



UNDP
KAZAKHSTAN
FOR PEOPLE AND PLANET

Nur-Sultan, 2021



ABOUT UNDP

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) works in over **170 countries** and territories, including Kazakhstan, giving us a vast perspective on the world. This outlook allows us to understand the relationships between local and global, between detail and scale and how each one impacts the other.

By cooperating with countries and local communities, we can find and create solutions to complex development challenges that are magnified through our global network.



OUR COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGES

We have been a long-term, trusted partner of the Government of Kazakhstan for more than 25 years, which has made a visible difference and lasting impact on the lives of people in Kazakhstan. We are valued for our neutrality, visibility, access to international networks and expertise and for our effective and transparent decision-making.

A key part of our work is across the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) - fighting inequalities and sustaining the environment. We offer platforms so that the government, businesses, civil society, academics and individuals can become fully involved in achieving the SDGs in Kazakhstan.



MEMBERSHIP AT THE HIGH-LEVEL ADVISORY COUNCILS OF KAZAKHSTAN



Supreme Council
for Reforms under
the President
of Kazakhstan



SDG Coordination
Council under
the Prime Minister
of Kazakhstan



Government
Council on Persons
with Disabilities



Council on
Transition to Green
Economy under
the President
of Kazakhstan



CONTRIBUTION TO KEY REFORMS:

We have been providing policy advice, technical assistance and financing programmes for civil service and public administration reforms, contributing to the fight against corruption and helping to build more government transparency.

We have been involved in preventing gender-based violence, in promoting the rights of persons with disabilities and in improving access to justice.

Our flagship partnership initiatives in Kazakhstan include environmental governance, climate change adaptation and low-carbon development.

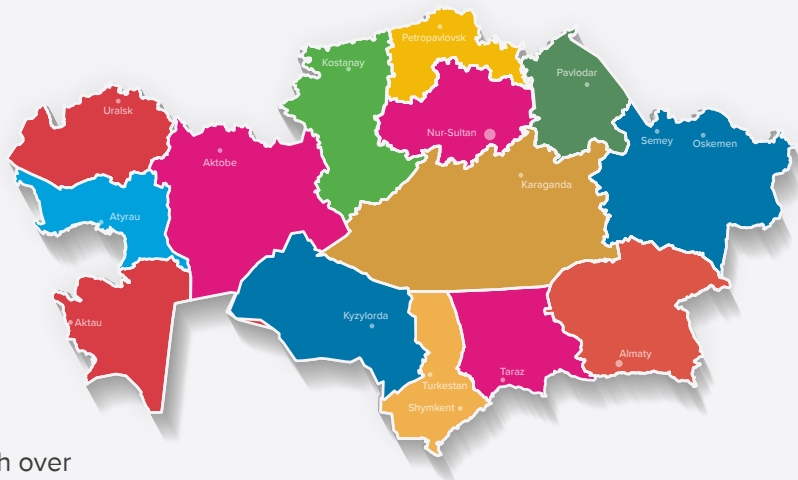


LOCAL PRESENCE:

We have been part of the country's development progress

since 1994 having implemented more than **200 projects** worth over

US\$200 million on the national, regional and local levels in a wide array of areas: from improving irrigation networks to sustainable forest management, from piloting a community policing model to digital transformation of the civil service system for better service delivery to the public.



ACCESS TO GLOBAL EXPERTISE IN A WIDE ARRAY OF TOPICS AND ISSUES:

By applying our best global practices and thanks to our ability to mobilize national and international expertise across sectors, we are impacting people's lives which is at the core of our activities. Our network is represented by

5 Regional Hubs

4 Global Policy Centres

a network of **5,000** vetted, talented professional development experts across **110** development areas

