

**UN MULTI-PARTNER HUMAN SECURITY TRUST FUND
FOR THE ARAL SEA REGION IN UZBEKISTAN**



ANNUAL REPORT
for the Period 1 January 2019 to 31 December 2019

FUND INFORMATION

MPHSTF	UN Multi-Partner Human Security Trust Fund for the Aral Sea Region in Uzbekistan
Operational period	November 12, 2018 – December 31, 2023
Funding	For 2019: USD 3,117,765
Goals	To address environmental, economic, health, food and social insecurities in the most vulnerable areas of the Aral Sea region through bringing innovative solutions in addressing the environmental issues, improving the access of affected rural population to basic services and poverty reduction.
Expected Outcomes	<i>Outcome 1:</i> The stress on local communities due to the deteriorating environmental situation reduced <i>Outcome 2:</i> The employment and income generation opportunities for local communities increased <i>Outcome 3:</i> Local community access to affordable and healthy food and clean drinking water secured <i>Outcome 4:</i> The overall health of the local population improved, and healthy lifestyle promoted <i>Outcome 5:</i> The living conditions of local populations improved, with particular focus on vulnerable groups such as women, children and youth
Reporting period	January - December 2019
Participating UN Organizations in 2019	UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNESCO, UNODC, FAO
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Participating UN Organizations



United Nations Development
Programme (UNDP)



United Nations Population
Fund (UNFPA)



United Nations Children's
Fund (UNICEF)



United Nations Educational,
Scientific and Cultural
Organization (UNESCO)



United Nations Office for
Drugs and Crime (UNODC)



Food and Agriculture
Organization (FAO)

Contributors



The Republic of
Uzbekistan



Norway

Parallel Contributors under auspices of the MPHSTF



Japan

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

BWA	Business Women's Association
CCI	Chamber of Commerce and Industry
CFP	Call for Proposals
CDPs	Community development plans
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FGDs	Focus Group Discussions
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
HMIS	Health Management Information System
KSMI	Karakalpak State Medical Institute
MCH	Maternal and Child Health
MEI	Ministry of Economy and Industry
MOA	Ministry of Agriculture
MOH	Ministry of Health
MPHSTF	UN Multi-Partner Human Security Trust Fund for the Aral Sea Region in Uzbekistan
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
OB/GYN	Obstetrics and Gynecology
PCA	Participatory community appraisal
PUNOs	Participating UN Organizations
RoK	Republic of Karakalpakstan
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SIC ICWC	Scientific-Information Center of the Interstate Coordination Water Commission of the Central Asia
SMEs	Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises
TDK	Takhtakupir District Khakimyat
ToR	Terms of Reference
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNODC	United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime
WHO	World Health Organization



“The approach, the partnerships and the political leadership are in place. Now we need to extend the collaboration and resources to make the vision of the Multi-Partner Human Security Trust Fund a reality and to advance sustainable development in the region.

I therefore appeal to donor nations to help bring the Multi-Partner Human Security Trust Fund for the Aral Sea Region fully to life.

The Multi-Partner Human Security Trust Fund for the Aral Sea Region can not only consolidate and expand these gains, but also serve as an example for future action around the world.”

ANTÓNIO GUTERRES
UN Secretary-General

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This consolidated Annual Progress Report (APR) on activities implemented under the UN Multi-Partner Human Security Trust Fund for the Aral Sea Region in Uzbekistan (MPHSTF) covers the period from 1 January 2019 to 31 December 2019. This APR specifically reports on the implementation of the joint programmes approved for funding. The report highlights the progress with the achievement of the MPHSTF Outcomes 3 and 4 within the Participating UN Organizations' (PUNOs) joint programmes implemented in the Republic of Karakalpakstan and officially launched in the last quarter of 2019. The Steering Committee approved these joint programmes following the First Call for Proposals. UNDP and UNESCO jointly implement the first joint programme on "addressing urgent human securities in the Aral Sea region through promoting sustainable rural development" in support of Outcome 3. The second joint programme focuses on "improving the quality of perinatal care service to most vulnerable mothers and new-borns" implemented by UNICEF and UNFPA and contributes to Outcome 4.

Despite the relatively short period of programme implementation, the two MPHSTF joint programmes have made significant progress towards attaining Outcomes 3 and 4. Some of the key achievements of the two joint programmes in 2019 are as follows:

Programme	Key Achievements
UNDP- UNESCO Joint Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed community mobilization events in Tazakonis, Beltau center and Mulik communities in Takhtakupir district • Developed comprehensive community development plans (CDPs) on providing access to drinking water • Developed project estimation documents to launch the bids for construction works that will benefit 2,231 rural people • Organized capacity development activities to increase livelihood opportunities to help develop potential income generation proposals • Organized and completed the first complex expedition of the dried-up bed of the Aral Sea to identify potential drought-resistant plants for cultivation • Finalized the needs assessment of the Takhtakupir Forestry Department to identify needs for building the institutional capacity, inventory of existing infrastructure, machinery and equipment to perform afforestation activities on the dried-up bed of the Aral Sea
UNICEF- UNFPA Joint Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducted baseline assessment to benchmark the indicators and to define the most pressing issues in eight targeted facilities for inclusion in the action plan • Analysed needs for equipment, consumables, renovation and infrastructure improvement in cooperation with the Ministry of Health resulting in the development of the technical specification for 42 key items for procurement • Enhanced capacity and skills of 90 healthcare providers from eight targeted perinatal facilities on evidence-based and hands-on new-born survival practices.

Programme	Key Achievements
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Established partnership with the Karakalpak State Medical Institute (KSMI) to enhance the sustainability of the programme and to lay the ground for the future distance-learning educational programs.

Amidst the abovementioned achievements, the programmes encountered several challenges that served as opportunities for better planning in the next phase of implementation. Some of the challenges include delays in approvals by authorities in the inception phase. There were also logistical issues in the target communities that held back the implementation of some programme activities. The two joint programmes also noted the limited capacity of counterparts in the target communities to properly support on-the-ground activities.

With the continued support from donors and development partners, the programmes anticipate that the next phase of implementation will be manageable considering the lessons learned from the inception phase. Overall, the MPHSTF envisage continuing its partnership and collaboration with the Government of Uzbekistan as well as the sub-national authorities to build, promote, and sustain the resilience of communities affected by the Aral Sea disaster. In the coming years, MPHSTF visualizes an Aral Sea region that is not only resilient but socially, economically, and environmentally vibrant.



1. ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE FUND

The establishment of the UN Multi-Partner Human Security Trust Fund for the Aral Sea Region in Uzbekistan (MPHSTF) signifies coherence. Through the MPHSTF, the government, the UN and its agencies, the donor community, and the civil society jointly built a partnership that paved the way for solidarity in addressing the impacts of the Aral Sea disaster. The MPHSTF provides a space for coherence of other parallel activities and projects that support human securities in the Aral Sea region. Specifically, the MPHSTF aims to ensure that there is a proper mechanism for effective donor coordination in the Aral Sea region to avoid duplication, fragmentation, and to utilize opportunities for synergies to benefit the communities in the Aral Sea region.

The MPHSTF provides unified platform for the development of international cooperation and mobilization of donor community resources for the practical implementation of integrated activities aimed at improving the environmental and socio-economic situation in the Aral Sea region, as well as promoting joint efforts to achieve Global Sustainable Development Goals.

Since the establishment of the MPHSTF in November 2018, the Fund has reached several milestones. The achievements include its formal institutionalization and operationalization, which includes an endorsement of its Operational Manual. The other endorsement of the Fund by the Republic of Uzbekistan through a Presidential Resolution is another milestone in the short history of the MPHSTF.

Following the results of the first Call for Proposals (CFP) announced in late March 2019, the Steering Committee approved two joint proposals. In cooperation with a variety of local and national stakeholders, UNDP and UNESCO developed the first approved joint programme. The joint programme supports Outcome 3 of the MPHSTF and aims at tackling the challenges through the prism of multiple dimensions of human security, such as providing access to drinking water for 2,500 rural residents, expanding income generation opportunities through supporting SMEs and eco-tourism development that will benefit 250 men and women, as well as afforestation in the remote regions of Karakalpakstan with direct beneficiaries estimated at 1,850 people, and indirectly benefiting more than 300,000, people.

The second programme of UNICEF and UNFPA responds to Outcome 4 of the MPHSTF. The joint programme aims to improve the quality of perinatal care services to most vulnerable mothers and new-borns, benefiting an estimated 26,000 pregnant women and new-borns in Karakalpakstan. This joint programme also seeks to improve the skills of 500 medical workers through dedicated training programmes. The Ministry of Health of the Republic of Uzbekistan is a key partner of the joint programme.

