

**UN JOINT PROGRAMME**  
**“BUILDING THE RESILIENCE OF COMMUNITIES AFFECTED BY THE ARAL SEA  
DISASTER THROUGH A MULTI-PARTNER HUMAN SECURITY TRUST FUND”**



**COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT TOWARDS  
SUSTAINABLE RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
IN THE ARAL SEA REGION**

**(The Case of Karakalpakstan)**

**JANUARY 2019**



# BACKGROUND

As a result of the Aral Sea environmental disaster, Karakalpakstan faces devastating human insecurities. To reduce the destructive impact of the Aral Sea crisis, the Government of Uzbekistan, the UN system, bilateral and multilateral donors and many others have been raising awareness of this issue, and seeking to mitigate the human, ecological and economic impacts in the region. As part of these efforts, in 2012 the UN Trust Fund for Human Security supported the first comprehensive and integrated UN Joint Programme 'Sustaining Livelihoods Affected by the Aral Sea disaster' to improve livelihoods, strengthen community development, and mitigate health and environmental risks in Karakalpakstan. The Programme underscored the importance of a multidimensional approach to addressing interconnected challenges and building the resilience of Karakalpakstan's rural communities.

Building on the successes and lessons learned from the first UN Joint Programme, five UN agencies in Uzbekistan, including UNDP, UNESCO, UNICEF, UNFPA and UNV have worked together with the Government to implement the second phase of the UN Joint Programme 'Building the Resilience of Communities Affected by the Aral Sea Disaster Through a Multi-Partner Human Security Trust Fund'. The Programme has been designed in line with the priorities of the Government of Uzbekistan to address environmental challenges, and improving the livelihoods of the population living in the region's affected areas. The Joint Programme has been implementing its activities through joint funding from participating UN agencies, the Government of Uzbekistan, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, Global Water Challenge, and UN Trust Fund for Human Security.

The Joint Programme seeks to mitigate inter-connected risks to human security and build the resilience of communities affected by the Aral Sea disaster through using an integrated and multi-level approach, while also establishing a Multi-Partner Human Security Trust Fund for the Aral Sea region.

The UN Joint Programme integrates the human security concept, proved to be effective in addressing human security challenges faced by individuals and communities impacted by the Aral Sea disaster. The Joint Programme implements interventions which are context-specific, relying on the available local assets and resources, and thereby, empowering participating communities.

One key aspects in addressing the human security needs of populations affected by the Aral Sea disaster were the activities aimed at enhanced access to basic services, and creating additional income generation opportunities. Since 2012, within the field of rural infrastructure development and supporting income generation, the following results were achieved:

- 50 small infrastructure projects were implemented, benefiting over 55,000 rural people (49.5% women) in 57 communities, improving access to basic services including drinking water, electricity, and better healthcare, schools, and pre-school facilities.
- 200 inclusive business projects and demonstration plots were supported, creating over 300 new jobs (46% women) in areas including beekeeping, sewing and crafts, food and milk processing, baking, and others. The population of northern districts have both directly and indirectly benefited from these supported projects.

- Further capacity building activities for healthcare workers were conducted, and the level of health education for the local population was improved. Doctors, nurses and other professionals increased their capacity to address legal issues regarding women’s reproductive health, family planning, and issues related to stigma and discrimination against people infected with tuberculosis. Community volunteers were trained to conduct campaigns against tuberculosis, and to raise awareness of the disease among the local population. The campaign has covered 32,000 households in five districts, with a total of 128,000 people benefiting. Meanwhile, an additional 1,000 community-based volunteers were trained (95.3% women) to conduct campaigns against respiratory, cardiovascular and gastrointestinal diseases, and to promote mother and child health. The campaign has reached over 9,000 rural people in three districts of Karakalpakstan.
- The Investment Guide to Karakalpakstan was published and widely disseminated, providing extensive information on investment opportunities in the region.