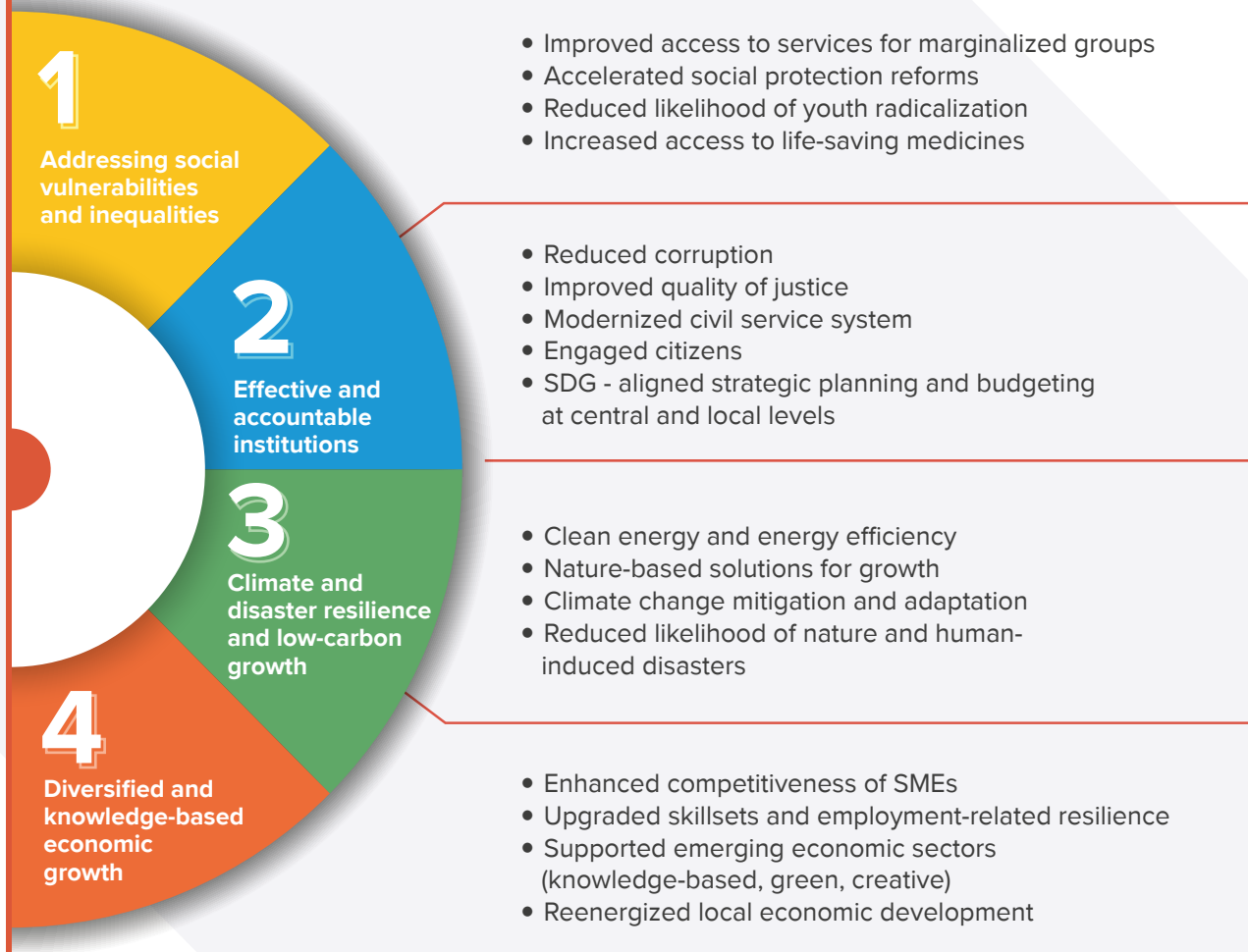
and a community of **8,800** policy experts

UNDP produces a broad spectrum of products: Our signature global analytics includes flagship Human Development reports, thematic knowledge products, policy papers and analytical dashboards.

