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Updates of the "Stakeholder engagement for uranium legacy remediation in Central Asia. Phase II" project



Supporting New Businesses to Create Jobs and Build Prosperity at the Uranium Legacy Territories

Entrepreneurship development is one of the ways to ensure economic growth and prosperity in the uranium legacy sites. To improve business environment, create jobs and generate income for the local people, the project "Stakeholder Engagement for Uranium Legacy Remediation in Central Asia. Phase II" seeks to build business competencies of the entrepreneurs and finance/co-finance successful

business initiatives at these territories.

This year, the Selection Committee – comprised of representatives of government agencies, expert communities, and UNDP projects - identified five best projects to be financed/co-financed and implemented at the pilot areas of Yangiabad (Tashkent region) and Charkesar (Namangan region).

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Beekeeping business project

Yangiabad mountain area provides favorable conditions for beekeeping. This is the main reason why Shokhrukh Madiyarov decided to start a beekeeping business. Our project purchased processing equipment including hives, frames, a honey extractor and honeybees to help “Yangiabad Eco Start” family enterprise start their business. The business plans to create 4 jobs and provide local population with an excellent nutraceutical product.



Campground business

Elena is a tour guide with an extensive experience in organizing historical, eco-tours, and religious tours (ziyosat). Our project purchased necessary equipment to support her in starting a campground business in Yangiabad mountain area (Tashkent

region). According to her, this will be a unique place where people of all walks of life will be able to have wildlife experiences. The campground business will help 7 people living in the ULS find jobs.

Private kindergarten

Dilyora Umurboeva from Charkesar (Namangan region) had a dream of providing opportunities for women with children to work. She believes that more mothers would increase their earnings and seek new job opportunities if they had greater access to reliable and affordable child care. Given this, Dilyora Umurboeva decided to set up a kindergarten business, where 80 children could have good care and develop their potential. Our project supplied this business with toys and playground equipment. The private kindergarten will create 12 jobs for men and women in the region.



Organic fertilizers

According to Sanjar Madamov, director of “Bio Life Green” company, a demand for organic fertilizers in Uzbekistan is growing. Given that this sphere is underdeveloped in the country, most of the fertilizers are being imported. “We want to provide local farmers with organic fertilizers at an affordable price and create about 10 jobs for people living in Charkesar,” he said. The project is supporting this business initiative by purchasing a special equipment to produce organic fertilizers.

Youth education centre

Safura Ruzimova believes that there is an increasing demand for educational services in Charkesar. However, this city does not have sufficient number of education centres that would meet the needs of

the youth. In this context, she plans to set up a Youth education centre which will provide affordable and quality educational services for people. Our project purchased technical assets for the centre in order to help increase education level of the local youth and create at least 12 employment opportunities.

In 2020, the project on uranium legacy remediation financed three business initiatives selected during the competition. “Yangiabad Jemchujina Chatkala” enterprise – provider of touristic and hotel services – optimized working process thanks to a washing and ironing equipment purchased by our project.

For NGO “Center of Agro Information,” our project procured greenhouses, a food drying machine and other equipment. This contribution helped start a new business and employ people living in the ULS.

As the result of the new equipment provided by the project, “Shakhliya” enterprise in Yangiabad is getting economic benefits from socks production.

Helping Women in Uranium Legacy Areas Develop Their Business Competences



The “Stakeholder engagement for uranium legacy remediation in Central Asia. Phase II” project has organized a training series for women entrepreneurs in Angren (Tashkent region) and Pap (Namangan region). More than 40 women living in the territories of the uranium heritage and in nearby cities have gained new knowledge on the development of women's entrepreneurship and have learnt about new opportunities to contribute to green economy.

Women in remote areas are main players in economic, environmental, and social transformations for sustainable development. Women empowerment is key both to the well-being of individuals, and to overall economic prosperity. UNDP supports women's participation in shaping laws and policies on all issues

affecting their lives, including managing the impact of uranium waste on their health and the health of their families, as well as the environment. This training session aimed to improve women's business skills and to engage women in solving social, economic, and environmental issues through their business projects.

