THIRD ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT
UNITED NATIONS HUMAN SECURITY TRUST FUND

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

UDP-EE-15-006

PARTICIPATING UN AGENCIES IN UZBEKISTAN

UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNV, WHO
### Section 1: Basic data/Summary

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<th>June 15, 2019</th>
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<td><strong>Benefiting country and location</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Title of the project</strong></td>
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| **Duration of project** | 16 May 2016 – 15 May 2019, 36 months.  
**Note:** Based on the Request for Non-Cost Extension, the project is extended until the 31 December 2019. |
| **Lead UN organisation** | UNDP  
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| **Non-UN implementing partners** | Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan  
Council of Ministers of the Republic of Karakalpakstan |
| **Ministry of Economy and Industry of the Republic of Uzbekistan** |
| **Ministry of Health of the Republic of Uzbekistan** |
| **Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Uzbekistan** |
| **Ministry of Economy and Industry of the Republic of Karakalpakstan** |
| **Ministry of Health of the Republic of Karakalpakstan** |
| **The International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea (IFAS)** |
| **Charity Fund for Aral Gene Pool Protection (AGPF)** |
| **Local NGOs and Community-based Organizations in the target region** |

| **Total project budget including indirect support costs in US$** | **US$ 6,414,000** |
| **Amount requested from the UNTFHS in US$** | **US$ 2,000,000** |
| **Amount to be sourced from other donors in US$ (please list each donor and the amount to be contributed)** | **US$ 4,414,000, including:** |
| UNDP | US$ 647,000 |
| UNFPA | US$ 100,000 |
| UNESCO | US$ 81,000 |
| UNV | US$ 72,000 |
| UNICEF | US$ 1,072,000 (parallel funding) |
| WHO | US$ 143,000 (parallel funding) |
| Adaptation Fund | US$ 1,254,000 (parallel funding) |
| Government | US$ 500,000 |
| SDC | US$ 120,000 |
| LDS Charities | US$ 25,000 |
| UNDP Funding Windows | US$ 300,000 |
| Coca-Cola Foundation NWP | US$ 100,000 |

| **Reporting period** | May 2018 – May 2019 |
| **Type of report** | Third progress report |
| **Next report due** | June 30, 2020 |
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Executive summary:
During the current reporting period, all planned outputs of the Programme successfully achieved. This was done through wide promotion of the human security approach in the course of the establishment of the MPHSTF and addressing the multi-faceted human insecurities in the Aral Sea region.

The Programme has completed a number of priority social infrastructure projects on the ground that directly benefited local communities through improving their access to drinking water, education, electrification. The food and economic security of the rural population was improved through supporting inclusive business projects, enhancing entrepreneurial skills of rural women and promoting the development of tourism. The health security was promoted through improving the provision of healthcare services in the area of mother and childcare, reproductive health, and raising population awareness on different health diseases. UNICEF and WHO have jointed the Programme with parallel funding modality that enlarged the scope of activities and contributed to further upscaling of the human security approach through the Programme in the Aral Sea region, specifically in the area of child immunization infrastructure development and tackling the TB issues.

The Regional Development Strategy, Investment Guide and Atlas of Socio-Economic and Environmental Indicators for the Aral Sea region have been produced and widely communicated with government institutions and development partners in order to further promote evidence-based and human centered development of the Aral Sea region.

One of the hallmarks of the reporting period has been the successful establishment and operationalization of the MPHSTF for the Aral Sea region. The platform of the MPHSTF is now used as a systematic platform for mainstreaming the human security approach in the work of the UN Country Team. In November 2018 - five UN Agencies (UNDP, UNFPA, UNESCO, UNICEF, UNODC) signed the Memorandum of Understanding on operational aspects of the MPHSTF, which marked the official establishment of the MPHSTF for the Aral Sea region in Uzbekistan.

Following the above, based on the initiative of the Government of Uzbekistan, HSU and UNDP RBEC, on November 27, 2018, the High-Level Event dedicated to presentation and official launch of the MPHSTF was conducted on the sides of the UN General Assembly in UN HQs in New York, which was attended by the UN Secretary General, his Adviser on Human Security Issues, the UN RC in Uzbekistan, Deputy Prime Minister of Uzbekistan, permanent missions of a number of member states to the UN and international donor community representatives.

The Government of Uzbekistan is fully supportive to the Joint Programme, and has taken full ownership on the MPHSTF. As evidence, the Resolution of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan “On measures to support the activities of the Multi-Partner Human Security Trust Fund for the Aral Sea region under the auspices of the UN” was adopted on January 8, 2019, which includes the Road Map to accelerate the operationalization of the MPHSTF.

Remarkable results have been achieved in terms of mainstreaming, enhancing the visibility, outreach and fundraising aspects of the human security approach with linkage to the MPHSTF. Particularly, the Government of Uzbekistan has committed $6.5 mln. and already contributed US$ 2 mln. to the MPHSTF for 2019-2021. The Government of Norway has contributed $1.1 mln. to the MPHSTF. During the recent visit of the President of the EU to Uzbekistan, the EU Delegation has announced about the EU’s contribution in the amount of 5 mln. EURO to the MPHSTF. The Government of Japan is considering the allocation of around $ 3mln. to support the Aral Sea region.
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<th>Acronym</th>
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<tr>
<td>ADB</td>
<td>Asian Development Bank</td>
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<td>Aral Sea Gene Pool Charity Fund</td>
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<td>ANC</td>
<td>Ante Natal Care</td>
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Section I: Key Results

Completed Results Monitoring Report Template is enclosed to the report that covers all the activities and results under the proposed programme, i.e. those funded by the UNTFHS as well as other funding sources such as UNDP TRAC, Government of Uzbekistan, Adaptation Fund, SDC, Coca Cola Foundation, UNDP FW, UNICEF and WHO. The following is the summary of key results to date based on set baseline and targets of the programme:

- As a strategic approach to promote the human security concept, partnership was established with the Academy of Public Administration under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan and over 80 attenders (decision-makers) of the Academy have enhanced their knowledge about the Human Security approach and Sustainable Development Goals.