Key Milestones		
January 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The MPHSTF Steering Committee during its first meeting endorsed the institutional and operational aspects of the Fund. The Committee introduced the composition of the MPHSTF Steering Committee and the Technical Secretariat as well as endorsed the Fund's Operational Manual. Resolution of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan adopted the "measures to support the activities of the Multi-Partner Human Security Trust Fund for the Aral Sea region under the auspices of the UN" including the road map to support its activities. the Presidential Resolution established an Interagency Working Commission to assist the activities of the Trust Fund and to attract funds from the donor community. 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The MPHSTF launched its first call for proposal and received five project proposals. 	March 2019
June 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Steering Committee agreed to proceed with the two best proposals focusing on the multi-dimension of human security including environmental and health securities The European Investment Bank (EIB) and the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Trade of Uzbekistan signed a Memorandum of understanding, paving the way for EUR 100 million worth investment program to modernize irrigation systems and restore saline lands in Karakalpakstan drawing on the capacity of the MPHSTF. 	September 2019
October 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Within the framework of the UN High-Level International Conference: "Aral Sea - Zone of Environmental Innovations and Technologies", held on October 24-25, 2019 in Nukus, about 280 participants from 28 countries, leaders and representatives of reputable international organizations supported the establishment of the MPHSTF and called on donor countries, international organizations to make a practical contribution to the Fund At the Consultative Meeting of the Heads of Central Asian States, the Heads of States underlined the development and expansion of regional cooperation in the field of environmental protection, combating climate change and mitigating its consequences for the region's population, including within MPHSTF. 	November 2019
December 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Launching of the UN joint programme on "Building the Resilience of Local Communities Against Health, Environmental and Economic Insecurities Caused by Environmental Destruction in the Aral Sea Region" funded by the Government of Japan, parallel to the fund, with a total budget of USD 3.2 million. Decision to establish an Advisory Committee made by the members of the Steering Committee in support of coordinated and systematic work on development of the proposals in line with the requirements of international financial institutions (IFIs); accumulation of various sources of financing for socio-economic and environmental improvement programmes for the Aral Sea region; and the expansion of the coverage of the unified platform for dialogue among government, IFIs, donor countries, and other partners on various aspects of the region's development. 	



MPHSTF Outcome 3. Local community access to affordable and healthy food and clean drinking water secured

In support of the Fund's third outcome, the UNDP and UNESCO joint programme aims to address the environmental, social, and economic insecurities in the most vulnerable communities of the Aral Sea region through specific objectives:

- Objective 1. Improving community resilience through ensuring access to clean drinking water;
- Objective 2. Enhancing the social wellbeing of the rural population (including women/youth) through expanding income generation opportunities and promoting inclusive sustainable growth of tourism in Karakalpakstan;
- Objective 3. Promoting climate change adaptation actions through evidence-based afforestation initiatives.

In terms of the first objective about providing access to clean drinking water and improving relevant physical conditions of facilities that contribute to the overall improvement of health and well-being of the local population in Karakalpakstan, the projects accomplished the following in relatively short period of time.

- ✓ **Project estimation documents finalized for three social infrastructure projects aimed at providing access to clean water for the community people.** At the institutional level, the programme conducted meetings with the Takhtakupir District Khakimiyat and District Water Supply Organization on the preparation of technical papers for planned water supply reconstruction work. Namely, the programme produced Architectural Planning Assignments for the water supply projects in Tazakonis, Beltau centre, and Mulik communities and contracted the Project Institute to develop the Project Estimation Documents.
- ✓ **Set of technical documents prepared for bids announcement.** The programme finalized the full package of bidding documents. The bids launch planned for the 1st weeks of January 2020, which will result in contracting companies to undertake the construction works. Those infrastructure projects will improve access to clean drinking water for 2,231 rural people.



The current situation in the water purification and distribution station in Tazakonis. ©MPHSTF

- ✓ **Community awareness increased and capacity enhanced to identify priorities on water accessibility.** The programme deployed a Consultant on Community Mobilization to undertake community mobilization workshops, develop Community Development Plans (CDPs), and conduct feasibility assessment on the organization of the Drinking Water Associations in the target communities. These sensitization workshops raised the awareness of community residents on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Human Security (HS) approach, and their interlinkages with the programme interventions towards improving resilience in their communities. It also covered the HS concept implemented in Uzbekistan and the role of MPHSTF for the Aral Sea region. The community members assessed the needs of target communities using participatory community appraisal (PCA) methods, identified priority problems, organized initiative groups, and drafted project proposals for solving community infrastructure problems. Community members also enhanced their skills in community problem mapping and ranking, analysis of environmental issues and division of problems by types (economic, environmental, social including health, etc.). The community members established initiative groups, which play a key role during social infrastructure projects' implementation and ensure the community contribution in handling work on household connections to the water pipeline system. Gender balance considered in establishing the initiative groups, specifically the share of the female participants ranged from 45% to 50% of the total number of initiative group members. In total, three community mobilization workshops covered 62 community members, out of which 28 are women.
- ✓ **Feasibility study on the establishment of Drinking Water Organizations (DWOs) conducted to learn the perceptions of community people pertinent to ownership, willingness to pay, and building sustainability mechanisms.** The programme conducted a rapid analysis at the grassroots level. The programme held three Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) with community residents to study their points of view on establishing the DWOs and taking ownership of the water resources and management with further technical maintenance of water treatment facility to ensure the sustainability of water supply. The FGD findings noted that there are many factors like the size of water consumers and collection fees, agreement with the District Water Supply Department on the ownership issues and deployment of Department specialists in major maintenance works, etc., that needs the agreement between the DWO and respective local institutions. The programme plans an in-depth assessment on the review of the legal basis for establishing DWOs, lead relevant consultations with Karakalpakstan Board of Water Supply Systems "Tuyemoyin" on water distribution facility ownership issues, select more densely populated community for piloting the organization and make the relevant decision on the actual feasibility and organizational structure of the DWO.

As part of the second objective, the programme intends to support Takhtakupir district by establishing innovative small and medium enterprises to create employment opportunities for rural youth and women and enrich the local market with food products. The key achievements under the second objective include:

- ✓ **The economic development needs of Takhtakupir district studied and a collective decision made to focus programme interventions in strengthening the District Livestock Sector.** The programme held a series of consultations with the key partners on governance and key stakeholders' engagement aspects for output interventions. Specifically, the consultations included the Council of Ministers of Karakalpakstan, Takhtakupir District Khakimyat (TDK), Ministry of Economy and Industry (MEI), Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI), Ministry of Agriculture (MOA), Business Women's

Association (BWA). To tackle the specific needs of Takhtakupir district, the programme team had an inception workshop with the focus on the livestock sector, as according to Presidential Decree¹, the target district specializes in this sector. The district has well-settled prerequisites for livestock development, it has more than 1.2 million hectares of pastureland for cattle and sheep. However, there are no specialized either small or big production facilities to process livestock raw materials despite being abundant and available at considerably low cost. Thus, the programme interventions will focus on establishing new enterprises that process livestock materials, produce milk and food products and engage local households and farmers to establish production value-chains, create employment opportunities and income sources.

- ✓ **The mechanism established for the selection of entrepreneurship projects.** As an outcome of the consultations, the programme partners agreed to develop regulation for the review committee for the selection of entrepreneurship projects in a transparent and participatory manner. The committee consists of the representatives of the TDK, MEI, CCI, MoA, BWA and the Council of Households and Farmers and UNDP (Programme).
- ✓ **The programme created a portfolio of potential income generation projects.** The programme deployed a Specialist on Livestock Development to map out the potential projects in the livestock sector. The portfolio of potential income generation projects covers the following areas: milk processing, forage production for livestock, straw and wool processing as well as bricks production. In February 2020, the programme will identify the final list of income generation projects. Afterward, the expectation is to launch bids for the procurement of necessary equipment and machinery.

To support the third objective related to afforestation, the programme envisioned to initiate the expeditions to the dried bed of the Aral Sea in order to analyse the current situation, and based on this come up with practical recommendations and technical support to local forestry institutions in their efforts to mitigate the negative environmental consequences of the crisis.

- ✓ **The first expedition to the dried seabed of the Aral Sea documented the conditions of flora, soil, and underground water compositions; and developed recommendations on the drought-resistant bushes for afforestation plantations.** In consultation with relevant partners, including the Scientific-Information Center of the Interstate Coordination Water Commission of Central Asia (SIC ICWC) and the International Innovation Center for Aral Sea Basin under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the programme organized the first complex expedition to the dried bed of the Aral Sea region. The expedition took place in mid-September to mid-October 2019, covering the southern part of the dried Seabed in the region of Muynak, Adzhibay Bay in the western part, in the vicinity of Sudochoye Lake, north of the Tiger's Tail and along the Ustyurt Chink. The programme recruited a team of experts and technical staff, comprised of 12 national and one international consultants - ecologists, soil scientists, botanists, hydro geologists, GIS and remote sensing specialists. The expedition travelled 2,500 km, laid 35 soil sections and described 1,570 points on various surface classes. The expedition documented the current conductions of the flora, soil and underground water conductions, compared the current trends with the data to the last expeditions conducted in 2011; and developed recommendations on the drought-resistant bushes for planting in the dried bed of the Sea as well as methodologies to use in the process of planting. The plan is to hold the second expedition in May 2020. Upon completion of the second expedition, the

¹ Presidential Decree # 4512 "On Measures for Accelerated Development of Livestock Sector in the Republic of Karakalpakstan", dated November 7, 2019.

programme will produce the Expedition Final Report with recommendations and communicate with the relevant institutions for references as well as use for the development of prospective profiles of projects for the Aral Sea region.

