



**UNITED NATIONS  
KYRGYZ REPUBLIC**



**UNITED NATIONS  
IN KYRGYZSTAN  
ANNUAL RESULTS REPORT 2023**



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# FOREWORD BY THE RESIDENT COORDINATOR



**Dear partners and colleagues,**

I am pleased to present this Annual Results Report 2023 of the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in the Kyrgyz Republic. This is the first report under the new United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2023-2027. It showcases the collective work of the UNCT, in partnership with the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic, in the implementation of Kyrgyzstan's national development priorities and progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The Report presents progress made in all four priority areas outlined in the UNSDCF. As the UN system entered into the first year of implementation of the Cooperation Framework, in partnership with the Government and many other counterparts, it enhanced coordination, increased alignment with national priorities and strengthened human rights-based approaches to programming and evidence-based policy advice.

During 2023, the Kyrgyz Republic continued to contribute to global development debates and processes. Underlining the country's strong commitment to the SDGs, the President presented two transformative national commitments at the SDG Summit in September 2023: Inclusive quality education and the green economy, both underpinning reducing poverty and inequality as key priorities. In 2023, the Kyrgyz Republic also participated at the 28<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties (COP28) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), reaffirming the Government's commitment to carbon neutrality by 2050 and, initiating an expert dialogue on mountains and climate change within the COP framework. Building on this momentum, the UNCT will continue supporting Government's participation in COP 29 and the Summit of the Future and work in partnership with the all relevant actors towards the implementation of commitments made.

I wish to avail of this opportunity to thank the Presidential Administration, the Cabinet of Ministers and other relevant State institutions at all governance levels for the outstanding partnership and effective collaboration with the UN development system in Kyrgyzstan. I would also like to express sincere appreciation to all UN partners from civil society, women, youth and human rights groups, the private sector, academia and media, as well as development partners and multilateral and bilateral donors, who all play an instrumental role in advancing the SDGs in Kyrgyzstan.

Last but certainly not least, I wish to thank the dedicated staff of all UN Agencies, Funds and Programs working in and on Kyrgyzstan, for their tireless work throughout the year to improve the quality of life for the people of Kyrgyzstan. Thank you.

Antje Grawe  
United Nations Resident Coordinator

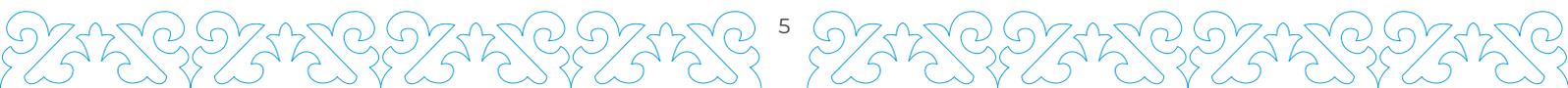


# UNITED NATIONS COUNTRY TEAM IN THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

## RESIDENT AGENCIES



## NON-RESIDENT AGENCIES



# KEY DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS OF THE UN DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM IN THE COUNTRY

## GOVERNMENTS

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
|  Republic of Austria   |  French Republic                            |  Kingdom of Norway                                      |
|  Kingdom of Belgium    |  Federal Republic of Germany                |  Russian Federation                                     |
|  Republic of Canada    |  State of Japan                             |  Kingdom of Sweden                                      |
|  Republic of China     |  Republic of Kazakhstan                     |  Swiss Confederation                                    |
|  Kingdom of Denmark   |  Republic of Korea                         |  Republic of Türkiye                                   |
|  Republic of Estonia |  Kyrgyz Republic                          |  United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland |
|  European Union      |  Grand Duchy of Luxembourg                |  |
|  Republic of Finland |  Republic of the Seven United Netherlands |  |

## GOVERNMENTS VIA DEVELOPMENT AGENCIES

- |   |   |   |  |   |
|---|---|---|--|---|
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |

## MULTI-TRUST FUNDS

- |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |   |



CHAPTER

01

**KEY DEVELOPMENTS  
IN THE COUNTRY AND  
REGIONAL CONTEXT**



Population  
about  
**7 mln**

Census 2022



Population growth  
(annual %)  
**2,9**

2022, World Bank



GDP  
(current US\$)  
**11,52 bln**

2022, World Bank



GDP per capita  
(current US\$)  
**1,655.1**

2022, World Bank

Kyrgyzstan is a land-locked, lower-middle-income country with a population of about 7 million people.<sup>1</sup> With over 80% of the country within the Tian Shan Mountain chain, 4% of landmass remains permanently under ice and snow. Its geography and topography make it one of the most hazard-prone countries in Central Asia. A range of natural hazards affect the country with earthquakes being the most common. Other climate-related hazards include drought, land and mudslides, flash floods, and glacier lake outburst floods, all of which contribute to significant levels of disaster risks.<sup>2</sup> The World Bank's data suggests that natural hazards incur major economic losses between 0.5 and 1.3% of annual gross domestic product.<sup>3</sup>

With a current GDP of \$ 11.52 billion (World Bank<sup>4</sup>), the Kyrgyz economy is heavily dependent on remittances, gold production and foreign aid and as a result is vulnerable to external shocks. The limited economic opportunities in the country have led to a high level of labor migration with approximately one million people working abroad, amounting to 40% of the labor force. The money labor migrants send back home to support their families amounts to one-third of the country's GDP - one of the highest remittances rates in the world. According to

the IMF 2023 Report, Kyrgyzstan made notable progress in reducing poverty before the pandemic. However, poverty rates increased as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, further exacerbated by a spike in food and energy prices and inflation.<sup>5</sup> The National Multidimensional Poverty Index, annually measured by the National Statistics Committee, reveals significant levels of deprivation across five critical dimensions of well-being: monetary poverty, education, health, food security, and living conditions.

The Kyrgyz Government's national development priorities in the short to medium term are laid down in the National Development Strategy 2026. At the SDG Summit, President Japarov presented two transformative national commitments for SDG acceleration: Inclusive quality education and green economy, both underpinning reducing poverty and inequality, both reflecting national aspirations and the government's priorities. The President highlighted that the foremost SDG – eradicating poverty – had seen significant progress within Kyrgyzstan before the strike of the COVID-19 pandemic which, along with other subsequent events, has adversely affected the poverty reduction momentum. To address this, he emphasized that fortifying fair and inclusive

<sup>1</sup> Population and Housing Census 2022, <https://stat.kg/ru/publications/perepis-naseleniya-i-zhilishnogo-fonda-kyrgyzskoj-respubliki-2022-goda-kg-i-osnovnye-socialno-demograficheskie-harakteristiki/>

<sup>2</sup> [https://climateknowledgeportal.worldbank.org/sites/default/files/2021-09/15814-WB\\_Kyrgyz%20Republic%20Country%20Profile-WEB.pdf](https://climateknowledgeportal.worldbank.org/sites/default/files/2021-09/15814-WB_Kyrgyz%20Republic%20Country%20Profile-WEB.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> <https://climateknowledgeportal.worldbank.org/country/kyrgyz-republic/vulnerability>

<sup>4</sup> <https://data.worldbank.org/country/kyrgyz-republic>

<sup>5</sup> [https://www.elibrary.imf.org/configurable/content/journals\\$002f002\\$002f2023\\$002f092\\$002farticle-A003-en.xml?t:ac=journal%24002f002%24002f2023%24002f092%24002farticle-A003-en.xml](https://www.elibrary.imf.org/configurable/content/journals$002f002$002f2023$002f092$002farticle-A003-en.xml?t:ac=journal%24002f002%24002f2023%24002f092%24002farticle-A003-en.xml)





GDP growth  
(annual %)

6.3

2022, World Bank



Net  
migration

-9,999

2022, World Bank



SDG Index  
Rank

45

out of 166



SDG Index  
Score

74.4

Regional average: 71.8

social protection systems is vital for reversing the adverse trend and resuming progress towards poverty alleviation.

As an immediate follow-up, a Development Forum was organized in partnership with the UN. The President reaffirmed eradication of poverty and inequality as the state's top priority and the Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers outlined five strategic approaches for realization, including education and healthcare services as the basis for innovative and technology-driven development and social well-being.

The five national priorities pronounced at the Development Forum, that will set a course towards a resilient and prosperous future in 2024 and beyond, were:

**1. Strengthening State Institutional Capacity:** This goal reflects an understanding that robust institutions, particularly in state's financial and administrative management, are the backbone of a functioning and progressive state.

**2. Enhancing Education and Healthcare:** The quality of education and healthcare services is to be elevated as they are considered the foundation for innovative development and the so-

cial well-being of Kyrgyzstan's citizens. Investment in these areas is seen as an investment in the country's future human capital.

**3. Promoting Sustainable Economic Growth:** Stimulate sustainable economic growth and job creation, with special focus on the development of regional areas. This approach aims to decentralize development and ensure balanced growth across the country.

**4. International Cooperation and Resource Mobilization:** Expanding cooperation with international partners to mobilize resources and acquire new technologies and knowledge. This includes accessing global financial markets, enhancing exports, and drawing foreign investment, crucial for integrating Kyrgyzstan into the global economy.

**5. Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change:** Kyrgyzstan is dedicated to promoting environmental sustainability and taking actions to mitigate and adapt to global climate change. Recognizing the importance of protecting the environment to ensure the sustainable development of the country, this goal aims to align economic growth with ecological balance.



Additionally, Kyrgyzstan continued to drive several initiatives at global and national level. Following the adoption of the Five-Year Action Plan for the Development of Mountain Regions 2023 – 2027 by the UN General Assembly in December 2022, the Government has conceptualized, in close consultation with the UN and other partners, the global and national action plans for implementation. Kyrgyzstan also participated in the 28<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties (COP28) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). In preparation thereof, a National Forum on Climate Change was organized by the UN. At COP 28, the President reaffirmed the commitment to carbon neutrality by 2050, this notwithstanding that Kyrgyzstan is responsible for only three-hundredths of a percent of the global carbon concentration in the atmosphere. The Government also advocated successfully for the specific concerns of mountain regions about climate change, leading to an agreement at COP 28 to organize an Expert Dialogue on mountains and climate change at the 60<sup>th</sup> session of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) in June 2024 in Bonn.

Notwithstanding the above national aspiration, challenges, and opportunities, it is worthwhile to look at Kyrgyzstan's overall progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In terms of progress related to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), according to the Sustainable Development Report 2023<sup>6</sup>, Kyrgyzstan ranks 45 out of 166 countries. The country score of Kyrgyzstan is 74.4, against the regional average of 71.8. In 2022, it ranked 47 out of 165 countries with a country score of 74 against the regional average of 71.4. With this context, the Government has already formally submitted to present the second National Voluntary Review in 2025. The SDG Working Group in Parliament remained active throughout 2023, organizing Parliamentary debates on SDGs and enhancing its

monitoring role over the execution of national programmes aimed to advance progress.

In 2023, Kyrgyzstan joined the Human Rights Council as a member from 2023–25. One of the potential stumbling blocks in advancing inclusive sustainable development and the SDGs has been further shrinking civic space, as a result of the curtailment of fundamental freedoms, particularly the freedom of expression, the media, peaceful assembly, and association and the introduction of controversial legislative initiatives which would restrict civil society organizations and the media. The development community was particularly concerned over the draft laws on non-commercial organizations and the media, potentially impacting operations and service delivery of both civil society organizations and development partners, including the UN, thereby possibly affecting progress towards the SDGs, Kyrgyzstan's national development plans and the country's human rights obligations and commitments. Moreover, a public discourse over traditional values could potentially negatively affect gender equality and women's empowerment.

An agreement on the Kyrgyz-Uzbek border signed in January 2023 led not only to the opening of additional crossing points at the border but also spurred bilateral trade and economic and cultural cooperation, helping to significantly enhance regional stability and good-neighborly relations. Working groups on border demarcation met at the technical level during the year.

The situation at the border with Tajikistan remained calm with reported significant progress in the border delimitations talks by the end of 2023, details of which are yet to be disclosed. Working groups of government and law-enforcement delegations of Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan held meetings at the technical level throughout 2023, building momentum towards a possible border deal.

<sup>6</sup> <https://sdgs.un.org/gsdrgsd2023>

CHAPTER

02

**UN DEVELOPMENT  
SYSTEM SUPPORT TO  
NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT  
PRIORITIES THROUGH  
THE COOPERATION  
FRAMEWORK**



## 2.1. OVERVIEW OF COOPERATION FRAMEWORK RESULTS

The UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2023-2027 is the principal instrument guiding the cooperation between the UN system in Kyrgyzstan and the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic under the reformed UN Development system. It articulates the priority areas for cooperation, which are aligned with Kyrgyzstan’s national development priorities, plans and policies, including the National Development Strategy of the Kyrgyz Republic for 2018-2040 and the National Development Strategy Until 2026. It also articulates the principles of cooperation to advance the effectiveness and efficiency of UN support for SDG policy and financing solutions and strengthen system – wide transparency and accountability for results.