- 14 most priority social infrastructure projects have been completed jointly with local communities improving the access of over 8,400 local people to clean drinking water, electrification and improved education facilities.

- 16 innovative business projects have been funded that created more than 60 (30 are women) new job places and ensuring better food security for rural population.

- An impact assessment was conducted covering social and business development projects to study the Programme best practices. Based on the findings of the study a knowledge product was developed and disseminated among the different government and development partners with the purpose to further upscale and replication.

- The tourist website on Karakalpakstan launched that aims to present and promote the unique historical, cultural and natural heritage of Karakalpakstan and contribute to the sustainable development of the region.

- 30 craftspeople and designers provided with practical training and master-class on felt weaving conducted by the international expert from Mongolia. 6 young designers and 1 jewelry master improved their capacity to develop ethno-collections, which were presented at the fourth edition of the Festival of Traditional Textile “Atlas Bayrami” in September 2018.

- The efficient use of irrigation water was promoted (under the SDC funded activity) through establishing regional training center, installing 6 water outlets to enhance the irrigation infrastructure within the “Kyanishjarma” irrigation canal, and training 30 dispatch point specialists from Nukus, Karaozek and Takhtakopir districts on “Alignment of the dispatch service operation, monitoring the activity of the irrigation management posts, and procedures for establishing of water measuring posts”.

- 302 farmers and dry land users strengthened their capacity on sustainable agriculture for human security including environmental security and food security, efficient and sustainable water and land use in agriculture.

- 48 projects launched on integrating agro and water saving technologies and landscape level adaptation measures to climate change at rural communities that benefited 24,454 people.

- 20,400 publications on adaptation measures to climate change and agro and water conservation practices disseminated among rural population.
- **10 pastoral cooperatives** established to improve pastures and ensure efficient pasture management, benefiting more than 43,000 rural inhabitants for livestock farming in their communities as well as enabling the use of **25,695 hectares** of land for this in Muynak, Takhtakupir, Chimbay, Kegeyli and Kanlikul districts.

- **38 set** of necessary agricultural equipment and machinery, including tractors, water pumps and etc. provided to cooperatives to restore pastures degraded due to drought and ensure the resilience of local communities in conditions of elevated drought risk in the areas of **23,735 hectares**.

- **240** mahalla (community) specialists on family issues in Karakalpakstan enhanced their skills to deliver information on Reproductive Health, Reproductive Rights and Gender equality to rural population. Assessment of short-term impact of ToTs for mahalla specialists on raising population awareness on SRH/RR/Gender issues in Karakalpakstan was conducted.

- Two follow-up visits on implementation of integrated supportive supervisory system for mother and child health services for PHC level workers in Kanlikul, Karauzyak, Takhtakupir, Nukus city, Beruni, Amudarya, Nukus district carried out following the trainings provided for **125 health specialists** involved in maternal and child health services in target districts.

- **132** general practitioners and midwives of PHC facilities throughout the region trained on improvement of quality of FP and ANC at the level of PHC. The health care providers received updated knowledge on FP standards and ANC protocols.

- **100** two day trainings of CHV on preventing respiratory, cardiovascular and gastrointestinal diseases as well as promoting mother and child health care conducted in 10 target districts (Muynak, Shumanay, Kanlikul, Karauzyak, Takhtakupir, Kegeyli, Khodjeyli, Kungrat, Chimbay and Nukus districts) covering **2,081** community volunteers. 1,965 (94.4%) of them are women and 116 (5.6%) are men.

- **2,081** community health volunteers that have undergone training have been implementing awareness raising campaign in rural communities and conducted **8,573** (as of April 2019) info-sessions reaching out to **125,047** (as of April 2019) rural people to share the knowledge on prevention of wide spread diseases.

- “The Volunteers of Karakalpakstan” group has been created on telegram (https://t.me/QR_volunteers) that enables knowledge sharing amongst them and providing informative support by the specialists of the MoH.

- In coordination with the MOH Karakalpakstan and other local partners a number of health education materials developed and disseminated among population, including **14,000** copies of family books for households, 800 copies of fliers and 600 copies of posters.

- The Ministry of Health of the Republic of Karakalpakstan endorsed the internal structure for coordination of community volunteers’ activities in order to institutionalize the volunteerism in healthcare system.

- The subject on Volunteerism was adopted by the Nukus State Pedagogical Institute and was integrated into curricula. Each year more than **1,000** students will be able to learn about volunteerism and community based disease control. An agreement on introducing the topic in the curriculum of the Karakalpak State University and Nukus branch of Tashkent State Agrarian University for 2019-2020 has been reached.
- **Construction of 2 regional** (Nukus and Urgench cities) cold chain storages completed by the Q1 of 2019. Installations of WIC rooms are being carried out in both regional cold chain storages.

- Majority of the cold chain equipment were ordered and arrived in the country. The equipment is being stored until the construction of cold chain warehouses are completed and ready for installation. Overall, **33 WIC rooms, 14 generators, 33 stabilizers**, dock shelters for the national cold chain storage have arrived and are stored at the national level.

