the NDS-2030.

In June 2018 UNCT and the Government of Tajikistan conducted a Mid-term review (MTR) of UNDAF 2016-2020 to assess the progress on implementation of UNDAF, its relevance to current national context, global commitments of the country and the agreed management and coordination arrangements. The key findings of MTR were agreed by UNCT and the Government and the following three key recommendations were adopted for action to ensure continued alignment with national development strategy, SDGs, indicators to address national challenges: 1) Review of UNDAF indicators and results framework. 2) Explicit inclusion of migration

and WASH 3) Extension of UNDAF 2016-2020 for an additional year, until 2021.

2018 represents the midpoint year in the implementation of UNDAF which measures development progress against six outcomes: 1) democratic governance, rule of law and human rights; 2) sustainable and equitable economic development; 3) social development (health, education and social protection); 4) food security and nutrition; 5) inclusion and empowerment of vulnerable people; and 6) resilience and environmental sustainability.

In the area of democratic governance, a number of key national policy documents targeted at promoting the rights of women, children and persons with disabilities were approved between 2016 and 2018. Key milestones include the adoption of the National Action Plan 2020 to implement UPR recommendations, implementation of the State Programme for the Development of Civil Registration bodies, signing the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). In 2018, the Inter-Agency Working Group on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) was established, to implement state-of-the-art-CRVS system and for e-governance services in the country. The UN also strengthened national capacity to improve the prevention of statelessness and the protection of refugees.

To support the Government in reducing of the country's poverty level from a 31% in 2016 to 20% in 2020, the UN has been promoting a number of national reforms for **sustainable economic development and growth**, deepening Tajikistan's integration into global value chains, trade, equitable and decent employment, technological development and innovation, use of the renewable energy sources and stable agricultural production. It also contributes 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



resulting in jobs created and improved livelihoods for the most vulnerable. The UN Country Team supported the Government of Tajikistan in the preparation of the Voluntary National Review (VNR) in 2017 and the First National SDG report in 2018.

For health, education and social protection, the focus remained on improving the outreach and the quality of programs for improved health care services throughout the country. Noteworthy achievements include the establishment of national policy and legal frameworks, including the National Tobacco Control Law, the National Immunization Program 2020, the National HIV Program 2020, and the costed State Programme on Reproductive Health for the period of 2019-2022, National Program on Rehabilitation of People with Disabilities 2017-2020. For better social protection in Tajikistan, the UN system contributed to creating the required legislative and political conditions for the incorporation of UN-supported safety nets into the country's National Social Protection Strategy 2020. This achievement contributed to an increase in primary grades students' access to meals at schools, as well as access to school programs for children affected by humanitarian emergencies. The UN in Tajikistan applied holistic approaches to ensuring equal and inclusive access to education from early years up to young adulthood.

Thus, support was rendered to improve learning opportunities for preschool children, modeling school-based inclusive education to ensure enrollment of children with disabilities in mainstream schools, and to develop a Competency-Based Education Model for in- and out-of-school children, with focus on “not in education, employment and training” (NEET) adolescents and youth.

In food security and nutrition area, the UN continued its efforts to reduce children stunting and wasting through the National Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition (IMAM) program and by building the capacity of medical staff to manage acute malnutrition. The UN also supported the country's food safety policies and institutions, bringing them closer to international standards, and strengthened the capacities of governmental and nongovernmental actors to promote food safety, enforce law on salt iodization and prevent food-borne diseases.

The UN supported several initiatives for the **inclusion and empowerment of vulnerable people** the prevention of gender-based violence, the empowerment of youth, protecting children and people with disabilities and refugees, and promoted gender equality. Joint efforts by the Government, the UN and stakeholders resulted in Tajikistan signing the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in March 2018. As a subset of this initiative, UN supported the Government to develop a five-year Communication for Social Change Strategy to promote social inclusion of children and women with disabilities in Tajikistan.

In the area of resilience and environmental sustainability, the third Environmental Performance Review for the country was carried out and published in 2017. The platform for **inter-ministerial dialogue offered by the National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction** with UN's support continued to be a major avenue that helped to initiate and advocate high level strategic policy dialogue and to build trustful partnership with the Government shifting the focus from disaster response to disaster risk reduction. Tajikistan continued strengthening cooperation with neighboring countries. UN facilitated continuous dialogue between the Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defense under the Government of Tajikistan and the Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority to advance **cross-border cooperation in disaster preparedness and response.** The disaster risk assessments are undertaken nationwide. As a practical step, UN helped strengthen the infrastructure in most disaster-prone locations. Enhanced capacity for assessing industrial safety and developing national action plans for the implementation of and **accession to the Industrial Accidents Convention.** Series of workshops improved knowledge and capacity of national experts to develop air pollutant emission inventories and Informative Inventory Report in accordance with the requirements of the Air Convention. The Government of Tajikistan received pre-accession legislative assistance to promote ratification/implementation of the **Espoo Convention and its Protocol on SEA.**

A national action plan for the implementation of the recommendation from the **country profile on Housing and Land Management** was completed and adopted by the Government.