- ✓ **Needs Assessment of Takhtakupir Forestry Department defined their institutional, material-technical and human resources capacity and needs, informed about afforestation works scope.** The assessment covered the existing institutional capacity of the Forestry Department including the implemented activities for 2019 and planned scope of afforestation work for 2020, human resources capacity, availability of agricultural machinery and allocation of resources for fuel and maintenance of equipment and machinery.



Takhtakupir Forestry Department. ©MPHSTF

- ✓ **A list of necessary machinery and equipment agreed to proceed with bidding in order to support the afforestation works.** Based on the assessment results, the programme identified the demand for 17 types of necessary machinery and equipment, which tentatively include the following items: mobile wagon to be used in the remote areas during the afforestation works, welding machine on wheels, bus truck, storage tanks on wheels for water and petrol, tents and sleeping bags, etc. The launch of the bids for procurement of equipment planned for 2020, upon finalization of the technical specifications for the machinery and equipment.

MPHSTF Outcome 4. The overall health of the local population improved, and healthy lifestyle promoted

This Outcome captures PUNOs' activities in the improvement of quality in perinatal care service to most vulnerable mothers and new-borns.

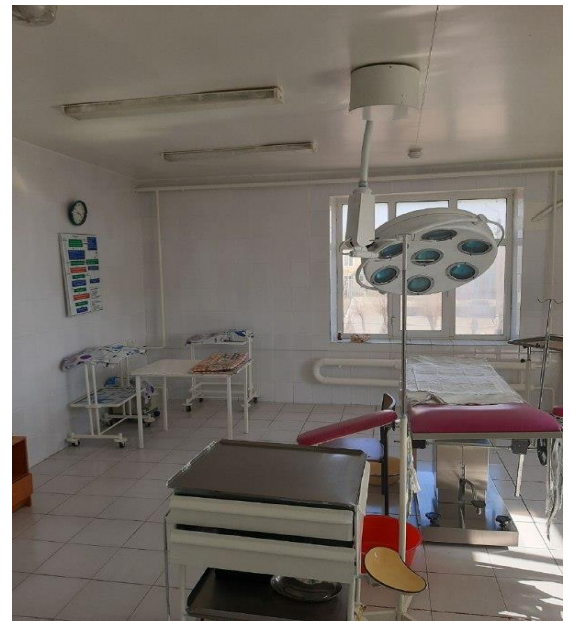
Although maternal mortality ratio and stillbirth rate in Uzbekistan have reduced significantly, disparities between the Aral Sea region and other regions of the country remain. Most deaths are preventable; however, systemic reform efforts are imperative to address health system challenges by upgrading the infrastructure, supplying essential equipment, and improving the quality of care. As such, the UNICEF and UNFPA joint programme aimed to support the Ministries of Health of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Republic of Karakalpakstan to ensure access of the population to perinatal service by improving infrastructure and provision of essential equipment for secondary level perinatal referral facilities, and to improve quality of maternal and new-born health service. The programme covers 8 out of 16 districts including 3 districts that have most suffered from land degradation, reduction of biodiversity, climate change, deterioration of the health of the population with two-fold objectives of:

- ensuring access of the population to perinatal services by improving infrastructure and provision of essential equipment for level II perinatal referral facilities in the Beruniy and Kungrad districts and Nukus city; and
- increasing the quality of maternal and new-born health care services, and to increase the capacity of families to make informed choices about health and nutrition.

In support of the above outcome and the programme's specific objectives, the joint UNICEF and UNFPA programme attained the following milestones in the last quarter of 2019.

- ✓ **UNICEF ensured the government's commitment to implement "Improvement of Quality of Perinatal Care Service to Most Vulnerable Mother and New-borns" programme.** The Presidential Decree #4513 issued on November 8, 2019, outlined the National Strategy and Action Plan on maternal and child health (MCH) for 2019-2025 and incorporated the work plan of the joint UNICEF and UNFPA programme as one of the priority initiatives. Furthermore, the decree exempted procured equipment from customs duties and registration fees, which further simplifies the procurement and delivery process. Based on the joint programme example, all regional governors are requested to develop regional plans for 2020-2021 to improve the quality of perinatal care services.
- ✓ **Baseline assessment of the quality of maternal and new-born health care conducted in eight facilities and a detailed implementation plan to address quality gaps developed.** To assess the scope and scale of construction and renovation works, during the first months of the implementation of the programme, a qualified engineer conducted a thorough assessment of and documented the condition of buildings. In this area, UNICEF jointly with UNFPA supported several MOH's initiatives aimed at ensuring better data supply for informed policymaking. As part of the baseline assessment, UNICEF and MOH conducted a survey of eight targeted perinatal facilities based on WHO's assessment tool on the quality of hospital care for mothers and new-born babies (2009 edition). The assessment collected evidence in every targeted district on the performance of perinatal services and identified key areas of childbirth and new-born care that need improvement, thus measuring the extent of the fulfilment of the rights to quality healthcare among children in targeted locations, especially for the most marginalized and vulnerable ones. The assessment included the need to replace and upgrade electrical wiring for the new equipment, installation of backup power, water boilers, air conditioners, and tubing to

meet the basic needs of staff and clients of the facilities, and renovation of the buildings. The joint team of MOH of Uzbekistan and ROK, UNICEF, and UNFPA developed the full list of equipment/consumables for procurement for each facility. A detailed implementation plan followed the assessment to comprehensively address the most pressing issues by the end of the programme in all eight facilities.



Perinatal Centres, © MPHSTF

- ✓ **Development of a joint strategy between UNICEF, UNFPA, and the Karakalpak State Medical Institute's (KSMI) to ensure programme sustainability after completion.** KSMI readily accepted to participate in the development of a joint strategy and details on the joint roadmap are as follows: 1) faculty members on neonatology, OB/GYN and public health would be involved at every training session; 2) all training packages would be handed over to relevant departments to be incorporated into curricula; 3) the programme would create a team of trainers from the local medical institute; 4) the programme would equip one training room with webinar and simulation equipment; and 5) the programme would support the medical institute in developing web pages on their website on neonatology, OB/GYN and public health to equip local healthcare providers with knowledge on evidence-based interventions, thus creating the basis for a future distance learning platform.
- ✓ **Ensured active participation of key stakeholders in the coordination of the activities through the formation of the Coordination Council, which includes members of Council of Ministers of ROK, health authorities, civil society representatives, local public health expert community, UN agencies, and international NGOs.** Such wide participation obviates overlap and duplication of the activities and further reinforces the notion of partnership. A series of preliminary meetings were held with around 25 prospective members of the Coordination Council and the first session convened in the first quarter of 2020.
- ✓ **A total of 90 healthcare providers from target perinatal centres trained and equipped with skills on new-born resuscitation, essential new-born care, and care for small and sick new-borns through a series of conventional and on-the-job training.** A sustainable and progressive realization of women's and children's rights and a reduction in equity

gaps are attainable through changes at the system level. This will translate into effectively addressing priority bottlenecks to providing evidence-based and high impact interventions that ensure mother and child survival, and development. UNICEF and UNFPA have been working to introduce highly effective life-saving technologies for the mother, as well as new-born healthcare to improve the quality of health services and reduce morbidity and mortality rates. UNICEF printed training materials on “Helping Babies Survive” which is in line with evidence-based, hands-on programmes developed by the American Academy of Paediatrics to reduce neonatal mortality in resource-limited environments. Those materials served as reference materials during the training and widely distributed across perinatal facilities to expose healthcare providers to modern new-born survival strategies – a pragmatic alternative to address the gaps in the in-service neonatologist training system.



Training on new-born resuscitation at Nukus City Perinatal Centre, December 2019. © UNICEF

UNICEF and UNFPA noted some important lessons in the short implementation of the programme. The first is that it is important to constantly analyse the effectiveness of interaction and communication between implementing partners and among other stakeholders to maximize the synergetic capacity of the Programme. For instance, UNICEF and UNFPA constantly coordinate and synchronize their training and monitoring plans so that each targeted maternity would not be overburdened by frequent monitoring visits and service would not be disrupted by uncoordinated training activities. Additionally, the advantage of this approach is its potential to enhance the breadth and depth of understanding underlying MCH related issues at the hospital level and how to address them. Further, having a detailed implementation plan is crucial for achieving planned results.