- Improvement of medical curricula on immunization is still ongoing. In line with the changes in the curricula, the working group will develop a methodological manual for teachers and a handbook for students that will cover key issues on immunization. In 2020, new curricula will be available for implementation in eight medical universities and all medical colleges.

- **Based on the human security approach**, variety of knowledge products including video and animation presentations, infographics, one pagers, fact sheets, newsletters, calendars, wall-posters, etc., were published to promote the advantage of the human security concept and to appeal for collaboration within the established MPHSTF.

- Needs assessment report in the Aral Sea region printed and widely distributed to around 300 participants of the **International Aral Sea Conference held on June 7-8, 2018 in Tashkent**, and shared with the participants of other major events of the Programme, including at the Side Event to launch the MPHSTF, which was held on 27 November 2018, at the UN HQs.

- UNDP MPTF Office and the UN Secretary General Adviser on Human Security issues visited Uzbekistan to advocate the human security approach through the MPHSTF.

- The final MPHSTF Governance and Financial Architecture, Terms of Reference and its Operational Manual were developed and endorsed by the PUNOs and the Government.

- On November 12, 2018 5 **PUNOs** (UNDP, UNFPA, UNESCO, UNICEF, UNODS) signed Memorandum of Understanding on operational aspects of MPHSTF, which marked an official establishment of the Fund.

- On November 27, 2018, the High-Level Event dedicated to presentation and official launch of the MPHSTF was conducted as a side event to the UN GA session in New York at UN HQs.

- The Government of Uzbekistan signed Standard Administrative Arrangements with UNDP MPTF office that is acting as the MPHSTF Administrative Agent on contribution of **USD 6.5 mln. for 2019-2012**. End of February 2019, the Government of Uzbekistan transferred its first contribution in the amount USD 2.0 mln. to the MPHSTF.

- In March 2019, the Government of Norway signed the Standard Administrative Arrangements with the UNDP MPTF Office on contribution of **NOK 9.5 mln.** to the MPHSTF. In April 2019, the Government transferred the indicated amount to the MPHSTF.

- On January 8, 2019, Resolution of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan “On measures to support the activities of the Multi-Partner Human Security Trust Fund for the Aral Sea region under the auspices of the UN” was adopted, which also includes the Road Map to support its activities.
On January 24, 2019, the first MPHSTF Steering Committee meeting was organized. The Steering Committee, Technical Secretariat composition was discussed and approved. MPHSTF ToR, Operational Manual were endorsed. It was decided that the First Call for Proposals within the MPHSTF would be launched on March 29, 2019. Environmental, social and health security directions of the MPHSTF Programmatic Framework were defined as the priority areas for the First Call for Proposals.

(a) Progress on advancement of the integration and mainstreaming of the human security approach

The UN Joint Programme has applied the human security approach in addressing the complex threats to the survival, livelihood and dignities of populations in the Aral Sea region. Through the human security prism, the programme analyzed and planned its interventions to improve the livelihoods of the population suffered from the Aral Sea crisis.

The findings of the needs assessment were used in the process of developing the Regional Development Strategy for Karakalpakstan. The key recommendations of the Regional Development Strategy will be integrated into regional and district level state programs by relevant ministries to formulate evidence-based and human centered action plans to promote integrated socio-economic development of the region. In addition, the Investment Guide for Karakalpakstan was developed in cooperation with the Chamber of Commerce and Industry in collaboration with the Council of Ministers and Joqargi Kenges of the Republic of Karakalpakstan. The strategic investment priorities to support the economic and food security for the Aral Sea region have been elaborated in the document. This product was disseminated at different high-level events, visits and meetings in order to attract more investments to the region to systematically address the economic and food insecurities of the region.

While developing the above strategic documents for the Aral Sea region, the human security concept was utilized to advance a better understanding of threats to people’s everyday lives and how they can snowball into other insecurities. This approach was helpful to promote the coherence of efforts by the government at national and local levels, as well as donors as it calls for a holistic, coordinated approach.

At the same time, in order to strengthen the capacity of national and regional ministries in practical application of human security concept in planning and implementation of national development plans, partnership was established with the Academy of Public Administration under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan and over 80 attendees (decision-makers) of the Academy have enhanced their knowledge about the Human Security approach and Sustainable Development Goals.

Moreover, within the frame of the UNDP Funding Windows initiative, in synergy with the UNDP Regulatory Impact Assessment and Public Administration Regulation through Digital Transformation Projects, the Programme enhanced the capacity of over 100 regional and district government officials, local parliament and party members, mass media representatives on Regulatory Impact Assessment, Review of Legislative Documents, Budget Decentralization, Human Security Concept, Gender Analysis and Mainstreaming, Application of Open Data in State Institutions, Modern Approaches in Working with Media Representatives. Thus, the UNDP FW contribution enhanced the governance aspects of the Programme activities, and enabled to further
advocate and mainstream the human security concept into the planning works of the government and media institutions.

Considering the fact that the MPHSTF Strategy is built on the human security concept, the Programme has successfully promoted mainstreaming the human security approach through the MPHSTF. As such in November 2018 - 5 UN Agencies UNDP, UNFPA, UNESCO, UNICEF, UNODC) have entered into agreement to establish the MPHSTF.

The High-Level event on official launch of the MPHSTF was successfully conducted at the UN HQs in November 2018. It has been a remarkable event with very lively presentations by the panelists that showcased the advantages of the human security approach to the event participants. Strong ownership by the Government of Uzbekistan and full commitment by the UN as demonstrated by the participation of the UN Secretary General, as well as the UN RC’s presentation on the successful application of the human security approach in the Aral Sea region was very well received by the participants. The results of the Programme were also disseminated to the participants of the event as handout materials including the video presentation on how the integrated and holistic approach to address the challenges of the Aral Sea region was successful. More than 200 people attended the event. Permanent representatives of Japan, Turkey, Kazakhstan, Nigeria and Algeria expressed strong support statements to the MPHSTF. The HSU, RBEC and MPTF office colleagues have been invaluable in ensuring the successful organization of the event.