The UNSDCF is furthermore rooted in the normative agenda of the UN and pursues the principle of “Leaving No One Behind”. Reaching those most marginalized, protecting and promoting human rights, advancing gender equality, deepening resilience, ensuring sustainability, and upholding accountability, represent the core principles of the UNSDCF.

The UNSDCF, a centerpiece of the UN development system reforms, is based on the Common Country Analysis (CCA) conducted in 2021 and updated in 2022 which analyzed the key development opportunities and challenges based on which the priority areas were identified. The Framework is implemented through so-called Joint Work Plans, developed jointly with the government and other relevant partners including civil society and the private sector through inclusive multi-stakeholder consultations.

**The UNSDCF 2023-2027 has four priorities:**

1. Equitable access to quality social services (education, health, social protection) and decent work
2. Inclusive green socio-economic development
3. Inclusive approaches to climate action, disaster risk management and environmental protection
4. Just, accountable and inclusive institutions and a civil society for peace, cohesion and human rights





A high-level Strategic Coordination Committee, co-chaired by the Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers and the UN Resident Coordinator provides strategic guidance on the implementation of the UNSDCF on the basis of an annual review of progress.

The four priority areas of the UNSDCF are steered by corresponding Results Groups (RG), co-chaired by UN agency head and Government counterpart. The RG Co-Chairs ensure coherence within their Outcome groups and apply an integrated approach to addressing emerging development issues. In this regard, RG Co-Chairs ensure regular engagement with the UNCT thematic groups and vice versa.

In implementation of the new UNSDCF, under the leadership of the UN Resident Coordinator (UNRC), the UN system leveraged the whole-of-the-UN support (Comprising of 26 UN agencies) to address country needs and priorities in a coordinated manner across sectors. Coherent and integrated policy advice resulted in strengthened government capacity and at times, policy changes. The public sector's capacity to advance progress on SDGs was enhanced through multiple forms of policy contributions – analy-

ses, advice, draft policies and legislations, etc., hence supporting the Kyrgyz Government's decisions and plans. Policy changes or policy design were backed by evidence and data. Another area of support has been to increase the Government's capacity to engage in the global development dialogue, such as the SDG Summit, COP 28 and follow-up to the Transforming Education Summit convened by the UN Secretary-General in 2022.

During 2023, a major achievement of the UN system was the provision of the humanitarian assistance in Batken region, impacted as a result of the escalation of violence on the border between Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. The UN mobilized 18 humanitarian organizations to assist more than 89,000 people with delivery of urgent lifesaving assistance, restoring conditions of safety and dignity, and providing emergency livelihoods assistance to enable the resumption of basic productive activities.

This Report captures progress made during the first year of the implementation of the UNSDCF 2023-2027, which can be summarized in the four priority areas as follows:



## PRIORITY AREA 1

### **Equitable access to quality social services (education, health, social protection) and decent work**

The focus of this priority area is to support national efforts to respond to people's needs by ensuring equitable access to quality social services including education, health, social protection and decent work through effective policies and appropriate financing mechanisms with the participation of all parties.

The UN support included the following [details in section 2.2]:

1. Making national and local policies, plans, budgets and funding mechanisms evidence-based and responsive to people's needs.
2. Improving the quality of social services (health, education, social protection, employment, labour, etc.).
3. Equipping vulnerable groups of society with skills and knowledge to make positive chang-

es in the social norms of society and are empowered to participate in all spheres of life and to assert their rights.

During the first year of UNSDCF implementation, several social protection policies were informed by UN commissioned studies and evidence, such as the Core Diagnostic Instrument (CODI), Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS), data SOPs and redesigning of the labor force survey. The gaps thus identified helped in informing policy decisions by the Government dealing with poverty, ratification of international labor standards and improving cash disbursement to the poor. In health, the focus remained on telemedicine and digitalization, complemented by the development of a comprehensive Action Plan for 2024-2030. Mater-

nal and neonatal health were also supported via digital solutions in obstetrics through web-based surveillance and telemedicine.

In education, the conclusion of the Partnership Compact<sup>7</sup> was a significant achievement to enable Kyrgyzstan to apply for funding from the Global Partnership for Education. A study on digital connectivity enabled the Government to optimize Internet (improved connectivity through better Internet infrastructure) in

learning. The UN continued to meet nutritional deficiencies of school pupils through fortified and nutritious food and conducted studies to analyze sustainability of school meals programme with the introduction of the voucher system. Unconditional transfers to vulnerable people and provision of knowledge on food and nutrition to the staff of social institutions (orphanages, old homes, etc.) largely helped tackle the food insecurity.



## PRIORITY AREA 2

### Inclusive green socio-economic development

Priority area 2 is focused on supporting national efforts to promote prosperity and resilience for all citizens through inclusive green socio-economic development. The UN supported green and inclusive economic growth through the following [details in section 2.2]:

1. Increased public and private investments in women’s entrepreneurship.
2. Easing regulatory and procedural obstacles to international trade.
3. Improved export competitiveness especially for MSMEs and SMEs.
4. Support the development of strategic policies and legislation in agriculture.
5. Support integrating migration into economic activities.
6. Support creative industries and innovative technologies.

About 280 women entrepreneurs benefited from the value chain studies and policy recommendations on agricultural cooperatives complemented by several business fairs and exhibitions. About 2000 agriculturists (half being women) also benefited from training on good agricultural practices, thus increasing marketability of food products. In 40 districts

of the country, more than 316,733 people benefited from income-generating projects. The UN facilitated the reintegration of returning migrants through matching grants for business initiation and helped in the development of a migration data management system for informed policy decisions.

Kyrgyzstan’s international trade was promoted through support to the Trade Portal<sup>8</sup>, digitization of the e-Accreditation Centre and digital mapping of 17 state agencies. The UN supported the Medium and Small Enterprises (MSME) participation in five international trade fairs benefiting at least 27 companies (22 women-led) that secured export contracts of around \$ 3 million and signed 85 new contracts. Overall, export rose to \$ 20.3 million.

In high-tech area, the UN supported deployment of 5G networks and innovative technologies. This included an assessment of the country’s digital resilience, supporting the establishment of a national Cyber Incidents Response Team in collaboration with the World Bank, and promoting digital agriculture.

<sup>7</sup> A fund aimed to transform education systems in lower-income countries, focusing on leaving no one behind.



### PRIORITY AREA 3

#### Inclusive approaches to climate action, disaster risk management and environmental protection

The focus in this priority area is to support national efforts to promote inclusive approaches to climate action, disaster risk management, and environmental protection to conserve natural resources and leverage ecosystem benefits for sustainable human development. The UN supported through the following [details in section 2.2]:

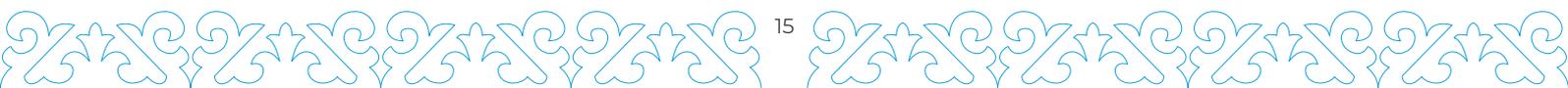
1. Climate change policies and actions.
2. Energy sector, policy and legislation development.
3. Environmental protection, policies and legislation development.

In the area of climate action, the mainstay of the UN support has been to support the implementation of national priorities in line with international obligations. This includes achieving carbon neutrality by 2050 (as reiterated by the President at COP 28), NDC commitments, and the development of a national strategy for phasing out hydrofluorocarbon, in line with the Kigali Amendment of the Montreal Protocol. The Inter-Ministerial Commission on Air Pollution in Bishkek was supported through a multi-stakeholder platform under the UN, and joint policy studies of relevant development partners including the UN, IFIs and others, leading to the adoption of several remedial

measures, including the extension of gas pipelines, subsidies (\$11 million) and incentivizing renewable energy.

For environmental protection and sustainable management of protected areas, a five-year management plan with a corresponding budget was developed. Alternative livelihoods were provided through the UN grants, benefiting 744 individuals (60% being women) in Al-tai and Kanachuu national parks. The national capacity for biosafety policy was enhanced through the UN expert support for revising legislation and policies, and development of the Fourth National Report on the Implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the construction of two central stores for obsolete pesticides. The UN grants also supported social development and health initiatives in areas affected by uranium mining. Infrastructure enhancements, including the operationalization of 3 avalanche stations and the establishment of fire and rescue stations in vulnerable areas, alongside improvements in protected areas, are tangible attestations of progress. UN's commitment to system-based resilience integrated cutting-edge technologies for risk communication and notably advanced disaster risk management.

<sup>8</sup> An online platform that provides a step-by-step description of import, export and transit procedures from a trader's perspective.





## PRIORITY AREA 4

### **Just, accountable and inclusive institutions and a civil society for peace, cohesion and human rights**

This priority area is focused on supporting national efforts to promote just, accountable, and inclusive institutions and a civil society that fosters peace, cohesion, and human rights for all. The modalities of the UN support focused on the following [details in section 2.2]:

1. Accountable, participatory, transparent and effective governance systems to ensure quality services for all and promote social cohesion.
2. The justice and non-judicial dispute resolution system and human rights institutions ensure the rule of law, fairness, equality and anti-corruption.
3. Enhance civil society's capacities to exercise its rights, participate in decision-making and engage in constructive dialogue to foster social cohesion, justice and equality.

Given the shrinking civic space in the country, the UN offered continuously recommendations on the adherence by the country to its human rights obligations, especially concerning draft laws curtailing basic rights and fundamental freedoms. Close cooperation with Parliament also included strengthening its effective oversight of the realization of SDGs. The UN supported the adoption of the State Program "Accessible Country" 2023-2030, widening access to justice and public services for people with disabilities, in line with the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities. Similarly,

the UN focused on monitoring the rights of migrants and returning ethnic children. Capacity development initiatives addressed monitoring of detentions centers, application of the Istanbul Protocol and children's placement in residential care institutions.

Over 10,000 people, including 4,554 men and 5,790 women, received free legal aid from the Ministry of Justice with UN support. The establishment of the state-provided Hotline 114, under the EU-UN Spotlight Initiative, provides free legal aid hotline to provide legal information, assistance and counselling to the population, including those affected by sexual and gender-based violence, and, if necessary, referral to the appropriate services. and has therefore widened access to justice by offering free legal consultations. Regional Women's Solidarity platforms (Kurultai) were organized, bringing together over 400 women, promoting gender-inclusive decision-making processes. It also led to the development of an action plan to promote women's leadership. UN-facilitated digital skills training for 180 girls and women, contributing to a notable 54% employment rate and addressing gender-based digital divides. Local Self-Governments were trained in engaging youth at community level, promote youth-led peace initiatives and youth-friendly learning environments.



## 2.2. COOPERATION FRAMEWORK PRIORITIES, OUTCOMES AND OUTPUTS



### PRIORITY 1

**Equitable access to quality social services (education, health, social protection) and decent work**

**Outcome:**

By 2027, the well-being of the population of the Kyrgyz Republic will have improved through the further rollout of a green economy based on sustainable and healthy food systems, natural resource management and effective migration processes by accelerating the use of gender transformative social and technological innovation, and entrepreneurship.

**SDGs:**



**UN agencies:**



### UN SYSTEM WIDE INDICATORS PROGRESS

1.1

**Baseline 2023: 0**

**Target 2023: 0**

**Fact 2023: 2**

**Target 2024: 1**

**Contributing agencies:**

3.2

**Baseline 2023: 18**

**Target 2023: 20**

**Fact 2023: 23**

**Target 2024: 24**

**Contributing agencies:**

4.1

**Baseline 2023: 2**

**Target 2023: 3**

**Fact 2023: 3**

**Target 2024: 4**

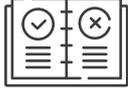
**Contributing agencies:**



## KEY FACTS

 **18** survey, assessment, research, strategies

 **3** laws

 **6** guidelines

**6** trainings covering  
**11 357** people

**8 432** **2 925**

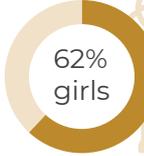
### EDUCATION AND DIGITAL LEARNING

 ICT equipment (computers, tablets, accessories) to **100** target schools

 High-speed internet to **10** rural remote schools

### YOUTH EMPOWERMENT AND STEM

Peacebuilding, STEM skills & volunteer opportunities  
**4,882** adolescents

 **62%** girls



 Green skills **300** girls & STEM training **1,764** peers

 Mentored STEM knowledge **571** women and girls

 STEM4ALL x Mentoring Her Digital Platform



 **NUTRITION AND SCHOOL MEALS**

 <p>Nutrition standards training to <b>148 school cooks</b></p>	 <p>Fortified wheat flour to <b>143 schools</b></p>	<p>Food and nutrition insecure beneficiaries <b>87,400</b></p>
 <p>Multi-purpose cash grants <b>368</b> individuals, vulnerable refugee and asylum-seeking families</p>	 <p>Education grant (school supplies) <b>45</b> refugees and asylum-seeking children for</p>	

 **HEALTH PROGRAMS**

 <p>State Health Program 2019-2030 second phase action plan (2024-2030)</p>	 <p>National Immunization Strategy 2025-2030 and National Action Plan for Health Security, 2024-2030</p>	 <p>Public Health Law &amp; Protection of Population Health Law</p>	 <p>Equipment for neonatal screening and strengthened cold chain</p>
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 **WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE (WASH):**





WASH supplies to **460 target schools**



## **Kyrgyzstan's Bold Vision: National Development Forum 2023 Tackles Poverty and Inequality**

In Kyrgyzstan, in 2022, more than 2.3 million people lived below the poverty line, extreme poverty rose from 0.6 in 2018 to 6 percent in 2022 with 7.3 percent of the population at risk of falling into poverty at any time. The number of people living below the poverty line is 33.3 percent of the total population<sup>9</sup>. Excluding the remittance income that the country is heavily reliant on, the poverty rate reaches a staggering 43.3 percent, with Batken being the most vulnerable region, where poverty without remittances affects nearly 70 percent of the population.