UNICEF jointly with UNFPA supported the MOH to build comprehensive perinatal care services that deliver equity, efficiency, and accessibility for all; and observed challenge in weak health care managers' capacity to deal with financial management, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of policies and strategies, as well as the budget allocation for the most vulnerable mothers and children. The programme is going to address these challenges through the capacity building of health care managers on the development and implementation of facility-based quality improvement plans.

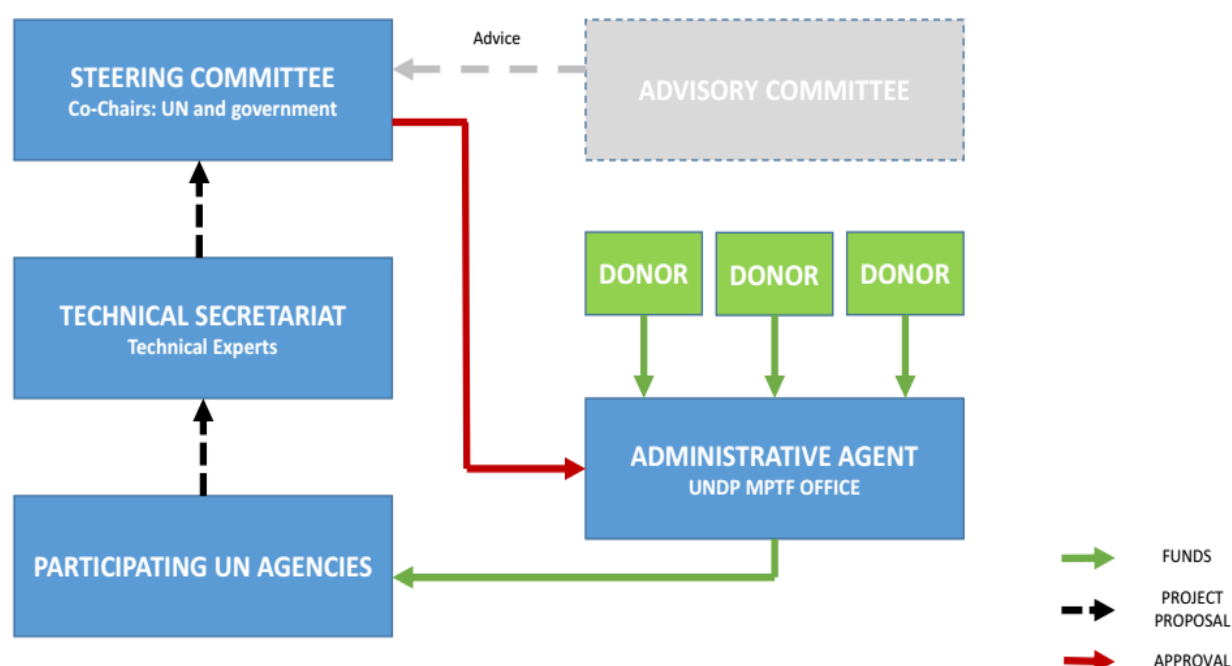
2. FUND OPERATIONAL PERFORMANCE

Fund Governance and Management

The MPHSTF governance arrangements provide for efficient and effective decision-making and oversight framework, ensuring streamlined allocation processes and clear lines of accountability. Informed and guided by the principles of inclusiveness, transparency, accountability, and consensus-based decisions, a Steering Committee governs the MPHSTF with the support of a Technical Secretariat. The Participating UN Organizations (PUNOs), on the other hand, take full programmatic and financial accountability over the funds transferred to them.

Steering Committee. The Steering Committee has overall responsibility for the MPHSTF. It is responsible for leadership, strategic direction, and decisions on eligibility, allocation and other managerial and oversight aspects. The Deputy Prime Minister of Uzbekistan and the UN Resident Coordinator in Uzbekistan co-chair the Committee. The other members of the Committee include three representatives from the donors contributing to the MPHSTF community (replaced on rotational bases), two civil society members, three Participating UN Organizations (replaced also on rotational bases), and three national government representatives (replaced on rotational bases). The Administrative Agent and the Technical Secretariat are ex-officio members of the Steering Committee.

Advisory Committee. Initial discussions were that at a later stage the Steering Committee might consider the establishment of an Advisory Committee, which would serve as an information-sharing forum once the number of donors and Participating UN Organisations becomes so large, that their inclusion in the Steering Committee would no longer be feasible. The MPHSTF Steering Committee made the decision on the establishment of the Advisory Committee on its meeting held on 16 December 2019. The Advisory Committee on Sustainable Development in the Aral Sea region of Uzbekistan will serve as an integrated platform for effective donor coordination for the Aral Sea region and enable constructive dialogue between the Government and development partners on different aspects of the Aral Sea region's development.



Operational Activities of the Steering Committee and the Technical Secretariat

In January 2019, the MPHSTF Steering Committee held its first meeting. The major goal of the meeting was to discuss the organizational and practical aspects of the Trust Fund's operation as well as the operational procedures and programmatic framework of the fund. The members of the Steering Committee present at the initial meeting include the Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Uzbekistan and UN Resident Coordinator in the Republic of Uzbekistan as the Co-Chairs, and representatives of government ministries and departments, participating UN organizations (PUNOs), donors and civil society organizations. In the same meeting, the Steering Committee also decided on the date of the first Call for Proposals within the Trust Fund at the end of March 2019. The first Call for Proposals under the MPHSTF focused on priority areas including environmental security through afforestation, health security, and social security, including access to basic utilities, social protection, water, sanitation, and education.

The Technical Secretariat developed the Call for Proposal's Guidelines to ensure the development of the proposals by PUNOs in line with the MPHSTF requirements and the First Call's priorities. The Technical Secretariat and PUNOs held a series of consultative meetings to discuss the technical aspects of the Call for Proposals. Further, the PUNOs, Technical Secretariat, and relevant national government partners held a tripartite meeting to ensure the synergy of efforts and proposals within the development priorities of all the organizations.

In total, the Technical Secretariat received five project proposals from the PUNOs for a total amount of USD 4.23 million. The Technical Review Panel (TRP) created by the Technical Secretariat in accordance with the agreed MPHSTF ToR and Operational Manual evaluated the proposals. Using set criteria approved by the MPHSTF Steering Committee, the TRP prudently assessed each proposal. Five independent experts from UN agencies not involved in proposals development, a national research institute, the legislative body of the Republic of Karakalpakstan, and from the MPHSTF Technical Secretariat comprise the TRP. The Technical Secretariat summarized the results of the review process and submitted to the Steering Committee to facilitate its decision on the approval of the proposals for funding.

In June 2019, the Steering Committee, in its second meeting, conditionally approved two project proposals for the total amount of USD 3.085 million. The members of the Steering Committee present at the meeting included government representatives (including Karakalpak authority), donors (i.e., EU Delegation, the Embassy of Japan), local NGOs, and the UN. The conditional approval provided the PUNOs a one-month period to develop full-fledged project documents taking into account all recommendations of the Steering Committee related to programmatic focus, sustainability, and the financial aspects of the proposals.

Concurrent to the call and review of the proposals, the MPHSTF also launched the Fund's website. The Technical Secretariat regularly updates the website with relevant information including comprehensive statistical and analytical data on the Fund's work carried out in cooperation with international partners in the Aral Sea region, including about ongoing programmes. The Fund's website is accessible through this link: www.aral.mptf.uz.



The Steering Committee meeting, December 16, 2019

The Steering Committee at its third meeting in December 2019 received information about the main achievements of the ongoing MPHSTF-funded joint programmes. In the same meeting, the representatives of the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Trade also informed the members of the Steering Committee about the mobilization of resources for the Trust Fund. Representatives of the EU Delegation to Uzbekistan, the Embassies of Japan, and the Republic of Korea made brief speeches on the prospects for contributing to the Trust Fund.

The major agenda points of the meeting included a discussion and agreement on the date and priority directions for the Second Call for Proposals. The members of the Steering Committee confirmed the Youth and Innovations thematic and defined the health security component as the priority direction for the Second Call for Proposals. Also, in this meeting, the Committee decided on the establishment of the Advisory Committee on Sustainable Development in the Aral Sea region of Uzbekistan. The establishment of the Advisory Committee as a single platform will allow for constructive dialogue between the government, civil society, and development partners on various aspects of the development of the Aral Sea region.

