



UN JOINT PROGRAMME

Building the resilience of communities affected by the Aral Sea disaster through the Multi-Partner Human Security Fund for the Aral Sea

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“I would like to once again draw your attention to one of the most acute ecological problems of our time - the Aral Sea catastrophe.

I am holding the map of the Aral tragedy in my hands. I believe, comments are unnecessary here.

Overcoming the consequences of desiccation of the sea requires today the active consolidation of international efforts.

We stand for full implementation of the special UN Programme to provide effective assistance to the population affected by the Aral Sea crisis adopted this year.”

**ADDRESS by H.E. Mr. Shavkat Mirziyoyev,
President of the Republic of Uzbekistan at the General Debate
of the 72nd Session of the United Nations General Assembly**

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres held meetings in Nukus and Muynak during his visit to Uzbekistan

On 10 June, UN chief Antonio Guterres arrived in Uzbekistan, as part of his first-ever foray into Central Asia, and visited Samarkand, Nukus and Muynak.

In Nukus, Mr. Guterres attended a brief presentation on the Aral Sea problem and departed for the city of Moynak on a helicopter and viewed the current area of the Aral Sea and the ship graveyard. Speaking at a press conference, the UN chief called the Aral Sea “probably the biggest ecological catastrophe of our time.”

Addressing the Aral Sea crisis is one of the UN’s top priority tasks. UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA and the UN Volunteers in Uzbekistan have launched a Joint UN Programme designed to improve livelihoods for the local population affected by the Aral Sea disaster. The programme is aimed at disseminating successful pilot projects, expanding the scope of the concept of

human security at national level and creating a financial mechanism for coordination of donors, a Multipartner Human Security Fund for the Aral Sea region. The Foundation will seek to

“The Aral Sea’s progressive disappearance was not because of climate change, it was mismanagement by humankind of water resources. But it also shows that if in relation to climate change, we are not able to act forcefully to tame this phenomenon, we might see this kind of tragedy multiply around the world.”

Antonio Guterres, UN Secretary-General

support the Government’s efforts to eliminate the consequences of the Aral Sea disaster.

Returning to Nukus, the UN chief visited the famous Savitsky Art Museum, where he viewed the unique collection of fine art and applied art. He also signed the guestbook and accepted commemorative gifts from the museum administration.



Supporting small business projects

With the purpose to enhance the livelihoods of people affected by the Aral Sea disaster, and ensure better life for vulnerable population of target districts of the UN Joint Programme — Takhtakupir, Muynak and Shumanay, within the framework of income generation component it is planned to support the development of various small business projects. On April 4, 2017 the Programme in close cooperation with national partners conducted the review committee meeting to review and select the best business projects for co-financing by the Programme. The selection panel included the representatives from regional and district authorities, Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Karakalpakstan, Women's Committee, Business Women Association. As an outcome of the meeting, out of 20 submitted business plans, 6 business projects, which include projects such as production of macaroni/bakery products and production of banners in Muynak district, production of snacks (salted sunflower



seeds) and packaging of agricultural products, and production of men's linen in Takhtakupir district, as well as creation of Beauty Salon and establishment of furniture manufacturing project in Shumanay district, were approved for further co-financing by UN Joint Programme. As a result, the implementation of the above approved business projects will create more than 20 new job places in target districts, which lead to economic security of the districts.



Development of Sustainable Tourism in Uzbekistan (the case of Karakalpakstan)

On 10 April 2017 the UNESCO Tashkent Office and the Senate Foreign Affairs Committee co-organized the International Conference on Development of Sustainable Tourism in

Uzbekistan (the Case of Karakalpakstan) in Nukus. The event was held in the framework of UN initiative on announcing 2017 as the International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development and in support of the priority given by the Government to the development of tourism in Uzbekistan.

Given the growing importance of tourism industry world-wide, organisers believe that tourism that is based on the cultural and natural resources of the region can also bring sustainable livelihoods to local communities. The relevant stakeholders and some international experts were invited to discuss this and formulate a series of recommendations for the follow-up.



Representatives of diplomatic corps and international organizations visited Karakalpakstan

On 13-14 April, 2017 representatives of diplomatic corps and international organizations accredited in Uzbekistan, representatives of line ministries, agencies, national and regional mass media took part in the field trip to the Republic of Karakalpakstan organized within the UN Joint Programme. The trip was aimed at showcasing the results of the first phase of the UN Joint Programme, raising the awareness of participants on importance of concerted efforts in support to development of the Aral sea region and aiming at expanded donor assistance to the region through the proposed Multi-Partner Human Security Fund for Aral Sea region.