The Cabinet of Ministers, with the UN's support, in November 2023 organized a high-level National Development Forum in Bishkek as an immediate follow-up to the SDG Summit focusing on the eradication of poverty and inequalities. President Japarov's pronounced national commitments at the SDG Summit, to advance SDG achievement with a focus on poverty reduction, through an inclusive and quality education, social protection, the green economy, and climate action - all aligned with the Secretary-General's "Call to action". The UN Country Team provided conceptual and analytical inputs, as well as logistics support to the organization of the Forum. At the Forum, the President spelt out Government's policy directions – "Improving the living standards of the population, overcoming poverty and inequality should be the top priority of the state's entire economic, financial, and social policies."

## **OUTPUT 1.1**

**National and local policies, plans, budgets, and financing mechanisms are evidence-based and aligned to respond equitably to people's needs in an inclusive, gender responsive and accountable manner.**

In support of evidence-based decisions and to help address gaps in data on social protection, the UN agencies facilitated several flagship assessments and studies: UN agencies initiated a comprehensive assessment of Kyrgyzstan's national social protection systems using the Core Diagnostic Instrument (CODI) framework<sup>10</sup>, addressing data gaps regarding SDG 1.3. Its findings highlighted strengths and substantial gaps in social protection programs. To address the challenges, entry-level policy reforms were proposed, emphasizing coherence with economic and labor market policies, through transition to program-based budgeting with SDG-aligned targets. The UN further facilitated the restructuring of the Labor Force Survey and con-

ducted the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey<sup>11</sup> (MICS) to monitor progress towards SDGs 3 on health and SDG 4 on quality education and 33 SDG indicators<sup>12</sup>. Strengthening national partners' capacity to ratify international labor standards resulted in the Parliament adopting crucial laws and codes. Additionally, UN agencies focused on enhancing national social protection information and data system through the development of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).

In the health sector, UN support led to the development of a comprehensive Action Plan for 2024-2030, covering the State Health Program 2019-2030, the National Immunization Strategy 2025-2030, and the National Action Plan for

<sup>9</sup> [https://24.kg/english/271682\\_One\\_third\\_of\\_population\\_lives\\_below\\_poverty\\_line\\_in\\_Kyrgyzstan/](https://24.kg/english/271682_One_third_of_population_lives_below_poverty_line_in_Kyrgyzstan/)

<sup>10</sup> CODI is a framework to map the elements of a social protection system in a given country, including national objectives, strategies, policies, programs, and schemes of the social protection system.

<sup>11</sup> The Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS) is an international household survey programme developed by UNICEF in the 1990s.

<sup>12</sup> <https://mics.unicef.org/faq#general-information>



Health Security 2024-2030. Legislative frameworks were updated, with a particular focus on procurement, telemedicine and digitalization. Digitalization efforts in health included the de-

velopment of an immunization data digitalization road map, the introduction of a digital tool for measuring hypertension and diabetes, and a Health Information System.



## OUTPUT 1.2

**Social services for health, education, social protection, employment, and labor are improved to provide higher quality, taking into account universal accessibility, gender equality, shock-responsiveness, timeliness, and include mechanisms to report and respond to grievances.**

In the education sector, UN agencies collaborated with the Ministry of Education and Science and stakeholders to launch Kyrgyzstan's Partnership Compact. This involved conducting a Joint Sector Review with over 130 partners to assess progress towards SDG 4 on quality education. A comprehensive study of the National School Meals Programme was also undertaken to ensure its sustainability, considering factors such as food costs and discontinuation reasons. Furthermore, efforts were made to enhance reliable and sustainable school connectivity, providing high-speed internet to 100 target schools and an additional 10 schools in rural areas.

In support of improving school infrastructure, UN agencies provided water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) supplies to 460 schools and assisted 33 schools within the National School Meals Programme with new equipment. In the health sector, the UN supported the Ministry of Health and Civil Society Organizations

in implementing state performance-based budgeting. This included engagement with Parliament to encourage increased allocations and improved efficiency during public hearings. Continuing to prioritize the nutritional needs of school-age girls and boys, the UN provided schools with fortified wheat flour, ensuring that students receive a hot, diverse, and nutritious meal daily, promoting optimal engagement in learning activities.

As part of an emergency response in Batken province, under the Emergency Response Plan (ERP) developed upon request from the Government following the escalation of violence at the border with Tajikistan in September 2022, the UN distributed essential food items to more than 89,000 affected people. This includes vulnerable groups such as low-income households, women-headed households, families with many children, and families with disabled members. More than 13,000 people were provided with shelter and non-food items.



### OUTPUT 1.3

**The population of the Kyrgyz Republic, especially the most vulnerable, have acquired the skills and knowledge to make positive changes in the social norms of society for a more inclusive, equitable and gender-sensitive environment, and are empowered to participate in all spheres of life and to assert their rights and opportunities.**

The UN in Kyrgyzstan supported the vulnerable groups of the society, fostering positive changes in social norms for a more inclusive, equitable, and gender-sensitive environment. The support was extended in various ways. Food-insecure and vulnerable individuals with no productive capacity benefit from unconditional transfers and nutrition knowledge that meet their basic food and nutrition needs. Capacity building of 17 social inpatient institutions were conducted on food and nutrition, benefiting 2459 food insecure and vulnerable residents. Similarly, food-insecure and vulnerable individuals with productive capacity benefited from conditional transfers that meet their food and nutrition needs.

With UN support, the Government launched the Youth and Child Friendly Local Governance contest, encouraging municipalities to create

platforms for youth engagement and participation in local governance. Training modules on 'youth engagement in decision-making and peacebuilding' were developed, benefiting 155 Local Self-Governments (LSGs) and 328 youth. These initiatives resulted in the implementation of 25 youth peacebuilding projects in seven communities, impacting almost 5,000 adolescents, including specific focus on reducing girls' school dropout and early marriage. UN agencies collaborated with the leadership of Batken oblast to engage 38 women NGOs in interactions with local authorities for peacebuilding. This helped position women and Women's Civil Society Organizations in peace, security, and climate agendas. Resultantly, nine LSG socio-economic development plans were also developed, incorporating gender, climate, and security considerations.



## PRIORITY 2

### Inclusive green socio-economic development

#### Outcome:

By 2027, the well-being of the population of the Kyrgyz Republic will have improved through the further rollout of a green economy based on sustainable and healthy food systems, natural resource management and effective migration processes by accelerating the use of gender transformative social and technological innovation, and entrepreneurship.

#### SDGs:



#### UN agencies:



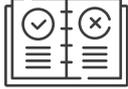
### UN SYSTEM WIDE INDICATORS PROGRESS



## KEY FACTS

 **12** survey, assessment, research, strategies

 **3** laws

 **6** guidelines

**6** trainings covering  
**8 430** people

 **5 153**  **3 277**

### WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

     **5** private companies committed to gender equality and women's empowerment (WEPs)

### FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOODS

     
**40 districts** benefited  
**316,733** vulnerable individuals' activities included sewing, fruit/vegetable cultivation, poultry/livestock farming, and computer literacy

     
Livelihood skills provided for  
**3,794** food-insecure individuals

### TRADE FACILITATION

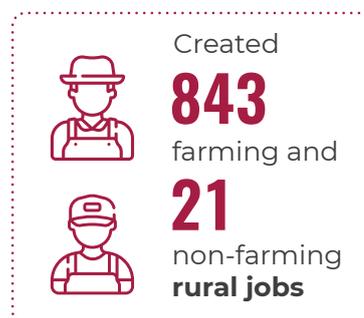
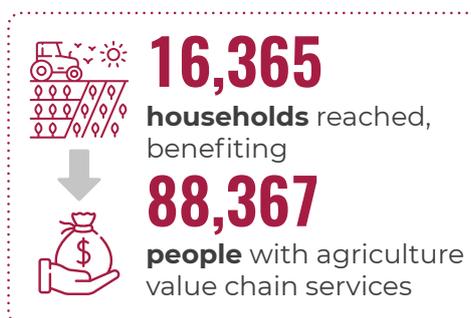
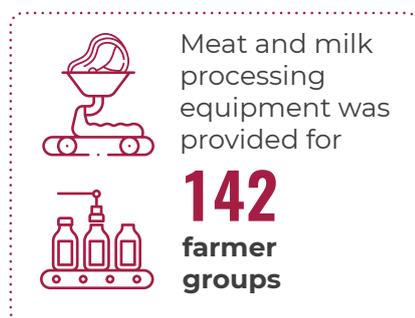
**"Single Window"** Centre for Foreign Trade to update Kyrgyzstan Info Trade Portal (KITP)

 **27** beneficiary companies (22 women-led) signed contracts for **USD 3 mln**

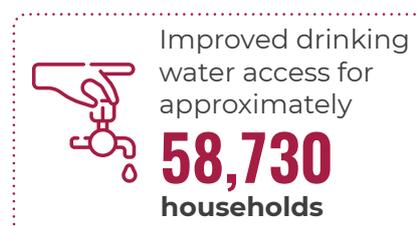
 **39** beneficiary companies exported for **USD 20.3 mln**



## AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT



## COMMUNITY ASSET CREATION



### “Barkhat” An inclusive enterprise

“Barkhat” is a manufacturer of women’s clothing and embodies the idea of inclusivity in business. Currently, the company employs 50 people, including 30 women and 5 individuals with disabilities. Two hearing-impaired employees have been working in the company for 10 years, showcasing the comfortable working conditions created for them, and their work is valued and well-compensated. All employees with disabilities work effectively, performing their work at a high level but also harnessing creativity and innovation. They undergo continuous training, and special communication boards and professional sign language interpreters are employed to facilitate communication.



Barkhat complies with the Global Textiles and Clothing Programme (GTEX). One aspect of the GTEX programme was the training of the company’s staff across its production operations, making them more competent in their respective areas. Another success achieved through GTEX was the adoption of the lean manufacturing method, optimizing processes and increasing production efficiency. Barkhat’s success story reveals that diversity and inclusivity are key factors in successful entrepreneurship in the modern world.

## OUTPUT 2.1

### **Green economic growth is accelerated through increased equitable entrepreneurship and employment opportunities, including through the sustainable use of natural resources.**

UN agencies are actively fostering finance, investment, and market access for women entrepreneurs, particularly in agriculture. A comprehensive Value Chain Development Study and Policy recommendations on agricultural co-operatives were developed to empower women entrepreneurs in agriculture sector. Women Entrepreneurship Day 2023, supported by UN agencies, brought together over 280 women entrepreneurs. The Ministry of Labor, Social Security, and Migration received support from UN agencies to implement community asset creation and human capacity strengthening projects across all 40 districts. These 138 human capacity building projects (in sewing, fruit and vegetable cultivation, poultry, livestock and computer literacy) directly benefited 316,733 vulnerable individuals, improving their food security and income-generating prospects through various skill-building activities.

The UN directed efforts towards overcoming regulatory and procedural obstacles to international trade. It supported the optimization and digitization of accreditation processes for the “Single Window” Centre for Foreign Trade and the Kyrgyz Accreditation Centre. Currently, 17 state agencies involved in foreign trade are conducting a digital mapping exercise, creating a detailed digital blueprint of the current IT landscape. Through targeted trade promotion efforts, Kyrgyz Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) were strategically engaged in five international trade fairs/exhibitions, with profound impact: 27 beneficiary companies, (22 women-led) secured export contracts worth USD 3.0 million, 17 companies (majority being women-led) inked 85 new contracts, amounting to USD 3.2 million, 39 companies, (33 women-led) reported an impressive overall export figure of USD 20.3 million. Similarly, with the UN’s comprehensive approach, 71 small and medium enterprise (SMEs) also benefited to enhance their business capacities.

## OUTPUT 2.2

### **Food system sustainability is enhanced through a more efficient and inclusive approach that ensures healthy and quality nutrition for the population.**

A notable achievement was the development of the National Food Security and Nutrition Action Plan, in collaboration with the Government. It was a robust effort to enhance access to nutritious, safe, and affordable diets while concurrently fostering improvements in the food environment and dietary practices.

