



MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
AND POVERTY REDUCTION OF THE
REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN



Joint Programme

'Addressing the urgent human insecurities in the Aral Sea region through promoting sustainable rural development'



Funded by the UN Multi-Partner Human Security Trust Fund for the Aral Sea region in Uzbekistan

Contributors:



UN Multi-Partner Human
Security Trust Fund
for the Aral Sea Region
in Uzbekistan



Government of the
Republic of Uzbekistan



Government of Norway



European Union



Government of Finland



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Republic of Korea



Alwaleed
Philanthropies



Ministry of Economic Development and Poverty Reduction of the Republic of Uzbekistan



Council of Ministers of the Republic of Karakalpakstan



United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

Tashkent Office



Status: Completed
Start date: September 1, 2019
End date: August 31, 2021



Project Location: Takhtakupir, Muynak, Chimbay districts, Karakalpakstan, Uzbekistan



Focus Area: Sustainable Development



Implementing Partners: Ministry of Economic Development and Poverty Reduction of the Republic of Uzbekistan

Council of Ministers of the Republic of Karakalpakstan



Budget: USD 1,463,900

EXPECTED RESULTS:



Improving community resilience through ensuring access to drinking water supply.



Enhancing the social wellbeing of rural population (including women/youth) through expanding income generation opportunities and promoting inclusive sustainable growth of the tourism economy in Karakalpakstan.



Promoting climate change adaptation actions through evidence based afforestation initiatives.

PROJECT SUMMARY:

An evolving crisis, the Aral Sea disaster has a number of negative consequences, including land degradation and desertification, shortage of drinking water, malnutrition, deterioration of health conditions and the livelihoods of local population. The comprehensive needs assessment in the Aral Sea region conducted by UNDP in 2017 has clearly identified the inter-connected human insecurities in the region brought forward by the Aral Sea disaster.

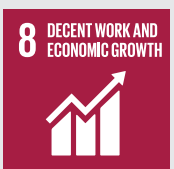
The project is in line with the thematic directions specified in the 1st Call for Proposals within the MPHSTF, which defines that proposals that address environmental, health and social insecurities are the highest priority. The project goal is to

address the environmental, social and economic insecurities in the most vulnerable communities of the Aral Sea region through bringing comprehensive solutions in addressing the environmental issues, promoting access to basic services, improving the livelihoods through development of sustainable tourism and provision of access to clean drinking water.

The project will improve the wellbeing of communities affected by the negative consequences of the Aral Sea crisis in line with the government's policy that highlights addressing the negative consequences of the Aral Sea environmental disaster as a priority issue.

SDG:

The Project is a sound reflection of localization of the Sustainable Development Goals on the ground.



OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

- Community mobilization identified priority problems; Community development plans developed, initiative groups created in 5 communities of Takhtakupir district. Access to clean drinking water improved and provided to: VCC "Beltau, the "Tazakonis" community, "Beltau-center", VCC "Mulk", VCCs "Marjankol" and "Janadarya". 3,491 rural residents received access to drinking water. A training module on WASH and brochures developed. 150 people trained on sanitation and hygiene;
- A study was conducted on the establishment of an association of drinking water consumers in "Tazakonys" community, VCC "Beltau";
- To improve the social well-being of the rural population and support women, youth in Takhtakupir district, over 35 jobs are created (43% – women) within 6 pilot business projects. In addition 7 business projects are selected for co-financing in 2021;
- 25 women and young people (52% unemployed), owners and employees of rural enterprises in Takhtakupir district trained in innovative business methods;
- Over 20 farmers attended 3-day training on the organization of value chains in the production of feed, milk processing in agriculture was conducted in Takhtakupir district;
- An online training for 20 rural women and youth on strategy formulation, value chain analysis, and taxation held;
- 32 specialists in tourism, natural and cultural heritage, representatives of local communities trained by a leading international expert on the development of sustainable tourism in Karakalpakstan based on natural and cultural heritage;
- 30 representatives of the hospitality sector trained in the development of the hospitality industry in Karakalpakstan;
- A research/assessment of the development of the tourism sector in Karakalpakstan conducted, including the further development of new tourist destinations and products, and a set of recommendations is being formulated for further submission to the government and all interested parties;
- A research/assessment of the development of the hotel industry in Karakalpakstan conducted, including the development of a set of recommendations for improving the management and infrastructure of the hotel sector for further submission to the government and all stakeholders;
- An assessment on the potential of natural and geo-sites as tourism assets conducted. The assessment aims to strengthen the development of sustainable eco-tourism in Karakalpakstan based on natural heritage, including further recommendations for the establishment of geoparks in the region;
- A component on raising awareness about tourism potential and heritage of Karakalpakstan is launched, aimed at the development of media tourism content including the development /building capacities in this field;
- Within the framework of adaptation to climate change, SIC ICWC and the International Innovation Center of the Aral Sea Region held 2 scientific expeditions to the drained bottom of the Aral Sea. The results are reflected in the book "Monitoring of the drained bottom of the Aral Sea";
- An online training held for forestry specialists in Karakalpakstan, in cooperation with IICAS on "Innovative methods of afforestation and their implementation in the Aral Sea region." 4 methodological manuals have been developed in the Karakalpak and Russian languages;
- Needs assessment of the Takhtakupir Forestry Department identified 17 types of machinery that were transferred for usage. These measures will help plant saxaul on 500 hectares of land on the drained bed of Aral Sea and create a nursery on 49 hectares of land for growing seedlings from drought-resistant plants;
- Provided technical support to 3 pasture cooperatives in the Takhtakupir district to create nurseries on forestry plants.

Takhtakupir district:

POPULATION
40,487



TERRITORY
21,120 km²



LOCATION
107 kilometers
from Nukus



Takhtakupir is considered as one of the least developed districts of the region. 29.2% of the existing water supply networks in urban and regional centers of Karakalpakstan became unsuitable. Water use practices show that in rural areas water is mainly produced directly from rivers or canals for communal and drinking needs.

In Takhtakupir only 52.3% is covered with piped water, and many of the existing water pipes in

the remote communities are outdated and not functioning. In addition, out of 10 existing ECOS systems, 3 are not functioning. According to the needs assessment in the Aral Sea region, the dissatisfaction level with access to quality drinking water is 33.9%. The main reasons are irregular water supply (26.9%), poor water quality (37.8%), and long distance to water sources (19.0%).



Pic. 1. The population of "Baltau center" community had to bring water from neighboring communities.



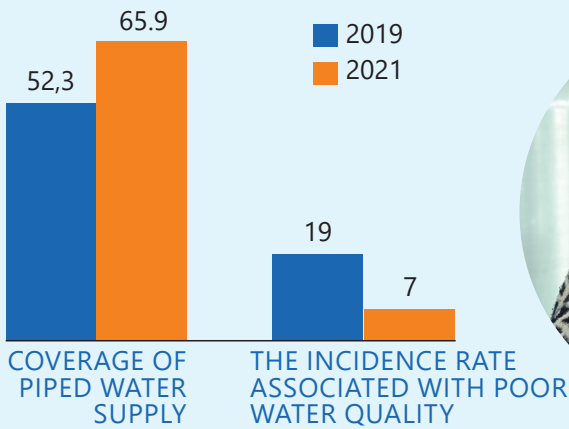
Pic. 2. Now each family has water at home as Zina and her son Miras.

6 PROJECTS ON ACCESS TO CLEAN DRINKING WATER IN 5 RURAL COMMUNITIES OF TAKHTAKUPIR DISTRICT IMPLEMENTED:

1. Reconstruction of a water treatment plant, Reverse Osmosis installation of 6 cubic meters/hour, construction of water supply pipeline (2.6 km) in the "Taza-Konys" community;
2. Construction of water supply pipeline in the "Baltau center" community (6 km);
3. Construction of water supply pipeline in the "Mulk" community of (8 km);
4. Delivery and installation of Reverse Osmosis water treatment equipment 8 cubic meters/hour in "Marzhankol" community;
5. Delivery and installation of Reverse Osmosis water treatment equipment 10 cubic meters/hour in "Zhanadarya" community;
6. Construction of water supply network in the "Zhanadarya" community (4 km).

