

# ANNUAL REPORT 2019



UNITED NATIONS  
KYRGYZ REPUBLIC



UNITED NATIONS  
DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE  
FRAMEWORK 2018-2022



Kyrgyz Republic, 2020



UNITED NATIONS  
KYRGYZ REPUBLIC



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



International  
Labour  
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IOM  
UN MIGRATION



International  
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UNECE



Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.



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UNEP



UNITED NATIONS  
UNCTAD



UNITED NATIONS  
ESCAP  
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific



UNHCR  
The UN Refugee Agency



UNITED NATIONS  
HUMAN RIGHTS  
OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER



UNODC

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime



UN  
VOLUNTEERS



World Food  
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United Nations Entity for Gender Equality  
and the Empowerment of Women

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# Acronyms

<b>CCA</b>	Climate Change Adaptation	<b>TB</b>	Tuberculosis
<b>CEDAW</b>	Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women	<b>UNDAF</b>	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
<b>CRPD</b>	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	<b>UN</b>	United Nations
<b>DRCU</b>	Disaster Response Coordination Unit	<b>UNCT</b>	United Nations Country Team
<b>DRR</b>	Disaster Risk Reduction	<b>UNECE</b>	UN's Economic Commission for Europe
<b>ESCAP</b>	UN's Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific	<b>USD</b>	United States Dollars
<b>FAO</b>	Food and Agriculture Organization	<b>VNR</b>	Voluntary National Review
<b>HIV/AIDS</b>	Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acute Immune Deficiency Syndrome	<b>WHO</b>	World Health Organization
<b>LNOB</b>	Leaving No One Behind		
<b>MES</b>	Ministry of Education and Science		
<b>MoES</b>	Ministry of Emergency Situations		
<b>NDS</b>	National Development Strategy 2040		
<b>NSC</b>	National Statistics Committee		
<b>PVE</b>	Prevention of Violent Extremism		
<b>SDGs</b>	Sustainable Development Goals		

## Foreword



This UNDAF/UNCT Annual Report for 2019 is being published at a time when the world faces an unprecedented threat from COVID-19. We see a global health crisis unlike any other – one that is spreading human suffering, destabilizing the global economy and upending the lives of billions of people around the globe. The Government of the Kyrgyz Republic, with the support of development partners, has put all its effort to maintain resilience of the health system, and save lives, while addressing socio-economic issues and laying the grounds for the economy's quicker recovery, so that those hit hardest could have an economic cushion not to fall into economic misery. Therefore, it has never been so critical to strengthen our

whole-of-society approach and seek national mobilization through increased collaboration and coordination between the government institutions at all levels, civil society organizations, businesses, women, youth and communities. The unparalleled uncertainty created by the pandemic requires exceptional leadership, and actions by all to maintain the momentum in the Decade of Action and to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030.

The UN in the Kyrgyz Republic is using its convening capacity to ensure a coordinated and integrated response to COVID-19 in the country, not only between UN Agencies, Funds and Programs, but with other development partners as well. We activated the Disaster Response Coordination Unit (DRCU), prior to the outbreak of the virus to mobilize critical capacities and resources together with our humanitarian partners and to deploy these capacities and resources at the disposal of national institutions and counterparts towards the development of a comprehensive response to the emergency. Working through six sectors, we assisted the government to develop a Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan to the pandemic. This was complemented by Response Plans in Food Security and Logistics, Education, Protection (including issues of Gender-based Violence), Early Recovery and Water and Sanitation respectively. These response plans helped ensure that relevant medical supplies and equipment

continue to be procured and distributed; children can engage in schooling remotely, food assistance is being provided to the most needy population groups across the country, issues of human rights and the protection of vulnerable groups continue to remain on the agenda of policy makers, and support for some economic recovery is provided to those most impacted by the pandemic.

While fighting the pandemic, the Government continues to work hard to meet its international commitments and presented for the first time its Voluntary National Report (VNR) on the SDGs progress at the UN's High-Level Political Forum in July 2020. This important VNR process has provided a snapshot of where the Kyrgyz Republic stands in the SDG implementation, with a view to help accelerate progress through experience sharing, peer-learning, identifying gaps and good practices, and mobilizing partnerships. Among the development highlights that should be acknowledged and celebrated is that the Kyrgyz Republic ended statelessness in 2019, a historic first that was achieved by bringing the number of stateless people in the country from over 13,000, including 2,000 children, to zero in just five years. The country has also made progress on gender equality and women's empowerment by enacting important legislation such as on prohibiting and punishing abduction for forced marriage and child marriage (*ala-kachuu*), criminalization of domestic violence and securing gender quotas for women in

local councils. Yet, during this time of unequaled uncertainty, it is critical to not only preserve these collective gains, but to seek to transform other protracted challenges that continue to hobble development and human rights in the country.