WHAT WE DO

Through our Country programme, we support Kazakhstan in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals and in maintaining its growth trajectory by reducing inequalities, modernizing institutions, diversifying the economy and sustainably managing natural resources

FOUR PROGRAMMATIC DIMENSIONS AND KEY AREAS OF WORK





ADDRESSING SOCIAL VULNERABILITIES AND INEQUALITIES

We support testing and advancing new models of social protection programmes, and also digital solutions that use a tailor-made approach in delivering services to persons with disabilities, the elderly and large families. Digitalization of such services will be tested for emergencies to make sure vulnerable groups can always access services.

In the health sector, we continue to ensure that the procurement of high-quality medicines is more efficient. We are also supporting efforts to make health services better prepared to respond to crises and to help in recovery from crises.

Our specific focus is youth. Hand-in-hand with our national partners, we continue to work on preventing violent extremism among at-risk youth. We are expanding our geographical coverage so that we can reach a wider age group and experiment with models to improve the resilience of communities. We contributed to helping vulnerable young women and men find jobs by working with youth resource centres and by providing entrepreneurship grants.



FAST FACTS

Thanks to the
“Portal of social
services”

690,000
PWDs
will enjoy
better access
to quality
services

500 youth
at-risk benefit
from apprenticeship
schemes under the
**Preventing
Violent
Extremism
programme**

1,000
social
workers
and social service
providers were
upskilled to
improve the
quality of special
social services

An integrated
model to improve
social services
was piloted in
10 regions
of Kazakhstan
to better address
the needs of
vulnerable people



NEW CENTRE IN NUR-SULTAN CITY PROVIDES PWDS WITH STEPPING STONE TO LABOUR MARKET



In Kazakhstan there are 430,000 persons with disabilities of working age, but only 25 percent are employed – a significantly lower figure than the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). In Kazakhstan, most PWDs work in temporary jobs with no stable earnings or social protection.

UNDP launched the new Rehabilitation Centre in Nur-Sultan city as a project to help PWDs find jobs, part of UNDP's vision of building an inclusive society.

Gulzada Dzhekebayeva, Rehabilitation Centre head, notes that annually around 700 unemployed PWDs submit applications to the State Employment Department in Nur-Sultan. Last year, only 341 people got a permanent job, the other 359 found temporary work.

As blue collar jobs have increased in recent years, job seekers with disabilities' prospects are also improving making the Centre a source of economic hope. Unlike government employment services, the Rehabilitation Centre provides psychological, legal and career counselling and on-the-job support.

Assemgul Abdrakhmanova, in a wheelchair since she was a child and a team member of the Centre, notes: "Public attitudes are changing for the better and more and more PWDs are involved in decision-making on disability issues."



BUILDING TRUST WITH CITIZENS THROUGH STRONG INSTITUTIONS, FREE OF CORRUPTION

We support the “Listening State” concept that seeks to regain the trust of citizens in institutional reforms. This includes improving public administration by making the civil service more people-centred, by quickening the pace of digitalization, by activities done to prevent and protect people from crises and to make all government organizations able to withstand and recover quickly from difficult conditions.

Anti-corruption work includes innovative preventive measures such as the introduction of behavioural insights to better deliver e-services and co-opting citizens’ engagement in monitoring the quality of public services, budgetary spending and public procurement.

We are also increasing the Government’s commitment to reforms in law-enforcement. For example, by further supporting modernization of the police and by introducing community policing.

Rule of law remains a priority. Thus, a growing area of our engagement focuses on assistance to the Government in implementing its commitments both to the United Nations human rights treaties and to recommendations of the Universal Periodic Review. Our assistance in this

area includes enhancement of the National Preventive Mechanism against Torture, which involves preventive monitoring of closed institutions and detention places; and responding to gender-based violence with legislative and police capacity-building initiatives.

We are also expanding our partnerships on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This involves several initiatives. We work with many stakeholders to help mainstream the SDG targets and indicators into national systems of strategic planning and development financing, and to mobilize national and subnational state and non-state actors to advance SDG nationalization, localization and monitoring.