In total **3 water purification reverse osmosis equipment was installed, over 20 km of water supply pipeline was constructed.**

Total **3,491 rural inhabitants** received access to clean drinking water and has improved the relevant physical conditions of facilities which contributed to the overall improvement of the health and wellbeing of the local population in Takhtakupir district.



The **incidence rate** associated with poor water quality has also **decreased**

2019

The **coverage of piped water supply** was **52.3%**, **21,174** people of the district's population (**40,487**)



19 cases of diseases were registered (salmonellosis – 1, dysentery – 2, acute intestinal diseases – 14, brucellosis



2021

Coverage reached **65.9%**, **26,701 people** of the population. **Coverage of piped water supply has increased by 13.6%**, **5,506 people**. Accordingly, Joint Project contributed up to **63.40% (3,491 people)**

in 2021 end 7 cases were registered (dysentery – 1, acute intestinal diseases – 14)



Pic.3. Water treatment plant, "Taza-Konys" community, 2019.



Pic.4. Water treatment plant, "Taza-Konys" community, 2021.



Pic.5. Water pipelines at "Taza-Konys" community were not functioning, 2019.



Pic.6. Local water treatment plant was fully reconstructed, "Taza-Konys" community, 2021

"MILK PROCESSING WORKSHOP"



Pic.7. Reconstruction works at "SEYT SHARWA" farm.



Pic.8. Newly established "SEYT SHARWA" farm. 2021.



Pic.9. Reconstruction works at "SEYT SHARWA" farm.



Pic.10. New milk processing equipment provided to the "SEYT SHARWA" farm in 2021.

In rural areas, agriculture is the main source of income for the population. In particular, cattle farming in the Takhtakupir district is one of the leading directions of the economic development of the region. Moreover, by the Decree of the President of the country, the district specializes in cattle farming. At the moment, there are more than 37 thousand cattle and more than 112 thousand sheep and goats in the district.

In 2020, the Selection Committee recommended the initiative on the establishment of a milk processing workshop for co-financing. As a result a set of milk processing equipment was delivered to the beneficiary FE "Seyt Sharwa" for establishing modern milk processing workshop in Takhtakupir district. Set of equipment includes:

- Balanced tank 100 liters stainless steel
- Capacitive milk pasteurizer of 300 liters stainless steel

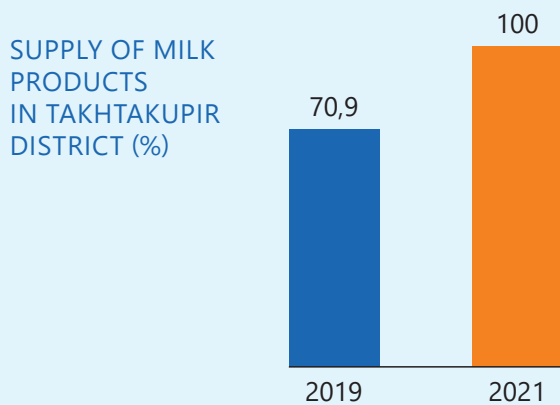
- Container for cooling milk with a volume of 500 liters
- 150-liter thermos bottle with stirrer and water-cooled stainless steel
- Container of thermos execution with a volume of 150 liters for fermenting cottage cheese
- Stainless steel stand for expressing whey
- Stainless steel bathtub for fermenting white cheese with a volume of 200 liters
- Cream separator 300 l/h with stainless steel stand
- Manual bottling with built-in stainless-steel table for plastic cups
- Milk pump on a stainless-steel trolley with wheels
- Central (main) electrical panel
- Special hoses for the dairy industry complete with U-shaped stainless-steel bends (3 pieces).