Key National Achievements 2016-2018



Key National Achievements 2016-2018

Over the past three years 2016-2018, Tajikistan underwent several important political, social, environmental and economic events which impacted the focus of the UN operations. With an average real gross domestic product (GDP) estimated at seven percent for three consecutive years, and in a context marked by favorable external environment, increased public investments and programs that are sustainable and inclusive, Tajikistan made significant strides in decreasing its poverty rate, green growth, sustained peace and resilience promoting enabling national environment for equal opportunities especially for women and young people.

In 2016-2018 Tajikistan played very important role in the world arena that was marked by several national achievements and milestones. In 2016 the Republic of Tajikistan started implementation of **the National Development Strategy 2016-2030 (NDS) and the Mid-Term Development program 2016-2020 (MDTP) in alignment with the SDGs**. The strategy identifies the main priority goals in (1) ensuring energy independence and the efficient use of energy, (2) converting from communications deadlock into a transit country, (3) ensuring food security and public access to quality foods, (4) expanding productive employment.

To advance the SDG implementation, Tajikistan was the first Central Asian country to present a **Voluntary National Review report of its SDG nationalization process at the High-level Political Forum in New York in 2017** and to prepare a **National SDG Report in 2018**.

The country continued to play a leading role in advancing the global water agenda. In 2016, UN supported the Government of Tajikistan in organizing

a **High-Level Symposium on SDG 6 and targets “Ensuring that no one is left behind in access to water and sanitation”**. One of the outcomes was a proposal of Tajikistan to announce an **International Decade on Water for Sustainable Development 2018-2028** adopted by the Resolution of UN General Assembly later in December 2016 which led to organization of a **High-Level International Conference on the International Decade for Action “Water for Sustainable Development 2018-2028”** in June 2018. The main objective of the Conference was to raise awareness about the effective implementation of the SDG6 and other water-related goals and to discuss the way forward with implementation of activities of the Water Decade Action Plan, 2018-2028 at the global, regional and country levels.

The Government of Tajikistan is active setter of global agenda on prevention violent extremism and terrorism by fostering international dialogue and facilitating the exchange of experience between countries. In June 2016 UN jointly with the Government organized **“The High-Level Experts Meeting on Framing Development Solutions for the Prevention of Violent Extremism”** to advance understanding of, and effective preventative measures against radicalization that leads to violent extremism in Central Asia and the broader region. In 2018 Tajikistan has organized the **high-level international conference “Countering Terrorism and Preventing Violent Extremism”** which served as an important platform of discussion about violent extremism and enabled the Government of Tajikistan to deliver messages and enhance awareness on violent extremism among Tajik citizens and reinstate its position against extremist organizations.

2017 was marked by **renewed positive relationship with Uzbekistan**, that contributed to successful **launch of the first turbine of the Roghun Hydro Power Plant (HPP) in November 2018**. Roghun HPP launch was a historical occasion for the country and opened many other opportunities for regional cooperation and is considered among the biggest national achievements of the country.

In 2018 Tajikistan held the **CIS Summit the regular meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the Commonwealth of Independent States** that was marked by adoption of strategic decisions: the implementation of the five-year Interstate program of joint measures to combat crime (2019–2023), the Agreement on cooperation between the CIS member states in the fight against crimes in the field of information technology as well as political interaction, development of cooperation in the cultural and humanitarian fields and in the areas of security.

Tajikistan is committed to adhering international human rights treaties. Following the second Cycle of its Universal Periodic Review (UPR) in 2016, **the Government adopted a National Action Plan on the Implementation of UPR recommendations, including joining the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2018**, strengthening Civil Registration bodies to improve registration of civil status acts and birth registrations to better protect the rights of the most vulnerable and excluded persons. In 2018, following the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) review of the third and fifth State Periodic Report, the Government of Tajikistan adopted a National action plan (2018–2020) to implement the UN CRC Concluding Observations. Moreover, the Government drafted a national **Human Rights Strategy 2018–2030 to ensure holistic approach to implementation of the recommendations of UN human rights mechanisms** and submitted its sixth periodic report on the progress of CEDAW recommendations.