Resource Mobilization

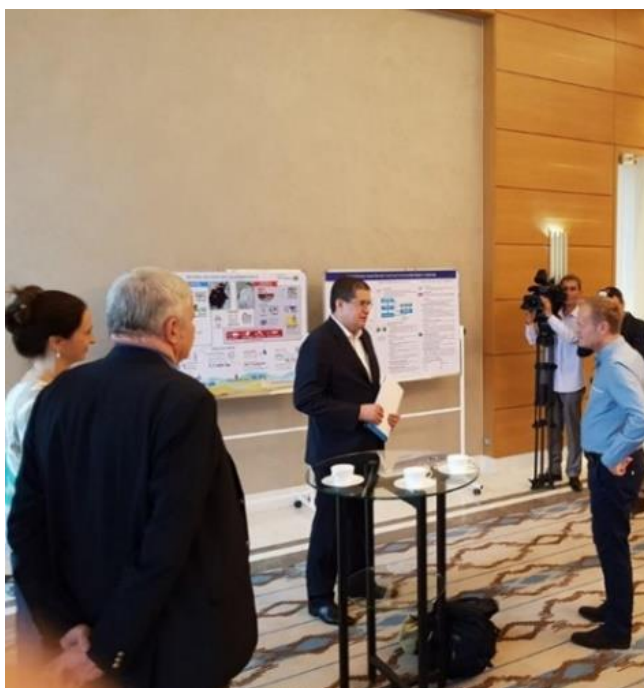
As already mentioned, the Government of Uzbekistan strongly supports the activity of the MPHSTF including the mobilization of financial resources to the Fund. The relevant government ministries and agencies, together with the UN RCO in Uzbekistan are implementing a joint resource mobilization activities to attract donors' financial resources to the MPHSTF and promote the Aral Sea issue in general, both in the Republic of Uzbekistan and internationally. It is important to note that the Government of Uzbekistan became the first donor of the MPHSTF by signing the Standard Administrative Arrangements in November 2018 with the Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) Office in New York (the MPHSTF Administrative Agent) and committing USD 6.5 million over four years of MPHSTF implementation. The Government of Norway became the first external donor of the MPHSTF by committing and depositing NOK 9.5 million (USD 1.1 million) in March 2019. The active participation of the Government of Uzbekistan in the formation of the fund is a signal intended to attract more potential donors to the fund and to increase the importance of addressing the Aral disaster problem at the global level.

To further mobilize resources for the MPHSTF, the Government of Uzbekistan sent official appeal letters to more than 80 heads of states and big corporations in January 2019. Further, the Government created separate cooperation roadmaps for a pool of 17 most active potential donors at the global level. Through the different multilateral international platforms and bilateral negotiations, the resource mobilization appeal had positive results attracting potential donors' interest (i.e., USA, EU, China, Japan, Sweden, Finland, Norway, Switzerland, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait, Australia, Turkey, Israel, Germany, GIZ and KfW, and the European Investment Bank among others).

On the margins of the UNECE Regional Forum on Sustainable Development in Geneva (Switzerland) on 22 March 2019, the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the UN Office in Uzbekistan with the support of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) held a side event. The aim of the side event on “Partnership for People: UN Multi-Partner Human Security Trust Fund for the Aral Sea Region in Uzbekistan” was to mobilize the support of the development partners. The UN Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed, representatives of EU Delegation, and international financing institutions attended the event.

To further support the mobilization of funds to the MPHSTF, the Permanent Mission of Uzbekistan to the UN, in cooperation with the UN MPTF Office and UNDP, organized a special briefing in April 2019 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. The purpose of the briefing was to inform about current activities carried out to eliminate the negative consequences of the Aral Sea crises. The briefing also sought interest among development partners to support the activity of MPHSTF.

The other activities that supported the MPHSTF resource mobilization include the discussion on the possible cooperation mechanisms for accessing the Green Climate Fund for MPHSTF purposes during the visit of the delegation of the Republic of Uzbekistan to the Republic of Korea in August 2019. The Uzbek Delegation at the Climate Action Summit held on the margins of the 74th Session of the UN General Assembly in September 2019 held a series of high-level meetings, to discuss and promote the MPHSTF. The meetings were held with Mr. Luis Alfonso de Alba, Special Envoy of the UN Secretary-General for the 2019 Climate Change Summit, and Mr. Yukio Takasu, Special Advisor to the UN Secretary-General on Human Security. Further, in October 2019, there were negotiations with potential donors regarding their contribution to the Trust Fund in the framework of the High-Level International Conference under the auspices of the UN “Aral Sea Region - Zone of Environmental Innovations and Technologies” held in Nukus.



Presentation of the MPHSTF during the visit of the President of the European Council, June 1, 2019

During the Uzbek Delegation’s visit to Brussels in November 2019, the European Union signed a Financing Agreement to contribute to the Trust Fund in the amount of EUR 5.2 million. In February 2020, the EU Delegation and the UN MPTF Office in New York formally signed the contribution agreement and in March 2020, the EU transferred its contribution of EUR 5 million to the MPHSTF. Also, within the framework of the 15th meeting of the Uzbekistan-EU Cooperation Council, held in November 2019 in Brussels, Mr. Haavisto, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Finland, announced that the Government of Finland decided to allocate EUR 1 million to the MPHSTF. In the following month, the representative of the Embassy of the Republic of Korea to Uzbekistan announced the decision of the Government of the Republic of Korea to allocate USD 1 million to the MPHSTF during the third meeting of the Steering Committee.

Further to the contribution to the MPHSTF, there are instances where development partners express readiness to finance projects independently in line with the MPHSTF strategy. For example, in September 2019, the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Trade of Uzbekistan and the European Investment Bank signed a Memorandum of Understanding to take further steps to attract soft loans in the amount of EUR 100 million and grant funds from the European Commission to the amount of up to EUR 25 million for a program to modernize irrigation systems and restore saline lands in Karakalpakstan.

The two-level investment program will enable restoration of the irrigation system and agricultural lands in Karakalpakstan and implemented in partnership with the Government of Uzbekistan and the European Union within the framework of the MPHSTF.

The Fund, as a platform, coordinates the flow of assistance into the region. In addition, the Government of Japan provided USD 3.2 million to the new UNDP and UNFPA joint programme “Building the Resilience of Local Communities Against Health, Environmental and Economic Insecurities Caused by Environmental Disaster in the Aral Sea Region” as a parallel contribution towards MPHSTF. It is expected, that within the programme about 50,000 women to take cervical cancer screening program with proper follow-up, while 15,000 rural people have improved access to better health infrastructure, and 1,200 schoolchildren have improved education facilities. This programme will contribute to social and economic development in Karakalpakstan with better healthcare services, infrastructure, and income generation opportunities.



OROLBO'YI HUDUDIDAGI AHOLINING
IQTISODIY, EKOLOGIK HAMDA
SOG'LIQNI SAQLASH MASALALARIDAGI
ZAIFLIKLARINI BARTARAF ETISH ORQALI
TURMUSH BARQARORLIGINI
MUSTAHKAMLASH

BUILDING THE RESILIENCE
OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES
AGAINST HEALTH,
ENVIRONMENTAL AND
ECONOMIC INSECURITIES
IN THE ARAL SEA REGION

УКРЕПЛЕНИЕ ЖИЗНЕУСТОЙЧИВОСТИ
МЕСТНЫХ СООБЩЕСТВ В РЕГИОНЕ
ПРИАРАЛЬЯ К ЭКОЛОГИЧЕСКИМ,
ЭКОНОМИЧЕСКИМ УЯЗВИМОСТЯМ,
А ТАКЖЕ В ВОПРОСАХ
ЗДОРОВЬЯ НАСЕЛЕНИЯ

In January 2020, the project funded by the Government of Japan officially commenced mainly to address the most urgent and immediate health and economic insecurities in the most vulnerable areas in the Aral Sea region. By bringing innovative solutions to healthcare and poverty reduction initiatives, the project complements the work of the MPHSTF. The total allocation for the project is USD 3,211,618.20 for two years.

Challenges and Lessons Learned

Similar to other funding mechanisms, the MPHSTF encountered common challenges in the initial stages of operations (see Fund Risks and Issues Log in Annex 2). Since its implementation in 2019, the MPHSTF has duly addressed the challenges. In November 2019, however, the COVID-19 pandemic, which started in Wuhan, China rapidly spread across the globe and started to disrupt manufacturing and global supply chain. Thus, in terms of the procurement of equipment and consumables in support of the programmes, there were delays.

The programme teams are now assessing options to mitigate potential impacts of the onset of COVID-19 not only in Uzbekistan but also in other countries that are potential sources of the procurement items. For example, UNICEF and UNFPA expect that some goods might arrive earlier and some later, and consequently desynchronizing shipment and installation plans. As a potential solution, UNICEF rented a secured storage facility in the city of Tashkent until all shipments arrive and are ready for shipment to ROK. There will be adjustments to the plans, in consultations with stakeholders, as the situation develops.

The introduction of the quarantine regime and restrictions to movement due to the onset of COVID-19 in Uzbekistan hampered the mobility of programme personnel to implement the planned activities in the targeted districts. Cognizant of these new government regulations, there may be delays in the implementation of planned activities within the framework of programmes. As a result, most likely, programmes will not be able to complete activities within the planned period of programmes, which may entail extending the duration of programmes without additional costs.