The beneficiary currently on daily basis produces 3 types of dairy products in the capacity of 500kg/day such as:

- 1) Buttermilk (Kefir)
- 2) Cottage cheese (Tvorog)
- 3) Sour cream (Kaimak)

The beneficiary delivers high quality dairy products to 13 kindergartens (90% of all kindergartens in the district) and a central hospital (the only hospital) of the Takhtakupir district.

Supply of milk products in Takhtakupir district increased to 29,1% in 2021 than compared to level in 2019.



Pic.11. "SEYT SHARWA" farm produces 3 types of dairy products (500kg/day).



Pic.12. Media-tour for regional and national mass-media representatives. 2021.



Pic.13. Today the beneficiary provides 13 kindergartens and a central hospital with high quality dairy products.



Pic.14. Supply of milk products in the district increased to 29,1%.

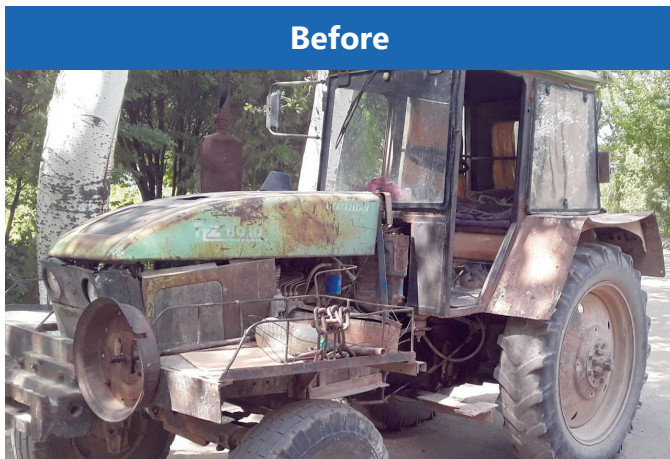
Production of dairy products added its share to the food security of whole Takhtakupir region. In addition, **6 new jobs were** created and a value chain was established in rural areas – 132 households and 3 farmers deliver raw milk to the workshop and earn income.



“STRENGTHENING THE TECHNICAL BASE OF THE TAKHTAKUPIR STATE FORESTRY”

As a result of the needs assessment of the Takhtakupir State Forestry Department **17 types** of machinery and equipment were transferred to the Forestry:

- Excavator bulldozer – Belarus,
- Truck – Isuzu for transportation of seeds and seedlings,
- rotary mower,
- welding units on wheels 2 pcs,
- mobile car-houses for shift crews complete with DGU,
- heaters, air conditioning system – 2 pcs,
- food tanks on a trailer – 2 pcs,
- fuel tanker trailer – 1 pc,
- radiotelephones for field communications,
- tents, field stoves, tarpaulins,
- square baler – 1 pc,
- tractor trailers – 4 pcs,
- tractors – 2 pcs,
- long-base leveler – 1 pc,
- excavation plows – 2 sets.



Pic.15. Outdated equipment and machinery of the Takhtakupir State Forestry Department.



Pic.16. 17 types of machinery and equipment were transferred to the Forestry.



Pic.17. Outdated equipment and machinery of the Takhtakupir State Forestry Department.



Pic.18. 17 types of machinery and equipment were transferred to the Forestry.

With the help of provided resources, Takhtakupir State Forestry have been able to achieve a lot of benefits in the field of forestry. In particular, the dry land of the Aral Sea has **increased the volume of forests**, range and quality of land preparation work in the creation of nurseries increased. Gained access to a lot of convenience in carrying out sowing and irrigation work on

cultural forests, orchards, nurseries, crop plantations, and sowing of agricultural crops. Now it is much easier to open and connect new lands, dig up waterways and clean up old waterways. As a result of the increase in the scale of the work carried out, **12 additional** workers were provided with jobs.

until 2019

2000-2200 hectares of drought resistant plantings were planted on the dried bottom of Aral Sea



with the help of provided machinery and equipment **4 500-5 000** hectares were planted

10-12 hectares plantings of seedlings in nursery



45-50 hectares plantings of seedlings in nursery

8-10 tons – volume of seeds collection of steppe plantings



55-65 tons – volume of seeds collection of steppe plantings



Pic.19. Degraded nursery lands.