At the office of the UN Joint Programme in Nukus the participants were introduced with brief overview on priorities of the UN support in the Aral Sea region as well as plans of the new UN Joint Programme in the Aral sea region aimed at concerting efforts of multiple stakeholders and donor community within the proposed UN Multi-Partner Human Security Fund for the Aral Sea.

Visit to the Muynak Museum of local history and Muynak Ship graveyard allowed to form a bigger picture of livelihoods in Karakalpakstan both in past and modern realities.

Diversification of activities of local population, introduction of new income generation opportunities helping to create jobs in such pilot districts as Kanlikul, Shumanay, Muynak, and soon in Takhtakupir, are in progress



“The United Nations operating in the country is ready to support the government of Uzbekistan and local communities affected by the Aral Sea disaster through addressing various issues associated with ensuring human security.”

**Stefan Priesner, UN Resident Coordinator, UNDP Resident Representative in Uzbekistan
(January 2013 – May 2017)**

within the scope of the UN initiatives in the Aral Sea region. Thus, the UN Joint Programme supported establishment of a workshop for national embroidery and production of souvenirs from seashells “Qaraqalpaq Sheberi Manzura” managed by Manzura Erniyazova.

In addition, to many support interventions, the UN Joint Programme provided assistance in installation of solar panels for uninterrupted electricity supply in nine rural healthcare facilities of the Muynak district. Trainings for operating personnel of rural health facilities



on application and utilization of new energy efficient technologies using renewable energy sources was organized by the programme.

During the visit to the rural health facility “Aral” covering population of “Tik-ozek” community, the guests saw in practice effective utilization of solar panels ensuring uninterrupted use of medical devices and equipment and full-scale work of a diagnostic laboratory that have significantly raised the quality of medical service to the local population.

Anxiety about health and welfare of people are mirrored in the next project on honey canning and wax production, which was established within the scope of the first phase of the Joint Programme. This facility allows to cover both social and economic aspects at a local level. On one hand, it represents development of local entrepreneurship where four employees are involved, food security concern and manufacturing of environmentally friendly products, on the other hand, dekhkan and farming communities cooperating with the Programme supply each senior citizen with 5-10 kg of honey annually absolutely for free.

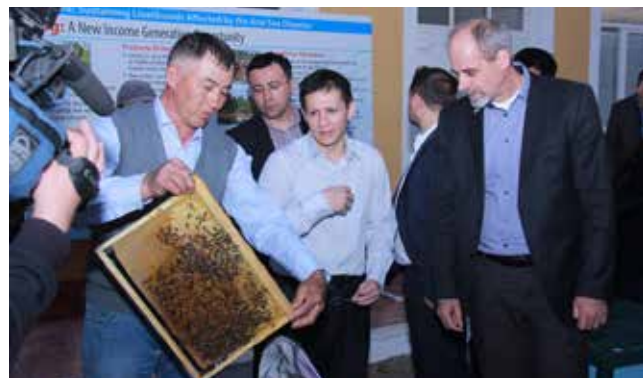
Overall, within the first phase of the UN Aral Sea Programme over 200 demonstration plots and business projects of different scale were implemented to help address the economic, health and food security needs of more than 130,000 people directly affected by the

environmental crisis. Those projects covered different areas of economy including agriculture, service delivery and small-scale production as well as tourism development. In addition, 40 community based social infrastructure projects were supported benefiting over 44,000 rural



population with improved access to basic social services such as drinking and irrigation water, electricity and improved health and educational facilities.

The primary goal of the UN activities in Karakalpakstan is to improve the quality of livelihoods and enhance the income generation opportunities for population reflecting the key priorities of the State Programme for 2017, “*The Year of Dialogue with the People and Human Interests*”, and the objectives specified in the State Programme for Development of the Aral Sea region for 2017-2021.