From mid-2020 our national partners received UNDP, UNICEF and UNESCAP help in setting up an Integrated National Financing Framework to help achieve the SDGs in Kazakhstan.

We continue helping Kazakhstan to become a recognized global player, supporting South-South and triangular cooperation by expanding our flagship initiatives, including the Astana Civil Service Hub (ACSH) and the European Union (EU) - funded Cross-Border Initiative on Afghan Women’s Empowerment.



Joint efforts are underway to raise the international profile of the Astana Civil Service Hub through three main activities: a) partnerships and networking to strengthen cooperation among participating institutions and building partnerships with expert networks, think tanks and universities all over the world; b) capacity-building and peer-to-peer learning, to enhance in-country and regional knowledge, skills and attitudes on civil service development and modernization; and c) applied research and knowledge management.

Our Afghan Women Empowerment project, funded by the European Union, is aimed at increasing Afghan women's access to quality higher education and technical and vocational education and training through cooperation among Central Asian countries.

FAST FACTS

43 public services, most in demand, **were redesigned** to improve their accessibility, timeliness and quality

Best practices on GBV case management adopted by the Ministry of Internal Affairs and introduced into the police academies' curriculum

The factor-point pay system, a quantitative form of job evaluation, was introduced in the Kazakhstan Civil Service System for around **93,000 civil servants** to address disparities within public bodies and among the regions

More than **2,300 persons** from over **100 countries** shared their experiences at over **80 capacity-building events** and peer-to-peer learning through the ACSH

4,000 functions of **10** ministries in **130** areas were reviewed to do away with duplication. The result – **14% of functions will be reassigned** to lower tiers of administration

SCALING STONY MOUNTAIN PASS TO PARITY – SCIENCE DEGREES IN HAND



Science and gender equality are vital for achieving the SDGs. Despite international efforts, women remain underrepresented in science, technology, engineering and mathematics programmes in many countries.

In Afghanistan, girls encounter difficulties just in getting a secondary education. Impediments to accessing education at all levels include poverty, security issues, gender stereotypes and harmful social norms.

However, some Afghan women are intrepid judging by female university applicants each year, from 1,746 in 2002 to over 45,000 in 2016. Despite this positive trend today only 20 percent of all university students in Afghanistan are women.

But thanks to an EU-funded cross-border initiative implemented by UNDP in Kazakhstan, in 2020-2021 50 Afghan women received scholarships to study in Kazakhstan universities in mining, engineering and business.

According to one such student, “Afghanistan is rich in natural resources, but lacks professionals and modern technologies. I chose to study mining to help develop this field and contribute to Afghanistan’s economy”.

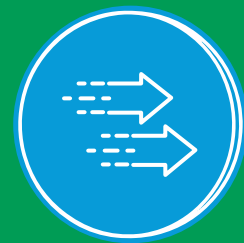
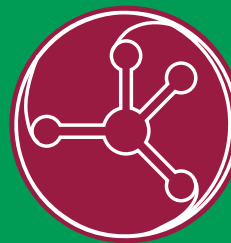


FOSTERING ECONOMIC GROWTH THAT WOULD PLACE KAZAKHSTAN IN THE TOP 30 GLOBAL ECONOMIES

We support Kazakhstan's goal of diversifying its economy as the engine of development, thereby placing the country in the top 30 most advanced nations by 2050, as per OECD benchmarks. Upgrading skills to increase productivity to achieve these goals is also a top priority.

Our work to modernize the labour force and the economy will go hand-in-hand with broader efforts to improve private sector development and market competitiveness. The agricultural and ecotourism sectors will receive first priority.

One example is piloting a "One-village, one-product" initiative in four regions of Kazakhstan within the Solidarity Fund project funded by the Asian Development Bank (ADB). This initiative encourages the mobilization of local human, material and cultural resources to create value-added products/services for domestic and external markets and focuses on the involvement of women in rural areas.