Furthermore, a number of policy and strategic documents were approved on gender equality, women and girl empowerment and elimination of discrimination, such as the **State programme for Education, Selection and Placement of Capable Women and Girls in Leadership Positions in the Republic of Tajikistan for 2017–2022** aimed to

mitigate the barriers that prevent women from entering senior management. In 2018 the Executive Office of the President of the Republic of Tajikistan in line with the **Law on Domestic Violence, CEDAW and UPR national plan of actions established a high-level platform of multi-sectoral cooperation on Gender Based Violence (GBV) prevention**.

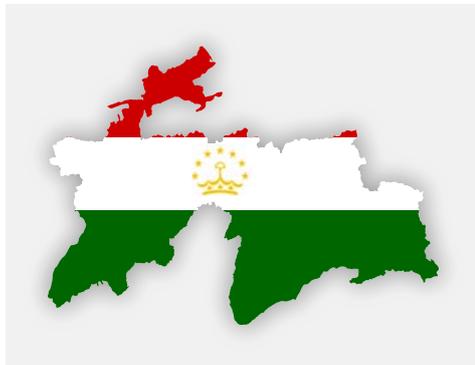
For a long time, Tajikistan was one of the lowest investors in social protection programs in the CIS region. **In 2017, national budgetary allocation for social protection equaled 5.5% of the country's GDP which led efforts by the UN and development partners to strengthen and modernize the country's social protection system** through targeted social assistance schemes, piloting a universal health care package and designing social services aimed at closing the gap.

In recent years, Tajikistan's economic outlook has improved, the country's economy which is mainly fueled by exports, state-run industry production, SMEs and national consumption benefited from an improving regional environment and stable commodities prices. Strong economic growth and a continuing recovery in remittance inflows projected **decreased poverty rate from the 31% in 2016 by 29.5% in 2018** and Tajikistan aims to reduce poverty in the midterm perspective by 20% in 2020 and to increase step by step the formation of a middle class.

Tajikistan has made the major step to align its strategic planning in the field of disaster risk reduction with that of the international level by **endorsing the National Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy (NDRRS) 2019–2030**, which is structured according to the priorities of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. This national policy framework has been developed, based on the lessons learned from implementation of the previous strategic framework.



Key National Achievements 2016-2018

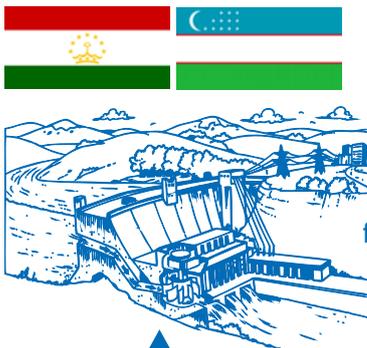


Adoption of the National Development Strategy 2016-2030 (NDS) and the Mid-Term Development program 2016-2020 (MDTP) in alignment with the SDGs

31% in 2016

29,5% in 2018

UN supported the Government in reducing the country's poverty rate from 31% in 2016 to 29.5 in 2018.



Recommended relationship between Tajikistan and Uzbekistan brought long-awaited relief and contributed to successful launch of the first turbine of the Roghun Hydro Power Plant (HPP) in November 2018.



In 2018 Tajikistan has organized the high-level international conference "Countering Terrorism and Preventing Violent Extremism"



FRAMING DEVELOPMENT SOLUTIONS FOR
THE PREVENTION OF VIOLENT EXTREMISM
D U S H A N B E 2 0 1 6

In 2016 UN jointly with the Government organized "The High-Level Experts Meeting on Framing Development Solutions for the Prevention of Violent Extremism"



HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

- In 2016 a High-Level Symposium on SDG 6 and Targets "Ensuring that no one is left behind in access to water and sanitation".
- International Decade on Water for Sustainable Development 2018-2028 adopted by the Resolution of UN General Assembly later in December 2016.
- A High-Level International Conference on the International Decade for Action "Water for Sustainable Development 2018-2028" organized in 2018

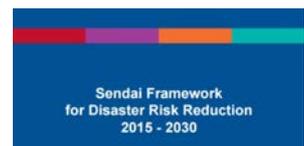


WATER ACTION DECADE
2018-2028

In 2018 Tajikistan held the CIS Summit - the regular meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the Commonwealth of Independent States



Tajikistan endorsed the National Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy (NDRRS) 2019-2030, which is structured according to the priorities of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction



UNDAF Results by Outcome



Democratic Governance, Rule of Law and Human Rights

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.