The UN delivered 75 training sessions on Good Agricultural Practices in Osh, Batken, Jalal-Abad, Chuy, and Issyk-Kul regions. Over 1,925 participants, including 999 men and 926 women, benefited from these trainings. The creation of guidelines on inspecting fruit and vegetable processing industries in adherence to Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) princi-

ples and sanitary and hygiene requirements was a significant outcome. The UN also supported with studies and trainings in agricultural value chains and agricultural cooperatives.

The Ministry of Labor, Social Security, and Migration received ongoing support from the UN in implementing 529 community asset creation projects. These projects included water infrastructure and disaster protection measures. As a result, approximately 58,730 households across 178 villages now have improved access to clean drinking water, and 41,770 hectares of arable land in 146 villages are better protected against disasters like floods and mudflows.



## OUTPUT 2.3

### **An effective gender responsive system of managing migration processes is introduced to accelerate green socio-economic development.**

The UN supported the Government to harness the social and financial contributions of migrants and diaspora in economic development. A notable initiative was the support to returning migrants in the form of matching grants (1+1), contingent upon their equal financial contribution to initiate their own business-

es. Additionally, to establish a robust migration data management system, the UN provided expert and technical support to the National Statistical Committee and the Ministry of Labor, Social Security, and Migration. This included improved data collection, better surveys and maintenance of databases and software.

## OUTPUT 2.4

### **Gender transformative social and technological innovations, including digitalization, are introduced to develop a green and creative economy.**

In support of technological advancement, particularly relating to 5G networks, the UN supported the assessment of Kyrgyzstan's digital resiliency, aiming to identify and address ICT data gaps, evaluate critical ICT infrastructure, assess the resilience of the ICT market and telecom operators, and analyze existing policies and regulations to bridge the digital divide. In collaboration with the World Bank, the UN also supported the establishment of the national Cyber Incidents Response Team to bolster Kyrgyzstan's capability to withstand cyberattacks and fortify the resilience of the national ICT infrastructure.

To promote digital agriculture, the UN has endorsed the development of the "Digital Villages Farmer Service Center" model. Additionally, the organization of the Agro-Hackathon gar-

nered five innovative IT solutions aimed at enhancing the efficiency of agro-production and processing. This initiative empowered women with digital skills to advance small businesses.

In the realm of creative industries, the UN conducted research on the state of the creative economy in the Kyrgyz Republic. An information campaign targeted youth and local NGOs in Osh city, leading to the "Rhythm of the City" Creative Industries Festival. Furthering its commitment to empowering women, the UN facilitated the selection of 150 girls who enrolled in Digital and IT courses. Of these, 87 found successful employment, while 47 graduates opted for self-employment through freelancing or individual contracts. Additionally, 40 graduates secured part-time positions in public institutions or private firms.





## PRIORITY 3

### Inclusive approaches to climate action, disaster risk management and environmental protection

#### Outcome:

By 2027, the Kyrgyz Republic has started the transition to low-carbon development and risk-informed climate resilience, contributing to people's fair and equitable access to ecosystem benefits and to empowerment of vulnerable communities in the governance of natural resources and disaster prevention.

#### SDGs:



#### UN agencies:



### UN SYSTEM WIDE INDICATORS PROGRESS

**13.1**

**Baseline 2023: 1**

**Target 2023: 2**

**Fact 2023: 2**

**Target 2024: 2**

**Contributing agencies:**

**15.3**

**Baseline 2023: 0**

**Target 2023:**  
rehabilitation – 150  
restoration – 8,000

**Fact 2023:**  
rehabilitation – 159,4  
restoration – 8,923

**Target 2024:**  
rehabilitation – 200  
restoration – 0

**Contributing agencies:**

**13.3**

**Baseline 2023: Level 3**

**Target 2023: Level 4**

**Fact 2023: Level 4**

**Target 2024: Level 4**

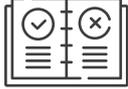
**Contributing agencies:**



## KEY FACTS

 **11** survey, assessment, research, strategies

 **3** laws

 **1** guideline

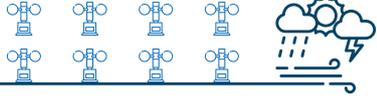
**5** trainings covering  
**8 064** people

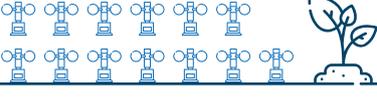
**5 257** **2 807**



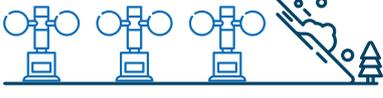
### METEOROLOGICAL INFRASTRUCTURE



**8**  
automated weather stations



**13**  
agro-meteorological observation stations



**3**  
avalanche monitoring stations in remote areas



### GENDER ASSESSMENT



**5** gender assessments for strategic documents



### ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE



online digitized **National Atlas** of Environmental Change



### COMMUNITY-LEVEL PROJECTS



**396** community-level projects implemented



**19,540** individuals benefited from disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation assets



**INFRASTRUCTURE PROTECTION**

**Protected**



**106**  
schools



**92**  
kindergartens



**8,230**  
hectares of agricultural land

**from potential natural hazards**

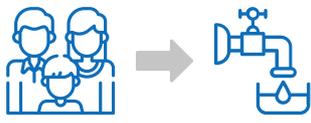


**120**  
kilometers  
of roads and



**76,000**  
meters of drinking  
water pipelines  
were constructed

**22,829**  
families with improved  
access to clean  
drinking water





**3** **fire and rescue  
stations** in Issyk-Kul,  
Osh and Jalal-Abad  
regions

**ECOTOURISM PROMOTION**



**14** ecotourism  
itineraries



**4** video  
films & **5** educational  
training materials

to promote eco-tourism and raise  
awareness on biodiversity conservation



**5** facilities constructed  
in protected areas

**GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE MODULE**



module on  
gender-based  
violence in humanitarian  
contexts

**HEALTHCARE SERVICES**



**3,289** healthcare  
services -  
examinations and consultations

**SRH SERVICES ENHANCEMENT**



**2** health  
facilities

→


**reaching  
45,000 women**

→

in 94 villages  
with SRH services



### Artificial glacier helps mountain village in Kyrgyzstan meets water needs

Following the Kyrgyz tradition, Manzura Orolbaeva welcomes guests with homemade bread and a saucer of melted butter. The bread is made from grain grown on their farm and the butter from the livestock they keep.

Agriculture is the main source of income and food for a large part of the local population in this mountain village of Kara-Dobo in southern Kyrgyzstan, but due to the dry climate and lack of arable land, it is difficult to grow crops here. Water is particularly challenging to access.

For Manzura, her nearest water source is a mountain spring located two kilometres away. Every day, this 63-year-old woman and her loved ones walk there and back, not once but several times a day, to bring back enough water for the people, animals, and plants on their farm.

“You can live without gas; you can live without the Internet, but you cannot live without water,” said Manzura.

Water is scarce not only in Kara-Dobo, but also many villages in this region that have little rainfall. In the winter, it is cold with almost no snow, and in summer, it is very hot with virtually no rain. The main water sources are mountain springs, but they are often in hard-to-reach places.

To increase the communities' resilience to these weather anomalies, FAO experts proposed the construction of an artificial glacier in the region as part of the project “Shared prosperity through cooperation in border regions of Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan”. The joint UN-FPA-FAO project, a peacebuilding project financed by the Peacebuilding Fund, is aimed at enhancing cross-border environmental and socio-economic cooperation between Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan. It also works to build confidence and trust between local governments, communities and civil society organisations. The project uses climate-smart agricultural practices to preserve and sustain common natural resources. It directly supports the implementation of SDG targets 6.5 on integrated water resources management, including transboundary cooperation (6.6) to protect and restore water-related ecosystems, and 6.b to support and strengthen the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management.





Many took the idea of an artificial glacier as a joke, says Manzura Orolbaeva, but the residents of the village of Kara-Dobo supported the initiative. “If we do not water the gardens, everything dries up. We will have nothing to cover our expenses or to feed our cattle,” said Manzura.

The villagers undertook the construction themselves, with FAO providing technical and financial support. Constructing the artificial glacier began with installing an underground pipeline. In just one week, 55 people manually dug a trench and laid pipes from the mountain spring to the pasture, where their livestock graze. The end of the pipe was then raised 20 metres above the ground.

While these works were going on, Manzura’s house became a type of “headquarters” where the villagers planned the course of work. She treated everyone who dug the trench with tea and homemade pastries.

In the winter, the glacier was born. The water from the pipe began to freeze and slowly turn into a huge ice tower. Then in the summer months, the mountain of ice slowly melts, providing residents with regular access to fresh water for irrigation and for their own use. During the first winter, the glacier grew to more than 70,000 cubic metres of ice.

“Now our experience attracted residents of other villages, who at first did not believe us,” said Manzura. “Perhaps next year in our area there will be other artificial glaciers. Because water is life,” she added.

Local authorities plan to install one more glacier from their own funding sources and include the expenses into the local budget plan.

### UN’s support to tackling air pollution in Bishkek

Air pollution has emerged as a pressing concern in Bishkek, the capital of Kyrgyzstan, with winter pollution levels surpassing WHO air quality guidelines by up to 30 times, positioning the city among those with the most compromised air quality globally. The UN, responding to a request from the government, conducted a series of studies to address the evidence deficit on the causes and consequences of this pollution. A joint study by UNDP and UNEP, in collaboration with the Finnish Meteorological Institute, provided scientific evidence on emission sources and their impacts, while subsequent studies by UNICEF and IOM focused on vulnerable groups such as women, children, and internal migrants. The findings from these studies were summarized in a policy brief published by the Asian Development Bank (ADB)<sup>13</sup> at the end of 2023 with practical recommendations developed by the UN, ADB and German International Cooperation (GIZ).

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/publication/923306/adb-brief-272-tackling-air-pollution-bishkek.pdf>



Tackling air pollution necessitates a multi-faceted approach, involving the development and revision of sectoral policies and regulatory frameworks. A whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach is essential, requiring capacity building in the public sector and behavioral shifts to address issues like coal burning during winter. The UN's ongoing support has garnered strong political buy-in, leading to the establishment of an inter-ministerial Commission on air pollution and a multi-stakeholder partnership platform, led by the UN. The Kyrgyz Government has acted on the joint recommendations, extending gas pipelines, approving subsidies, and collaborating on sustainable urban mobility planning. Notably, efforts to eliminate coal use and promote electric vehicles have seen positive regulatory changes and infrastructure development, as well as budgetary allocations by the Kyrgyz Government for subsidies for preferential lending and incentives to eliminate coal use in residential heating and to facilitate gas connections. The studies also helped inform the design of a new Air Quality Improvement Project for Bishkek of the World Bank corresponding to an investment of USD 50 million.

Action to address air pollution showcased the UN's efficacy in leveraging multi-stakeholder cooperation and coordination to inform decision-making on evidence basis and in providing tailored development solutions through its coordinated support under the leadership of the Resident Coordinator.

## OUTPUT 3.1

**Climate policy, financing, and awareness mechanisms are designed and implemented that support climate actions, with the full participation of women and men at all decision-making levels.**

The government, with UN support, established robust climate change adaptive measures, offering comprehensive training in weather forecasts, GIS tools, data analysis, air quality, and disaster risk reduction (DRR) with a focus on gender considerations. The UN actively facilitated gender-sensitive Capacity Building Strategies, conducting participatory climate risk assessments for informed sectoral and provincial adaptation plans. Engaging the private sector, the UN enhanced disaster risk reduction capabilities, classified slow-onset hazards, and collaborated on national strategies for carbon neutrality and hydrofluorocarbon phase-out.

To meet UNFCCC Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) requirements, an assessment of Kyrgyzstan's MRV system was conducted. UN agencies conducted awareness campaigns, adopting perspectives like "climate migrants" to address the complex dynamics between the environment, climate change, and migration. Initiatives such as installing artificial glaciers and national consultations on climate resilience and gender issues were undertaken. With UN support, 19,540 in-

dividuals benefited from 396 community projects, protecting schools, kindergartens, and agricultural land. Additionally, 76,000 meters of drinking water pipelines were constructed, improving community resilience to natural disasters and providing 22,829 families with enhanced access to clean water.

Under UN leadership, development partners supported national multi-stakeholder dialogues on air pollution, conducting public awareness campaigns and promoting community-level solutions to address the need of vulnerable populations. Findings from studies conducted by UNEP, UNDP, UNICEF, IOM and other development partners were brought together into a joint policy brief published by the ADB and with participation from GIZ that formulated recommendations how to tackle air pollution. The policy brief was presented to the Inter-ministerial Commission on Air Pollution and to the broader public via social media and an awareness raising campaign broadcasted on national TV channels, showcasing the effectiveness of UN-backed initiatives in promoting multi-stakeholder action for cleaner air.