TURKESTAN ARTISAN CRAFTS MESH WITH ENVIRONMENT



Aisulu Sadykova is a woodcarver from a family of artisans in the ancient city of Turkestan, Kazakhstan. Aisulu has been creating traditional handicrafts – felt dolls, yurts, wooden camel figurines – for more than 18 years. But her main medium is wood and her woodcarving art is intermeshed with Turkestan’s history, a region that once lay along the Great Silk Road.

Aisulu’s love of crafts and her perseverance to become one of a handful of woodcarvers in Kazakhstan serves as an inspiration for other women.

Turkestan artisans are famous across the region and many families know a family of craftsmen.

In 2019, Aisulu was one of five women artisans who participated in training at the Qazaq-Oner Handicraft Centre, organized with UNDP support in Kazakhstan. In total, 15 master crafts persons from East Kazakhstan, Turkestan and Almaty, three pilot regions of Kazakhstan, were trained at the Centre.

For many years, UNDP has actively supported owners of small and medium-sized businesses in developing environmentally friendly types of entrepreneurship, such as handicrafts, ecotourism and fishing. Since 2008, more than 2,500 rural residents have received support -- training, equipment and bank loans.



SUPPORTING CLIMATE RESILIENCE, NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS AND LOW-CARBON GROWTH



We help Kazakhstan honour its Paris Agreement commitments by supporting the expansion of the green economy to profit from new jobs and business opportunities.

UNDP supports a wide gamut of important policy work and key reforms in the country: ranging from expert inputs for revision of the Strategic Development Plan 2025 to the Green Economy Concept.

It also includes contributing to the strategic planning reform with the national project Zhasyl Damu's support in developing a low carbon vision for the country.



In waste management UNDP supports Kazakhstan in providing efficient management of municipal solid, industrial, medical and agricultural waste flows.

Our work on energy efficiency and energy savings includes piloting renewable auctions to reduce investment risks for large-scale renewable energy and testing financing mechanisms for small-scale energy efficiency and renewable energy with the Damu Entrepreneurship Development Fund.



We developed the concept of the circular economy strategy for 13 cities of Kazakhstan to enhance the use of resources, improve environmental protection and create a "green" infrastructure.

Our ongoing work on biodiversity and ecosystem protection will help achieve sustainable development through our support to protected areas and through our empowerment of local communities to build their resilience. We support the implementation of the Eco-Damu loan programme, which boosts SME development in rural areas. We are also contributing to ecotourism development in Kazakhstan.



We also contribute to the national objective of increasing the country's forest cover. An example is the implementation of a climate action project with the Bitfury Group, which aims to offset CO2 emissions by improving forest management and planting trees in the green zone of Pavlodar.

Our work on pastoralism and irrigated agriculture includes finding new solutions and

more efficient farming techniques, including for saving and harvesting water. Thanks to private sector engagement, these technologies are expected to increase agricultural productivity that will partially make up for the decreased yields in drought years.

Our work to fight desertification and restore degraded lands is focused primarily on adopting sustainable land management. We also make significant contributions to poverty reduction, improved food security and access to water, better health and well-being and to ensuring greater resilience to climate-induced risks and disasters.



FAST FACTS

1 million people

impacted through biodiversity conservation and land management projects

Farmers and businesses in

16 districts

of Kazakhstan supported through improved pastoralism, organic and irrigated agriculture, crop fertility and diversification, water-saving technologies and transhumance subsidies

The well-being and health of more than

74,000 people

in the Aralsk district improved due to a reduction of hazardous contaminants in the air, soil and water thanks to improved land cover and a shift to organic farming

More than **750,000 ha** of reclaimed lands and

400 000 ha

of grazing lands

More than **10,000 families** supported through micro-credit schemes

800+ green jobs created

Through the financial mechanisms for low-carbon projects in the form of energy efficiency subsidies