Aral Sea region is in the focus of international community's attention

On 28th of February 2017, UN DPA representative Brain Pozun, paid a visit to Karakalpakstan to acquaint with the new UN Joint Programme ongoing activities and results and impacts of the 1st phase of the Joint Programme. During the visit he had a chance to see in firsthand the overall situation of communities affected by the Aral Sea disaster, and learn more on UN Joint Programme interventions and preventive approaches held to mitigate negative effects of the catastrophe and integration of Human Security concept in their daily life as tool for betterment of the socio-economic conditions. Within his visit he had been in Kanlikul district and Nukus to see pilot projects on business development namely: Milk processing enterprise, Gypsum and home decorative items production in Kanlikul district and sewing shop at Society of Disabled People in Nukus, Crafts Development Center at the Karakalpak branch of Academy of Arts of Uzbekistan. Overall Guest visitor expressed his gratitude and wished success to newly launched UN Joint Programme and congratulated for the success made in previous phase.



Following that visit, on 17-21st of April 2017, His Excellency Mr. Christopher Allan, Extraordinary Ambassador of United Kingdom and Northern Ireland to Uzbekistan paid an official visit to UN Joint Programme office in Nukus and also had insightful trip to Aral Sea shore with night stay and visited Muynak district, Kanlikul district and Nukus city. Ambassador had seen project sites from business development to social infrastructure project implemented by UN Joint Programme. He was astonished to see the success of Manzura and her team who were running embroidery and sewing shop in Muynak apart from that solar panel installed to VCC medical points impressed him

how new technology are facilitating lives of the rural people. Further he travelled to Nukus district where, he had introduced himself with honey canning and wax production shop which had been sponsored by TIKa (Turkish cooperation and coordination agency). He was delightful to see the activities of the UN Joint Programme and shared his visions on possible areas of partnership. At the end of his official trip Ambassador wished all success and progress to UN Joint Programme.



Women's entrepreneurship as important factor to strengthen family institution in rural areas

— I would like to emphasize that a modern woman of Uzbekistan is a socially active person; she is well educated, professional, strives to succeed in her career, and is actively involved in the country's and society's life. However, today we face a challenge to increase participation of women that are not engaged in social processes; these are mainly housewives, in particular, from remote districts. Specifically, we speak about women living in rural areas of those districts across the Republic of Karakalpakstan, where considerable focus is placed on employment issues, as well as on improving income-generation sources. During our programme, we disseminate information about economic opportunities for women, that are enshrined by Uzbek laws and regulations. Moreover, I would like to stress that Uzbekistan is a country that ratified CEDAW Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women; so far, five periodic reports have already been submitted to CEDAW Committee. We work to ensure implementation of these norms. Every opportunity in this regard was created in the country, but certain stereotypes, like "business is not a women's thing" still exist in the society; that is why we conduct trainings, which aim, among all, to change women's perception about their own opportunities in entrepreneurship, to form



behavioural model that would not only allow to improve their sustainable source of income but also to improve family livelihoods, as well as to strengthen families and build resilience of population affected by the Aral Sea disaster — says **Ms. Ermetova Venera, trainer and consultant of the Civil Initiative Support Center, Tashkent.**

Trainings on "Strengthening family institution through women's economic empowerment and provision of sustainable income sources for rural women" were organized from May 22nd to July 22 in 10 districts, including Muynak, Kungrad, Karauzyak, Chimboy, Kegeliy and other districts, under the initiative of United Nations Population Fund in Uzbekistan (UNFPA) within the framework of Action plan for implementation of UN Joint Programme designed to build resilience of communities affected by the Aral Sea disaster



through the Multi-Partner Human Security Fund for the Aral Sea. Trainers were invited from Civil Initiative Support Centers of Nukus and Tashkent cities, as well as Ferghana regional department.

— *During the trainings we were taught how to properly implement our business-ideas, where to start, and what issues require our special attention. I hope, I will fulfill my dream of becoming an independent entrepreneur in the nearest future* — these impressions were shared by **Ms. Indira Ergasheva, rural gathering of citizens (RGC) “Uzbekiston” of Takhtakupir district.**

The course covered a range of various aspects, including the one that when working with women it is important to consider both her family interests and interests shaped by her role as a mother, mindful wife, attentive daughter and housewife. Participants were informed about national policy to secure their rights and opportunities in all aspects of life; they got help to better understand key principles of family relations to form new perception of family institution as an important element of healthy society.