## OUTPUT 3.2

**Policies, innovations, and seed investments are developed to ensure inclusive access to sustainable energy solutions in underserved urban and rural areas, with the support of the state and business, and in ways that encourage women's leadership.**

The UN supported the Government programme - "Introduction of Energy Saving and Energy Efficiency Policy in the Kyrgyz Republic for 2023-2027", as well as its accompanying Action Plan and evaluation plan. Similarly, the UN supported preparation of the National Human Development Report on energy vulnerability that will provide recommendations for a more inclusive national energy policy. Other UN con-

tributions include regional project "Improving the Energy Efficiency of the Global Construction Supply Chain and its Products for High Performance Buildings" and identification of strategies and technologies for achieving carbon neutrality by 2050 and development of the UNECE Carbon Neutrality Toolkit for informed policy development.

## OUTPUT 3.3

**Critical ecosystems are better protected throughout the country, and the rational and sustainable use of natural resources, including water and land, is improved through gender-responsive, participatory and conflict-sensitive systems at all levels.**

UN agencies, in collaboration with key stakeholders, have significantly advanced governance, environmental protection, and compliance with Multilateral Environmental Agreements. Achievements include the formulation of comprehensive five-year management plans for Protected Areas (PAs), strategic budgeting, and enhanced PA management, contributing to long-term sustainability. The expansion of the PA network and ecosystem connectivity, demonstrated through initiatives like the "Kabak" buffer zone and Chatkal eco-corridor, has bolstered biodiversity conservation.

In the realm of integrated landscape management, the UN supported the creation of 14 ecotourism itineraries, produced four video films, designed an educational course, and developed five training materials for forests, land use, especially in mountainous regions and pastures. The National Forum on Sustainable Management of Natural Resources resulted in the establishment of the National Platform, fostering political dialogue among stakeholders. The UN's low-value grants program directly benefited 744 individuals, with 60% being women, near Alatau State National Park and Kanachuu State National Park, promoting alternative livelihoods and alleviating ecosystem pressure. Similarly, support was extended to develop the Forest Policy and Management Support Information System.

UN support has capacitated government officials on climate-resilient water management, incorporating climate variability into policy development and river basin management. A diagnostic analysis of the cryosphere's impact on water resources in Central Asia, focusing on observed and predicted climate change effects on snow, glaciers, and permafrost, was initiated.

Furthermore, to bolster national capacity for biosafety policy and measures, the UN provided expert support for the revision of relevant legislation and policies and also for the development of the Fourth National Report on the Implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the construction of two central stores for obsolete pesticides.

At the request from the Ministry of Natural Resources, Ecology and Technical Supervision, an Environmental Performance Review (EPR) was conducted. The review covered legal and policy frameworks relating to greening the economy, air protection, water and waste management, biodiversity and protected areas. It also examined the efforts of the country to integrate environmental considerations in its policies in the agriculture, energy, forestry, industry and mining, transport and health sectors.

In relation to pollution in the transboundary Syr Darya river, studies were conducted to



identify potential sources of accidental pollution. The UN also supported Kyrgyzstan in its National DRR action plan to include techno-

logical/industrial accident risk under the Industrial Accidents Convention.

## OUTPUT 3.4

**Capacity of disaster management systems is strengthened, and community resilience to multiple shocks is increased at all levels through enhanced participation of women in DRR planning, as well as effective investments, policies, mechanisms, and tools.**

The UN prioritized a systematic approach to resilience planning, emphasizing the enhancement of institutional capacity and community engagement. This effort involved the establishment of operational avalanche stations, namely Dolon, Chapchyma, and Bashky-Terek, as well as fire and rescue stations. These infrastructure developments empowered the timely assessment of risks and the issuance of early warnings, directly benefiting approximately 60,000 residents.

In addition, the UN extended low-value grants to support social development and health initiatives in areas affected by uranium mining. This support was aimed at promoting healthy lifestyles and improving access to medical

care, contributing to the well-being of the communities.

The UN support significantly enhanced Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) services in two health facilities, positively impacting the lives of 45,000 women across 94 villages. UN agencies played a pivotal role in the development and institutionalization of educational courses for teachers and healthcare professionals. These courses focused on providing psychological aid, reproductive health education, and sexual violence services in emergency situations. The introduction of gender-based violence modules further strengthened SRH services, benefiting 88 healthcare providers in Batken.





## PRIORITY 4

### Just, accountable and inclusive institutions and a civil society for peace, cohesion and human rights

#### Outcome:

By 2027, all people in the Kyrgyz Republic enjoy the benefits of fair and accountable democratic institutions that are free from corruption and apply innovative solutions that promote respect for human rights and strengthen peace and cohesion.

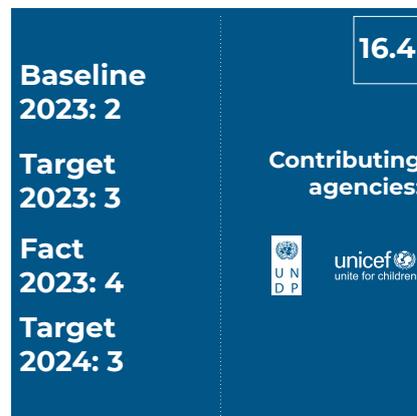
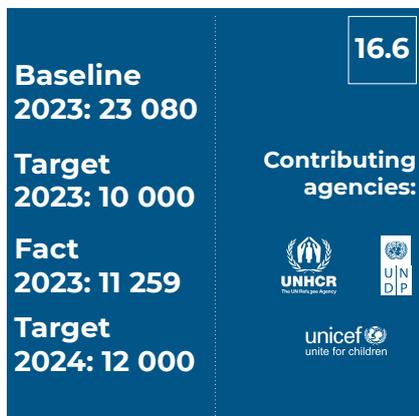
#### SDGs:



#### UN agencies:



### UN SYSTEM WIDE INDICATORS PROGRESS



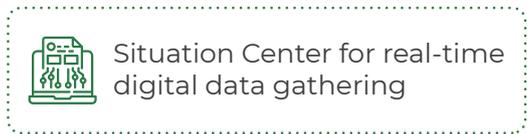


## KEY FACTS



### PRISON & PROBATION SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT

### SITUATION CENTER



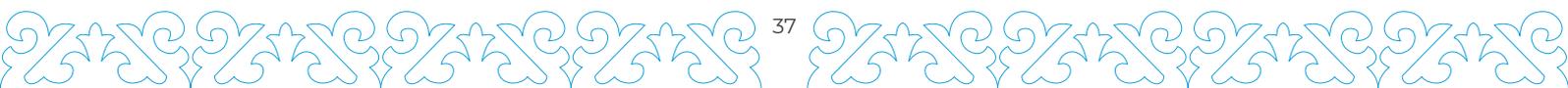
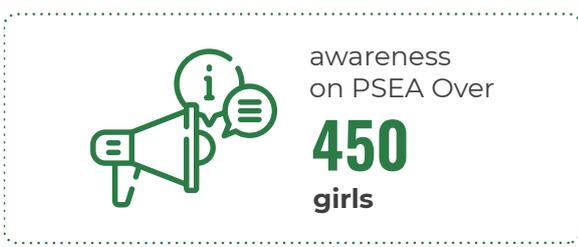
### LEGAL AID SERVICES

### NATIONAL WOMEN'S KURULTAI



### PREVENTION OF SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND ABUSE (PSEA)

### LOCAL SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLANNING



### **Local residents and civil society in city bring positive results in conflict prevention**

In Balykchy, a city with approximately 53,000 residents in the Issyk-Kul region, active engagement of local residents and civil society is proving effective in conflict prevention. Urmat Baibosunov, police captain and senior district police officer, highlights the significance of collaborative efforts between law enforcement agencies and community prevention centers. This partnership involves district police officers, aksakals' court, and the women's committee conducting awareness-raising and preventive activities to address conflicts and delinquencies.

The local community's increased proactive involvement in addressing issues related to well-being and safety is evident, marking a positive shift from a previously observed lack of trust in law enforcement. Community Prevention Centers have successfully addressed misunderstandings based on ethnic differences, with religious leaders actively participating in resolving pre-conflict situations.

Since the launch of Community Prevention Centers, there has been a notable decrease in overall crime in Balykchy, dropping from 1727 recorded crimes in 2022 to 1356 in 2023. While this indicates timely prevention efforts, the registration of family violence cases has increased due to improved reporting and community engagement. With UN support, six Community Prevention Centers in Balykchy, comprising community leaders and members, play a vital role in educating, informing, and preventing offending and violence.

Highlighting the success of this collaborative approach, Police Captain Urmat Baibosunov commends the heroic deed of Senior Police Lieutenant Amantur Bakirov, awarded the medal "Kaarmandyk." Balykchy is emerging as an exemplary model of successful cooperation between different societal and State levels, underscoring the importance of joint efforts in creating a harmonious and safe society.

## **OUTPUT 4.1**

**Accountable, participatory, transparent, and effective governance systems at all levels ensure the provision of quality services for all and inclusive spaces and promote social cohesion gender transformative systems of relations, and a violence free society.**

Kyrgyzstan faces various challenges in meeting its human rights obligations, including the implementation of human rights laws, safeguarding judicial independence, ensuring freedom of expression and media freedom, addressing issues of corruption and impunity, and promoting gender equality and women's rights. Addressing these challenges requires sustained efforts by the Kyrgyz government, civil society organizations, and the international community. The UN remained actively engaged with the Government in enhancing awareness among officials regarding international human rights mechanisms.

Eight district-level National Action Plans (NAP) for the Gender Equality Strategy (GES), focus-

ing on addressing Violence Against Women and Girls, were successfully finalized. The UN ensured GES and NAP localization in Chui province, fostering a gender-inclusive society. The UN supported Kyrgyzstan in asylum and refugee protection, providing legal expertise, technical assistance, and capacity-building activities. Monitoring admission practices at border crossing points enhanced adherence to human rights principles and renovation support at Osh and Manas airports enhanced efficiency of functional referral mechanisms and access to territory.

The UN backed the launch of the Regional Cooperation on e-Government, promoting digital services implementation. Technical sup-



port aided the Jogorku Kenesh in adopting a Development Strategy for 2023-2027 aligned with Agenda 2030, enhancing legislative functions. Continuous UN support to the Parliamentary SDG Working Group ensured effective oversight for SDG objectives.

UN agencies played a crucial role in disseminating human rights expertise into Kyrgyz legislation, contributing to equality and discrimination prevention laws, inter alia encouraging amendments of the 'Law on Citizenship', the 'Law on the Legal Status of Foreign Citizens' and the 'Law on Acts of Civil Status' which

brought them closer to international standards in the prevention of statelessness as well as one amendment to the 'Law on Refugees'.

The UN organized the art exhibition "Hope Away from Home" with the Kyrgyz National Museum of Fine Arts, promoting refugee inclusion and fostering a culture of understanding and compassion. At the Global Refugee Forum, the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic, the UN Country Team and academia filed commitments to the Global Refugee Compact, advancing the inclusion of refugees and stateless people.

## OUTPUT 4.2

**The system of justice and out-of-court dispute resolution, as well as human rights institutions, ensure the full application of the rule of law, justice, equality, and the fight against corruption.**

The Supreme Court led an International Conference on Access to Environmental Justice, resulting in a Plenum's Resolution guiding local court judges. A National Dialogue Platform, supported by the UN, engaged key stakeholders to address environmental justice concerns and integrate international commitments. UN-backed training manuals for judges at the High School of Justice focused on International Human Rights Law, enhancing human rights awareness in legal processes.

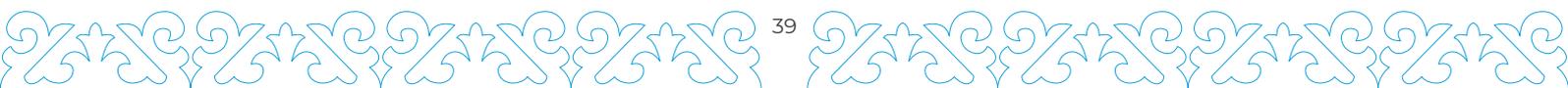
The State Program "Accessible Country" 2023-2030, supported by the UN, expanded access to justice and public services for people with disabilities, aligning with the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities. UN support facilitated the development of the State Programme on Prison and Probation System (2024-2028), aligning it with UN Standard Minimum Rules. A Situation Center, created with UN assistance, gathers real-time data, aiding justice system policy development.

In collaboration with the Ministry of Economy, the UN supported the establishment of a working group to draft the National Action Plan on business and human rights, aligned with the UN Guiding Principles.

In 2023, the UN played an active role in providing expert reviews and facilitating the provision of legal opinions from various stakeholders on

the draft Constitutional Law on Ombudsman. This initiative aimed to align the law with the Paris Principles. The UN's support in organizing public discussions was vital to promote accountability and transparency. The draft has yet to advance further.

The UN continued to focus on monitoring the rights of migrant children and returning ethnic Kyrgyz. Capacity-building initiatives addressed monitoring of detention conditions, application of the Istanbul Protocol, and children's placement in residential care institutions. Joint advocacy efforts led to agreements with ministries to train female entrepreneurs, enhancing child development and business administration for community-based pre-school services.