HUMAN RIGHTS



- Tajikistan took important steps towards implementing recommendations of the UN human rights mechanisms inter alia by the adoption of the UPR, CRC and Convention on the Elimination of the Racial Discrimination (CERD) Action Plans 2020.
- Tajikistan signed the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and committed to ratify CRPD as well as the second Optional Protocol of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.
- Tajikistan adopted two by-laws to implement the 2015 Nationality Law and introduced amendments to the Law on Human Rights Commissioner.

JUDICIAL AND LEGAL REFORMS



- The Concept of Legal Policy 2018-2028 and the Judicial and Legal Reform Programme for 2019-2023 to increase access to justice and capacity development of Tajikistan's judiciary system was adopted by the Decree of the President of the Republic of Tajikistan.
- The Concept on Legal Aid adopted by the Decree of the President has successfully started implementation and resulted in the provision of free legal aid services to over 17,000 vulnerable people including women and people with disabilities during 2016-2018.
- More than 313 minor and young people were diverted from the criminal justice system to rehabilitation centers as a result of the adoption of the National action plan on Justice for Children System Reform 2021.

CIVIL REGISTRATION



- In 2016, UN with the Government initiated an incremental introduction of electronic system of civil registration throughout the country which is a part of the large Civil Registration System Reform (CRR) focused at inclusiveness and protection of the rights of women, children and other vulnerable groups. To improve the service provision rendered through the civil registration system One stop shop model was successfully introduced and piloted in one of the Civil registration offices.

BORDER MANAGEMENT AND SECURITY



- National security and integrated border management were strengthened through improved infrastructure (two border crossing points and one training center were constructed and equipped). over one thousand border guards and customs officers including 130 female officers received and are applying knowledge and skills in border and customs management.
- In 2018, first-ever refugee emergency response simulation exercise (SIMEX) with participation of 250 emergency practitioners from the Government, UN Agencies, International and local organizations contributed to the improved contingency planning and country preparedness for refugee emergencies.



Sustainable and equitable economic development

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 a more favorable business environment, especially for entrepreneurs and farmers.

IMPROVED INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORKS



- The Government of Tajikistan with support from the UN demonstrated strong will and commitment in aligning the national development priorities with the Sustainable Development Goals 2030 by presenting the first Voluntary National Review report in 2017 at the ECOSOC High Level Political Forum and formulating the country's first National SDG report in 2018.
- Improved national and regional development policies, strategies including the State Program for export promotion and import-substitution of the Republic of Tajikistan for 2016-2020, the regional and district development programs for the mid-term period to improve country competitiveness and people livelihoods.

IMPROVED LIVELIHOODS AND AGRO-PRODUCTION



- A total of 287,872 (52% women) people benefited from social and economic infrastructure projects as well as improved livelihood capacities due to better access to employable skills, agriculture technologies, infrastructure, services, and micro-credits for business development.
- 30,315 people (48% women) improved their livelihood by technical support to 355 SMEs and farmers, micro-capital grants to 32 CSOs and business associations, and affordable loans to 1,209 private entrepreneurs.
- Revised national action plan for agriculture and agribusiness led to improved access of Tajikistan farmers to high quality seeds (14.8 tons in 2017) of alternate crops and 63.4 tons of wheat varieties distributed). Over 843 farmers and agriculture specialists trained in 2018 on advanced agriculture techniques.
- A total of 2,709 (67% women) full-time jobs were created through agricultural and small business activities. And 221 new jobs were created through Natural Resource Management (NRM) solutions in 2017-2018.

ACCESS TO COST EFFICIENT AND SUSTAINABLE ENERGY IN RURAL AREAS



- People of Tajikistan benefited from energy efficient technologies due to increased national and local capacities in renewable energy provision as a result of establishment of National Center for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency.
- 15,000 people (50% women) in rural communities improved access to renewable energy, through the constructed and commissioned 7 hydropower plants which annually generate ca. 5 million kW/h annually and directly serve 735 households. 8 schools (1,650 children of which 724 girls), 4 medical centres (serving 3,207 people of which 1,812 women), 3 irrigation infrastructures were connected to the constructed small hydropower plants



Social Development (health, education and social protection)