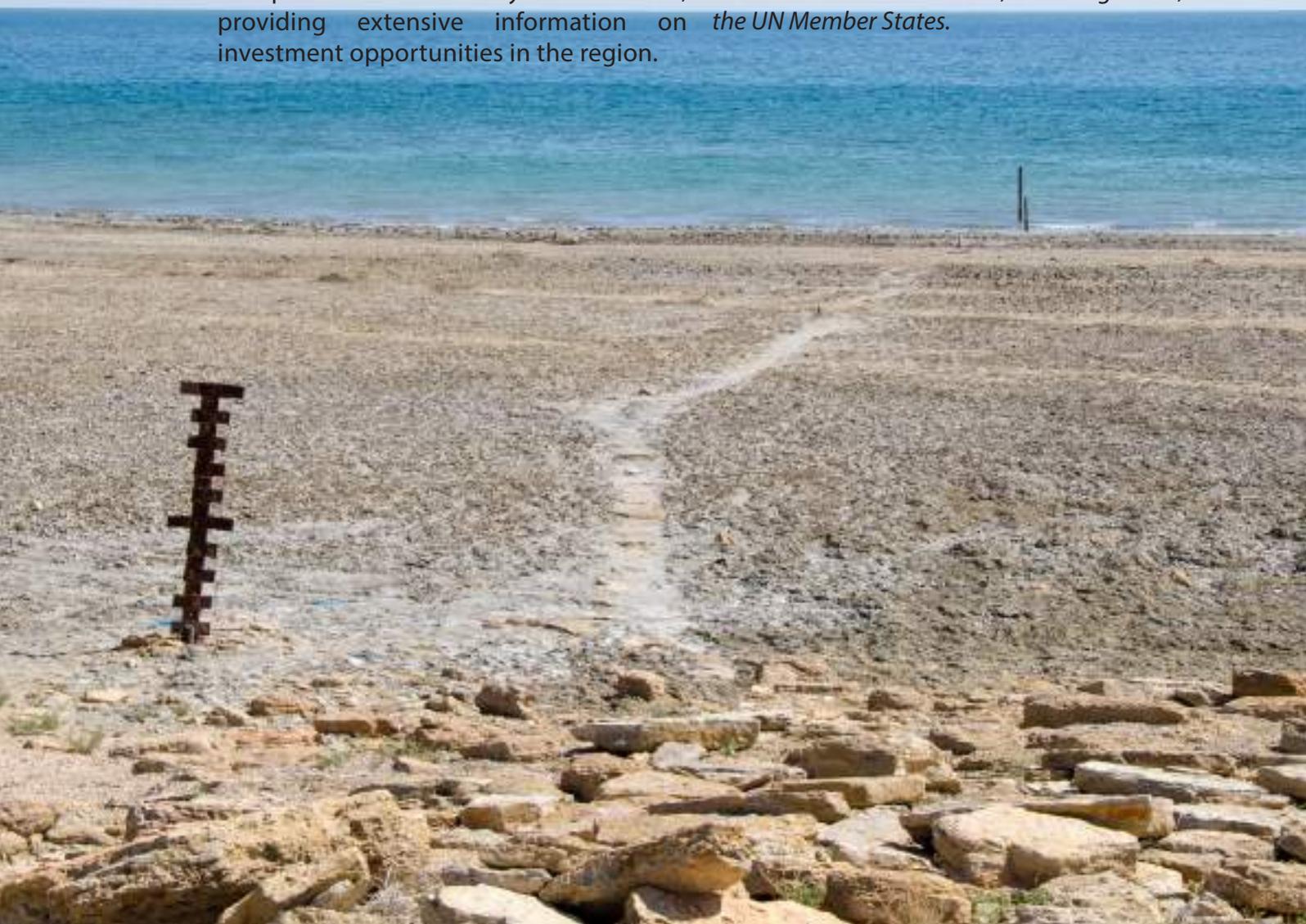
The Programme and its results are the outcomes of cooperation between different UN agencies, government structures, international organizations, and other stakeholders being dedicated to identifying, developing and implementing different tools for mitigating the consequences of the Aral Sea crisis.

During the course of the Programme’s implementation, necessary synergies were established with ongoing State Programmes, including the State Programme for the Aral Sea region, the ‘Obod Kishlok’ Programme, and others.

This publication provides information about the Programme’s approach to community empowerment, through the operationalization of Sustainable Development Goals, and through implementing the human security approach.

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*The views expressed in this publication are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent those of the United Nations, including UNDP, or the UN Member States.*



## ACCESS TO IMPROVED BASIC SOCIAL SERVICES

Within its 'access to basic service delivery' component, the UN Joint Programme worked together with regional and district-level partners of target districts, to ensure local government uses a holistic method to formulate policies which center on the human security approach. The Programme conducted activities at different levels for developing and implementing **Community Development Plans**, intended to expand the rural population's access to and ownership of basic social infrastructures. The use of such methodologies within community development has been a unique approach utilized by the Programme, supporting the interactive participation of local people in planning and decision-making, specifically in regards to addressing priority issues within their communities. Based on this approach, the Programme has conducted capacity building workshops within the most vulnerable communities, assisting citizens to develop people-centered 'Community Development Plans'.