Pic.20. 100 employees of the forestry were trained on innovative methods of afforestation.



Pic.21. Outdated equipment of the Takhtakupir State Forestry Department.



Pic.22. 17 types of machinery and equipment were transferred to the Forestry.

Work efficiency and health of forestry personnel much improved due to improving conditions at sites, staying conditions in tents, preparing fresh food in mobile car-houses. Training was conducted for 100 employees of the forestry of innovative methods of afforestation



"SOAP PRODUCTION WORKSHOP"



Pic.23. Building that was reconstructed for the workshop.



Pic.24. Arukhan Seitmuratova, head of the family Enterprise "Khurliman-Aru Takhta".



Pic.25. In 2020, the necessary equipment was delivered to the workshop.



Pic. 26. Today "Khurliman-Aru-Takhta" produces over **600 units** of laundry soaps every day.

Due to the pandemic outbreak, most people lost their incomes, especially it was highly experienced in rural areas of the Aral Sea region, including people of Takhtakupir district. 2020 the year of the COVID-19 pandemic, has forced many young people and their parents to show economic ingenuity and entrepreneurial initiative. Supporting such ambitions in the aspect of promoting the principles of gender equality with the use of economic instruments of the concept of human security is the basis of the UNDP in Karakalpakstan. Guided by this concept, the Joint Programme supported the initiative of the "Khurliman-Aru Takhta" Family Enterprise for the launch of soap production. The project was reviewed by the Selection Committee and approved for co-financing.

Having had some previous trading experience, the initiators decided to organize a family business and start a small production. The project initiators realized that laundry soap would be in high demand since that time it was highly recommended to keep people's hands clean regularly. Also, the use of laundry soap for washing and cleaning is an established habit of local residents. The family members studied thoroughly the production and technological process, as well as learnt where to get raw materials, in what conditions it should be stored and processed.

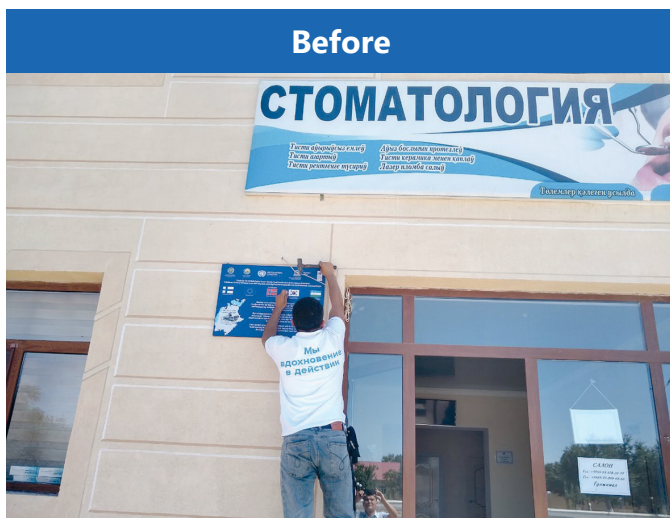
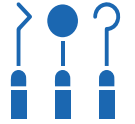
In 2020, the necessary equipment was delivered to the workshop, which ensured the **employment of 3 young people** together with the head of this project Mrs. Arukhan Seitmuratova. At the moment, the daily production capacity of the laundry soap workshop of "Khurliman-Aru-Takhta" is over **600 units of laundry soaps** for residents of the Takhtakupir district. Now Takhtakupir district does not depend on import of laundry soaps from other regions of Uzbekistan and supply of non-grocery goods in Takhtakupir district raised to 34,8% in 2021 than compared to level in 2019. The workshop has also an opportunity to provide laundry soaps to neighboring districts, which enables to promote health and economic securities of Takhtakupir district through creating new conditions for developing the business, providing support to women and youth, and ensuring healthy lifestyle for people living in target communities.