The Government of Uzbekistan’s full ownership of the MPHSTF, which is built on the human security concept, has sent a strong message to the donor community and the Central Asian States on the advantages of the human security approach in addressing the Aral Sea crisis consequences. Particularly, in the Resolution of the International Conference “Joint Actions to Mitigate the Consequences of the Aral Catastrophe: New Approaches, Innovative Solutions, Investments” held on June 7-8, 2018, the participants of the event have agreed on the importance of establishing in Uzbekistan of the Multi-Partner Human Security Trust Fund for the Aral Sea region.

On January 8, 2019, Resolution of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan “On measures to support the activities of the Multi-Partner Human Security Trust Fund for the Aral Sea region under the auspices of the UN” was adopted, which also included the Road Map to accelerate the operationalization of the MPHSTF for Aral Sea region.

In order to promote the integrated approach to the development of the Aral Sea region, a new online platform of the MPHSTF was launched (available at www.aral.mptf.uz) that regularly updates comprehensive statistical and analytical information on the activities carried out by the Uzbek side in cooperation with international partners in the Aral Sea region.

On March 22, 2019, a side event on “Partnership for People: UN Multi-Partner Human Security Trust Fund for the Aral Sea Region in Uzbekistan”, initiated by the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the UN Office in Uzbekistan was organized with the support of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) on the margins of the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development in Geneva (Switzerland). The representatives of a number of UN agencies, member-states' permanent missions to the UN in Geneva, diplomatic corps and other participants of the Forum participated in the event, where the MPHSTF was presented in detail to further galvanize coordinated donor support to the Aral Sea region.

Within the planned activities on addressing multiple human security needs in rural areas, the
Programme successfully conducted community mobilization and human security trainings, based on which the priority needs for basic services were identified in 20 rural communities. Currently, 14 social infrastructure projects on installation of power transformer station, clean drinking water supply and primary school construction have been successfully completed, benefiting 8,400 (52% females) rural residents.

Enhancing human potential and creating basics for economic and food security is another key intervention of the Programme, which leads to create preconditions for meaningful and dignified living conditions. On this, the Programme has created an opportunity to improve economic and food security of target communities by supporting 16 innovative business projects on food processing and service delivery. In order to transfer international know-how, in partnership with MASHAV experts, 3-day training on advanced methods of irrigation have been conducted to 50 people, comprised of specialists from the Ministry of Water Resources of Karakalpakstan, Council of Farmers, Households, Farmers, Households and Water Users Association. Training enhanced local government capacity and improved the skills of rural residents on water saving technologies and application of efficient irrigation systems.

Substantial progress was made towards the promotion of tourism development in the region as one of key evolving aspects in economic and community security. In particular, the awareness about the diversity of the Karakalpak Cultural and Natural Heritage was increased at national and international levels through the development of the tourist website on Karakalpakstan. The official launch of the website was successfully held in the State Museum of Arts of Karakalpakstan named after I. Savitsky in Nukus, Karakalpakstan in April 2019. The event was attended by about 45 participants, including the representatives from the Government of Karakalpakstan, the State Committee for Tourism Development, tour operators, Karakalpak museums, Academy of Arts, tourism and culture professionals as well as media institutions/organizations. The aim of the website is to present and promote the unique historical, cultural and natural heritage of Karakalpakstan and contribute to the sustainable development of the region. The website also provides useful and practical information for visitors to Karakalpakstan. It is presented in six languages: English, French, German, Russian, Uzbek and Karakalpak. The functioning, maintaining and updating of the website will be conducted by the Karakalpak Branch of the State Committee for Tourism Development of Uzbekistan.

Support was provided to an Uzbek selected expert in participation in the international expert meeting and conference on tourism development (Mongolia, September 2018) organized jointly with the UNESCO HQ. The programme supported the promotion and development of traditional handicrafts to safeguard the intangible cultural heritage and create the income generation and job opportunities for local population and communities in Karakalpakstan. In particular, as follow-up to the practical training on traditional textile weaving and innovative design (Nukus, May 2018), from July to August 2018 a capacity-building activity was conducted by Ms. Bibi Russell, the UNESCO Artist for Peace and world well-known crafts specialist and fashion designer. She individually worked with 6 young designers and 1 jewelry master to develop their ethno-collections which were presented at the fourth edition of the Festival of Traditional Textile “Atlas Bayrami” in September 2018. This activity greatly increased the skills and knowledge of the above participants and gave them opportunity to be well-promoted at national and international levels.

The capacity of 30 Karakalpak craftspeople was enhanced through the practical training and master-class on felt weaving, including women and men, held in September 2018 in Shumanay and Nukus, Karakalpakstan by the international expert from Mongolia. The felt weaving was one of the
traditional craftsmanship in the past in Karakalpakstan, however, nowadays there are very few masters who keep some of the traditions, which is not well-developed. The training aimed to safeguard the traditions as well as develop quality craft products to be marketed at national and international levels. Moreover, based on Karakalpak traditional felt weaving, the participants were trained on new technologies and methods by using the local raw materials and traditional patterns. The above activities aimed to strengthen the capacity of women and girls in Karakalpakstan as key drivers of economic and social development.