100 projects were attracted from businesses,

37 of which

got financing in the amount of

4.7bn tenge

Water conservation and afforestation measures affected

over **68 697 ha**, including afforestation of the dried Aral Sea bed

200,000 direct beneficiaries and

9.3 million indirect

beneficiaries benefited from UNDP energy efficiency activities



2.5 million
tons of medical waste
annually safely treated

8 new
protected areas
created with
UNDP support

The BIOFIN
finance solution, a
\$1.5 million
project, helped the
country to offset
CO2 emissions
through reforestation
and improved
forest management

Resilient
agriculture
resulted in
rehabilitation
of more than
750,000
hectares
of degraded land

**WATER IS THE SOURCE
OF LIFE: UNDP HELPS
FARMERS IN ALMATY
RESTORE THEIR WATER
RESOURCES**



Water is essential for livelihoods. In the arid areas of the Almaty region, Kazakhstan, water is even more important. Harvests, employment, water and food security, socio-economic development and environmental well-being in this region all depend directly or indirectly on water.

However, due to the irrational use of water resources and ineffective management of water reservoirs, the farmers of the Baiterek rural district, Almaty region, have been experiencing problems with irrigation for many years.

In 2018, with financial support from the Global Environment Facility, UNDP launched a project to restore two water collectors and two irrigation pipelines in Alga and Baiterek villages, Almaty region.

The reconstruction of ponds and the application of water-saving technologies enabled farmers to use water resources more rationally. Over 1,400 hectares of land was restored for irrigation allowing farmers to cultivate the land and to diversify their crops thereby improving the economic well-being of local communities.

More than 300 farmers now have access to an uninterrupted water supply even during the peak irrigation season in summer, when water shortages occur annually.



PROMOTING GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWERING WOMEN AND GIRLS

UNDP has made attaining gender equality one of its core commitments. The organization recognizes that women empowerment and gender equality are vital to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which envisions a world of universal respect for human rights and human dignity. It is a world where every woman and girl enjoys full gender equality and all legal, social and economic barriers to their empowerment have been removed.

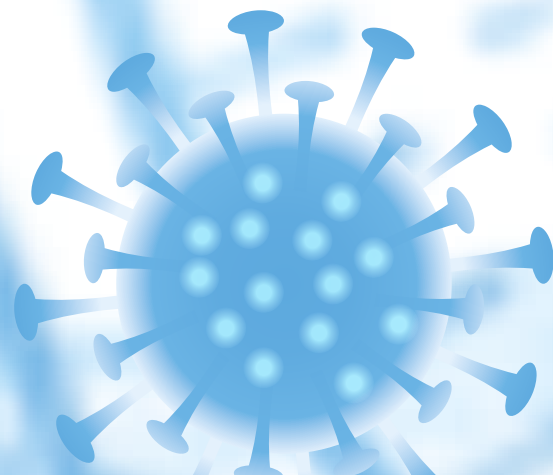
UNDP integrates gender equality principles across all its work areas. In June 2020, we earned SILVER level certification of the Gender Equality Seal after meeting a series of standards in programming and partnerships, communications and advocacy, management systems, in-house environment and staff capacities.

In Kazakhstan, we continue supporting the national effort at meeting gender equality commitments. Emphasis is placed on promoting measures giving women more opportunities to take part in decision-making, to be more competitive in the labour market, to take leadership positions in the private sector and to stand united against gender-based violence.





CRISIS RESPONSE TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC



When the COVID-19 pandemic broke out in March 2020, we supported the health and crisis response and also helped to deal with the increasingly severe social and economic impacts of COVID-19.

As part of the United Nations COVID-19 response, we conducted two assessments of the social and economic impacts of COVID-19 and their spillover effects on the most vulnerable groups.