While COVID-19 is out of the control of the programme teams, there were certain challenges that arose as part of the programmes' growing pains. For example, it took some time for the programmes to establish the operationalization modalities. The programmes teams, however, have addressed these challenges by ensuring better internal and external coordination.

There was a delay of 3-4 months in the hiring of responsible staff for the implementation of the programmes. There should be an acceleration of the Recruitment process by the PUNOs. The Technical Secretariat recommends hiring programme staff using fast track recruitment mechanisms. The Technical Secretariat further recommends for the more active involvement of some of the core staff of the PUNOs considering that the PUNOs indicated participation of their core staff in the MPHSTF project as part of their financial contribution. The latter recommendation is crucial when the recruitment process lags behind schedule. The Technical Secretariat will ensure that these PUNOs account for this in the next round of proposals.

3. FUND FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

This chapter presents financial data and analysis of the **Aral Sea Region Fund** using the pass-through funding modality as of 31 December **2019**. Financial information for this Fund is also available on the MPTF Office GATEWAY, at the following address: <http://mptf.undp.org/factsheet/fund/ARL00>.

1. SOURCES AND USES OF FUNDS

As of 31 December **2019**, **2** contributors deposited US\$ **3,117,765** in contributions and US\$ **34,975** was earned in interest.

The cumulative source of funds was US\$ **3,152,741**. Of this amount, US\$ **3,083,566** has been net funded to **4** Participating Organizations, of which US\$ **77,523** has been reported as expenditure. The Administrative Agent fee has been charged at the approved rate of 1% on deposits and amounts to US\$ **31,178**. Table 1 provides an overview of the overall sources, uses, and balance of the **Aral Sea Region Fund** as of 31 December 2019.

Table 1. Financial Overview, as of 31 December 2019 (in US Dollars)

	Annual 2018	Annual 2019	Cumulative
Sources of Funds			
Contributions from donors		3,117,765	3,117,765
Fund Earned Interest and Investment Income		34,975	34,975
Interest Income received from Participating Organizations		-	-
Refunds by Administrative Agent to Contributors		-	-
Fund balance transferred to another MDTF		-	-
Other Income		-	-
Total: Sources of Funds		3,152,741	3,152,741
Use of Funds			
Transfers to Participating Organizations		3,083,566	3,083,566
Refunds received from Participating Organizations		-	-
Net Funded Amount		3,083,566	3,083,566
Administrative Agent Fees		31,178	31,178
Direct Costs: (Steering Committee, Secretariat...etc.)		-	-
Bank Charges		28	28
Other Expenditures		-	-
Total: Uses of Funds		3,114,771	3,114,771
Change in Fund cash balance with Administrative Agent		37,969	37,969
Opening Fund balance (1 January)		-	-
Closing Fund balance (31 December)		37,969	37,969
Net Funded Amount (Includes Direct Cost)		3,083,566	3,083,566
Participating Organizations' Expenditure (Includes Direct Cost)		77,523	77,523
Balance of Funds with Participating Organizations			3,006,043

2. PARTNER CONTRIBUTIONS

Table 2 provides information on cumulative contributions received from all contributors to this Fund as of 31 December **2019**.

The **Aral Sea Region Fund** is currently being financed by **2** contributors, as listed in the table below.

The table below includes commitments made up to 31 December **2019** through signed Standard Administrative Agreements, and deposits made through **2019**. It does not include commitments that were made to the fund beyond **2019**.

Table 2. Contributors' Commitments and Deposits, as of 31 December 2019 (in US Dollars)

Contributors	Total Commitments	Prior Years as of 31-Dec-2018 Deposits	Current Year Jan-Dec-2019 Deposits	Total Deposits
NORWAY, Government of	1,117,765	-	1,117,765	1,117,765
UZBEKISTAN, Government of	2,000,000	-	2,000,000	2,000,000
Grand Total	3,117,765	-	3,117,765	3,117,765

3. INTEREST EARNED

Interest income is earned in two ways: 1) on the balance of funds held by the Administrative Agent (Fund earned interest), and 2) on the balance of funds held by the Participating Organizations (Agency earned interest) where their Financial Regulations and Rules allow return of interest to the AA.

As of 31 December **2019**, Fund earned interest amounts to US\$ **34,975**.

Details are provided in the table below.

Table 3. Sources of Interest and Investment Income, as of 31 December 2019 (in US Dollars)

Interest Earned	Prior Years as of 31-Dec-2018	Current Year Jan-Dec-2019	Total
Administrative Agent			
Fund Earned Interest and Investment Income		34,975	34,975
Total: Fund Earned Interest		34,975	34,975
Participating Organization			
Total: Agency earned interest			
Grand Total		34,975	34,975

4. TRANSFER OF FUNDS

Allocations to Participating Organizations are approved by the Steering Committee and disbursed by the Administrative Agent. As of 31 December **2019**, the AA has transferred US\$ **3,083,566** to **4** Participating Organizations (see list below).

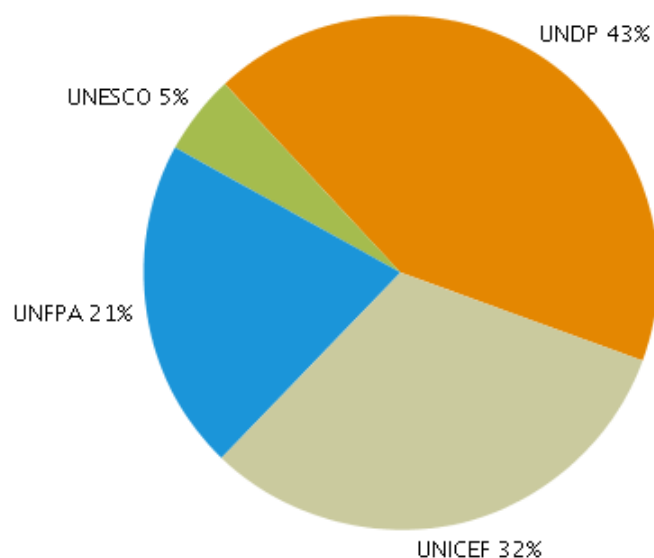
4.1 TRANSFER BY PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATION

Table 4 provides additional information on the refunds received by the MPTF Office, and the net funded amount for each of the Participating Organizations.

Table 4. Transfer, Refund, and Net Funded Amount by Participating Organization, as of 31 December 2019 (in US Dollars)

Participating Organization	Prior Years as of 31-Dec-2018			Current Year Jan-Dec-2019			Total		
	Transfers	Refunds	Net Funded	Transfers	Refunds	Net Funded	Transfers	Refunds	Net Funded
UNDP				1,312,414		1,312,414	1,312,414		1,312,414
UNESCO				151,487		151,487	151,487		151,487
UNFPA				639,322		639,322	639,322		639,322
UNICEF				980,344		980,344	980,344		980,344
Grand Total				3,083,566		3,083,566	3,083,566		3,083,566

Figure 2: Transfers amount by Participating Organization for the period of 1 January to 31 December 2019



5. EXPENDITURE AND FINANCIAL DELIVERY RATES

All final expenditures reported for the year **2019** were submitted by the Headquarters of the Participating Organizations. These were consolidated by the MPTF Office.

Project expenditures are incurred and monitored by each Participating Organization, and are reported as per the agreed upon categories for inter-agency harmonized reporting. The reported expenditures were submitted via the MPTF Office's online expenditure reporting tool. The **2019** expenditure data has been posted on the MPTF Office GATEWAY at <http://mptf.undp.org/factsheet/fund/ARL00>.

5.1 EXPENDITURE REPORTED BY PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATION

In **2019**, US\$ **3,083,566** was net funded to Participating Organizations, and US\$ **77,523** was reported in expenditure.

As shown in table below, the cumulative net funded amount is US\$ **3,083,566** and cumulative expenditures reported by the Participating Organizations amount to US\$ **77,523**. This equates to an overall Fund expenditure delivery rate of **3** percent.

Table 5.1. Net Funded Amount, Reported Expenditure, and Financial Delivery by Participating Organization, as of 31 December 2019 (in US Dollars)

Participating Organization	Approved Amount	Net Funded Amount	Expenditure			Delivery Rate %
			Prior Years as of 31-Dec-2018	Current Year Jan-Dec-2019	Cumulative	
UNDP	1,312,414	1,312,414		46,006	46,006	3.51
UNESCO	151,487	151,487				0
UNFPA	639,322	639,322		2,150	2,150	0.34
UNICEF	980,344	980,344		29,367	29,367	3.00
Grand Total	3,083,566	3,083,566		77,523	77,523	2.51

5.2 EXPENDITURE BY PROJECT

Table 5 displays the net funded amounts, expenditures reported and the financial delivery rates by Participating Organization.