The programme supported the management and conservation of natural resources of Karakalpakstan through strengthening the capacities of 302 farmers and dry land users in sustainable agriculture for human security. In particular, series of trainings on Human security through sustainable agriculture, Environmental security and Food security, Efficient and sustainable water and land use in agriculture were conducted in August 2018 in Ellikkala, Turtkul, Amudarya, Beruniy, Shomanay districts of Karakalpakstan in close cooperation with KRASS.

Ensuring the health security in the region as one of the human security principles is being holistically addressed through collaboration of the Programme with national partners in capacity building of healthcare workers, building necessary infrastructure for child immunization, providing equipment and establishing network of community volunteers. Particularly, the capacities of relevant healthcare specialists (from Kanlikul, Karauzyak, Takhtakupir, Nukus city, Beruni, Amudarya, Nukus districts) were further enhanced on integrated supportive supervisory system for mother and child health services, on Family Planning, and ANC at the level of PHCs. The health care providers received updated knowledge on FP standards and ANC protocols.

In close cooperation with the Ministry of Health of Karakalpakstan and target district authorities, over 2000 community volunteers were trained (from in Nukus, Shumanay, Karauzyak, Takhtakupir, Kanlikul, Khodjeyli, Chimbay and Kungrat districts). The community volunteers reached out to 125,047 rural people to share the knowledge on preventive measures for wide spread diseases. With the aim to further institutionalize the Community Volunteerism, a subject on Volunteerism was adopted by the Nukus State Pedagogical Institute and was integrated into the curricula. An agreement on introducing the topic in the curriculum of the Karakalpak State University and Nukus branch of Tashkent State Agrarian University for 2019-2020 has been reached. Together with the Ministry of Health, Soglom Avlod Uchun Foundation and local authorities, awareness raising campaign “Healthy family-happy family” was held in the VCC “Madeniyat” in Karauzyak. The main goal of the action was to increase medical literacy of the population and conduct medical examination. More than 100 rural people participated in the action.

Under UNICEF’s health related interventions, this reporting period was crucial in advancing the construction and renovation of cold chain facilities for storage of vaccines. With regard to this, 100% of planned construction works have been completed and further installation of equipment (cold rooms, other cold chain equipment) is in progress. The safety and security of vaccines are ensured by modern fire-protection and security systems installed in every cold chain storage. Moreover, Cold Chain Equipment Optimization Platform project within the framework of this Programme will include supply and installation of cold chain equipment at district level primary healthcare units by end of 2019.

In order to improve the Vaccine Management Information System (VMIS), the program developed a TOR, taking into account the country’s context and the feasibility of mainstreaming it into the
overall health information system.

The Strategic Information Education Communication (IEC) Plan, aimed at raising awareness of the general public on the importance of immunization and to promote following the National Immunization Calendar, was developed according to the recommendations of the Knowledge, Attitude and Practice (KAP) study conducted by UNICEF nationwide among parents/caregivers of children under five years of age.

(b) Progress on facilitating the scaling up and replication

The replication of the programme results is embedded as an integral part of the programme strategy. The programme platform has been successfully promoted as the ground for advocating and replicating human security approach throughout the UN system and its programs in the country. The human security concept was widely disseminated at national level among decision makers through the training curricula developed in cooperation with the Academy of Public Administration under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

One of the key platforms for scaling up and replication of the Programme’s best practices is the launch of the MPHSTF for the Aral Sea region. The first meeting of the Steering Committee of the MPHSTF consisting of the government representatives (including Karakalpakstan authorities), donors (EU Delegation, the Embassy of Japan), local NGOs, and Participating UN Organizations was held on January 24, 2019.

The Steering Committee co-chaired by Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Uzbekistan, and the UN Resident Coordinator in Uzbekistan set up the Technical Secretariat, approved the Operational Manual, and set the date for the first Call for proposals.

The Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan pledged USD 6.5 million, of which USD 2.0 million was transferred in February 2019, and the Government of Norway became the first external donor to contribute to the Fund NOK 9.5 mln. (about USD 1.1 million).

The first Call for Proposals was announced on 29 March with the focus on providing environmental security, including afforestation; health security; and social security, including access to basic utilities, social protection, water, sanitation, and education with deadline on 29 April 2019.

Out of five project proposals submitted by the Participating UN Organizations, the Steering Committee approved two project proposals for the total amount of US$3.085 million as follows:

- The proposal submitted by UNICEF and UNFPA jointly with the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Uzbekistan “Improvement of quality of perinatal care service to most vulnerable mothers and newborns” aims to improve the quality of perinatal care service to most vulnerable mothers and newborns, benefiting estimated 26,000 pregnant women and newborns in Karakalpakstan, while 500 medical workers are expected to improve their skills through dedicated training programmes at the second level perinatal centers.

- The proposal submitted by UNDP and UNESCO in cooperation with a variety of local and national stakeholders (including the Ministry of Economy and Industry of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Karakalpakstan) “Addressing the urgent human insecurities in the Aral Sea region through promoting sustainable rural development” aims at tackling multiple dimensions of human security, such as providing
access to drinking water for over 3,500 rural people, expanding income generation opportunities for vulnerable communities with the primary focus on women and youth through support to SMEs and community level eco-tourism development (benefiting 250 men and women), as well as promoting climate change adaptation actions through evidence based afforestation initiatives in the dried bed of the Aral Sea (with direct beneficiaries estimated at 1,850 people, and indirectly benefiting more than 300,000 people). The proposal approved by the MPHSTF will be implemented in the Takhtakupir district of the Republic of Karakalpakstan, which has a population of 39.7 thousand people.

The implementation of the above two projects approved by the MPHSTF is expected to start in July 2019, with the duration of 18 months each.