This report captures the UN System's contribution to the Kyrgyz Republic's development in 2019, as part of our five-year development assistance framework (UNDAF) with the country (2018–2022). The following pages seek to demonstrate how the UN is supporting the actualization of a development pathway decided by the people of the Kyrgyz Republic through the National Development Strategy 2018–2040 (NDS) and the Medium-Term Plan, "Unity. Trust. Creation".

With the comparative experience and expertise from 26 agencies active in the country, and leveraging the capacities and assets of all of the UN Development System agencies, the United Nations will continue to stand with the government and people of the Kyrgyz Republic, before, during and after any crisis or development challenge, by offering our diversity, expertise and richness - a bouquet that can support the Kyrgyz Republic to reach the multiple goals of its national development agenda.

**Ozonnia Ojielo, PhD**  
**UN Resident Coordinator**

*"No country, no community, is able to solve the complex problems of our world alone. We need to come together, not only to talk, but to listen. It is absolutely essential that you all join the conversation. We need your opinion, your strategies and your ideas for us to be able to deliver better for the people of the world that we must serve."*

**UN Secretary-General call for UN@75**

## Introduction

This Report highlights the progress made during the second year of United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) - 2018-2022, a partnership between the Kyrgyz Republic and the United Nations (UN) System for the sustainable development and inclusive growth in the country. The UNDAF priorities are fully aligned with the National Development Strategy (NDS) 2040 and its medium-term plan: "Unity. Trust. Creation" Program, 2018-2023. As such, the UNDAF is embedded in Kyrgyz Republic's own blueprint for development and reflects a whole of government as well as whole of UN approach. All United Nations Country Team (UNCT) and all UN agencies, under the overall leadership of the Resident

Coordinator continued to extend their expertise, resources and comparative strengths in a coherent manner to achieve targets set in the UNDAF. During 2019, per the UN Development System Reform, the UN Resident Coordinator took full charge of the coordination functions to support national efforts for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This immensely enhanced effective integration as well as interagency collaboration through joint programming.

The UN partnership with the Kyrgyz Republic is based on trust, mutual ownership and accountability and co-creation. Since the country's independence in 1991, the UN

has been the closest development partner of the Kyrgyz Republic, helping it set up its various institutions, investing in their growth and supporting the national development agenda. In line with UN's global role, the UNCT serves as a development advisor to the Government, bringing in high quality policy advice and development support from national and international experts to support development agenda of the government. Through the five-year UNDAF (2018–2022), the UN is contributing about USD 230 million to support the implementation of the commitment of the Kyrgyz Government in achieving the SDGs and its human rights related commitments. This 2019 Report not only reflects cumulative development gains achieved so far, but also highlights gaps in each UNDAF priority area, where identified, calling for accelerated progress and enhanced resources for meeting the national strategic goals, aligned with the SDGs.

**The UNDAF Priorities are:**

- **Priority I:** Sustainable and Inclusive Economic Growth, Industrial, Rural and Agricultural Development, Food Security and Nutrition
- **Priority II:** Good Governance, Rule of Law, Human Rights and Gender Equality
- **Priority III:** Environment, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management
- **Priority IV:** Social Protection, Health and Education



## UNDAF Outcomes and Contributions to Kyrgyz Republic's Development

The UNDAF is a co-creation of the UN System in strong partnership with the Government and its priorities were identified by the Government, the UN, civil society and development partners, including International Finance Institutions. Aligned with the SDGs, all four UNDAF outcomes are not only integrated to each other but are in sync with the NDS 2040. Each outcome is also reflective of the corresponding UN agencies' comparative

advantages, expertise and strengths, together with significant investments of development partners. The major developmental challenges of the Kyrgyz Republic have been addressed in a strategic manner to generate developmental outcomes that are integrated yielding synergistic impact. As integration characterizes the SDGs, similarly, each and every outcome under the UNDAF is interconnected [See Figure 2].