Outcome 3



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

Outcome 3 Results

Contributing Agencies:
UNICEF, WHO, WFP, UNDP, UNFPA, ILO,
UNHCR, UNAIDS, UNESCO

HEALTH



- The UN in Tajikistan supported the Government in developing and adopting a series of national policy and legal frameworks: Health Code of Republic of Tajikistan, National Tobacco Control Law, National HIV Program 2020, National Programme on Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities (2017–2020) and multi-sectoral action plans aligned with international standards; the National Multisectoral Action Plan to Tackle Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) in the Republic of Tajikistan (2018-2022).
- The costed National Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health Strategic Action Plan 2016-2020 and a State Programme on Reproductive Health 2019–2022 were endorsed to improve the health system financing and functioning.
- Almost 90,000 pregnant women in most deprived districts were reached with the mother and child health handbook that helped to increase uptake and value for maternal and child health and nutrition services, build dialogue and trust between caregivers and health workers thus contributing to improve health and nutrition conditions of mothers and their children.
- National Elimination of Mother-to-child transmission of HIV (EMTCT) policy on case management of HIV infection in children was strengthened to enable access of 100 percent of pregnant HIV-positive women to antiretroviral therapy (ARV). The number of children living with HIV to access social services increased from 63 percent in 2015 to 75 percent in 2018.
- Tajikistan National Programme on Adolescent Development and Social Participation with focus on adolescent mental health, was implemented in 220 schools directly benefitting 88,000 schoolchildren.

EDUCATION



- A competency-based education model developed. In 2018, about 4,971 children (2,393 girls) and adolescents in five districts benefitted from skills building programs focused on innovation such as problem solving, creativity, self-management, as well as digital skills and employability, both in formal and non-formal settings.
- Since 2016, enrolment of children with disabilities in formal education increased by 7 percent annually (reaching over 7,515 in 2018). National pedagogical model of inclusive education was developed and introduced in four pedagogical universities.
- Over 43,000 children aged 3-6 accessed alternative early childhood education programmes in multiple languages (Tajik, Kyrgyz, Uzbek) thus contributing to social cohesion in cross-border areas.
- Adopted Roadmap 2020 for Sustainable Healthy Life Style education in secondary schools, and improved capacity for secondary schools' teachers through training, advocacy and information campaigns in 195 schools
- An Adolescent Baseline Study 2018 provided data on barriers preventing access to lower secondary education and cross-sectorial analysis related to education, health and wellbeing, protection and participation of adolescents.

SOCIAL PROTECTION



- Options for strengthening and expanding the current social protection system through assessment-based national dialogues in line with UN Social Protection Floor Initiative were developed.
- The UN influenced the country's poverty monitoring approach by introducing a new child poverty measurement methodology using the Household Budget Survey data. As a result, the Tajstat committed to routine monitoring child poverty and biannual reporting.
- 410,000 primary grades schoolchildren received daily hot meals through realization of the National School Meal Program.



Nutrition and food security

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 healthcare.

NUTRITION AND FOOD SECURITY



- The UN in coordination with the Government of Tajikistan institutionalized the Multi-Sectorial Coordination Council for Scaling Up Nutrition (MSCC) and developed the Common Result Framework for nutrition to scale up interventions in addressing the infant and young child and maternal malnutrition issues.
- In January 2018, the Government updated and approved the Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition (IMAM) protocol with subsequent capacity building of over 450 health staff across the country. Improved capacity of health workers and active case finding resulted in 51% increase in admission of Severe and Acutely Malnourished (SAM) children between the second and third quarter of 2018 only, with overall number of over 10,000 children treated.
- A law on food fortification that requires the fortification of a wide range of food commodities including flour, oil, and salt was finalized for the Parliament approval.
- The UN supported the Government in providing micronutrients (Vitamin A, Iron-folic acid, Sprinkles) to pregnant and lactating women and children under five. In 2016-2018, the Vitamin A supplementation programme covered 98% of 6 to 59 months old children. Furthermore, about 100,000 pregnant women in 35 districts received iron and folic acid tablets as part of their antenatal care at PHC level.



Inclusion and empowerment of vulnerable groups

Outcome 5



Women, youth, children, people 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.