In addition, the Government of Japan is considering funding another project aimed at addressing the most urgent and immediate health and economic insecurities in the most vulnerable areas of the Aral Sea region through bringing innovative solutions to healthcare and poverty reduction initiatives. The budget of this proposed project is approximately $ 3 mln., and it will be implemented by UNDP and UNFPA. This project is developed with the reference to the MPHSTF Strategy (that is based on the human security concept) that outlines the urgent needs of the Aral Sea population. Therefore, this project will be in line with overall objectives of the MPHSTF. At the strategic level, the Embassy of Japan is the member of the MPHSTF Steering Committee. This ensures the coordinated and informed decisions on the projects to be funded by the MPHSTF in order to avoid duplication and overlapping of projects implemented in the Aral Sea region by the MPHSTF.

As part of the Presidential resolution dated 8 January 2019 on supporting the activities of the newly established MPHSTF, the ‘Roadmap’ has been endorsed that outlines the specific activities to be conduct for fostering the MPHSTF’s work including the resource mobilization activities. In January 2019, over 80 letters signed by the Deputy Prime Minister of Uzbekistan were sent out via MFA with the call for cooperation and resource mobilization to IFIs, bilateral, and charity organizations to support the Aral Sea region within the framework of the MPHSTF. As a next step, Ministry of Foreign Affairs jointly with the Uzbekistan diplomatic missions abroad are formulating the Road Maps for 17 potential donors and have started negotiations with potential donors seeking their support to the MPHSTF (Preliminary list – EU, Germany, Great Britain, Switzerland, France, Norway, Finland, Sweden, The Netherlands, USA, China, Japan, Korea, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Qatar).

As one of the first results of those efforts, during the recent visit of the President of the EU to Uzbekistan, the EU Delegation has announced about the EU’s contribution in the amount of 5 mln. EURO to accelerate the MPHSTF activities. It is expected that the EU funds will be transferred to the MPSHTF within the current year, enabling more upscale of the Programme initiatives in the Aral Sea region.

The Government has adopted (on 16 January 2019, #39) Special Programme for complex Social-Economic development of Muynak district of Karakalpakstan for the period of 2019-2021, that envisions the implementation of 195 projects (Social infrastructure development - 120 projects, and Entrepreneurship development -75 projects), with overall funding of approximate $ 3.4 billion USD.

In addition, enormous work has been launched by the government on organization of the afforestation activities on the dried bed of the Aral Sea. Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Uzbekistan dated 15 February 2019 (#132) on “Organizational aspects of the establishing the
Green areas and creation of the protecting forests in the dried-up areas of the Aral Sea” was issued setting the target of afforestation of 500 thousand hectare of the dried seabed in 2019 and allocation of at least 100 billion UZB (approximately $12 million USD) for this work through the Special Aral Sea Fund within the Ministry of Finance of Uzbekistan.

On October 20, 2018, the Government of Uzbekistan adopted the Resolution “On Measures for the Implementation of National Goals and Objectives in the area of Sustainable Development Goals for the period up to 2030”, and the work of the UN Joint Programme contributes, directly and indirectly, to the achievement of 10 of the total of 17 SDGs in the Aral Sea region.

The Programme is partnering with the US based organization - Resource and Policy Exchange, Inc. and applied for $300,000 project to the USDA Food for Education Project in Uzbekistan. Within this partnership, it is envisioned to assess the situation and define the baseline on water supply in schools located in the rural areas of the Aral Sea region, and provide improved water supply for up to 30 rural schools in Karakalpakstan.

The Programme is also applying to the fifth round of the New World Program of the Coca-Cola Foundation with a proposal on access to clean drinking water for rural schools and creating income generation opportunities for rural women and youth with the budget of $ 100,000.

**Section II. Challenges faced and lessons learned**

(a) **Challenges faced during the reporting period and mitigation measures.**

*Describe challenges faced and mitigation measures using the template below.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Challenges faced</th>
<th>Mitigation measures</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1. Lack of interest from international donors in participating and financing the MPHSTF | Conduct High-level event (side event) by the Government of Uzbekistan at the UN HQ with the participation of member-states and international donors and financial institutions to present the MPHSTF for the Aral Sea region.  
**Presidential resolution dated of 8th January 2019** on supporting the activities of the newly established MPHSTF that includes the Roadmap to engage the Donors to the work of the MPHSTF.  
Develop resource mobilization strategy/plan of the MPHSTF for Aral Sea region.  
Continuous promotion of the MPHSTF and conduct regular negotiations with donors, both in-country and abroad, to mobilize resources to the Fund are held by the Government with the support of the UN. |
| 2. Low level of skills of the local companies to participate in the bids initiated by the programme for construction works might have adverse impact on fulfillment of joint | Trainings/workshops are regularly organized for the representatives of local construction companies and suppliers. Bid information is being shared via local newspapers, telegram, and |
activities with local partners in implementation of social infrastructure projects.

To strengthen the capacity in the mentioned field, it is being considered to continue conducting a number of capacity-building activities for local specialists/experts, representatives from governmental and non-governmental organizations and the private sector, etc.

3. There is limited human resources and capacity in the field of sustainable tourism development and tourism service in Karakalpakstan.

To strengthen the capacity in the mentioned field, it is being considered to continue conducting a number of capacity-building activities for local specialists/experts, representatives from governmental and non-governmental organizations and the private sector, etc.

4. There is still limited choice of Karakalpak crafts products as well as little promotion of these crafts at national and international levels.

The work will continue through engaging international expert in the field of crafts and innovative design in close co-operation with local crafts specialists to diversify the crafts production through a number of capacity-building activities.