The Programme, using Community Development Plans as its basis, provided the support needed to improve basic social services through funding and implementing over 50 community-based infrastructure projects within remote and vulnerable communities. The following are some highlights from the implemented projects:

### MODERNIZED PUBLIC FACILITIES AT THE TAZA ORAY COMMUNITY IN THE TAKHTAKUPIR DISTRICT

Under this initiative, the Programme has worked in synergy with the Government Programme 'Obod Kishlok' and the State Programme 'Development of the Aral Sea Region' to implement a drinking water supply project for the Taza oray community, located 22km away from the Takhtakupir district center. The Taza oray community has an overall population of 1,476 people comprising of 270 households. The community has a secondary school, a primary healthcare point and a kindergarten, which also benefited from the drinking water project.

The community had an existing but non-functional 'Dawqara' Water Distribution System, which used outdated water purifying equipment. In consultation with the Tuyemoyin Water Supply Management Board, the Takhtakupir district khokimiyat, and community representatives, the project aimed to reconstruct the existing water system. This can be achieved by procuring and installing water purifying equipment and two new pumps, replacing underground pipes inside the system, cleaning and rehabilitating boreholes, renovating the pump station



building, and installing 2000m of polyethylene water pipes for households.

The project has worked with local partners throughout its implementation. The process of enhancing the water distribution system was implemented with the Government funding through the State Programme 'Development of the Aral Sea Region'. Meanwhile, reconstruction works at the

water distribution system of the 'Dawqara' community was successfully completed, with water purification equipment supplied and installed into the system, and polyethylene water pipes installed to cover 90 households, in addition to the 180 households already connected to the network. As a result, the

whole community has gained access to clean drinking water.

The project team conducted community mobilization activities among target beneficiaries, encouraging households to collaborate together to improve their communities.

## NEW WATER INFRASTRUCTURE INSTALLED AT THE KHOJAMET COMMUNITY OF THE TAKHTAKUPIR DISTRICT



Located only 9km away from the center of the Takhtakupir district, the Khojamet community was previously deprived of access to basic utility services. Located in one of the Karakalpakstan's most remote districts, the Khojamet community's primary water sources used to be only shallow, unprotected wells, canals and makeshift hand pumps. The sanitation coverage in the area was in poor condition, with these factors significantly reducing health and productivity among local residents.

The Khojamet community is home to 302 people, and expands every year due to new families being established, and as a result of internal migrations. Local people rely on growing crops and raising livestock, with the water demand for each household being approximately 80 to 100 liters each day. The tiresome burden of maintaining water

supplies falls mainly on the shoulders of the community's women and children.

Considering these challenges, a Water Supply Scheme was implemented in 2018 over a short span of six months, serving primarily to meet the drinking water needs of villagers. With additional participation by the community, the UN Joint Programme collaborated with the local Water Supply System of the Rural Development Department to launch this project. Within the project's scope a workshop was conducted in March 2018 for a group of local community leaders from the Khojamet community.

Participants learnt about how community mobilization and human security concepts could be applied to achieve sustainable goals, and how to address main issues faced in communities. In addition to gaining skills in this field, participants were also provided with an opportunity to exchange their visions, ideas and experiences. They also voluntarily organized a special initiative group, consisting of local representatives including teachers, village elders, plumbers, and community leaders.

Several workshop participants expressed their enthusiasm and support for the project's goals. *"As a representative of the initiative group, I am very happy to have enough water for my family and my neighbourhood,"* said participant Karamatdin Mambetsapaev. *"It is very important that we are protected from waterborne diseases. Having gained key knowledge at the workshop I can now apply it in practice, giving me an opportunity to move forward and to see what results can be achieved."*



Bayimbetova Zubayda, a housewife living in the Khojamet community, said *“I want to thank all those involved in this process, because I now have enough water in my house for irrigation, cooking, cleaning and other household activities. Before, living conditions in the village were quite challenging. I’m proud to make all necessary efforts, as a resident of the Khojamet community, to achieve productive results.”*

At the same time, UNDP organized a water and sanitation workshop for locals of the Khojamet village. Community residents learned how they can improve the quality of drinking water,

while they also discussed personal hygiene and environmental sanitation. In particular, they were taught how to follow hygiene rules, and instruct their children in avoiding the spread of infectious diseases.

Thanks to this water supply project, the village now benefits from a main water supply network, and community members significantly gained in increasing the volume of safe drinking-water. To ensure the project’s sustainability, the community’s initiative group has taken responsibility for the water supply system’s future management.