The training workshop included interactive sessions on government-supported programmes for women's entrepreneurship, opportunities to integrate a green economy concept, and trends in social entrepreneurship.

Participants of the workshop learned about a set of criteria that would allow them to choose business ideas and the ways to elaborate a business strategy based on a “guest tourism” business project.

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"I have been engaged in entrepreneurship since 2002. I started with trading, but my interest in farming has led me to establish the "Oltin Muborak" enterprise. Now, I am planning to expand my business and develop eco and agro tourism on the farm to create new jobs for unemployed women. Therefore, I find such training sessions very useful. I gained knowledge about current trends in business development, got acquainted with social and green entrepreneurship. Previously, I did not know about social entrepreneurship, but now, I want to move in this direction, because I got inspired," shared Nigora Tursunova, the training workshop participant.



"I have been managing LLC "Tashpulat Stroy Invest" for more than 10 years. Throughout this period, we have built more than 100 houses and other buildings. Many people wonder how it is possible for a woman to work in the construction industry. But for me, construction is my area of expertise. Before that, I worked at the plant as a specialist in estimating and as a design engineer for more than 30 years. Today's training workshop was useful for me, I learned new business trends and how I, through my activities, can contribute to the development of a green economy," said Sayora Tashpulatov, another participant of the training workshop.



"I manage a family business. We have a sewing workshop, a hairdresser's, and a grocery store. I was inspired to learn about social entrepreneurship and a green economy. My business includes elements of social entrepreneurship - I provide temporary work for women who stay at home and care for children with disabilities. After the training workshop, I want to introduce the concept of a green economy in my business, and I already have ideas on how to do this," said Gulmira Beisinoва, a participant of the training workshop.

This training sessions were organized as a "Training of Trainers" to create a community of competent trainers. As a follow on project, every participant of the workshops will further train 6 people, and a total of 280 representatives of Namangan and Tashkent regions will gain new knowledge about women entrepreneurship.

The project also contributed to similar training workshops which were conducted later in Chartak and Charkesar (Namangan region) and in Nukus (Karakalpakstan) for 75 women.

International Disaster Risk Reduction Day Schoolchildren Awareness Raising Contest

UNDP, the Ministry of Emergency Situations, OSCE – implementers of the joint project on the uranium legacy remediation in Central Asia – jointly with NGO Ekomaktab (EcoSchool) awarded 24 winners of a Disaster Risk Reduction Drawing Contest. The contest was conducted among schoolchildren living in uranium legacy and nearby areas of Uzbekistan, namely Charkesar (Namangan region) and Yangiabad (Tashkent region).

The competition, part of the project efforts to raise public awareness about the impact of uranium waste on communities, attracted 190 students from two schools in Charkesar and Yangiabad. The students demonstrated their creative talent in painting and good knowledge of the issue. The submitted pictures reflect the views of students on daunting problems such as radiation exposure, mudflows and floods, air pollution, climate change, and human activities that contributed to these processes.



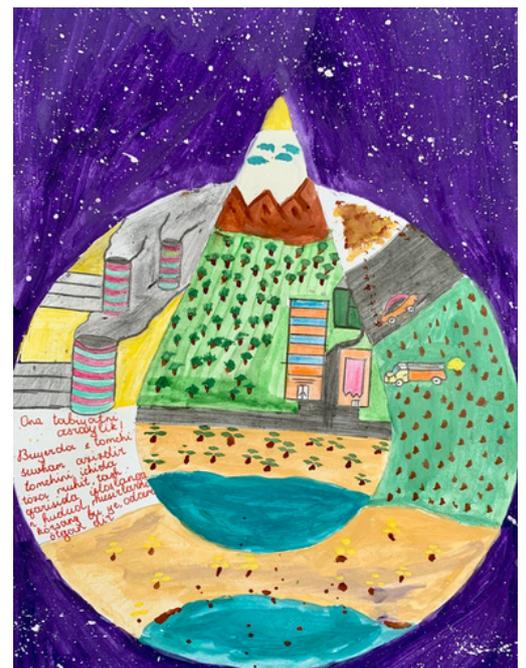
“I found out that there is a mine near our school where uranium was extracted many years ago. We were informed about the threats of radiation to human health and the environment. In other lessons, I learned how the waste from factories pollutes the environment. I wanted to reflect all these facts in my work,” says Malika Tagaeva, a ninth-grade student and a winner of the contest.