“IMPROVING DENTAL SERVICES IN RURAL AREAS” IN TAKHTAKUPIR DISTRICT

Supporting women in rural areas, empowering them by promoting entrepreneurial initiatives and at the same time improving their economic security is one of the important directions of the Joint Programme in Karakalpakstan. Guided by the concept of human security, the Joint Programme supported the initiative of the private enterprise “UMIT-MEDIKA” to provide quality dental services to the population of Takhtakupir and neighboring districts. The project was reviewed by the Selection Committee and approved for further co-financing. In 2020, a portable X-ray, a radiovisiograph and a laptop were provided to beneficiary, which ensured both health and economic securities through provision of **quality dental service and creation of additional job places for 3 rural women**. Previously, patients used to be sent to Nukus, capital city, which is **107 km away from Takhtakupir**, in order to take dental X-rays before treatment. To most rural people it was difficult to afford since **additional travel fees and time** was required.

It is revealed that after receiving one of the important dental tools, the quality of stomatology services used by residents of the entire Takhtakupir district, was improved from **37% to 88%**.



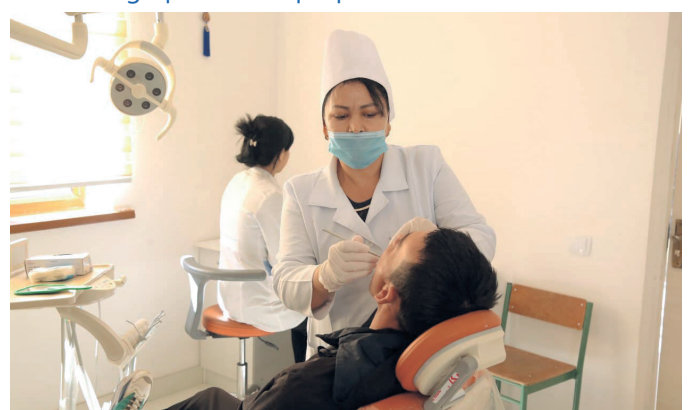
Pic.27. Previously, dentistry did not have its own building.



Pic.28. In 2020, beneficiary received a portable X-ray, a radiovisiograph and a laptop.



Pic.29. To take dental X-rays before treatment, patients used to be sent to Nukus, which is 107 km away from Takhtakupir.



Pic.30. Now the quality of stomatology services used by residents of the entire Takhtakupir district, has improved from 37% to 88%.

Thanks to the support of the Programme, now the rural stomatology specialists are able to make an **accurate diagnosis, identify the scope of work, predict possible dental complications**, and the most important save the teeth on time, and **ensure happy healthy life for Aral Sea people**.



MAIN SOCIAL-ECONOMIC INDICATORS OF TAKHTAKUPIR DISTRICT IN 2021

No.	Item	Indicator
	District established	December 1965
1.	Total area	21,12 thousand sq.km.
2.	Bordering districts/regions	Beruniy, Karauzyak, Muynak, Ellikkala, Navoi region, Kazakhstan
3.	Total population	40,6 thousand
4.	Population density	1,9 per 1 sq.km.
5.	Number of communities (mahallas)	17
6.	Number of rural communities	39
7.	Share of population residing in urban places	42,1 %
8.	Share of population residing in rural places	57,9%
9.	Number of economically active population	16,6 thousand
10.	Number of employed population	14,76 thousand
11.	Number of secondary educational institutions	23
12.	Number of children studying in the secondary educational institutions	7,1 thousand (50% boys, 50% girls)
13.	Number of total registered enterprises	845
14.	Number of newly registered enterprises in 2021	152
15.	Production of industry	209,2 billion UZS
16.	Production of consumer goods	123,8 billion UZS
17.	Agriculture, forestry and aquaculture	436,1 billion UZS
18.	Share of dekhon farming in agriculture sector	33,9 %
19.	Share of cattle farming (animal husbandry) in agriculture sector	66,1 %
20.	Investments to the main capital	85,6 billion UZS
21.	Construction works	98,9 billion UZS
22.	Retail turnover	164,3 billion UZS
23.	Services	98,4 billion UZS
24.	Foreign trade turnover	2,2 mln. USD
25.	Number of enterprises with foreign capital	6

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