5. Increase of construction materials cost: due to the yearly inflation rate, the liberalization of the Uzbek “Soum” (national currency) and changes in custom fees, the cost of construction has risen compared to 2016 when the project budget was approved.

Projects to be considered for funding are carefully reviewed in terms of costs in order to avoid overspending.

6. Wide range of reform processes is underway within the variety of ministries (including the healthcare) in the country.

The project ensured very close interaction with the relevant partners to be aware of any new developments that could affect the project activities in order to take respective measures.

(b) Lessons learned during the reporting period.

Describe lessons learned and recommendations using the template below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lessons learned</th>
<th>Recommendations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Coordination with development partners active in Uzbekistan is essential for creating an integrated framework to address the negative consequences of the Aral Sea crisis through the MPHSTF.</td>
<td>Continuous and periodic meetings with key development partners are essential to promote integrated joint planning of programs/projects to be implemented in the Aral Sea region, through promotion of the MPHSTF.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Considering the multifaceted human insecurities in the region and constant demand for addressing those challenges, the UN Joint Programme took donor coordination and resource mobilization</td>
<td>As a strategic approach, the MPHSTF has been established in order to ensure sustainable platform for donor coordination and joint work in the Aral Sea region.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
efforts to improve people’s livelihoods by involving Swiss Development Cooperation Agency, New World Programme of Coca-Cola company and Funding Windows of UNDP.

The Programme should keep working on resource mobilization efforts and continue dialogue with development partners using the platform of the ongoing joint programme as well as the MPHSTF.

3. Due to rapidly changing situation in the country, financial proposals received from the suppliers should have longer validity date and large volume contracts should have a buffer (up to 10%) for unexpected cost agreed with (UNICEF).

Make necessary adjustments to procurement documents to reflect lessons learnt.

5. It is very important to monitor the development of new documents to contribute to this process using international expertise and experience (UNICEF).

Hiring of international consultants (procurement and cold chain construction) to support project delivery.

6. There is a need for thorough understanding of the entire process during planning (UNICEF).

Preliminary market research and possible solutions before initiation of regular procurement activities including the preparation of documents.

(c) Findings from evaluation

Summarize the findings of the evaluation, if conducted during the reporting period. Attach the ToR and the final evaluation report, if applicable.

The Programme has conducted the Mid-term evaluation by involving Independent International and National Evaluators. The mid-term evaluation report was completed in September 2018. The key findings of the mid-term evaluation documented the following:

- The UN joint programme is much aligned with government strategies and priorities for the development of the Aral Sea region. It was developed in close collaboration with government partners and it is a direct response to national priorities and the government is strongly committed to the programme.
- Beneficiaries were identified through needs assessment and mapping exercise conducted at the outset of the programme. Based on this assessment of needs and priorities, a roadmap for programmatic interventions in the Aral Sea region to address human insecurities in a holistic way was developed. It ensured that the programme address the needs of targeted beneficiaries, including women, men and vulnerable groups.
- The programme has run an effective communication campaign in promoting the concept of human security. The programme certainly complies with the requirement to communicate and share knowledge on the human security approach required by UNTFHS.
- There is a clear strategy in place to build/develop partnerships and the programme implementation team has been focusing on this since day one of the programme. It has already resulted in additional sources of funding for the current programme to finance extra
social infrastructure initiatives and in a good collaboration with government ministries and agencies at national, regional and local levels, particularly to move the establishment of the MPHSTF forward.

- The prospects for the long-term sustainability of programme achievements are good. The programme has been a direct response to communities’ needs and priorities and is highly relevant in the context of the government State Programme for the Development of the Aral Sea Region 2017-2021, which focuses on measures to improve the socio-economic condition and quality of life of people living in Karakalpakstan.

The full mid-term report is enclosed to this progress report.

Section III: Financial status.

The programme activities have been conducted in line with the approved budget revision. As of reporting time, all participating agencies have received 3rd instalments. The overall delivery (with commitments) is 65.41%. The certified cumulative financial reports of the participating UN agencies are enclosed to the narrative report.

Table 1: Financial status

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Imp. Agency</th>
<th>Approved Budget for Year 1 (A)</th>
<th>Funds received in year 1 (B)</th>
<th>Approved budget for year 2 (C)</th>
<th>Funds received in year 2 (D)</th>
<th>Approved budget for year 3 (E)</th>
<th>Funds received in year 3 (F)</th>
<th>Total funds received to date (G=B+D+F)</th>
<th>Expenditure to date (H)</th>
<th>Balance of received funds (G-H)</th>
<th>Utilization rate (H/G)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UNDP</td>
<td>392223,48</td>
<td>392223,48</td>
<td>516262,16</td>
<td>516262,16</td>
<td>503536,33</td>
<td>503536,33</td>
<td>1412021,97</td>
<td>837 730,60</td>
<td>574291,37</td>
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<td>UNESCO</td>
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<td>62266,83</td>
<td>64 279,18</td>
<td>64 279,18</td>
<td>53 453,99</td>
<td>53 453,99</td>
<td>180 000,00</td>
<td>130 702,00</td>
<td>49 298,00</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNFPA</td>
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<td>133346,00</td>
<td>112029,00</td>
<td>112029,00</td>
<td>52 625,00</td>
<td>52 625,00</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNV</td>
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<td>57 604,03</td>
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<td>109 978,03</td>
<td>109 978,03</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>640210,31</td>
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<td>750174,37</td>
<td>750174,37</td>
<td>609615,32</td>
<td>609615,32</td>
<td>2000000,00</td>
<td>1308 275,33</td>
<td>691724,67</td>
<td>65,41%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Section IV: Promotional activities

Based on the comprehensive communication strategy, activities to increase the profile of the programme were regularly held in order to attract donors, international community, national partners and local population at the regional and local levels. The key events and achievements were promoted through all available mass media sources - national TV and radio broadcasts, print media, and internet resources. A set of appropriate handout and visibility materials with a programme motto “The Sea is Gone, People are Not” was developed and disseminated during the key events, workshops, seminars and trainings to raise awareness on the support provided to the communities, living in the most remote and affected by the Aral Sea crisis areas, through implementing the human security approach.