Figure 1 – UNDAF Outcomes embedded in the Kyrgyz Republic's National Development Strategy

Through the UNDAF, the UN System in the Kyrgyz Republic has committed a total of USD 221,171 million to support the government realize development needs of the country.

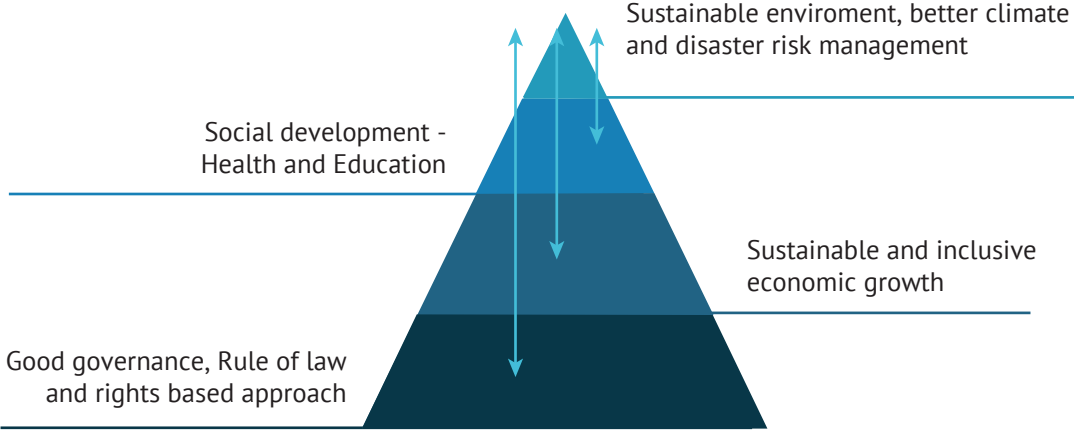


Figure 2 – The integrated nature of the UNDAF Priority Areas

## UNDAF Priority I: Sustainable and Inclusive Economic Growth

In the Kyrgyz Republic, opportunities for economic growth are challenged due to multiple reasons: contribution of the private sector is generally limited by the low level of labor productivity, absence of a significant domestic market, lack of qualified human capital, limited access to the capital and energy resources, as well as regulatory barriers. In agriculture sector, fragmented nature of land holdings, low value addition, lack of modern processing and production facilities and the shortage of transport and logistics networks do not allow producers to compete in emerging regional markets. Combined with this are significant gaps in infrastructure especially in rural and remote areas.

With these perennial issues, the strategy to realize Outcome I was pivoted around supporting industrial, rural and agricultural development, food security and nutrition through supporting value addition and increasing the manufacturing sectors' share of gross domestic product. The UN's approach was to support people, state institutions and policy makers. The overall impact in this priority area was greater agricultural production and processing of agricultural products with accompanying high value addition. As the interventions were labor intensive, they also created job opportunities and decent work and hence

contributed to economic growth. Food and nutrition security to the vulnerable citizens was also enhanced. With a greater focus on rural women, the UN's technical assistance enabled hundreds of women-led households with business and income generating skills. The enabling laws and policies, critical to stimulate economic growth and attract investments provided conducive environment in the country and supported small and medium enterprises, entrepreneurs and diaspora to improve productivity and competitiveness. Market linkages of local companies dealing with export and import of textiles and clothing were enhanced, export contracts worth more than USD 18 million were secured.

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*Despite this progress, economic challenges still remain that increases exposure to adverse external shocks and macroeconomic crisis. The most important step the Government can take is to focus on the fundamentals, that is: maintain financial and macroeconomic stability, invest in infrastructure, improve the business climate, encourage private investment and invest in human capital, innovation and knowledge-based development.*

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## UNDAF Priority II: Good governance, Rule of Law, Human Rights, and Gender equality

At the heart of the UN's assistance is the transformative governance and rule of law, for the integrated implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the Kyrgyz Republic (See Figure 2). The underpinning theory of change is that improving governance enhances the capacity of the government to deliver critical essential services equitably and effectively and for improvement of social outcomes. Good governance, rule of law and rights-based approach has multi-dimensional impacts. It can spur economic growth that is inclusive and pro-poor, it leads to social development with an overall effect on the environment that becomes sustainable with minimized risk to disasters and climate change.