We helped at-risk youth to find jobs by launching a three-month subsidized youth apprenticeship programme, accompanied by soft-skills trainings and mentorship support. A total of 150 unemployed youth of Nur-Sultan and Almaty cities and the Karaganda region benefited from the programme.

We conducted trainings to upgrade digital, telecommuting skills of 1,000 civil servants at national and subnational levels.



As part of a joint UNDP-ADB project, we handed over special equipment for treatment of infectious waste (an autoclave) and containers for safe waste collection to the Nur-Sultan City Centre of Phthisiopulmonology; conducted trainings for health-care professionals in medical COVID-19 waste management; and developed regulatory documents for case treatment of medical COVID-19 waste.





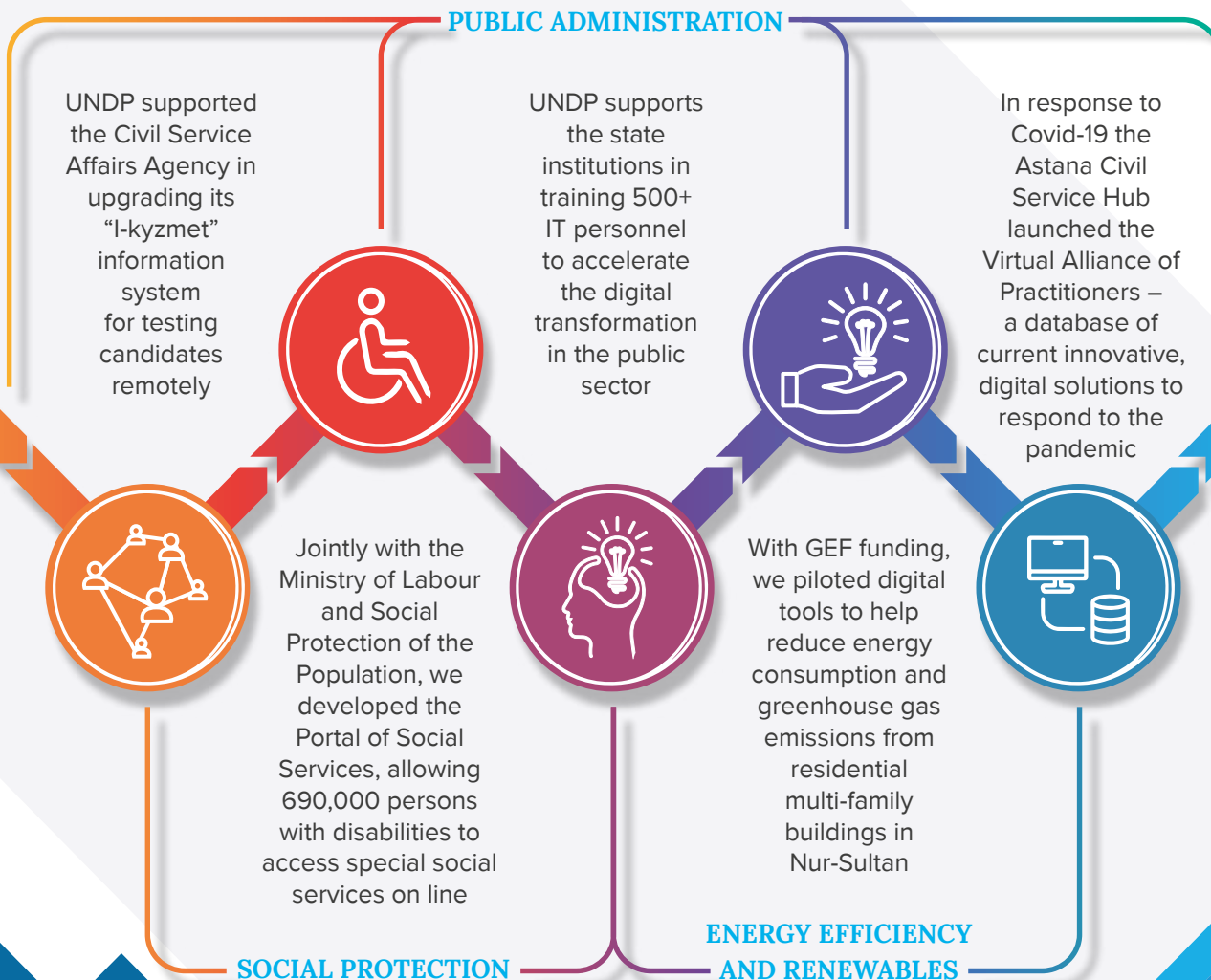
We delivered five specialized ambulance vehicles to the National Coordination Centre for Emergency Medicine of the Ministry of Healthcare at no charge. The ambulances are equipped with all needed medical equipment.