## BRINGING CLEAN WATER TO THE BERDIBAY COMMUNITY IN KARAKALPAKSTAN’S SHUMANAY DISTRICT

Formerly access to clean water was not possible at the Berdibay community, when the village did not have piped water networks. Nearby communities also had to use water from varied sources, including wells, canals and hand-pumps.

Shinibek was born and raised in the Berdibay community, located some 20km away from the Shumanay district center, and used to fetch water for his family up to four to five times a day. *“I had less time to do my classes, since I had to fetch water to help my family,”* Shinibek said. He could not imagine that one day his family would get water directly from a tap in their own home.

During the winter this difficult and tiresome task became even harder, when Shinibek and others in his community had to walk along slippery paths to the water point. School children who had to collect water had less time to study and do other extracurricular activities, since they had to help parents carry water over long distances. All the while, the quality of the water was not good.

This all changed when in 2017 the UN Joint Programme financed the installation of water pipelines in the community. In turn, community activists took a leading role and inspired everyone to get the materials they need to establish household connections. Almost all households in the village now have access to clean drinking water. Additionally,

community members have contributed to the construction by offering meals, lodging and assistance to construction workers.

*“Piped water reduces the burden of having to walk long distances to fetch contaminated water from hand pumps and wells. Access to safe and clean drinking water has increased, and the school administration can now provide boiled water for students and teachers. Thanks to the UN Joint Programme for its support,”* said Islambek Kurbanov, deputy headmaster of the community’s Secondary School #17.

*“At the moment, water is being pumped directly from a central distribution point to households,”* said Polat Kurbanov, the head of the Shumanay district branch of the Tuyemoyin State Unitary Enterprise. *“This is just the beginning. We have just recently completed four more water supply projects in the district, providing rural communities with access to drinking water, with support from the Joint Programme. These new water projects provide remote communities with clean drinking water, helping to resolve water scarcity issues.”*

According to Polat Kurbanov, these water projects have long been on the government’s waiting list. *“Due to financial issues we were not able to run these projects, although we were aware that people were suffering from a shortage of clean drinking water.”*



As a result of the work, school children have better attendance and performance in class - *"I am happy that soon hygiene and sanitation will be improved in the school, when we get connected to the main pipeline"* said a teacher of Secondary School #17.

For Shinibek, easy access to clean water makes life easier, and gives him more time to focus

on what matters most – schoolwork, friends and family. *"I am very happy to have tap water in our household, which saved the time needed to fetch water from wells and hand pumps that are long distances away,"* he said. *"I can now use this time to do other things I want to do, like attending classes, playing football, and doing extracurricular activities after school."*

## **SCHOOL RENEWAL IN THE ADAI COMMUNITY OF MUYNAK**

The Adai community is often seen as a neglected part of the Muynak district, lying over an hour's drive from the district's center, and home to 43 households. During a past field visit the community's small elementary school building drew everyone's attention — a dilapidated building without access to toilets, and with too few teachers. Community residents said that they had built this school at their own expense, through organizing community work days.

*"The poor condition of the school building hinders us in providing good quality education, while children feel very uncomfortable studying*

*at the school,"* a teacher told us. Indeed, the dark, humid rooms were evidence of the educator's comments.

The walls were made of a reed coating, and as such, electricity was absent in the building. The heat was provided through hand-made furnaces, which made a smoky atmosphere that interfered with the school children's ability to study. The school team and community residents regularly repaired the school building to strengthen and hold its walls, to try to avoid the building's destruction, but their efforts were not sufficient to resolve the issue.

The closest main school is Secondary School #16, located 1km away from the neighboring Ali aul village. It is the only main school in the area, attracting children not just from Adai but also from other nearby villages and hamlets, and as such it faced worries about overcrowding. The major challenge to tackle was to make sure the Adai community's elementary school could be developed enough to accept students who may otherwise put pressure on Secondary School #16.

To work towards a solution, the UN Programme organized a workshop in the Adai village to introduce human security concepts to its citizens, encouraging them to identify community needs, with an initiative group being established as a result. This group's members have been trained in community project identification, prioritization, project formulation, resource mobilization, and capacity monitoring, all of which helped to ensure the sustainability of social infrastructure. As such, community residents, school staff and initiative group members

developed a Community Development Plan to reconstruct the village's primary school.

After great time and effort, the new school building is the pride of the community. *"We do not need to worry about the safety and health of our children anymore"* says the mother of student Fatima.