Despite some progress in democratic governance in the past several years, the impact of realized efforts appears to be slow in certain vital areas such as constitutional framework, economic freedom, social justice and civic participation. In 2018–2019, the UN system, partnering with Parliament, Government, civil society organisations and main target groups – women, youth, etc., focused on enhancing accountability, transparency, effectiveness and efficiency of state institutions to respond to citizens' expectations for rule of law, justice, and peace.

Building on the progress made in 2018, the UN support in 2019 further contributed in enhancing accountability and inclusivity in state institutions including in areas such as justice sector, human rights, gender equality and peace. During the reporting period, the UN focused on putting people at the center of the public service delivery and leaving no one behind in the provision and consumption of services. With enhanced legislative capacity, the Parliament was able to pass important enabling laws. In 2019, the Kyrgyz Republic became the first country to end statelessness demonstrating how statelessness can be resolved through joint efforts of the Government, civil society and international community. The UN supported the Parliament to better exercise not only its core oversight functions, but also in establishing mechanisms for involving civil society in whistleblowing. The Justice Sector reforms especially focused on children, law enforcement entities and prison services, while about a dozen of critical legislation were promulgated with UN's assistance to uphold the rule of law and human rights. Other critical areas of support included free legal aid, mediation, gender-based violence, trafficking in person, and the state's engagement with UN Human Rights Mechanisms [See Outcome II for details].

The Kyrgyz Republic was the first country to end statelessness in the world. Thousands of citizens benefitted from free legal aid services, including women and people with disabilities, and victims of human trafficking. This enhanced access to justice contributed to lesser agitation and grievances among the citizens. There was a noticeable increase in awareness of citizens about human rights and gender issues, and hence effective voice of the citizens and better oversight of the government's decisions and policies. Gender mainstreaming in professions (e.g. legal practice and police) enhanced women's confidence and leadership and expanded opportunities for management-level positions in public sector, thus promoting inclusive and gender-sensitive decision making.

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*As a result of UN's support, the Parliament's oversight, state accountability and legislative capacities were enhanced together with responsiveness to citizens' voice. The Kyrgyz Republic was the first country to end statelessness and the Parliament passed several enabling laws to promote the rule of law and human rights. Through Justice Sector Reforms and gender mainstreaming especially in legal practice and police women's confidence and leadership capabilities were enhanced and at the same time encouraged more women to seek relief.*

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### **UNDAF Priority III: Environment, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management**

With a direct contribution to the NDS 2040, this priority area had an investment of USD 20 Million in 2018–19 by nine UN agencies. The UN's strategy hinged on interrelated interventions: (1) at the policy level, provision of technical support to the Government to improve strategies and legislation associated with environment, climate change,

and disaster risk management; (2) capacity building of state entities in sustainable natural resource management and adaptation to climate change. These were in furtherance of the "Unity. Trust. Creation" Program to internalize the principles and requirements of the green economy at all stages of planning, decision-making, and implementation.

The UN's assistance contributed in enhancing government's capacity for informed decision making and to proactively respond to existing and potential risks related to human-induced, natural and climate related disasters; and to develop strategies to mitigate and adapt to climate change. About a dozen of critical laws and policies were framed. Overall, the Government, as well as the communities, became more resilient to climate change, understood disaster risk adaptation measures, and became more engaged in sustainable resource management and risk-informed development. The awareness and knowledge of disaster risk reduction (DRR) and climate change adaptation (CCA) in school children, youth and young professionals were also greatly enhanced with UN's interventions enhancing communities' resilience, response and coping capabilities.

As UN's integral partner, the Ministry of Emergency Situations (MoES) was supported at policy and operational levels. The MoES was able to establish the Unified System of Integrated Monitoring and Forecasting of Emergency Situations for integrated monitoring and prediction of natural hazards, a Unified Immediate Response Ration food basket and disaster risk analysis of more than 70 municipalities. With the UN's support, the Kyrgyz Republic secured USD 40 million from the Green Climate Fund for improving climate sensitive livelihoods and forests and

rangelands. Together with the World Bank, about 72,000 ha of forest were restored. In 2019, implementation on the first Geopark in Batken Oblast also started. The UN also supported the MoES and DRCU's state of readiness through assistance in preparation of Inter-sectoral Pandemic Plan and its costing. These bore fruits in tackling COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 and beyond.

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*With UN's assistance, the MoES and DRCU's state of readiness was enhanced that bore fruits in tackling COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. Overall, the Government, as well as the communities, became more resilient to climate change, understood disaster risk adaptation measures, and became more engaged in sustainable resource management and risk-informed development.*

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## UNDAF Priority IV: Social protection, health and education.