Provided below are some of the outreach materials developed during the reporting period:

Round Table on the MPHSTF Establishment [https://bit.ly/2YZaBOt](https://bit.ly/2YZaBOt)

Side event outreach materials on the launch of the MPHSTF for the Aral Sea region held at the UN HQ during a High-Level event on 27 November 2018.


About 90 National information agencies, news web-sites, newspapers and magazines, TV programmes and Radio news broadcasted their reports on the High-level event.

- News Agency of Karakalpakstan [http://kknews.uz/oz/31981.html](http://kknews.uz/oz/31981.html)


- Interfax [https://www.interfax.kz/?lang=rus&int_id=21&news_id=78748](https://www.interfax.kz/?lang=rus&int_id=21&news_id=78748)

Promotion of the MPHSTF

- Special video-presentation was produced for the launch ceremony of the MPHSTF - [https://bit.ly/31OF1d](https://bit.ly/31OF1d)
- The MPHSTF was presented to the EU - [https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/uzbekistan/60260/node/60260_en](https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/uzbekistan/60260/node/60260_en)

Women empowerment, improvement of livelihoods of local population through pilot projects, capacity building workshops

- Souvenirs production as a new business opportunity [https://www.uzdaily.uz/ru/post/38425](https://www.uzdaily.uz/ru/post/38425)
- Access to drinking water for the population of Takhtakupir district [https://twitter.com/UNDP_Uzbekistan/status/1029341597048205314](https://twitter.com/UNDP_Uzbekistan/status/1029341597048205314)
- Project providing access to electricity implemented in Muynak, Shumanay and Takhtakupir districts [https://bit.ly/2w89SH3](https://bit.ly/2w89SH3)
- Supporting women’s entrepreneurship initiatives:
- New building for the elementary school in Muynak was erected under the support from the UN Joint Programme and JICA [https://bit.ly/2QA2t4h](https://bit.ly/2QA2t4h)
- Open Budget Workshop [https://twitter.com/UNDP_Uzbekistan/status/1120651975509540870](https://twitter.com/UNDP_Uzbekistan/status/1120651975509540870)
- “Eco clubs” were launched in a number of schools in Nukus
- New projects launched in Karakalpakstan under the auspices of the UN Joint Programme
- Human Security Session

**Interviews**
- UN RC in Uzbekistan during the International [Press Club](https://www.facebook.com/UNAralSeaProgramme/)
- [UNV interview](https://www.facebook.com/UNAralSeaProgramme/)
- UN RC in Uzbekistan’s [interview](https://www.facebook.com/UNAralSeaProgramme/) for the Kun.Uz
- Director of UNDP’s Regional Bureau for Europe and CIS gave an interview to [UzReport](https://www.facebook.com/UNAralSeaProgramme/)

**Publications & Handout materials:**
- Updated [One pagers](https://www.facebook.com/UNAralSeaProgramme/)
- [Fact-sheets](https://www.facebook.com/UNAralSeaProgramme/) on UN MPHSTF
- UN MPHSTF [Terms of Reference](https://www.facebook.com/UNAralSeaProgramme/)
- Updated USB Cards, Pens, Folders, Note-books
- [Calendar](https://www.facebook.com/UNAralSeaProgramme/) for 2019
- [Brochure](https://www.facebook.com/UNAralSeaProgramme/) with success stories and projects implemented within the Programme
- [Maps](https://www.facebook.com/UNAralSeaProgramme/) for the Needs Assessment Report

The Facebook page of the UN Joint Programme on the Aral Sea has 2,814 subscribers (about 337 new followers within the last period) and each publication covers about 350-900 users of the network. [https://www.facebook.com/UNAralSeaProgramme/](https://www.facebook.com/UNAralSeaProgramme/)

**Outreach on Community health volunteering:**
- Training 2000 community health volunteers in Uzbekistan, November 8, 2018
Outreach for advocating on immunization

Effective public awareness campaign was organized by UNICEF aimed at raising awareness of the general public on the importance of immunization. A comprehensive communication campaign was organized jointly with the Ministry of Health and the WHO during the World Immunization Week in April 2018. UNICEF used a mix of approaches and channels to reach audiences in an effective manner. This included working with celebrities and influencers to amplify the reach of messages. Since anecdotal evidence highlighted that the group of resistant parents is active on social media, particularly Facebook, UNICEF also designed and implemented a social media campaign to provide accurate information on common misconceptions. The role of celebrities and influencers was particularly important to boost the reach of social media posts to larger audiences. UNICEF and partners worked with popular television and radio channels – both private and state-owned – to produce shows on immunization. UNICEF and WHO facilitated a press conference organized by the Ministry of Health to highlight the introduction of Inactivated Polio Vaccine (IPV) in the National Immunization Calendar.

Publications & Handout materials:

The following materials were developed, printed and disseminated.
- The Aral Sea region needs assessment survey report;
- Training module and Manuals for Community Volunteers;
- Calendars and Family books for households with information about preventive methods of different health diseases;
- Posters and Fliers for healthcare facilities in target districts with information about preventive methods of different health diseases;
Atlas of socio-economic and environmental indicators of the Aral Sea region prepared on the basis of the results of the needs assessment survey.