Table 5.2 Expenditure by Project within Sector, as of 31 December 2019 (in US Dollars)

Sector / Project No.and Project Title		Participating Organization	Project Status	Total Approved Amount	Net Funded Amount	Total Expenditure	Delivery Rate %
3 Food & Water							
00117259	Aral Sea MPTF-Human Insecurity	UNDP	On Going	1,312,414	1,312,414	46,006	3.51
00117259	Aral Sea MPTF-Human Insecurity	UNESCO	On Going	151,487	151,487		0
3 Food & Water: Total				1,463,900	1,463,900	46,006	3.14
4 Health							
00117258	Aral Sea MPTF-Perinatal care	UNFPA	On Going	639,322	639,322	2,150	0.34
00117258	Aral Sea MPTF-Perinatal care	UNICEF	On Going	980,344	980,344	29,367	3.00
4 Health: Total				1,619,666	1,619,666	31,517	1.95
Grand Total				3,083,566	3,083,566	77,523	2.51

5.3 EXPENDITURE REPORTED BY CATEGORY

Project expenditures are incurred and monitored by each Participating Organization and are reported as per the agreed categories for inter-agency harmonized reporting. See table below.

Table 5.3. Expenditure by UNDG Budget Category, as of 31 December 2019 (in US Dollars)

Category	Expenditure			Percentage of Total Programme Cost
	Prior Years as of 31-Dec-2018	Current Year Jan-Dec-2019	Total	
Staff & Personnel Cost	-	5	5	0.01
Supplies, Commodities, Materials	-	1,451	1,451	2.00
Equipment, Vehicles, Furniture, Depreciation	-	-	-	
Contractual Services	-	27,482	27,482	37.93
Travel	-	14,509	14,509	20.03
Transfers and Grants	-	26,355	26,355	36.38
General Operating	-	2,649	2,649	3.66
Programme Costs Total	-	72,451	72,451	100.00
¹ Indirect Support Costs Total	-	5,072	5,072	7.00
Total	-	77,523	77,523	

¹ **Indirect Support Costs** charged by Participating Organization, based on their financial regulations, can be deducted upfront or at a later stage during implementation. The percentage may therefore appear to exceed the 7% agreed-upon for on-going projects. Once projects are financially closed, this number is not to exceed 7%.

6. COST RECOVERY

Cost recovery policies for the Fund are guided by the applicable provisions of the Terms of Reference, the MOU concluded between the Administrative Agent and Participating Organizations, and the SAAs concluded between the Administrative Agent and Contributors, based on rates approved by UNDG.

The policies in place, as of 31 December 2019, were as follows:

- **The Administrative Agent (AA) fee:** 1% is charged at the time of contributor deposit and covers services provided on that contribution for the entire duration of the Fund. In the reporting period US\$ **31,178** was deducted in AA-fees. Cumulatively, as of 31 December 2019, US\$ **31,178** has been charged in AA-fees.
- **Indirect Costs of Participating Organizations:** Participating Organizations may charge 7% indirect costs. In the current reporting period US\$ **5,072** was deducted in indirect costs by Participating Organizations. Cumulatively, indirect costs amount to US\$ **5,072** as of 31 December 2019.

7. ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY

In order to effectively provide fund administration services and facilitate monitoring and reporting to the UN system and its partners, the MPTF Office has developed a public website, the MPTF Office Gateway (<http://mptf.undp.org>). Refreshed in real time every two hours from an internal enterprise resource planning system, the MPTF Office Gateway has become a standard setter for providing transparent and accountable trust fund administration services.

The Gateway provides financial information including: contributor commitments and deposits, approved programme budgets, transfers to and expenditures reported by Participating Organizations, interest income and other expenses. In addition, the Gateway provides an overview of the MPTF Office portfolio and extensive information on individual Funds, including their purpose, governance structure and key documents. By providing easy access to the growing number of narrative and financial reports, as well as related project documents, the Gateway collects and preserves important institutional knowledge and facilitates knowledge sharing and management among UN Organizations and their development partners, thereby contributing to UN coherence and development effectiveness.

ANNEX 1. MPHSTF RESULTS FRAMEWORK

Duration: 2019-2023

Total funding requested: US\$ 123.2 million

SDG 3 – Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages (targets 3.4, 3.8, 3.C)						
SDG 8 – Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all (targets 8.2, 8.4, 8.5)						
SDG 11 – Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable (targets 11.2, 11.5, 11.A)						
OUTCOME 1: The stress on local communities due to the deteriorating environmental situation reduced			Baseline (for Karakal- pakistan, value and reference year)	Means of Verification (MOV)	Frequency	Results Achieved in 2019
# of hectares of arable land increased, thousand ha			509.6 (2018)	State committee on land resources, geodesy, cartography and cadastre data	Once a year	514.6
% of public satisfaction of environmental policy			16.4 (2017)	Socio-economic survey report	At the end of the project (2023)	To be updated in the next reporting period
Outputs		Output Indicators	Baseline	MOV	Frequency	Results Achieved in 2019
1	Local management practices and knowledge of ecosystem services are improved	% of communities with access to ecosystem services	0	Operational research	Operational research should be conducted	0

NB. It is important to note that for 2019, the MPHSTF programmes focused on Outcomes 3 and 4. However, through direct or indirect cooperation with other organizations, there are some progress towards other targets. The latter is an example of coherence that MPHSTF seeks to promote.

Outputs		Output Indicators	Baseline	MOV	Frequency	Results Achieved in 2019
2	New technologies in the area of water purification, agroforestry, afforestation, and soil stabilization are piloted	# of pilot projects that test out new technologies adjusted to local conditions	0	Project reports	Once a year	0
		Area of desert lands covered by forest stands, thousand ha	1,082 (2018)	State committee on forestry data	Once a year	1,111
		# of households with improved quality of irrigation water	3,366 (2018)	Projects reports	Once a year	To be updated in the next reporting period
		Area of restored tugai forests, thousand ha	20.3 (2018)	State committee on forestry data	Once a year	To be updated in the next reporting period
3	The quality of water, air and soil pollution is monitored and addressed through local regulatory practices	# of newly established or improved environmental quality checks	0 (2018)	Uzhydromet data	Once a year	0
		# of base stations monitoring the climate in the Aral Sea region	16 (2018)	Uzhydromet data	Once a year	16
		% of water/air quality monitoring laboratories regularly reporting through the automated surveillance system	0 (2018)	Uzhydromet data	Once a year	0
OUTCOME 2: The employment and income generation opportunities for local communities increased			Baseline	Means of Verification (MOV)	Frequency	Results Achieved in 2019
% of the population that is economically active			69.5 (2018)	State statistics	Once a year	69.8
# of new business initiatives started			18 (2018)	Project reports	Once a year	18

Outputs		Output Indicators	Baseline	MOV	Frequency	Results Achieved in 2019
4	New income opportunities in sectors adjusted to local conditions (e.g. agriculture, ethno-tourism, infrastructure and housing construction, service industry) are created	# of small and medium-sized companies created with the support of the MPHSTF	0 (2018)	Project reports	Once a year	0
		# of jobs created in target communities per year	78 (2018)	Project reports	Once a year	123
5	Skills and knowledge of local communities to participate in new industries are to become entrepreneurs, as well as, adaptability to new work conditions for employability are improved	% of people surveyed that are satisfied with their skills levels	61.8 (2017)	Socio-economic survey report	At the end of the project (2023)	To be updated in the next reporting period
		# of people trained and retrained in the specialized centres to improve and develop their entrepreneurial skills/knowledge	0 (2018)	Training records	Once a year	235
6	Investments in local infrastructure serving local communities (e.g. energy, access roads, service industry, banking) are increased	amount of investments in local infrastructure with the support of the MPHSTF, mln. USD	0 (2018)	Project reports	Once a year	0
		% of people surveyed that are satisfied with trade services	51.2 (2017)	Socio-economic survey report	At the end of the project (2023)	To be updated in the next reporting period
		% of people surveyed that are satisfied with the services of banking and financial institutions	54.5 (2017)	Socio-economic survey report	At the end of the project (2023)	To be updated in the next reporting period