*"I don't have the words to thank UNDP for the tremendous job they have done in putting students back in modernized class rooms, after several years of studying in poor quality buildings,"* said the headmaster of the Secondary School #16 Janibek Eshmakhonov.

*"UNDP has also provided a platform for local community members to get involved in school reconstruction activities. Awareness raising and capacity building sessions mobilize the community as a whole, and contribute positively in the long run towards development processes."*

Things have changed for the best after the reconstruction of the new school building, with the feeling ecstatic about having a newly school built for them.



## EXPANDING ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES AND CREATING NEW JOBS

Through the Programme's Livelihoods component, which works towards 'expanding economic opportunities and creating new jobs', considerable results have been achieved. These have focused on improving the economic, food and environment security of the target population in Karakalpakstan, by enhancing income generation and capacity building.

The Programme has supported the creation of over 200 business projects and demonstration plots. Those business initiatives and demonstration plots have created hundreds of new jobs within remote, rural communities of the Aral Sea region, helping ensure the economic and food security of the target districts of Karakalpakstan.

### 'SHUMANAY MALIKA-SOFIA' – AN EXAMPLE FOR WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS IN KARAKALPAKSTAN

With the goal of supporting business development across various areas of work and promoting women's economic empowerment in Karakalpakstan, the Joint Programme has supported the establishment of a beauty salon in the Shumanay district by entrepreneur Sayatkhan Ametova. *"Being a mother, an entrepreneur and a respected hair stylist is a personal victory,"* Sayatkhan said, having achieved her goal through resilience, persistence and commitment.

Sayatkhan was born and brought up in the Shumanay district, 70km away from Karakalpakstan's capital, and is proud to be the 'Shumanay Malika-Sofia' salon. Her business is dedicated to providing consistently-high customer satisfaction through offering an excellent and affordable service in an enjoyable atmosphere. It is her community's most up-to-date and valued business of its kind.

An alumna from the Karakalpak State University with Honors in Economics,

Sayatkhan was also a head inspector at Agro Bank for 5 years. However, her passion was calling her, so she dropped her job to pave her way to becoming one of the most successful women in Shumanay. It seemed an unattainable dream for local women to have an up-to-date beauty salon in such an isolated place as Shumanay, but Sayatkhan was motivated to make this dream come true.

*"My mother has always corrected me — when I say 'I can't' — she says 'yes you can!'"* Sayatkhan said. *"Growing up with parents who supported my artistic ability and allowed me to freely express my talent, gave me the best years ever. They taught me that I could do anything if I tried hard enough, stayed focused and grounded, and never gave up."*

Sayatkhan established the beauty salon back in 2016, but unfortunately at that time she could not make it work due to having insufficient financial resources, and a lack of experience in designing business proposals which would help her get funding.



Presently, Sayatkhan was able to build a large clientele through her hard work and dedication. She and her talented team of beauticians have the potential and resources to make this venture an extremely successful one, through offering a range of services in one setting, and providing extended business hours.

These business development projects helped yo improve the entrepreneurial skills of rural women, offering employment and creating additional source of income, but most importantly, helping to strengthen the economic security of women and socially-vulnerable families.

## **THE STORY OF THE 'BORSHI' FAMILY ENTERPRISE OF THE TAKHTAKUPIR DISTRICT**

Most of the Takhtakupir district's population depends on agriculture and livestock breeding for household food security, livelihoods and incomes, relying greatly on the 'Kuanysh Jarma' canal in what is often a drought-prone area. Being located 100km away from the region capital also makes Takhtakupir one of the region's most remote areas, which borders

Kazakhstan in the south and mostly consists of Kyzylkum sands.

The unemployment rate is also higher than it is in other neighboring districts, with each year the majority of youth leaving for neighboring countries to seek better job opportunities. Others chose to stay behind to contribute to

the district economy while generating enough income to live on - a choice which is not always an easy one. Over past years, the government takes the efforts to generate employment in the district, especially, for young people and women, but women, in particular, face challenges including the need to balance home and work life, their financial limitations and lack of direct ownership of property, and the general shortage of role models to help boost confidence. These are factors hamper both women's employment and personal fulfilment in life. However, the success of woman entrepreneur Marziya Esemuratova, who set up the 'Borshi' family enterprise in the district with support from her husband and other family members, demonstrates that success can be achieved through hard work and firmness of purpose

In 2017 the UN Joint Programme arranged workshops for women in Takhtakupir. Marziya was inspired to launch her business when, while searching for a job, she heard about the workshop and decided to take part. She developed a small business proposal which was reviewed and successfully approved by the Business Review Committee.