In respect of UNDAF Priority IV, the UN's assistance is premised on the fact that unless social policies are inclusive, development will not be sustainable. Therefore, UN's assistance continued to focus on the creation and improvement of the necessary conditions for every citizen of the republic to receive a decent, competitive education, quality health care, and the necessary social support in line with national vision and the Republic's "Unity, Trust, Creation" Program. The strategy to meet Outcome IV included strengthening capacity of government, brokering the cooperation between the Government and development partners, supporting development of risk informed policies, strategies and plans and enhancing communities' resilience, response and coping capabilities.

### Health:

In line with the national health reform program "DenSoluk", in 2019, UN strategies remained focused on health systems policies (e.g. Decree on Healthy Person – Prosperous Country), neonatal health, maternity services including post-natal healthcare, and vaccination. Telemedicine was supported through regulatory frameworks and institutional capacities were enhanced to deal with chronic diseases like tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS.

Reproductive and family health was continuously supported by the UN especially at policy level.

### Education:

In education, the UN's assistance focused on early childhood development and primary and secondary levels education. Information technology was put to use to enhance Internet connectivity in schools and digitalization of admission systems. A landmark Education Policy heralded mainstreaming of pupils with special needs and disabilities. To harness the untapped potential of youth, the UN supported national government as well as the municipalities, both rural and urban, in development and implementation of youth friendly policies and advocacy for social cohesion.

### Social Protection:

Major achievements as a result of UN advocacy included ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), submission of the State Party Reports to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), scaling up of *Uy-bulogo komok*, cash transfer system, and Decree on National Counter-Trafficking Referral Mechanism.

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*In nutshell, interventions implemented under the UNDAF during 2019 focused on the most vulnerable population in the Kyrgyz Republic – particularly with compounded deprivations, such as poverty and living in remote or rural areas of the country. These included women, especially those in rural areas with unequal access to productive resources and opportunities along the value chains, people living with chronic malnutrition and non-communicable diseases, youth, migrants, stateless people and returnees. In terms of geographical prioritization, remote regions of country were given due consideration for example in infrastructure development. While a work in progress, during reporting period, all four UNDAF outcomes contributed to the Republic's development in the form of better and inclusive economic growth, state institutions becoming relatively inclusive and accountable, natural resources were managed sustainably and in risk averse manner, citizens had better social protection, health and education system; and the society was thriving, resilient and peaceful.*

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## Partnerships

The UN partnership with the Kyrgyz Republic is based on trust, mutual ownership, transparency and accountability. This partnership has been developed through government counterparts, such partners as the Ministry of Economy, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Emergency Situations, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Education and Science, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Ministry of Labor and Social Development, the National Statistics Committee, the Investment Promotion and Protection Agency, the State Service for Combating Economic Crimes, the State Service for the Execution of Punishments, the State Personnel Agency, the State Migration Services, the State Agency for Local Self-Governance and Interethnic Relations, the Prosecutor General's Office, the Supreme Court, the State Committee of National Security, the State Agency for Youth, Physical Culture and Sports, the State Service on Financial Intelligence, Bishkek and Kara-Balta mayor's offices, the Parliament, international financial institutions, academia and research institutions, and various non-governmental organizations.

In 2019, the UN continued to work on improving the cooperation and development of partnerships between civil society, local authorities, and non-governmental



organisations. The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) strengthened national capacities to develop national Public-Private Partnership policy framework and identify and implement public-private partnership projects that support national sustainable development priorities. In partnership, another key step towards leveraging the means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda is the Development Finance Assessment process that has been launched in 2019 based on the government's request. This process brings together the key national stakeholders and facilitates a process of comprehensive dialogue designed to build consensus on financing challenges and opportunities and to develop policy solutions that strengthen financing for sustainable development.