OUTCOME 3: Local community access to affordable and healthy food and clean drinking water secured			Baseline	Means of Verification (MOV)	Frequency	Results Achieved in 2019
% of the drinking water supply of houses (apartments)			48.2 (2017)	State statistic	Once a year	54.5
% reduction in malnourishment of the local population: - percentage of children under 5 years age who are wasted due to malnutrition			0.23 (2018)	State statistic	Once a year	0.23
% of household budget spent on food			60 (2017)	Socio-economic survey report	At the end of the project (2023)	To be updated in the next reporting period
Outputs		Output Indicators	Baseline	MOV	Frequency	Results Achieved in 2019
7	Local infrastructure investments for access and distribution of clean water are increased	amount of investments in water access and distribution infrastructure with the support of the MPHSTF, mln. USD	0 (2018)	Project reports	Once a year	0
		% of people surveyed that are satisfied with access to drinking water	33.8 (2017)	Socio-economic survey report	At the end of the project (2023)	To be updated in the next reporting period
8	Local production, processing, storage and sale of diverse, affordable and high-quality food is increased	% increase in the local production of food with the support of the MPHSTF	0 (2018)	Project reports	Once a year	0
		# of created of networks of fruits and vegetables fridge-storage	10 (2018)	Council of Ministers of the Republic of Karakalpakstan data, Project reports	Once a year	12
9	The quality of nutrition is increased through standardization, regulation, monitoring, information, and education	# of newly established or improved food quality checks with support of the MPHSTF	0 (2018)	Project reports	Once a year	0
		# of new crop varieties, adapted and resistant to harsh	0 (2018)	Project reports	Once a year	0

		climatic conditions with the support of the MPHSTF				
		# of newly established or improved biological laboratories with support of the MPHSTF for protection of plants and the prevention of diseases arising from environmental influences	0 (2018)	Project reports	Once a year	0
OUTCOME 4: The overall health of the local population improved, and healthy lifestyle promoted			Baseline	Means of Verification (MOV)	Frequency	Results Achieved in 2019
% reduction in infant and maternal mortality:						
- infant mortality rate (up to 1 year, per 1000 live-born)			16.6	State statistic	Once a year	16.4
- maternal mortality (per 100,000 live births)			28.7 (2018)			27.7
% of the population satisfied with health services			53 (2017)	Socio-economic survey report	At the end of the project (2023)	To be updated in the next reporting period
Outputs		Output Indicators	Baseline	MOV	Frequency	Results Achieved in 2019
10	Investments in local health services and pharmacies (e.g. facilities and equipment) are increased	amount of investments in local health infrastructure with the support of the MPHSTF, mln. USD	0 (2018)	Project reports	Once a year	0
		% of people surveyed that are satisfied with the availability of affordable medicines	32.8 (2017)	Socio-economic survey report	At the end of the project (2023)	To be updated in the next reporting period
		% of medical institutions equipped with equipment	78 (2017)	State statistic	Once a year	78

11	Access to rural health clinics and to medication primarily in remote areas is improved	# of new health clinics and pharmacies with the support of the MPHSTF	0 (2018)	Project reports	Once a year	0
		# of functional rural health clinics strengthened with the support of the MPHSTF	0 (2018)	Project reports	Once a year	0
		doctors/nurses/health care professionals/hospital beds per 10 000 people:				
		- provision with doctors - provision with the nursing staff - provision with in-patient beds	23.1 94.8 39.4 (2017)	State statistic	Once a year	22.9 94.8 40.1
12	The quality of health care is improved through increased professional education	# of health care professionals educated and retrained through distance learning	0 (2018)	Project reports	Once a year	0
13	Healthy lifestyles and practices, drug and alcohol use prevention, as well as, mental health are promoted, including sanitation, vaccination, waste disposal, and local medicinal plants	% of populations responding positively to new healthy lifestyles in survey	0 (2018)	Assessments by independent evaluators	Once a two year	0
		availability of teacher's manual on healthy lifestyle in Karakalpak language	0 (2018)	Project reports	Once per project	0
		# of teachers trained on healthy lifestyles	188 (2018)	Training records	Once a year	0
		# activities conducted on the promotion of healthy lifestyles	0 (2018)	Project reports	Once a year	100

Outcome 5: The living conditions of local populations improved, with particular focus on vulnerable groups such as women, children and youth			Baseline	Means of Verification (MOV)	Frequency	Results Achieved in 2019
% of the population with increased access to social and community services			33.8	Socio-economic survey report	At the end of the project (2023)	To be updated in the next reporting period
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Drinking water - Natural (liquefied) gas 			48.6 (2017)			
% of populations responding positively to living (housing) conditions			65.2 (2017)	Socio-economic survey report	At the end of the project (2023)	To be updated in the next reporting period
Outputs		Output Indicators	Baseline	MOV	Frequency	Results Achieved in 2019
14	Adequate housing appropriate for the local living conditions is provided	adopted standards for the design and construction of residential buildings and social facilities, taking into account the actual ecological and geographic conditions of the Aral Sea region	0	Project reports	Once per project	0
		# of social infrastructure facilities constructed in accordance with the new standard projects that meet local conditions	0	Project reports	Once a year	0
15	Social and community services, including pre-school education and leisure opportunities, and life skill education for	# of new and improved pre-schools with the support of the MPHSTF	0	Project reports	Once a year	0
		% of enrolment of children by pre-school educational institutions	32.7 (2017)	Socio-economic survey report	At the end of the project (2023)	To be updated in the next reporting period

	children and youth are improved	% of people surveyed that are satisfied with the quality of school education	64.5 (2017)	Socio-economic survey report	At the end of the project (2023)	To be updated in the next reporting period
		# of community members and school children covered through youth-led peer to peer education programme with the support of the MPHSTF	0	Training records	Once a year	0
16	The local governance system for addressing the human security needs of the population is improved	% of populations (disaggregated by sex) responding positively to their involvement in the local governance system	0	Independent assessment	Once per project	0
		# of representatives of local authorities participating in special training courses on human security, local development planning, etc.	48 (2018)	Training records	Once a year	200
		% of people surveyed that are satisfied with local public service delivery and ensuring social stability	68 (2017)	Socio-economic survey report	At the end of the project (2023)	To be updated in the next reporting period

ANNEX 2. RISKS AND ISSUES LOG

#	Risks	Character	Impact	Likelihood	Mitigation Strategy	Status
1.	Lack of or limited access or no trust to information about Aral Sea disaster and its impact on the environment, climate change, the socio-economic situation in the Region (The Government strategy in Aral Sea is not fully supported by donors)	Contextual	High	Low	Raising awareness programs promoted among international donors/IFIs and other development partners based on an evidence-based approach.	Ongoing
2.	Low interest from IFIs towards Aral Sea catastrophe (a majority of donors do not have a special emphasis on Aral Sea issue in their Country Strategies in Uzbekistan)	Contextual	High	Medium	Negotiations between the Government and the international partners with the purpose of explaining high importance of the solution of the Aral Sea related problems and triggering donors to include Aral Sea catastrophe thematic in their Country Program Documents.	Ongoing
3.	Lack of cooperation between IFIs in Uzbekistan, including different strategy/financial cycles and procedures	Contextual	Medium	Medium	Meetings with the participation of donors/IFIs, the Government of Uzbekistan representatives and the stakeholders with the purpose to explain the importance and efficiency of an integrated/holistic approach to the solution of the Aral Sea catastrophe related problems.	Ongoing
4.	Natural disasters negatively affect MPTF performance	Contextual	High	Low	Establishment of the contingency plans in case of natural disasters.	Ongoing
5.	Insufficient institutional/operational capacity of UN Participating agencies in supporting the financial, procurement, and management planning and implementation of MPTF and pilot projects	Institutional	High	Low	The possible mitigation measure includes expansion of the operational capacities of the participating UN agencies in accordance with the MPTF operational needs.	Ongoing
6.	The Fund is insufficiently capitalized	Contextual	High	Medium	Scaling down and sequencing programmes to fit available resources.	Ongoing

#	Risks	Character	Impact	Likelihood	Mitigation Strategy	Status
7.	Insufficient national and local absorptive capacities (in terms of financial delivery, procurement, human resources, etc.)	Institutional	Medium	Medium	Development of capacity building measures and proper planning mechanisms to increase national and local absorptive capacities.	Ongoing
8.	Lack of transparency and poor reporting system during project implementation at local level	Institutional	High	Medium	Capacity building of local development actors within MPTF in financial and programmatic reporting.	Ongoing
9.	Low level of sustainability of initiatives launched within the MPTF.	Programmatic	High	Medium	Awareness raising to include the MPTF initiatives into the regional development plans supported by government budget allocations.	Ongoing
10.	Low level of commitment from national/local-level Government to accept/use proposed technologies and methods in Aral Sea region	Programmatic	High	Low	Negotiations between the Government and international development actors on the efficiency of proposed technologies and methods and extensive capacity-building measures.	Ongoing
11.	Insufficient capacities of the national government and local beneficiaries in the use of new techniques and approaches	Programmatic	Medium	Medium	Capacity building of national government and local beneficiaries in use of new techniques and approaches with specific customization to local needs.	Ongoing
12.	Demand for funding from local authorities/ beneficiaries exceeds the available financial resources	Programmatic	Medium	Medium	Regular needs monitoring and updating Programmatic Framework and resource mobilization strategy, as well as prioritizing and scenario setting.	Ongoing
13.	The Programme does not produce the desired results	Programmatic	High	Low	The risk will be mitigated by the continuous monitoring and evaluation of the programme delivery, engagement with local/national partners and the strategy to promote the uptake of evidence produced by the programme.	Ongoing
14.	Beneficiaries are not adequately consulted resulting in ineffective programming.	Programmatic	Medium	Low	Representation by CSOs representative of the population; surveys.	Ongoing