We can proudly state that Marziya's enterprise embodies the best practices of family-owned businesses, which includes its adaptability to changing situations, its succession planning, its delegation of distinct roles to family members, and its combined professional nature and family-oriented focus on people. Our partnership with the 'Borshi' enterprise has helped ensure food security in the community by providing different packaged foods to Takhtakupir's population, while also laying plans to extend the provision of services to other Karakalpakstan districts.



Today the enterprise continues to thrive by serving the needs of independent specialty and natural foods retailers in the Takhtakupir and Chimbay districts, offering exceptional service, high-quality products, and customized sales programs.

## THE SUCCESS STORY OF A BAKERY IN THE MADELI COMMUNITY OF THE MUYNAK DISTRICT

The Muynak district of northern Karakalpakstan, with a formerly-thriving sea port which beforebordered the coast, turned into a damaged land through the impacts of intensive crop irrigation. Its most eerie landmark is a graveyard of beached ships

which stands in mute testimony to the Aral Sea disaster. The Muynak fish cannery which once provided numerous jobs has now stopped operating, with its building partly dismantled. In recent years, to mitigate the disaster's burden on the district and ensure



the effective implementation of the human security approach, the UN Joint Programme and local government contributed to improving the district's economic condition.

In 2017 the UN Joint Programme held a workshop on Community Development in the Muynak district. When people asked if they had ever had any ideas about ways to generate income, Zamira Sarsenova said she was dreaming of creating a small bakery in her community, to ensure that local people do not travel to the district center to buy everyday products. To support this initiative and promote women business project in the community, the Review Committee members selected the bakery for further co-financing through the UN Joint Programme.

The success of this bakery has become a proof of the entrepreneur's dedication to hard work, and building a business model despite the challenges faced. Zamira is an ordinary woman from the Madeli community, in the Muynak area, dedicating her life to her children and family, and never thinking to

leave her community and seeking education opportunities or better work options beyond.

However, after the breakup of the former Soviet Union, like everyone in her community Zamira became unemployed and had to leave for neighboring countries to find better job opportunities. It was not easy for her to get a good job in Kazakhstan, and so she sought out temporary jobs in Muynak. After working a number of low paying jobs in the community Zamira decided it was time to open her own business, but she still did not have enough capacity to launch a new enterprise.

After taking part in the 'Empowering Women Entrepreneurship' workshop organized by UNDP, Zamira developed a project proposal and was able to attain approval from the business review committee in February 2018. The Programme helped her to procure a dough mixer, and presently, she is able to expand her business to meet the needs of greater number of consumers. With support of local authorities Zamira was able to acquire free premise for her business.

To date the bakery has created three new job places, two taken by women and one by a man, and provides fresh bread to people from Madeli and neighboring communities. In a short time, the bakery created a very good reputation. With support of the local

officials and the UN Programme, Zamira hopes to further expand her business, and add an adjoining workshop, allowing her to employ more people and have an even greater positive impact on her community.

## AN INNOVATIVE APPROACH TO FOOD SECURITY IMPLEMENTED BY THE MONSHAQLI VILLAGE COUNCIL OF CITIZENS OF THE SHUMANAY DISTRICT

The Shumanay district is home to more than 54,000 people, 51% being women, with an economy mainly driven to date by agriculture and services. Most recently industry is becoming a greater part of the district economy, due to recent government reforms on developing rural areas for 2017-2021.

Logistically the district is placed in a favorable location, around 85km from Karakalpakstan's capital city of Nukus, giving it a comparatively influential position in terms of transporting agricultural and industrial products to the region's marketplaces. Local farmers and households are able to easily market their products at local and regional bazaars.

Agriculture is a key part of the district's economy, a sector growing by 8.2% each year, with 206 farmers and 1,235 households currently engaged in agriculture. Every year approximately 1,004.4 tons of fruits and vegetables produced for consumption and sale. While there is an ability to produce agricultural products in excess during the summer, with considerably lower sale prices, there are fewer, less affordable fruits and vegetables during the winter months.

To help resolve this issue, the UN Joint Programme's Income Generation Component has collaborated with local partners at the Monshaqli village council of citizens in the Shumanay district to create storage for fruits and vegetables, with the capacity to store 100 tons at any given time. Thanks to the storage, more than 15,000 people have benefitted from having access to fruits and vegetables at affordable prices throughout the winter and spring seasons, while more

than 30 farmers and households created value chains for storing and processing produce at their own premises.