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*Overall, the partnerships with the Kyrgyz Republic's authorities in 2019 included strengthening capacity of government, improving legislative framework, strengthening the cooperation between the Government and development partners, supporting development of risk informed policies, strategies and plans and enhancing communities' resilience, response and coping capabilities.*

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## UNDAF Priority I:

Sustainable and inclusive economic growth, industrial, rural and agricultural development, food security and nutrition

**UNDAF Outcome:**

By 2022, inclusive and sustainable economic growth is increased through agricultural, industrial and rural development, decent work, improved livelihoods, food security and nutrition

**Related SDGs:**



**Numbers at a glance:**



**About 50,000** stakeholders benefitted from training in food security, nutrition and agri-business



**47** mini-processing work shops held for vulnerable communities on wool processing, dairy production, etc.



**700** women enterprises supported with business planning, value chain and income generation, etc.



**77** textile and other companies facilitated with linkages for export and import.

**Participating UN agencies:**



## UNDAF Priority I

In UNDAF Priority Area I, 15 UN agencies continued contributing to national priorities for development of the regions, leveraging on specific strengths and mandates, promotion of agriculture, stimulation of industrial production especially through small and medium enterprises, and development of human capital. The UN's joint commitment was focused on promoting economic growth, decent work, labour opportunities, optimizing developmental impact of migration, and improving livelihoods, food security and nutrition.

In 2019, the UN, through technical assistance, contributed to the development of following strategies and legislative frameworks and implementation of recently developed programs:

- 1) Green Economy Program 2019–2023,
- 2) School Meals Law on the optimization of school meals for primary-level schoolchildren<sup>1</sup>,
- 3) Aquaculture and Fisheries Development Program 2019–2023,
- 4) Draft of the Education Strategy 2021–2030,
- 5) Sustainable Industrial Development Strategy 2019–2024,

- 6) Draft Law on the ratification of the ILO Convention #29 on Forced Labour<sup>2</sup>,
- 7) Draft Policy on Diaspora Engagement,
- 8) Draft Occupational and Safety Program 2020–2023,
- 9) Draft of the National Program “Mekenim”<sup>3</sup>, and
- 10) Draft Program of Preferential Financing of Export-Oriented Sectors.
- 11) Draft regulation on establishment of school farms
- 12) Food Security and Nutrition Program 2019–2023,
- 13) Veterinary Service Development Strategy 2018–2023,
- 14) National Exports Promotion Program 2018–22 and
- 15) Public-Private Partnership policy framework (through UNECE).

The capacity of the Government, employers and workers was also strengthened to review, reform and implement national skills development policies, systems, and strategies with a focus on achieving specific targets of the 2030 Agenda. Because of the training sessions and the increased access to information, more than 50,000

<sup>1</sup> Law was endorsed by the Parliament in October 2019.

<sup>2</sup> Draft Law on ratification of ILO Protocol 2014 was approved in second reading by the Parliament on December 12, 2019.

<sup>3</sup> Program is aimed on expanding the opportunities of migrants and compatriots living abroad and willing to invest in the economy

representatives (government, business people, farmers, women and youth) from different sectors obtained better opportunities for food security and nutrition management; agribusiness employment; World Heritage management

(the promotion of cultural diversity, protection principles and the safeguarding cultural heritage), and access to financial resources, and local and international markets.

**In infrastructure development**, more than 457 infrastructure assets in the most vulnerable geographic regions were rehabilitated for smallholders to increase agricultural productivity, better protection from natural disasters as well as to improve access to markets. This is in addition to 700 infrastructure assets already rehabilitated in 2018. Access to drinking water was improved through more than 1,000 km of pipe construction and 250 irrigation infrastructure projects of more than 400 km of canals. More than 140,000 vulnerable and food-insecure beneficiaries have improved their food security and are benefiting from an improved community asset base. UN support for the optimization of school meals in the country have also benefited more than 184,000 girls and boys in primary schools through access to improved, nutritious and diverse school lunches.

### **Agriculture and Food Security:**

To better inform national policy formulation on agriculture and rural development, a series of value chain studies were conducted on agricultural crops (processing of natural honey, dairy, fishing, fruits and vegetables); poultry production (ongoing); herbal teas and remedies; adventure tourism; and on creative industries and the handicrafts sector. Several UN agencies, under the Joint Program “Accelerating Progress towards the Economic

Empowerment of Rural Women” assisted more than 700 women-led households with business planning, financial literacy, value chain development, income-generating skills and nutrition awareness.

The UN worked to align domestic strategies with international norms and approaches, e.g. promotion of the Codex Alimentarius<sup>4</sup> for food safety. The Scaling Up

<sup>4</sup> The Codex Alimentarius, or “Food Code” is a collection of standards, guidelines and codes of practice adopted by the Codex Alimentarius Commission. The Commission is a joint intergovernmental body of the United Nations FAO and WHO.