With UN support, the Ministry of Justice improved its capacity to provide primary and qualified legal aid services. Over 10,000 people, including 4,554 men and 5,790 women, received free legal aid. The state-provided Hotline 114, supported by the UN, widened access to justice. UN agencies addressed asylum-seekers' return, emphasizing non-refoulement principles and developing the legal framework for the 'One-Window-Centre' sup-

porting survivors of sexual and gender-based violence. UN legal aid services benefited 945 refugees, asylum-seekers, stateless people, and people of undetermined nationality or at risk of statelessness, with thirty capacity-building activities focusing on refugee protection and citizenship issues for 394 law enforcement officers, the General Prosecutor's Office, NHRIs, and judges.

### **OUTPUT 4.3**

**Civil society has the knowledge, skills, and capabilities to exercise their rights, enhancing the voices of women and youth to genuinely participate in public decision-making, and engage in constructive dialogue to achieve social cohesion, justice and equality for all.**

The UN played a crucial role in launching a Chatbot to empower the Ombudsman Institute, raising awareness of misogyny and gender-related hate speech. Regional Women's Solidarity platforms (Kurultai) convened over 400 women, fostering gender-inclusive decision-making. A National Kurultai developed an action plan for women's leadership. UN-facilitated digital skills training for 180 girls and women led to a notable 54% employment rate, addressing gender-based digital divides.

In collaboration with a civil society organization, the UN facilitated the development and implementation of the National Strategy on Crime Prevention (2022-2028), emphasizing coordination, community policing, youth engagement, and prisoner rehabilitation. UN-supported local committees for preventing gender-based violence in 10 municipalities, providing equipment, capacity-building

workshops, and business mentoring. Initiatives empowered 51 young key populations in leadership and activism within SRH and HIV programs. A network of 120 local specialists was mobilized to offer primary psychological support during emergencies, with a gender-based violence (GBV) referral protocol developed. Police personnel were trained to enhance services for women and girls facing gender-based violence.

UN-backed journalism education, safety guidelines, and Massive Open Online courses addressed reporting on migration and refugees, hate speech, and disinformation. Training 155 representatives from Local Self-Governments in development planning and youth engagement, U-Report polls, programs, and exchanges facilitated youth-led peace initiatives, addressing school bullying and creating a more youth-friendly learning environment.



## 2.3. SUPPORT TO PARTNERSHIPS AND FINANCING THE 2030 AGENDA

In 2023, the UN continued to support the Government in diversifying resources as well as partners, to best implement its development priorities including the implementation of the SDGs. In this pursuit, immediately after the concurrence of the JWP 2023-2024 by the Government, the UN convened a roundtable with the Diplomatic Corps, development partners and IFIs, in April 2023, to present development priorities and seeking support to bridge the funding gaps.

The Resident Coordinator had promoted the UNCT to be a co-creator of the development solutions to unlock new sources of SDG finance at the country level. In this earnest, the report of the Development Finance Assessment (DFA) was presented to the Development Partners Coordination Council, co-chaired by the Resident Coordinator. The DFA presented a review of the Kyrgyz Republic's

financial landscape covering domestic and international public and private flows, as well as policy, institutional, capacity and risk management dimension, and links to the Program for Medium-Term Development (2021-2026). The DFA was established by the Presidential Administration as the primary building block for establishing the Kyrgyz Republic Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF). The DFA revealed that given the heavy dependence on gold production (about 10 percent of GDP), remittances (25 percent of GDP), and foreign aid, diversifying production, exports and investment will be critical to attaining the national vision. In support, the DFA identified new financing instruments and mechanisms to further accelerate growth in private capital. The report also highlighted that SDG budget tagging is not in place, which limits determination of financing gap.



During 2023, the UN continued to strengthen its partnerships with multilateral and bilateral donors such as the European Union, Governments of Finland, Germany, Japan, Korea, Luxemburg, Norway, Russia, Switzerland, Türkiye, United Kingdom, and United States in support of the Kyrgyz Government's national priorities. This included cooperation under the EU-UN's global flagship programme on Gender-Based Violence and Harmful Practices, the Spotlight Initiative, which was concluded at the end of 2023.

The UN continued to harness its convening role through the Development Partners Coordination Council (DPCC). As a Co-chair, the UNRC helped in the agenda setting and guiding the DPCC's discussion and position at its thematic working groups including on human rights. Of 15 Working Groups, UN agencies chair or co-chair 9 of them, with the thematic focus linked to the UNSDCF's four priority areas. The UN's role in the DPCC facilitated constructive dialogue and shared vision with the Kyrgyz Government on national development priorities. For example, on the pernicious issue of air pollution in Bishkek, the UN-brokered efforts with ADB and GIZ informed policies and programs in urban planning in close collaboration with the Ministry of Natural Resources, Ecology and Technical Oversight. Similarly, the DPCC Working Group on Environment, Climate change and Disaster risk management is another example where UN co-chairing has led to coordinated support of the donor community of the government's COP 28 contributions and climate change mitigation and adaptation in country.

The DPCC has also been coordinating donor assistance in the education sector for 20 years. In 2023, the UN also assisted the Ministry of Education and Science in finalizing the Partnership Compact that will enable Kyrgyzstan to apply for funding from Global Partnership for Education (GPE) and the Arab Coordination group (including Islamic Development Bank). The UN will continue to technically support the Ministry in the process of applying for GPE funding and operationalizing the Compact. 2023 also saw Kyrgyzstan launching several trade and investment initiatives. With UN support, Kyrgyzstan participated in international trade fairs and exhibitions held in Qatar, Shanghai, and London, leading to new business contacts and export orders of the Kyrgyzstan Government.

Pursuing a whole-of-society approach for the implementation of the SDGs, the UN continued to work closely with its more than 60 civil society organization (CSO) partners, to serve vulnerable persons, ensuring access to rights, service and humanitarian aid, in line with the LNOB principle, supporting persons with disabilities, internally displaced persons, minorities, migrants, the elderly, women, youth and children, survivors of domestic violence and human trafficking. Cooperation with CSOs covered a diverse array of issues, e.g., climate adaptation, disaster risk reduction, human rights, legal aid, GBV prevention, immunization and media literacy. The collaborations with civil society, academia and the private sector were able to drive positive changes across a number of areas, including healthcare, education, social cohesion, gender equality and women's empowerment, elimination of statelessness, environmental conservation, biodiversity efforts, business development and employment creation.

In order to tap the potential of youth in Kyrgyzstan, an innovative partnership in 2023 was launched in the form of the establishment of the Youth Advisory Board (YAB). It enables the UNCT to effectively engage a wider Youth audience in its work and to promote youth engagement into the 2030 Agenda. The Board currently has 12 members, coming from diverse backgrounds and nominated by the UN agencies in the country. YAB also has a Chair selected from among the members. UNFPA, together with RCO, provides secretariat and coordination support to YAB.

**South-South and Triangular Cooperation:** In pursuance of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action (BAPA) + 40 and the UN System-wide Strategy on South-South and Triangular Cooperation for sustainable development, the UN in Kyrgyzstan launched a new project under the India-UN Development Partnership Fund on reproductive and maternal health services for rural women, aimed at diminishing maternal and neonatal mortality and morbidity through telemedicine services.

The UN has also supported the Government in exploring the viability to establish a Conservation Trust Fund that could improve financing for environment and biodiversity conservation by mobilizing, pooling and complementing government, private and donor contributions in form of a UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund.



## 2.4. RESULTS OF THE UN WORKING MORE AND BETTER TOGETHER: UN COHERENCE, EFFECTIVENESS, AND EFFICIENCY

With each passing year, the UN reform is being entrenched better for the benefit of the UNCT, the Government and the partners. For example, Joint Programmes, such as the Spotlight Initiative and the INFF study (see below) clearly demonstrated better collaboration, better engagement and coherent responses of the UN agencies under the UNRC system. The Mutual Recognition Statement has enhanced inter-agency collaboration, reducing transaction costs.

For the Government, the UNRC continues to be a 'one-stop-shop' for collaboration and partnerships. UN agencies provide a wide range of activities in support of the 2030 Agenda, including capacity development, policy support and advice and advocacy. In 2023, the UN agencies, under the leadership of the UNRC, continued to provide integrated policy solutions to the implementation of the Government's 'Mountain Agenda' in pursuance of Kyrgyzstan's co-sponsorship of the General-Assembly Resolution on the Five Years of Action for the Development of Mountain Regions, air pollution, education reforms (linked to the follow-up to the Transforming Education Summit), preparation for the SDG Summit and its follow-up to the national commitments, COP 28, preparation of COP 29 and the Summit of the Future, among other. The empowered UNRC system is also effective in convening development partners for SDG advancement including in the DPCC and the Development Forum.

An important aspect of working together is the UN's collective and unified stance on the UN's Normative Agenda including human rights and gender issues given the peculiar context of shrinking civic space. The UNRC, on behalf of the UNCT, continuously engages the Government, the Parliament, civil society and development partners on the UN normative agenda, through diplomacy, written communications and policy statements, including public statements at public events. A dedicated UNCT retreat on civic space provided the platform for agreement on collective efforts and action plan to prevent the civic space from further shrinking. The advocacy and integrated policy advice are not only in response to specific or potential

violation of human rights and women's rights, but also through organized campaigns, like the 16-Days campaign and the UN Day. The UNCT also conducted and commissioned legal analysis of draft laws with recommendations.

In the spirit of the UN reform, the UN agencies continued to derive their Country Programme Documents from the UNSDCF 2023-2027, e.g. FAO and UN-Women. The UNCT benefited from the regional assets including the knowledge base of the Regional Economic Commissions and Issue-based Coalitions. Their support was both supply and demand driven but contextualized to country's needs and priorities. The UNRC worked closely with the UN Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia on in-country political monitoring and assessment, cross-border security issues, human rights, promoting an integrated approach to development, human rights and humanitarian assistance.

At the Global Refugee Forum 2023, the UNCT joined the UN Common Pledge 2.0 committing to achieve positive impacts for refugees (including mandate refugees), asylum-seekers and stateless persons through facilitation of their better access to equal rights and opportunities with nationals; in cooperation with the host government pursue ultimate prevention of statelessness, and access to legal identity and civil registration.



## Emergency Response Plan

Between 14-17 September 2022, the escalation of violence at the Kyrgyz-Tajik border caused 142,071 people to flee from their villages of origin in Batken and Osh oblast. In light of the impact of the escalation on people, the Government requested international humanitarian assistance. As a result, the Disaster Response Coordination Unit (DRCU), a multi-stakeholder body responsible for the coordination of the international humanitarian response, co-chaired by the Minister of Emergency (MeS) Situations and the UNRC was immediately activated.

The DRCU activated seven sectors: (i) Emergency Shelter and Camp Coordination; (ii) Food Security; (iii) Health; (iv) Protection; (v) Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH); (vi) Education; and (vii) Early Recovery. On the request of the Government, the DRCU developed a comprehensive Emergency Response Plan (ERP). The ERP was launched on 21 October 2022 and continued operations in 2023. It sought to provide life-saving humanitarian

assistance to over 77,700 people for a period of three months to cover the most urgent needs before winter. The ERP identified humanitarian needs totaling USD 14.7 million. More than 89,693 women, men, and children were reached with some form of assistance under the ERP. USD 4.7 million was mobilized to address the most immediate humanitarian needs of people, including winterization. At least 18 organizations distributed cash, food, non-food items, including basic housewares and winter clothing, hygiene and dignity kits, teaching and learning materials, and provided protection services, including legal assistance and psychosocial support to the most vulnerable among the affected population.

A Lessons Learnt workshop was organized to identify what worked well and what areas require improvements. As a result, a DRCU Emergency Response Preparedness Roadmap was prepared and later endorsed in December 2023 which outlines 40 recommendations.

## SDG Summit

Under the leadership of the UNRC, the UNCT provided support to the Government in prioritizing and formulating National Commitments in line with national development vision. This included information sharing on the

SDG Summit, analytical and conceptual advice and support, and engagement at the highest level of the Government including with the national institution responsible for sustainable development.





Advocacy by the UNRC of senior level officials in the Presidential Administration and line Ministries enabled national consultations as part of the preparations. The UNCT, through the RG co-chairs, developed an initial set of possible priorities/commitments for Government consideration. Following the UNRC's suggestions, the Presidential Administration established an Inter-Ministerial Task Force, led by the Presidential Administration, dedicated to the SDG Summit and its follow-up. Upon UNRC suggestion, UNDP included Kyrgyzstan in the SDG Push Report to be the basis for further discussion with the Government to identify priorities.

In pursuance of the Secretary-General's letter to the Heads of State and Government, and

## Efficiency Gains

The UNRC, being the highest-ranking representative of the Secretary-General in the country, oversees that the Efficiency Agenda is followed in letter and spirit. The UNCT, under the auspices of the Operations Management Team (OMT), that provides leadership in implementing common business operations in a coordinated, efficient, and effective manner at the country level, continued to work jointly on the annual reviews of the Common Premises and the Business Operations Strategy.

In pursuance of the Efficiency Agenda, the Common Country Premises Plan is in place, with four common premises at national and sub-national level. The UNCT in Kyrgyzstan has already achieved the important component of the Secretary-General's UN Reform Programme by having more than 50% premises shared by UN organizations in the country.