INCLUSION AND EMPOWERMENT OF VULNERABLE GROUPS



- Government adopted Global Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for health sector to provide gender sensitive services to victims of gender-based violence (GBV). The personnel of 30 primary health care institutions and eight Victim Support Rooms enhanced their knowledge and provided improved services to 140 survivors of violence annually.
- Vulnerable populations benefited from the adoption and implementation of the national programmes and plans: The State Program for the Prevention of Domestic Violence for 2014–2023, The State Program on Education, Selection and Placement of Gifted Women and Girls in Leadership Positions in the Republic of Tajikistan 2017-2022, the National Plan for Combatting Human Trafficking 2016-2018, the State Program for Promotion of Employment of the population of the Republic of Tajikistan 2016-2017.
- A series of important measures to address HIV-related issues and discrimination was developed and applied: The National Plan to reduce stigma and discrimination related to HIV towards key populations, The road map for integrated approach on HIV/STI/RH services for SW and MSM, The Comprehensive recommendations on HIV prevention for young key population (YKP kit) was approved and distributed in the country.
- The High level multi-sectoral cooperation platform on GBV prevention is established in line with the Law on Prevention of Domestic Violence, CEDAW and UPR Action Plan. Furthermore, over 4,000 women and young girls received health and legal services by qualified experts including doctors, lawyers and human rights specialists.
- 7,000 local authority representatives and community members including youth, adolescents, men and women with and without disabilities were equipped with skills to promote social inclusion and sensitized on social inclusion of persons with disabilities, with a focus on children and women with disabilities. Over three million audience were reached through wide-range media campaign to promote the rights of persons with disabilities, with focus on children and women with disabilities.
- About 3,000 adolescents and youth from cross-border districts were equipped with skills and knowledge and empowered to be actively involved in the life of their communities, decision-making at the local government level and contributing to building social cohesion and peaceful intercommunal relations.



Resilience and environmental sustainability

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 management of natural resources.

RESILIENCE AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY



- During 2016-2018 UN played a pivotal role in emergency response to nine major disasters by providing critical response interventions in Education, WASH, Health and provision of psychosocial support to 15,556 affected people, including 8,266 children.
- UN supported the Government to step up immunization efforts in response to the measles and rubella outbreak in April 2017. All children (1.9 million) aged one to nine years, irrespective of their immunization status, were administered measles and rubella vaccine through health facilities and outreach vaccination teams.



- In 2017-2018, 135,147 people (including 78,198 women (58%)) across twelve most vulnerable districts benefited from the disaster and climate risk reduction initiatives. Local communities (12,119 people including 5,520 women) benefited from the conservation, development and sustainable use of the natural resources, such as rehabilitation of pastures and forests, and employment opportunities as community patrol officers, rangers and guides, as well as advocacy events.
- People of Tajikistan benefited from the adoption and improvement of series of legislations and strategies: Revised Law on Drinking water and water supply 2018 and developed by-laws on Environmental Monitoring for improved management of natural resources; Adopted National Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy 2019–2030 to comply with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and the SDGs that led to establishment of an Environmental Information Management System, advancement of the Unified State System on Preparedness and Response, improved Government disaster response capacities to keep all major roads open throughout the year, serving approximately 1.9 million people annually.
- UN supported development of the Flood Management Guide to (a) increase awareness of specific river basin organizations (RBOs) on managing water-based risks at and below the watershed level, and (b) link local and RBO-level water-based risk management.
- Throughout 2016-2018, UN supported the Government in nationalization and full operationalization of the Tajikistan’s National Mine Action Centre to advocate for mine action in Tajikistan and to operate at a political and strategic level.
- Throughout 2016-2018, UN has executed smooth transition of its Support to Mine Action Programme to the national entity, Tajikistan’s National Mine Action Centre. Longstanding UN engagement helped to maintain the profile of mine action nationally and facilitated resource mobilization to this cause.



Human Stories



LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND: FROM STUNTED TO THRIVING GROWTH



Muhammad, an eight-month-old baby boy was diagnosed with acute malnutrition at one of the primary health care points of the country.

In Tajikistan, despite falling child mortality rates and significant improvement in the overall nutritional status of children, undernutrition remains a critical public health concern.

Muhammad, an eight-month-old baby boy was diagnosed with acute malnutrition at one of the primary health care points of the country. Muhammad was brought to the health care point by his mother desperately seeking help to treat her ailing child. Muhammad's father, a labour migrant in Russia, is the only breadwinner of the family. The family had no stable income and therefore cannot afford nutritious food.

After his diagnostic, his mother and grandmother were referred to the district hospital for Severe acute Malnutrition for hospitalization and treatment of his condition. After a month treatment with therapeutic food his condition improved, and he was able to move to the local health point for Moderate Acute Malnutrition treatment. At every weekly wellness visit, he continued to gain and after three months of assistance with fortified blended food, Muhammad fully recovered and was discharged from the program. To date, looking at a healthy, happy and thriving Muhammad, no one can believe the boy was in such bad condition few months back.