— *Apart from economic component, it is critical to remember also about emotional conditions of a person, as well as his confidence in the future to ensure resilience. Our training agenda includes two large thematic areas. The first block includes training related to basics of women’s economic rights, role of economic component to strengthen the family, ensuring equal rights and responsibilities of men and women in all spheres of life. The second block covers fundamentals*

of entrepreneurship and business planning. We teach this to improve sustainable income sources, especially for vulnerable families. The training provides the participants with information about international norms stipulated in CEDAW Convention, about latest decrees and resolutions issued by the head of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Cabinet of Ministers that aim to increase real income and ensure employment of population, to foster business environment, as well as to support small business and private entrepreneurship — adds **Ms. Ermetova Venera,**



trainer and consultant of the Civil Initiative Support Center, Tashkent.

Participants enjoyed an opportunity to practice goal setting and planning with regard to important events in their personal life for the upcoming future - this includes generation of business ideas, preparation of a business plan, as well as various approaches to plan family income and family budget. Special attention was paid to explain key concepts in the field of economy,



financial services, rules and advantages of running legitimate business, as well as micro loans, conditions, procedure for their provision and return. Various role plays were practiced, such as a conversation with a bank officers, civil servants or public organizations' staff, who deal with development of small business and private entrepreneurship.

Overall, the training agenda covered three months course to demonstrate fundamentals of business for almost 340 women-housewives and women running informal businesses. Two-day sessions covered on average 20 participants from pilot districts.

The surveys revealed that women already developed good understanding that professional education was critical for the success in labour market. Majority of the training participants also agreed that it was important to have professional education, because this was a prerequisite for further career growth, better competitiveness and opportunities to

get a good job. As an incentive, at the end of training workshops the most active participants, who showed their leadership and gave realistic business-ideas, received additional consultation to obtain loans and to start their own projects.

It is expected that in future these women has

"This training made a very strong impression on me. I really want to start my own business; that is why training related to business-planning, entrepreneurship, as well as knowledge and experience that we gained during the training stimulated me to put my ideas into action. Women have great opportunities which must be used and this is exactly what I am going to show with own example."

**Ms. Shirinkhan Usakhova,
RGC "Uzbekiston" of Takhtakupir district**

an opportunity to become community leaders and promote women's entrepreneurship at their districts together with Women's Committee and NGOs of the Republic of Karakalpakstan.



Synthesis of traditional crafts and innovative design: training for young craftspeople and designers of Karakalpakstan

A two-day training on traditional crafts and innovative design for craftspeople and designers in Karakalpakstan, organized by UNESCO Office in Tashkent, in cooperation with the Karakalpakstan Regional Branch of the Uzbekistan Academy of Arts, took place on 7-8 July 2017 in Nukus. The training was conducted within the framework of the UN Joint Programme "Building the Resilience of Communities Affected by the Aral Sea Disaster through a Multi-partner Human Security Fund for the Aral Sea".

Ms. Bibi Russell (UK/Bangladesh), an International expert on traditional textiles, designer from UNESCO's Artist for Peace, had taken part in the training.



The training is a preparatory event for the 3rd edition of the Festival of Traditional Textile "Atlas Bayrami" ("Celebrating Atlas"), held from 12 to 16 September 2017 in Margilan, Ferghana region.

Joint efforts towards enhancing water use efficiency



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC
Швейцарское Управление по развитию и сотрудничеству SDC

The SDC funded joint project **“Sustaining improved livelihoods and food security in areas most affected by Aral Sea disaster through enhancing water use efficiency”** has implemented number of activities to investigate the key priority areas in terms of improving the institutional capacity and infrastructure of irrigation management systems and hydraulic structures of irrigation networks.

The project conducted the needs assessment of the Lower Amudarya Basin Management Board of Irrigation Systems in Karakalpakstan and ‘Kuwanishjarma’ Irrigation Management System (IMS). The assessment studied the following: (i) organizational structure of the irrigation system, including the role of dispatch points and volume of irrigated land for agricultural purposes, (ii) the irrigation infrastructure of the project site with necessary reconstruction of hydraulic systems (iii) institutional capacity of the irrigation system and dispatch centers, Water Consumers Associations (WCA), including the need for renovation work and office furniture to improve the service delivery system, (iv) identify the training needs of irrigation system staff in the water management system. The assessment also provided recommendations for the project’s further course of actions.

With aim to enhance water management system dispatchers’ capacity in using the IT tools, in synergy with the National Project

on Water Resources Management in Uzbekistan, special tailor made courses on computer literacy has been organized for 12 dispatchers of the “Kuwanishjarma” IMS. 12 participants have received necessary skills on applying basic computer software for their routine work and provided with

ICT manuals. As the next step, the project plans to conduct special trainings on data application and administration in deploying the WMIS system.