For the Business Operations Strategy (BOS), the UNCT had identified four common servic-

es (procurement, human resources, finance/Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers (HACT) and administrative services) relevant to the country context and to the 14 participating agencies. The 2022 review revealed an actual cost avoidance of USD 439,000, as against the estimated USD 569,000 (77%). The difference can partially be attributed to external factors such as war in Ukraine resulting in huge inflation rate and delays in procurement, and the escalation of violence at the Kyrgyz-Tajik border in September 2022 that greatly affected UN activities as some activities were canceled or postponed due to a temporary focus on the delivery of humanitarian assistance under the ERP, upon request from the Government.

The BOS was reviewed in March 2024. For 2023, the cost avoidance estimate was USD 581,596, that was almost realized as the actual cost avoidance came out to be USD 578,097.

## Joint Programmes

The UN in Kyrgyzstan is managing 14 joint programmes amounting to around USD 14 million. These programs are anchored in the UNSDCF 2023-27, its theory of change and accountability mechanisms. Under the leadership of the UNRC, the programs are aimed to achieve a catalytic development result that depends

upon the comparative advantages of two or more participating UN organizations working together with partners as a team in a highly coordinated and integrated manner. These joint programs cover different areas of the UNSDCF including green economy, peacebuilding, GBV, energy, forestry and environment.

## The EU-UN Spotlight Initiative (SI) Program

The EU-UN Spotlight Initiative (SI) Program in Kyrgyzstan not only benefitted from the UN reform but through its coherent management and operations also contributed to strengthening it. Being a multi-stakeholder program, harnessing the specialized skills of five UN agencies (and other associated agencies), the culmination of the Program in 2023, proved the usefulness of the reinvigorated RC system under the leadership of the Resident Coordinator.

The SI was launched in 2020 in Kyrgyzstan amidst the continued development and articulation of the United Nations Development System (UNDS) reform to ensure more coher-

ent and effective support to the 2030 Agenda. From the design stage, it demonstrated the impartial role of the UNRC in mobilizing the UN agencies' expertise to tackling GBV in the country. The UNRC exercised leadership over the Initiative's programs, leading Recipient United Nations Organizations (RUNOs) towards an integrated working model that ensured coordination, coherence and accountability in implementation. As a co-chair of the National Steering Committee, the UNRC also ensured provision of strategic direction, a system-wide approach to partnerships, oversight and accountability for system-wide results and strategic communications and advocacy.



From 2020-2023, significant results have been achieved in strengthening laws, policies, and institutions, prevention work, survivor-centric service provision, improving data and empowering women's movements, as measured against the program's global results framework. The cumulative results showed that GBV can be challenged and identified tools needed to do it. It initiated vital conversations at policy, parliament, and sub-national levels (including municipalities) addressing issues such as sexual harassment, legal gaps, child marriage, gender-based discrimination, and femicide. At policy level, key successes include the endorsement of the Gender Equality Strategy until 2030 and the National Action Plan with budget (2022-2024), and the integration of Sexual and Gender-based Violence (SGBV) in

the Parliament's Gender Council Strategy and the Action Plan. Overall, a legislative review of 36 laws and 60 by-laws led to actionable recommendations to address GBV. While the municipal crisis centers continued to provide assistance to the victims, in 2023, a free legal aid hotline was launched to provide assistance and counselling to the population, including those affected by SGBV. For systemic societal change, several universities integrated gender-transformative modules in various subjects.

Although significant strides were achieved in addressing GBV, challenges still persist. Further efforts are required to tackle existing gaps such as the pre-investigative check outlined in the Criminal Procedural Code and other normative acts.



## Peacebuilding Fund

The Peacebuilding Fund's portfolio in the country in the current eligibility term (2021-2026) addresses the following key areas, upon request by the President to the UN Secretary-General: (1) strengthening trust between citizens and authorities; (2) fostering greater mutual trust between different identity groups; and (3) facilitating cooperation between border communities.

Ongoing UN interventions fostered inclusive governance and supported the implementation of the national “Kyrgyz Jarany” civic identity concept. They also enable grassroots civil society to contribute to vertical and horizontal social cohesion. Operating at various levels, the UN worked to enhance national and local Infrastructures for Peace. They enabled the co-drafting of the National Action Plan on Social Cohesion, aimed at synergizing the action plans of Civic Identity Concept, State Policy on Religious Affairs, Youth Development Concept, NAP on Resolution 1325, strengthening infrastructures for peace (I4P)<sup>14</sup> and achieving a greater peace impact in the long run. They reached out to hundreds of thousands of the country's populations to promote the concepts of inclusion, tolerance, and diversity, and raised awareness about civic identity. Instruments varied from one-off mass information campaigns, offline and online trainings, to local youth-led peace promotion projects. Activities supported the improvement of pertinent legal frameworks and tools to promote non-violent communication and conducted media information literacy trainings in school settings and beyond.

In the context of an ongoing centralization of public administration, these interventions enhanced the value of people's participation



at the level of self-governance. They enabled local governments to adopt Charters of Local Communities, which are, in a way, a social contract between people and authorities emphasizing self-reliance and local knowledge in addressing social tensions at local levels.

A Kyrgyz-Uzbek cross-border project, and a gender promotion project in the Batken province, implemented alongside civil society organizations (CSOs), showed notable results in localizing the climate, peace, and security nexus. They enabled open women-led dialogues with relevant authorities on the adverse effects of climate change on social cohesion and subsequent integration of climate and peace issues into local development planning. They generated exemplary local livelihood and entrepreneurial activities, employing innovative techniques in IT and agriculture, and facilitating cross-border exchanges of experiences. These endeavours were designed to assist communities across borders in coping with dwindling natural resources, helping reduce climate-induced risks at the community level.

A youth promotion project helped young people cope and handle with the psychological factors of conflicts. It successfully challenged stereotypes surrounding mental health and psychosocial support services (MHPSS) and encouraged open dialogue about issues that previously hindered meaningful community participation. It established referral mechanisms and coordination between various local actors and state services to address mental health issues among young people. This reflected a broader acknowledgment that mental well-being is a critical ingredient for fostering more peaceful and stable communities.



<sup>14</sup> I4P: A dynamic network of interdependent structures, mechanisms, resources, values and skills which through dialogue and consultation, contribute to conflict prevention and peacebuilding in a society.

### UN Support to the Mountain Agenda

Kyrgyzstan’s landscape, 94 percent of which is mountainous, features snow-capped peaks and over 8,000 glaciers that are vital for the country’s water supply. Despite their natural bounty, these mountains face challenges from global warming. The implications of climate change are widespread, affecting water access, energy, agricultural productivity, infrastructure, and tourism, with potentially deep impacts on both the ecosystems of the mountains and the communities reliant on them.



In recent years, the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic has inspired international efforts as an advocate for sustainable mountain development on a global scale. The United Nations General-Assembly (UNGA) declared 2022 as International Year of Mountains, following a proposal from the Kyrgyz Government, with 94 governments co-sponsoring the initiative. In November 2022, the UNGA adopted a Resolution on sustainable mountain development, which designated 2023–2027 as the “Five Years of Action for the Development of Mountain Regions” also proposed by the Government. This Resolution garnered the co-sponsorship of 110 governments. At COP 28, upon advocacy of the Kyrgyz Government, the holding of an Expert Dialogue on Mountains and Climate Change at the sixtieth session of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) to be held in June 2024 in Bonn was included in the Outcome document for follow-up.

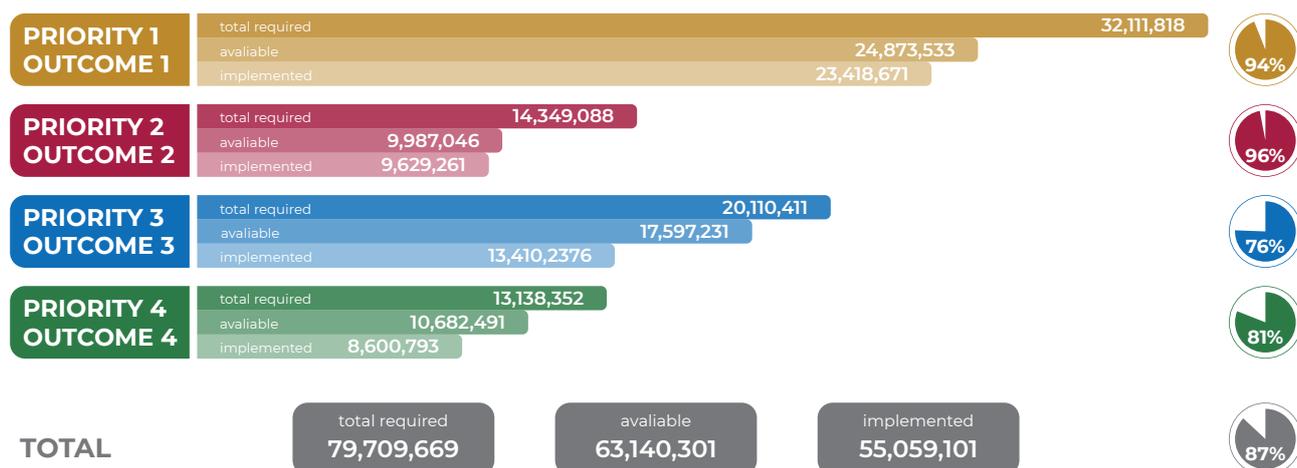
The UN family in Kyrgyzstan has shown dedicated commitment to advancing the Mountain Agenda. The UN system provided expert advice on the conceptualization of the Five Years of Action at national and global levels. On the UNRC’s initiative, two working groups were set up to ensure both a coordinated approach and to leverage system-wide expertise. The UNRC also formed a coalition of UNCT named as the “UN Friends of the Mountain Agenda.” to coordinate capacity building and conceptual and programmatic support to the national ambitions. As a result, a national roadmap was developed and adopted by the Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers which serves as framework for UN programmatic support across the four priority areas of the UNSDCF. Secondly, the Mountain Partnership Secretariat, hosted by FAO, established a Global Task Force to support the drafting of the global and regional components of the action framework. The proposed framework is grounded in the recommendations to Members States outlined in the 2022 report of the UN Secretary-General on sustainable mountain development and in the 77<sup>th</sup> UNGA sustainable mountain development Resolution.



## 2.5. FINANCIAL OVERVIEW AND RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

### 2.5.1. Financial Overview

#### BUDGET BREAKDOWN BY OUTCOMES (USD) 2023



#### BUDGET BREAKDOWN BY AGENCY (USD) 2023

Agency	Total required 2023	Available 2023	Implemented	%
FAO	5,304,544	5,024,544	4,164,723	83%
IFAD	1,436,900	1,436,900	1,436,900	100%
ILO	653,970	653,970	294,099	45%
IOM	2,351,055	1,921,055	1,849,280	96%
ITU	414,500	367,500	309,200	84%
ITC	671,000	671,000	671,000	100%
OHCHR	1,100,000	480,000	360,000	75%
UNAIDS	44,000	44,000	66,000	150%
UNDP	28,834,243	25,421,702	20,799,339	82%
UNEP	260,000	260,000	260,000	100%
UNESCO	1,264,381	1,130,331	1,064,113	94%
UNFPA	1,079,400	1,265,300	863,300	68%
UNHCR	1,148,237	1,287,861	1,287,861	100%
UNICEF	5,799,334	4,774,036	4,226,739	89%
UN Women	973,889	904,082	738,477	82%
UNODC	3,971,000	3,971,000	3,591,060	90%
WFP	21,438,216	10,817,020	10,817,010	100%
WHO	2,370,000	2,130,000	1,810,000	85%
UNDRR				
UNECE	295,000	280,000	250,000	89%
UNCTAD	300,000	300,000	200,000	67%
<b>Total</b>	<b>79,709,669</b>	<b>63,140,301</b>	<b>55,059,101</b>	<b>87%</b>

## 2.5.2. Resource mobilization and quality of funding

In 2023, the UN secured 88 per cent coverage of the approximately USD79,689,669 million required resources for the implementation of UN activities with available resources of USD 63,320,301 million. The total expenditure reached USD 55,566,157 million. There were 20 contributing partners in 2023 with top contributions coming from the Global Fund for Fighting Aids, Tuberculosis and Malaria (\$12.8 million), the Green Climate Fund (\$ 7.5 million.), Peacebuilding Fund (\$3.6 million.), Global Environmental Facility (\$2.3 million.). Whereas the top donors supporting Kyrgyzstan through the UN in achieving the SDGs are European Union, Finland, Japan, Korea, Russia, Switzerland, and United States.

Both the UN and the Government emphasized diversifying the source of resources and partners, particularly from the private sector, to implement the SDGs and Agenda 2030 priorities encapsulated in the UNSDCF.

Kyrgyzstan is exploring the establishment of a Conservation Trust Fund (CTF) to enhance investments in environmental resilience and biodiversity. The CTF would be linked to national and international priorities, focusing on protecting mountain ecosystems, developing protected areas, increasing forested areas, and contributing to carbon neutrality. By aggregating financial support, the CTF would aim to bridge the financial gap for environmental protection and sustainability, fulfilling the country's commitments to the global community.