*"Now we have built good business connections with farmers, households and consumers," business project initiator Sadatdin Koshkarov said. "Previously farmers and households were unable to profit from surplus fruits and vegetables, but now they can thanks to their new storage abilities."*

*"The improvements also create better price stability at local bazaars, especially during winter and spring times, which is of course good for local people. In other words, there is a 'win-win' situation."*



## THE UN JOINT PROGRAMME'S BEST-PRACTICES

- Through a careful **evidence-based analysis** (conducted in cooperation with the Council of Ministers and khokimiyats, through the implementation of surveys, monitoring and evaluation processes, grass root inputs/community development planning, and other tools) and drawing strongly on the **participatory approach**, the Programme has been highly successful in targeting those in need. This approach should be further fostered within regional initiatives.
- Value-adding through the application of **an integrated approach** to local development, and the identification of linkages and synergies between livelihood, health and infrastructure development components, have both helped to ensure the efficiency and effectiveness of project results.
- **Partnership building**, through engaging national, regional and local institutions in programme implementation, enhanced programme relevance and increased long-term sustainability. Further cooperation with government institutions resulted in further identification of the best practices and approaches for integrating them into the State Programme on mitigating the Aral Sea disaster's consequences.
- More engagement in supporting the Government to develop **long-term regional strategic planning** resulted in strong institutions and mechanisms for responding to long-running and complex issues (including Regional Strategy Development, database development, and the Muynak district development prospective until 2030). Consequently, a comprehensive needs assessment and development framework for the region was elaborated to enhance government capacity and ownership for long-term regional development.
- The Programme convincingly demonstrated the benefits of coordinated efforts by **regional level donors** to improve livelihoods, through partnering with SDC, JICA, TIKA, the Coca Cola Foundation, the Global Water Challenge, MASHAV, GIZ, GEF SGP, MSF and the British Embassy in Tashkent. This coordination will be further fostered within the established Multi-Partner Human Security Trust Fund for the Aral Sea region.

# PROPOSAL FOR UPSCALING PROGRAMME RESULTS THROUGH THE MULTI-PARTNER HUMAN SECURITY TRUST FUND FOR THE ARAL SEA REGION

While the results of the Government's work and the UN Joint Programme have already benefited the local population, suffering from the combined negative consequences of the Aral Sea crisis, the scale of this crisis remains huge. Therefore on the initiative of the Government of Uzbekistan, Multi-Partner Human Security Trust Fund for the Aral Sea has been recently established with the purpose of ensuring greater coherence and coordination, while also ensuring innovation and a constant focus on people.

The Multi-Partner Human Security Trust Fund for the Aral Sea region aims to be transformative, evidence- and human-rights based, and inclusive in its goal of catalyzing and strengthening a multi-sectoral and people-centered response to addressing the consequences of one of the world's biggest man-made environmental disasters. Multi-Partner Human Security Trust Fund for the Aral Sea provides a coherent strategy to coordinate aid flows and increase government ownership, to enable sustainable results.

The Multi-Partner Human Security Trust Fund for the Aral Sea theory of change has identified six clusters of inter-related problems, including:

- ▶ Environmental insecurity;
- ▶ Economic insecurity;
- ▶ Food insecurity;
- ▶ Health insecurity;
- ▶ Social insecurity;
- ▶ Ineffectiveness of donor assistance.

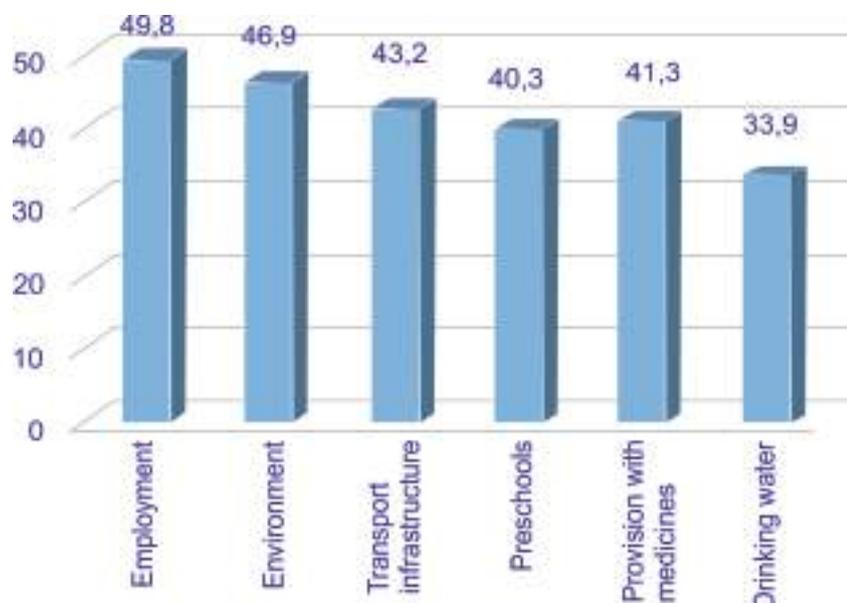
In line with the Busan development effectiveness principles on local ownership, focus on results, partnership of development partners, and transparency of aid, Multi-Partner Human