In close cooperation with UNDP/AF Project “Developing climate resilience of farming communities in the drought prone parts of Uzbekistan”, the project has been able to involve 6 farmers from the project site in Karaozek district to participate in the field training of farmers for the setup, testing and demonstration of laser land levelling equipment performance in Karkalpakstan. The farmers have learned one of the innovative water saving technology that enables to increase the income from crops production. The field training were organized in Chimbay district on August 1-5, 2017.

One of the ultimate goals of the project is to provide access of rural population to drinking water. It is envisioned to implement drinking water supply project in Karaozek district. In order to maintain better planning, to study the



best practices and lessons learned from the SDC funded "Rural Water Supply and Sanitation" (RWSS) project in Fergana region and share own experience and ideas for further collaboration, the project team participated in the international workshop "Community-based water management

system in Uzbekistan: experience, challenges and further developments", which was held on July 24-27, 2017 in Fergana city. The project team got acquainted with achievements and reviewed the current status of national entities on drinking water provision and implications of

acting legislative acts into drinking water supply process in rural areas. Moreover, the team visited 3 project sites and was introduced with drinking water supply structures and implementation mechanism of drinking water management through Drinking Water Organizations led by community members. The experiences shared by RWSS was very much useful for further replication within drinking water supply project in Karakalpakstan.



Initiatives to improve energy security for rural residents of Tahtakupir district

Assistance in securing local population energy security is one of the priorities of the UN Joint programme.

Community mobilization workshops for identifying the most pressing social needs among the community members of the settlement «Aydin-jol» of Tahtakupir district, revealed a number of difficulties connected to regular electric power cut-offs, due to which most of the activities unwillingly stops all the power related activities in households, enterprises, public organizations and it also makes difficulties with fulfilling the educational programs for students, and etc. The regular cut-offs in autumn-winter period makes more hardships as at this

time there is more need for additional electrical appliances for heating houses and buildings. The power capacity used to greatly reduce due to the outdated electrical transformer, which



could not cope with the necessary volumes of work. The shortage of power has also been related to the increasing number of local residents over time, which was not taken into account during the installation of the former transformer.

After the survey and analysis of needs of the population in the improvement in regard of the power supply system, jointly with the district power supply institution the technical specifications and necessary amount of work for the installation of a new electric transformer has been developed. In addition to this project, the UN Joint programme will support with electric power supplying of the newly constructed vegetable storehouse with a volume of 240 cubic meters for storage of vegetables and fruit with a capacity of 200 tons. It is expected that this initiative will make a significant contribution to ensuring food security not only of the residents of this settlement, but also all residents on the district level thanks to providing permanent power supply.



Today the villagers «Aydin-jol» community of Takhtakupir district of than 4,000 people are provided with quality power supply at their households including the public institutions, such as the bakery, sanitary and epidemiological station, the district tax office, medical facilities and a new vegetable store.

This social project aimed at promoting the energy and food security is a model of realization of the human security concept in the areas that are exposed to the consequences of the ecological disaster related to the Aral Sea.



Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MTPF) — innovative financial tool for mitigating the consequences of the Aral Sea crisis

One of the objectives of the UN Joint Programme on the Aral Sea crisis is the formation of an institutional environment for implementation of the unified Strategy for rendering assistance to the population of the Aral Sea region affected by the Aral Sea disaster, through establishment of a multi-partner human security trust fund.

The multi-partner trust fund is an innovative pooled financing mechanism developed for solution of multifaceted, complex social, economic, environmental, humanitarian and other problems in a holistic approach.

Within the framework of this objective, the programme has developed a draft concept on establishment of this fund.

The establishment of the trust fund for the Aral Sea region will significantly improve the effectiveness of efforts undertaken to improve the livelihoods of local people, improve infrastructure, create favourable conditions for the development of entrepreneurship and the private sector, and contribute to the socio-economic and environmental development of the region. To date, grant funds represent only a small part of the total volume of investments channelled to this region. Thus, programmatic, financial, managerial approaches, developed within the MPTF, to solving problems related to the consequences of the Aral Sea crisis will become a model for future interventions.