Altogether, 190,000 medical kits were sent to Kazakhstan's different regions for distribution among socially disadvantaged and vulnerable groups. The kits were procured and delivered under the joint COVID-19 emergency response of the ADB, UNDP and the Government of Kazakhstan project.



GOING DIGITAL

We work jointly with our national partners to improve access of citizens and businesses to digital public services and to implement digital solutions in social protection, climate change adaptation, agriculture, renewable energy, energy efficiency, biodiversity and ecosystem protection and waste management.



BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM PROTECTION AND MONITORING

Funded by the Global Environment Facility, we developed a guide for monitoring forest fires based on remote sensing data. SMART patrolling system – a spatial monitoring and reporting tool for collecting, monitoring and exchanging data on wildlife – was introduced in Sairam-Ugam National Park. Digital gadgets, such as 294 camera traps and 23 drones, were used to help monitor and improve the protection of biodiversity in the country

An E-trade platform has been introduced: a new tool in the trade market that transfers sales and transactions for the purchase, sale and transportation of agricultural commodities to the online mode. The platform greatly simplifies the signing of trade agreements online. To date over 114 international contracts with clients from Central Asian countries, Afghanistan, China, Iran, Israel, Moldova, Mongolia, Saudi Arabia and Turkey, were processed



The digital planting model has been introduced. Farmers can now access digitalized climatic maps dating back 70 years to help them better plan their agricultural output



With GEF funding, we created an online platform for interaction among farmers, traders and agricultural producers, which is also used to monitor prices for grain and its processed products



The GEF Small Grants Programme supported two NGO-implemented projects to assist the heads of rural districts in Akmola and Almaty regions in creating digital maps of the pasture areas and sustainable pasture management plans

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

UNDP ACCELERATOR LAB



In December 2020 UNDP in Kazakhstan officially joined a global network of 91 UNDP innovative accelerator labs (AccLab). The AccLabs are a new service that works with people, governments and the private sector to reimagine development for the 21st century through the use of innovative methods.

The AccLab's flagship has been leading the urban transformation agenda for Almaty city, part of the City Experiment Fund, and is focused on developing a series of experiments in the air quality sector. The initiative is funded by the Ministry of Finance of the Slovak Republic.

The AccLab is also focused on eliminating gender-based violence. At UNDP Kazakhstan the AccLab is supporting the Spotlight Initiative aimed at eliminating violence against women and girls in Central Asia. The AccLab team plans to introduce innovative methods to raise awareness, visualize data and identify grass roots solutions.



UNDP AS A DEVELOPMENT PARTNER

UNDP is highly valued by the Government of Kazakhstan and other partners for its impartial approach, visibility, access to international networks and proven expertise, backed up by research and data. Its multi-stakeholder approach, working in close cooperation with a range of partners at national and regional level, and with local governments, civil society organizations, community groups, think tanks, academia, local financial institutions and the private sector, gives it a strong competitive advantage.



UNDP is the leading United Nations organization fighting to end the injustice of poverty, inequality, and climate change. Working with our broad network of experts and partners in 170 countries, we help nations to build integrated, lasting solutions for people and planet. Learn more at undp.org or follow at @UNDP.

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