Nutrition Multi-Stakeholder Platform was supported in advocating for the most vulnerable through reviving and expanding the role of the Food Security and Nutrition Council as well as conducting the high-level Global Forum on Food Security and Nutrition. Small land-holders were supported with training on income-generating livelihood activities, improved agricultural techniques and marketing skills.

### **Addressing Labour Market Needs:**

The UN and its partners have also supported technical and vocational training programs including at district levels. In total, 1,496 individuals were trained in 2019. The UN has also been working on improving the cooperation and development of partnerships between employers, lyceums and colleges, and local authorities. This reduced the gap between the skills and knowledge provided by technical and vocational education and training institutions and rapidly changing labour market and employers' needs. For vulnerable communities, 47 mini-processing workshops on wool processing, dairy production, and the drying of fruits and vegetables, etc. were established to improve value chain development and the reduction of post-harvest losses. In addition, several storage and other modern industrial facilities were introduced in the regions.

The UN has also been working on mainstreaming migration into development strategies, and to support migrant workers and returnees find decent work commensurate with their experience and expertise.<sup>5</sup>

### **Strengthening Export-Import:**

Facilitating market linkages for both export and import sourcing enhanced opportunities for more than 77 textiles, clothing and other types of companies. Several events were co-organized for the economic promotion of the regions including the World Nomad Games, the 5th International Economic Forum “Issyk-Kul 2018” and the Festival of Herbs and Tea. Joint work with such entities as the Investment Promotion and Protection Agency resulted in export contracts with the value of USD 18.0 million and actual export delivery of USD 12.9 million. In addition, the Agency supported the launch of a new service based on an online trade portal (export.gov.kg).

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<sup>5</sup> United Nations in the Kyrgyz Republic is establishing the United Nations Migration Network to facilitate timely and coordinated UN system-wide actions supporting and contributing to effective migration management in line with the concept of State Migration Policy 2020–2030.



## UNDAF Priority II:

Good Governance, Rule of Law,  
Human Rights, Gender Equality

### UNDAF Outcome:

By 2022, institutions at all levels are more accountable and inclusive ensuring justice, human rights, gender equality and sustainable peace for all

### Related SDGs:



### Numbers at a glance:



Kyrgyz Republic has been commended for and gained international recognition as the first country in the world that ended statelessness on its territory



**More than 6,600** citizens benefited from free legal aid campaigns and 26 Free Legal Aid Centers operating throughout the country, out of which 12 FLA Centers were opened with the UN support



Technical assistance to Jogorku Kenesh resulted in drafting a number of laws



**Over 200** police women enhanced their professional and leadership skills



**25** community media outlets supported





**8,571**

legal consultations were provided to 8,169 citizens (4,086 women and 4,083 men and 107 with disabilities)



**About 100**

state officials and CSOs (42 women) benefitted from workshop on human rights



**1,200**

legal practitioners trained in criminal law (500 women and 314 professionals dealing with children cases)



**2,300**

citizens (2,000 women) benefitted from PVE capacity building



**321 (132 women)**

direct victims of trafficking supported



**800,000**

citizens reached through online awareness campaign on counter-trafficking

**Participating UN agencies:**



## UNDAF Priority II

Under UNDAF Priority II, and with a budget of USD 47 million (over 5 years), the UN continued to support the Government in increasing transparency and accountability of public administration, and improved service delivery. It also supported the Government's commitment to ensure full participation of women and girls and expanding their rights and opportunities.

### **The Parliament:**

The UN supported the Parliament to better exercise its oversight functions and promoted its engagement with the civil society to ensure inclusive, transparent and gender-sensitive decision making. This included development and amendments to introduce the e-petition system, increase budget transparency, and promotion of Open Parliament Initiative. It included 8 additional commitments on legislative openness, civil society's participation in the parliamentary monitoring and improving access to information on Parliament by the general public via civic education.

### **Persons with Disabilities:**

Persons with Disabilities: The last five years UN's efforts towards ratification of the CRPD culminated with the signing of the Law on Ratification of the CRPD. Technical assistance has been provided to the Parliament to draft new bill aimed at amending the Law "On Legal Aid

Guaranteed by the State", as well a new Law on Alimony which is now in its third reading.

### **Justice Sector:**

In 2019, the UN supported the Government in the justice sector reforms, including specialized justice for children, law enforcement bodies, forensic services and the prison system to make it more efficient and human and child rights compliant.