The activities of the MPTP in the Aral Sea region will be aimed at the following key tasks:

1. Development and updating of the unified strategy for the Aral Sea region;
2. Bringing up regional and international dialogue between donors and the Government of Uzbekistan on addressing Aral Sea issues to a qualitatively new level, which will lead to increased interest of partners in the Aral Sea problem;
3. Mobilization and increase of funds under the unified program, as well as strengthening the coordination of activities of the UN agencies;
4. Introduction of a universal and effective project selection and approval procedures that will allow donors to choose projects and/or ways of participation in the development process, depending on their own resources and financial potential.
5. Ensuring the transparency of financial transactions and increasing the confidence of international financial institutions, donors in partner organizations in the Republic of Uzbekistan;
6. Building the capacity of national organizations in development of qualitative project documents and in implementation of development initiatives according to international standards



A study to assess the local population's level of awareness on the prevention of various diseases was held in Karakalpakstan

Study to assess level of basic knowledge of the population about respiratory, cardiovascular, gastrointestinal diseases, maternal and child health, behaviour, practices for the timely circulation of rural population for medical assistance was conducted in 10 pilot regions of Karakalpakstan on 7-16 August 2017.



The study was conducted in Muynak, Kungrad, Kanlykul, Shumanay, Khodzheyli, Takhtakupir, Karauzyak, Chimbay, Kegeliy and Nukus districts. The survey was conducted within the framework of the United Nations Joint Program on Aral Sea with the assistance of the Ministry of Health of Karakalpakstan.

Doctors-specialists of the Health Ministry developed the survey questions and conducted polling of population. Over 1,300 residents of the above mentioned districts took part in the survey.

Based on survey results, it is planned to develop training materials for population in

Karakalpak and Russian languages, methodical materials for volunteers, etc. The materials will focus on raising awareness of population



about various diseases and changing the behaviour of the rural population about their own health.



Trainings on application of Human Security concept

On 17-18 August 2017, Nukus hosted a two-day training for 48 representatives of governmental bodies of the Republic of Karakalpakstan — specialists of local ministries, district khokimiyats and public organizations of Karakalpakstan. The trainings aimed at enhancing professional skills of specialists involved in socio-economic development of the region with focus on application of the principles of the Human Security concept.

During her presentation on the UN Human Security Concept, Muattara Rahimova, lecturer of the Academy of Public Administration under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan noted that the Concept is aimed at creation of social, ecological, economic and cultural systems that are to provide people with necessary conditions for their livelihoods, as well as development and self-realization.

The training participants discussed the issues related to formulation and implementation of regional development strategies, introduction of the principles and

requirements of Human Security concept in such processes, as well as the advantages of applying this concept in the context of the Aral Sea region. Discussions will also touch upon the budgeting of regional development programmes. Special attention was given to full-fledged participation of both women



and men in implementation of regional development programmes on the ground.

— *I have got positive impressions and learned a lot of interesting and useful facts during these*



trainings. A special emphasis of this event was placed on the Human Security concept; such approach is of a great significance for the population living in the region, suffering from the climate change because of the Aral Sea disaster. I think, that the Human Security approach in rework of the local development plans will serve to increase opportunities of the rural population, improve the social and economic situation and accelerate the pace of development in the most remote areas of our region, — said **Feruz Khojamuratova, chief specialist of the Social Development Department of the Ministry of Economy of the Republic Karakalpakstan.**

These trainings and other events envisaged by UN Joint Programme, aim to provide comprehensive support to the development of the Aral Sea region including, among others, through possible adoption of the Human Security concept as a conceptual basis for



drafting and implementation of the Road Map for development of the Aral Sea region.

— Besides, interactive method used during the training to map the Sustainable Development Goals together with the aspects of the Human Security concept in the region enabled participants to consolidate the skills explained by the leading experts and specialists by specific examples on the implementation of this concept and its sustainable benefits. In addition, issues covering the rework of the development strategy and the role of women in development gave us a strong impetus for our day-to-day work, held to identify needs and opportunities between different segments of the population, — noted Khojamuratova.

The trainings were organized by the UN Joint Programme in collaboration with the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Karakalpakstan and the Academy of Public Administration under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan.



Socio-economic survey to identify the needs of the population of the Aral Sea region

In order to attract additional financial resources for the Aral Sea region, a social and economic survey has been conducted within the framework of the United Nations Joint Programme in collaboration with the Institute for Social Research under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan (ISR) to identify and assess needs of the population in the Republic of Karakalpakstan.