CHAPTER

03

UNCT  
KEY FOCUS  
FOR NEXT YEAR

2023 was the first year of UNSDCF 2023-2027 implementation. Based on the analysis in the CCA update of 2023, the political and socioeconomic situation in the country, feedback from national consultations for the Joint Workplans of the Cooperation Framework and more importantly, keeping the national development priorities supreme, in 2024, the UN will continue to support attainment of the following priorities as outlined in the UNSDCF 2023-27:

- 1. Quality social services**
- 2. Green socio-economic development**
- 3. Climate action, disaster risk management and environmental protection**
- 4. Peace, social cohesion and adherence to human rights**

These UNSDCF priorities will be implemented through the SDG accelerators approach. Globally, SDG accelerators have been identified to reach the targets by 2030. These transformative entry points – called “six transitions” - that can have catalytic and multiplier effects across the SDGs include: (1) food systems; (2) energy access and affordability; (3) digital connectivity; (4) education; (5) jobs and social protection; and (6) climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution. Within each area, four so-called “engine room” actions have been identified that define the “how” of the implementation of the six transitions: (1) policy and regulatory frameworks, (2) pipelines of bankable and market-ready national projects with participation of both public and private sectors, (3) to convene all relevant actors to attract the needed financing from all sources – traditional donors, development banks, capital markets, philanthropic foundations, and remittances, to help develop the ‘deal room’ – a financing mix with innovative instruments – for each of the transitions, and (4) capacity-building to support public institutions and civil society.

The UN will use its collaborative and coordinated expertise to strengthen the implementation of the Government’s priority development initiatives including commitments made at the SDG Summit and the Development Forum, COP 28, the Transforming Education Summit (TES) and the Mountain Agenda, among other.

The UN will work closely in preparation of the Summit of the Future, harnessing the knowledge and data provided by the Secretary-General’s Call for Action and his forward-looking Policy Briefs aimed at fostering multilateral solutions to global peace, development and human rights challenges.

**1.** In priority area 1, social protection being one of the Six Transitions, the support to the provision of quality social services will include health, education and decent work social protection and support for social integration of refugees. In health, the UN’s focus will be on primary healthcare (PHC) including its financing from the public exchequer. PHC is the priority in the Government’s health strategy for 2019 – 2030 ‘Healthy person – prosperous country’. Other health priorities will include the implementation of national health programs (national vaccination, pandemic preparedness), and control of infectious and non-communicable diseases.

Education being one of the national priorities committed by the President at the SDG Summit, the UN will continue to support the implementation of the recommendations of the Joint Sector Reviews (JSR), digitalization of education (being one of the five priorities of the TES), particularly in rural schools. The UN will also work with the Government in piloting the new voucher system in schools, as it may entail risks of sustaining the existing disparities in access to education for the most vulnerable. Having launched the Partnership Compact, the UN will continue to technically support the Government in the process of applying for Global Partnership for Education (GPE) funding and operationalizing the Compact. The Compact is aligned with the principles of SDG 4 and the key reform areas agreed at JSRs and TES.

In the area of Decent Work, the focus will be on improved compliance with international standards and the Decent Work Agenda, improved access of essential social services for refugees, asylum-seekers, stateless persons and food-insecure and vulnerable individuals. Following the approval by Parliament of ILO Convention 190 and subsequently assented by



the President, the UN will support the Government in bringing the national law in line with provisions of the Convention.

**2.** Inclusive green economy being one of the two national priorities presented at the SDG Summit, the UN will focus to support the Government's efforts in this priority area. This will include adaptive and climate-resilient agribusiness, expanding financial access for MSMEs in green sectors, digitalization of agriculture, improved export competitiveness including in digital markets, increased access to finance, investment, and market opportunities for women entrepreneurs (including in agriculture) and returning migrants. Focus will also be on the food and nutrition needs of vulnerable groups through conditional transfers, including insurance. For the economic uplift of the people living in the mountain regions, the focus will be on enhancing climate information, boosting biodiversity conservation and reforming water management.

**3.** Climate action being one of the six transitions and the Mountain Agenda being the top priority for the Government, in priority area 3, the UN's continued focus will be on supporting the implementation of the Five Years Action Plan for the Development of the Mountain Regions 2023-2027. In continuation of the success at COP 28, the UN will continue its coordinated support for COP 29 focusing on enhancing climate diplomacy, inter-sectoral collaboration, development, and operationalization of the key climate policies, establishing transparency frameworks and harmonized reporting under the Paris Agreement, and many other aspects of the national climate agenda. In 2024, one of the important aspects of this support, as follow up to the COP28, will be preparing Kyrgyzstan for the Expert Dialogue on Mountains and Climate Change at the session of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice of UNFCCC in Bonn, 2024.

As sustainable development of mountain regions is a complex endeavor, that also requires a diverse array of financial tools and mechanisms, the UN will continue to convene and mobilize the best expertise and resources from the development partners. This may include

the establishment of a Conservation Trust Fund (CTF). The UN will support the establishment of a suitable model of the CTF in 2024 through the Multi-Partner Trust Fund. While Kyrgyzstan is signatory to several key climate action declarations,<sup>15</sup> including the Coalition of a High Ambition Multi-Level Partnership for Climate Action, however, some declarations with substantial potential for Kyrgyzstan were not signed, such as the COP28 Joint Statement on Climate, Nature, and People, and the Gender-Responsive Just Transitions and Climate Partnerships. The UN will continue to support the Government in these important areas.

For COP 29, the UN will support in implementation of the Regional Strategy for Climate Change Adaptation in Central Asia adopted at COP 28 by all five Central Asian countries that marked a significant step in regional climate action.

**Air pollution:** The UNCT's common approach to air pollution stands out as a model of the UN agencies working together at the country level. While the Kyrgyz Government has actioned many recommendations from the multi-stakeholder's partnership under the leadership of the UNRC, the UN will continue to support enhancing the regulatory framework for the use of renewable energy sources, among others.

These future supports are all in line with the six transitions, often complementing the other and complying with engine room actions. In 2024, the UN will also support the Government in preparation of the second Voluntary National Review in 2025.

**4.** To bring systemic change, an accountable, participatory, transparent, and effective governance system is imperative. In view of the shrinking civic space, as articulated in the CCA update 2023, in 2024, and beyond, UN's assistance will focus on human rights-based and gender-responsive public services and strengthen Parliament's capacity on participatory legislation and oversight. Kyrgyzstan's membership in the Human Rights Council for the 2023-2025 term is an opportunity to support the country in adherence to key human

<sup>15</sup> Coalition of a High Ambition Multi-Level Partnership for Climate Action, UAE COP28 Declaration on Sustainable Agriculture, Sustainable Food Systems, and Climate Action, COP28 Declaration on Climate, Relief, Recovery, and Peace, UAE COP28 Declaration on Climate and Health, and additional commitment to renewable energy and energy efficiency.

rights principles and international commitments and pledges that it has made. The UN's support will also include inculcation of international human rights obligations into national legal and justice processes, strengthening the Ombudsman's institute, better access to justice especially for women, children, and other vulnerable including forcibly displaced and stateless persons. The focus will also be on enhancing civil society and the media's meaningful participation in decision-making. While these priorities are interlinked and complementing, the underpinning approach of the UN system will be to focus on vulnerable groups, gender equality, equity in access to services, sustainable use of resources and adherence to the UN core normative principles.

In terms of contextual challenges, in 2024, the UNCT will continue closely monitoring the shrinking civic space and its potential impact on delivery and at the same time, continue to work closely with the Government with persistent advocacy on civil rights and liberties and Kyrgyzstan's obligations to international human rights commitments and pledges. The UN will also continue to provide support under the Peacebuilding Fund, as agreed with the Kyrgyz Government.

Keeping in view the UNSDCF priorities that are aligned with the Governments' development aspirations, the UNCT configuration in Kyrgyzstan is 'fit for purpose' comprising of a variety of resident and non-resident entities, Agencies, Funds and Programmes, including regional commissions.

This allows the country team to draw from a wide range of expertise and resources. In 2023, the UNCT received expression of interest from UNOPS and UN-Habitat. UNOPS is committed to joining the country team and to contribute to three priority areas of the Cooperation Framework, namely, Quality social

services, climate action, disaster risk management and environmental protection, and just, accountable, and inclusive institutions. The UNCT Kyrgyzstan expects to benefit from the UNOPS's Austria-based multi-Country Office, which possesses a significant international Water, Environment and Climate portfolio that can support UNCT Kyrgyzstan in taking forward national priorities including the Mountain Agenda, implementation of NDCs and COP 28 commitments, among others. UNOPS planned contributions include provision of sustainable procurement practices, support to UN entities in grant management and anticorruption efforts and serve as a catalyst for complex multi-stakeholder projects.

UN-Habitat, which is already implementing an urban resilience project (Naryn City), has also expressed its intent to join the country team for more coherent and coordinated contribution to the UNSDCF, including in the Voluntary Local Review with the Bishkek City Council. At the time of writing of this report in 2024, UNOPS formally joined the UNCT after the concurrence of the Government while the induction process with UN-Habitat is underway.

In 2024, the UN's focus will be to transition from a project-based approach to a strategic one that comprehensively contributes to attainment of the UNSDCF outcomes and addresses the potential risks in achieving the results. Overall, moving forward, the UN's approach will be rooted in the 17 Goals, the "six transitions" and associated "engine rooms" that serve as analytical frameworks for identifying common SDG acceleration pathways. The UN will continue exploring with the Government and other development partners which of the identified pathways most resonates with the specific Kyrgyz country context to guide the UN programming and targeted investments and partnerships.



## List of national implementing partners

Priority 1 / Outcome 1	Priority 2 / Outcome 2	Priority 3 / Outcome 3	Priority 4 / Outcome 4
Parliament of the Kyrgyz Republic	Parliament of the Kyrgyz Republic	Parliament of the Kyrgyz Republic	Parliament of the Kyrgyz Republic
Office of the President of the Kyrgyz Republic	Office of the President of the Kyrgyz Republic	Office of the President of the Kyrgyz Republic	Office of the President of the Kyrgyz Republic
Cabinet of Ministers of the Kyrgyz Republic	Cabinet of Ministers of the Kyrgyz Republic	Cabinet of Ministers of the Kyrgyz Republic	Supreme Court
Ministry of economy & Commerce	Ministry of economy & Commerce	Ministry of natural resources, environment and technical regulation	Cabinet of Ministers of the Kyrgyz Republic
Ministry of Labour	Ministry of Labour, Social Security and Migration	Ministry of economy & Commerce	Ministry of foreign Affairs
Social Security and Migration	Ministry of Agriculture	Ministry of Labour, Social Security and Migration	Ministry of Justice
Ministry of Agriculture	Ministry of Education and Science	Ministry of Agriculture	Ministry of economy & Commerce
Ministry of Education and Science	Ministry of health	Ministry of Education and Science	Ministry of Labour, Social Security and Migration
Ministry of health	Ministry of Finance	Ministry of health	Ministry of health
Ministry of Finance	Ministry of Emergency Situations	Ministry of Finance	Ministry of Agriculture
Ministry of Emergency Situations	Ministry of Energy	Ministry of Emergency Situations	Ministry of Education and Science
Ministry of Digital Development	Ministry of Digital Development	Ministry of Energy	Ministry of health
National Statistical Committee	National Statistical Committee	National Statistical Committee	Ministry of Finance
National Bank	Employers' and Employees' Organization	Climate Finance Center	Ministry of Emergency Situations
Ministry of Culture, Sport and Youth	Civil society organizations	Kyrgyz Hydromet	Ministry of Digital Development
Ombudsman office	Academic and private sectors	Civil society organizations	Ministry of internal affairs
Mandatory Health Insurance Fund	Media	Academic and private sectors	Ministry of culture, tourism, information and youth
E-Health Center	LSGs	Media	National Statistical Committee
Kyrgyz Alliance on Family Planning	Vocational education and training institutions	LSGs	Central Election Commission
Drug Supply Department	Department for Migration		State service on migration
Public Council of MoH and MoF	MFA		General Prosecutor's Office
HIV and TB NGO Networks	Russian-Kyrgyz Development Fund		State commission on religion
National regulatory agency for medicines regulation	National Council for Compatriots Abroad		Ombudsmen Institute
State Inspectorate for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Safety	Diaspora		Civil society organizations
Republican AIDS Centre	Mayor's offices of Bishkek and Osh cities		Academic and private sectors
Republican Narcology Centre	Republican Centre for Health Promotion		Media
National Centre of Physiatry	National Commission for UNESCO		LSGs
State Veterinary Inspectorate	Organization of agricultural producers		Vocational education and training institutions
National regulatory agency for medicines	Chamber of Accounts		Religious organizations and societies
State epidemiological department			
Republican center of immune prophylaxis			
Civil society organizations			
Academic and private sectors			
Media			
LSGs			
Mayor's offices of Bishkek and Osh cities			







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