“Mom helped me with the idea of my drawing. Here I showed that our planet was in danger due to industrial waste and climate change. But I believe that we can help our planet if we start using solar and wind energy, save water, ride bicycles, and recycle waste,” says Sarvinoz Akramova, an eighth-grade student and the contest winner.

Children and youth are one of the most vulnerable groups during emergencies. Such contests for children help raise their awareness of disaster risk reduction, inspire to be proactive and make them think about the ways they can protect our planet.

Contest winners





The Training Workshops on Radioactive Safety were Organized among Local Stakeholders

The territories of Yangiabad district of the Tashkent region and Charkesar village of Pap district of the Namangan region of Uzbekistan in the 60s and 70s were the most important sources of uranium ore, which were necessary for the production of nuclear weapons. In the 90s, after the collapse of the Soviet Union, most of the mines and processing plants were closed (often abandoned), however, their waste remains.

In Autumn of 2021, OSCE, UNDP, the Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Republic of Uzbekistan—implementers of the joint project “Stakeholder Engagement for Uranium Legacy Remediation in Central Asia (Phase II)” in cooperation with the NGO Ekomaktab and national consultants for training and



capacity building, development of educational materials for the local population, teachers, high school students in the field of radiation safety from the Ministry of health of the of the Republic of Uzbekistan conducted training workshops. The events had been organized to build the capacity of local target groups and local school teachers in the secondary school № 3 of Charkesar village of the

Namangan region and the secondary school № 42 Dukent village of the Tashkent region.

The purpose of the training workshops is to raise awareness of the local population of Yangiabad district of the Tashkent region, Charkesar village of the Namangan region, and nearby settlements about the radiation situation at the sites of former uranium mines.

Training workshops included a practical lesson on the goals and the methods of radiation monitoring in contaminated areas, as well as the main methods of protection against radiation. Training participants were also given explanations on the rules of nutrition and food preparation for the population living in or near radiation-hazardous territories.

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During the entire training course, 242 population living in the Charkesar village of Pap district of the Namangan region and 248 population living in the Yangiabad district Tashkent region were trained on radioactive safety.

Moreover, within the project two working groups of activists of local communities, representatives of local authorities and young people to inform the public and participate in radiation safety issues, environmental clubs

"Green Patrols" at the schools including 118 school pupils, and 8 rewarding competitions such as "Healthy environment - prosperous I", "The best environmental project for high school students", "DRR day" were created.

Strengthening Partnerships to Scale-up Project Results



UNDP Istanbul Regional Hub in cooperation with OSCE and UNDP Country Offices in Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan organized a regional workshop on "Stakeholder Engagement for Uranium Legacy Remediation in Central Asia (Phase II)". Delegates from three Central Asian states, EC HQ, EUDs, OSCE, local authorities, as well as representatives of local communities, NGOs and other partners attended the regional workshop.

In his opening remarks, Gerd Trogemann, Head of the UNDP Istanbul Regional Hub noted that "according to rough estimations around 1 billion tons of waste from mining and processing radioactive ores is stored on tailings sites across Central Asia." He added that this is causing threat to human health and the environment.

Participants of the workshop presented progress of project implementation, results

achieved, best practices and lessons learned. The workshop helped identify synergies and partnership opportunities within the remaining scope of the project implementation.

Local authorities, partners and local communities provided their feedback on project implementation. Elena Alekseeva, beneficiary from Yangiabad highlighted the impact of the project activities at the uranium legacy territories. She noted, that installation of power transformer stations helped to local population get access to uninterrupted electricity. In addition, Elena emphasized the importance of business initiatives financial support and business skills developing training workshops provided by the project. According to her, these activities contribute to generating jobs and raising income of local population.

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