This survey will help identify the main factors affecting the living conditions and security of the population in the region of an

environmental disaster, and will also allow to develop proposals for strengthening targeting measures and effective mobilization of technical and financial assistance resources to the Aral Sea region.

Draft methodology of the socio-economic survey was discussed and agreed upon at the roundtable, with the participation of representatives from UNDP, UNV, UNFPA in Uzbekistan and the ISR on July 6, 2017.

Between August 7 and 20, 2017, a field survey was conducted in 8 districts of the Republic of

Karakalpakstan located in the northern part of the region, which are characterized as the most affected by the Aral Sea crisis: Nukus, Karauzyak, Kanlykul, Kegeli, Muynak, Takhtakupyr, Shumanay and Chimbay districts.



The survey covered 1624 households of all 116 communities of the above-mentioned districts. In average 14 households in each community were selected by random sampling.

Also, the research group conducted focus groups with municipal service providers, local and regional authorities, as well as representatives of civil society.

Based on the results of the survey, the Development Strategy / Roadmap for the Aral Sea Region will be developed, which will be presented to the Government of Uzbekistan and donor community for further support and implementation of joint projects and initiatives in the Aral Sea region.



UN Resident Coordinator in Uzbekistan and Ambassador of Switzerland in Uzbekistan visited Karakalpakstan

Helena Fraser, UN Resident Coordinator in Uzbekistan and Olivier Chave, Ambassador of Switzerland in Uzbekistan paid the visit to the Republic of Karakalpakstan on 12-14 October, 2017 to see the current situation in the region; efforts of the Government to prevent the consequences of the environmental crisis; measures for adaptation to the climate change as well as the UN activities in this northern region of the country.

On October 13th, a series of official meeting were held in Jokargi Kenes and the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Karakalpakstan that helped to shape a general understanding about the current situation in the region, outcomes and prospects of cooperation as well as to identify priorities for interaction to provide support to the communities living in the Aral Sea region.

The State Programme on the development of the Aral Sea region in 2017-2021 adopted in January 18th, 2017 is focused on implementation of comprehensive measures aimed to improve the environmental and social settings; living conditions for the population in the Aral Sea region; timely and efficient implementation of the investment projects to mitigate the consequences of environmental disaster. In this



context, emphasis was placed upon the special role of the envisioned Multi-Partner Human Security Fund that is intended to enhance the resilience potential of the population through coordinated participation of the donor community to support implementation of the measures covered by the State programme.

The Delegation also visited some pilot sites in Nukus and Muynak that were covered by the UN Joint Programme and UNDP with financial support from the Adaptation Fund of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. This includes Consultation and Information Center under the Nukus branch of Tashkent State

Agrarian University that provides information support to the farmers and dekhkans, whose farms are located in the drought prone of Karakalpakistan; the automated meteorological station that provides accurate data widely applied in agricultural production, air transportation and

workshop opened in cooperation with Karakalpak Republican Society of Disabled people.

In Muynak, Helena Fraser and Olivier Chave visited the sawing workshop and the souvenirs production workshop; a computer service center and the “Aral” rural healthcare facility equipped with solar panels that allow to provide the local population with a full package of health services.

Another visit within the Agenda was a trip to Lower-Amudarya Basin Authority of irrigation systems, where the UN Joint Programme under the financial support from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation implements the Project to raise the efficiency of the water resources use.

Helena Fraser and Olivier Chave wished the basin authority all the success in its further work and handed over a set of office equipment and appliances that were purchased within the partner Project.

“We all realize that a concerted effort of all partners, both the government and the international community, is needed to help the people affected by the Aral Sea disaster. In this regards, it’s also important that close alignment and complementarity of the UN Joint Programme that is being implemented in Karakalpakistan with the State Programme for the Aral Sea region”

**Helena Fraser,
UN Resident Coordinator,
UNDP Resident Representative in Uzbekistan**

land transportation sectors. The visit agenda also covered income generation sites; they include center for crafts development, which was launched with support from Karakalpak branch of Academy of Arts of Uzbekistan and the sawing





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UN JOINT PROGRAMME

Building the resilience of communities affected by the Aral Sea disaster through the Multi-Partner Human Security Fund for the Aral Sea

**THE SEA IS GONE,
PEOPLE ARE NOT**