The National Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition (IMAM) protocol, a program aimed at increasing children's access to treatment of severe malnutrition is implemented by the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of the Population of Tajikistan and supported by the UN (UNICEF, WFP and WHO), since 2015.

AN EMPOWERED WOMAN, EMPOWERING HER COMMUNITY



"It was fearing to the last; I could not even look at myself in the mirror. Gradually I got used to. Many people helped me to cope with the grief: doctors, nurses, colleagues, our relatives. In very desperate moments, I looked at my children and thought that I must live my life, at least for them. Eventually it was my children who inspired me to begin a new stage in my life. There was always not enough money. Moreover, often a single mom, a disabled person, cannot even get a job. Despite of this, I had a clear understanding of what I wanted. I was ready to do any work for the sake of the children so that they become educated and happy"
"Getting a job was not easy. Not all employers willingly hire people with disabilities. But I did not lose hope and persistently searched for any job. I've been always interested in social work and, despite of all obstacles, I tried to engage with people on any suitable occasions. - says Gulbahor Majidova.

Gulbahor Majidova used to work at a cotton plant in Vakhsh district of the Khatlon region in Tajikistan. A smiling, open and sociable woman she fills the life of others with joy and happiness. Tragic accident happened one day: Gulbahor lost her left hand while operating one of the cotton machines.

Looking at her, you would hardly guess that one of her working and that the woman is the only parent to her three children. A courage and determination to continue living for her children brought Gulbahor to a training program for community leaders provided by NGO Gender & Development, a partnering organization of the UN in Tajikistan.¹

After the training, she was elected the chairperson of the women's committee in her mahalla (local community). Community Leaders provide outreach for the most marginalized and hidden groups of rural populations from distant mahallas, educate them on the importance of civil acts and procedures for registration, as well as on the consequences of non-registered marriages, births, deaths, failures to make marriage contracts, etc. Community leaders are paid symbolic but feeling of being recognized by people and needed to community is invaluable.

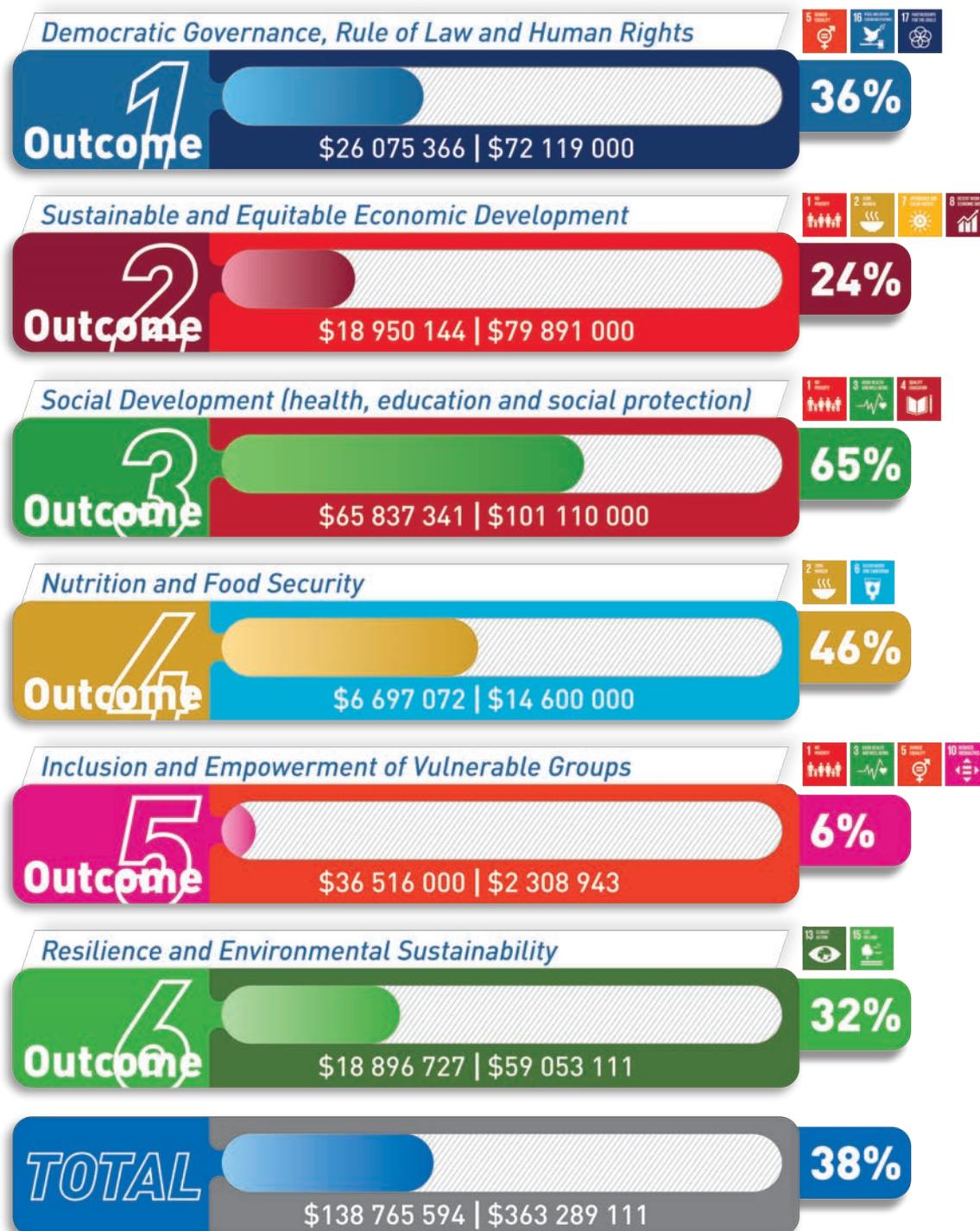
Thanks to Gulbahor's enthusiasm, vulnerable groups of the population - mothers of large families, housewives, children and people with disabilities, who are not mobile and who are not well integrated in their communities - were familiarized with the importance of timely registration of acts on civil status. Many of them received legal advice; those referred to the registry offices by Gulbahor have been served without waiting in a long queue. To date, Gulbahor and other Community Leaders established strong relations with state registry office of Bokhtar that helps them to work in collaborative way and enlarge the assistance to the most vulnerable groups. Gulbahor is now full of optimism and will to continue live and work as a role model among the Community Leaders and local community members, because she strives day-to-day to achieve her goals and help others.