Security Trust Fund for the Aral Sea's mission is to make a positive contribution in the area of development coordination.

Assistance within Multi-Partner Human Security Trust Fund for the Aral Sea will be provided in accordance with a single programmatic framework, based on the needs assessment identified through independent socio-economic survey conducted in 2017 within communities mostly affected by the Aral Sea environmental disaster.

The Multi-Partner Human Security Trust Fund for the Aral Sea governance arrangements ensures an efficient and effective decision-

**Figure 1. The population's prioritized basic needs, by percentage, as determined through needs assessment (2017)**





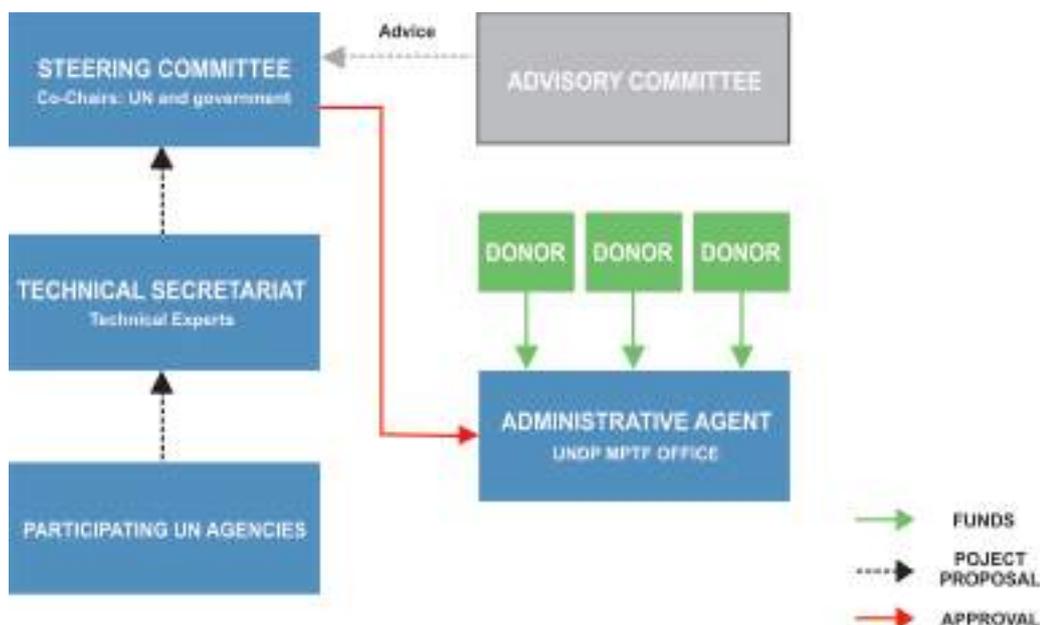
making and oversight framework, providing streamlined allocation processes and clear lines of accountability. Governance arrangements

is built on and informed by the principles of inclusiveness, transparency and accountability, which have proven their relevance worldwide.

## HOW TO CONTRIBUTE

Contributions to the Multi-Partner Human Security Trust Fund for the Aral Sea may be accepted from governments, bi-lateral and multi-lateral donors, individuals, and the private sector. In order to contribute to the Fund, the Standard Administrative Arrangements with the Administrative Agent needs to be signed.

Contributors are encouraged to make un-earmarked contributions for the effective administration of the Multi-Partner Human Security Trust Fund for the Aral Sea's resources in implementing its strategy. However, earmarked contributions by individual donors can be accepted, providing that earmarking is at the fund outcome level, and contributes to the achievement of the fund strategy.







## UN JOINT PROGRAMME

**Building the Resilience of Communities Affected by the Aral Sea Disaster  
Through the Multi-Partner Human Security Fund for the Aral Sea**

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