Photo: Community leaders programme training. Gulbahor Majidova in the center.

¹ The Communities Leader training programme is arranged with support of SCO in Tajikistan funded project "Supporting the Civil Registry System Reform in Tajikistan", implemented by UNDP, UN Women, and UNFPA in partnership with the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Tajikistan.

Financial Reporting 2016-2018



* Budgets and expenditure for 2016-2018

UNDAF Implementing Partners and Contributors 2016-2018

Recognizing that success is built on strong partnership, we express our gratitude to our development partners and donors who partner with us to bring changes in lives of people living in Tajikistan. Collaboration with these partners has made it possible to UN Agencies to mobilize the necessary funds and to achieve the progress that is presented in this report.

MINISTRIES AND STATE AGENCIES

Division on Human Rights Guarantees at Presidential Office
Ministry of Economic Development and Trade of RoT
Ministry of Justice of RoT
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of RoT
Ministry of Interior of RoT
Ministry of labor, migration and employment of the population of RoT
Ministry of Industry and New Technologies of RoT
Ministry of Agriculture of RoT
Ministry of Health and Social Protection of the Population of RoT
Ministry of Education and Science of RoT
State Committee on Investments and State Property Management of RoT
Committee on Women and Family Affairs under the Government of Tajikistan
Committee of Youth and Sport Committee of Tourism under the Government of Tajikistan
Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defense under the Government of Tajikistan
Committee on Environmental Protection under the Government of Tajikistan
Local Development Committee under the President of Tajikistan
Commissioner for Human Rights
Agency for State Financial Control and Anti-Corruption of RoT
Drug Control Agency under the President of RoT
Agency on Statistics under the President of RoT
Agency of Land Reclamation and Irrigation of RoT
Agency on Social Protection of the Population of RoT
Agency on Social Insurance and Pensions of RoT
National Bank of RoT
Academy of Science of RoT
Republican center for treatment and prevention of HIV/AIDS
Republican Center for Monoprophylaxis
Republican Centre for Medical Statistics and Information
Republican Centre for SRI of Pediatrics and Surgeon
Republican Center for Nutrition
Republican Center for Healthy Lifestyle
National Scientific and Research Institute of Obstetrics Gynecology and Perinatology
Sanitary Epidemiology Surveillance Service
National Biodiversity and Biosafety Center
Housing and Public Utilities Service
Federation of Independent Trade Unions
Employers Association

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Global Environment Fund
Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria
UN Peace Building Fund
UN Agencies Thematic Funds
United Kingdom Conflict Stability and Sustainability Fund
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