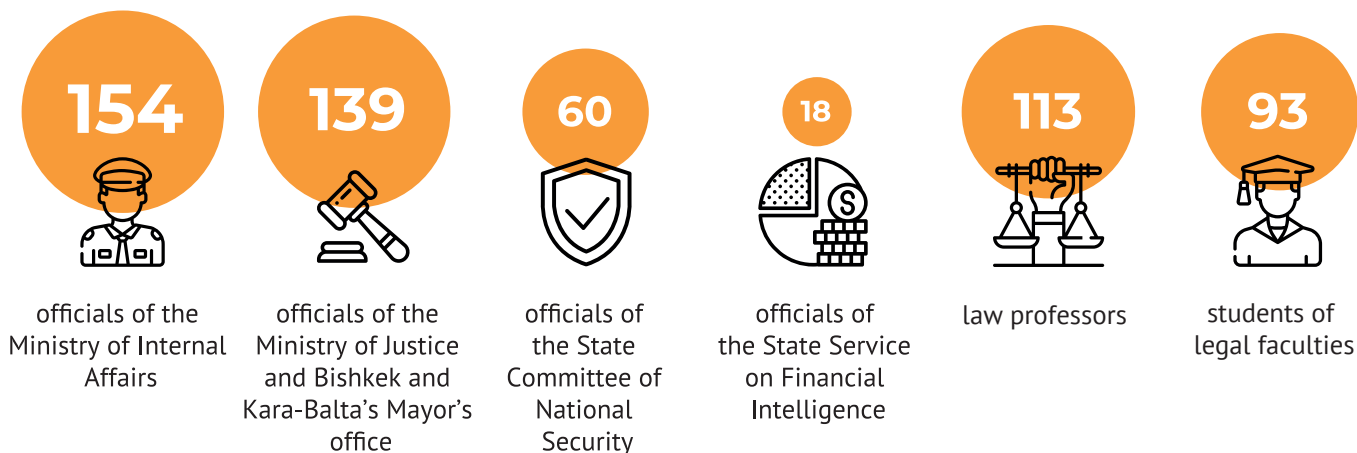
#### **Legislation in Justice Sector Reform**

- 1) Criminal Code,
- 2) Criminal Procedure Code,
- 3) Criminal Executive Code,
- 4) Misdemeanor Code,
- 5) Administrative Code,
- 6) Civil Procedure Code,
- 7) Law on Probation,
- 8) Implementation of the Law on State Guaranteed Free Legal Aid,
- 9) Domestic Violence,
- 10) Child Marriage,
- 11) Combating Trafficking in Persons along with other important legislation,
- 12) Law on meditation.

Assessment of the capacities undertaken for the Press Services of the President's Office, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the State Service for Combating Economic Crimes, the State Service for the Execution of Punishments, the State Agency for Local Self-Government and Interethnic Relations, the Prosecutor General's Office

and the Supreme Court. To increase awareness of citizens, a comprehensive media strategy was developed to inform the citizens about the intricacies of the reform, including domestic violence issues, fair trial rights and due process of law.

## Justice Sector Training



### Free Legal Aid

More than 6600 people helped to redress human rights violation, access to social services, prevention of offenses and gender-based violence. 8571 legal consultations provided by 11 Ministry of Justice's Free Legal Aid Centers set up with the UN support for 8169 citizens, including 4086 women and 4083 men (including 107 clients with disabilities). Legal aid delivery mechanisms and clients' eligibility criteria for both criminal and civil cases developed and adopted, as well as 260 attorneys from the State Free Legal Aid Registry were trained.

#### **Probation Institute:**

Transition of the probation service from the State Prison Service to the Ministry of Justice and establishment of the new Probation Institute has become a critical step in creation of a civic institution, responsible in particular for social reintegration of offenders. The institute of sports trainers has been strengthened through mobilization of over 50 sports coaches and trainers to participate in practical training for the development of life skills and crime prevention among youth, whereas 800 (250 girls) youths (13–18 years) have been involved through the crime prevention among youth through sports programs.

#### **Gender and Gender-Based Violence:**

The UN system supported development of the National Action Plan on Gender Equality 2018–2020. The UN advocated for introducing the 30% gender quota at

local level that was endorsed by the President in August 2019. In pursuance thereof, leadership and mentorship programs in the Police Service were promoted and over 200 policewomen enhanced their professional and leadership skills, resulting in increased number of policewomen in managerial positions. The UN provided technical support to the Government on its fifth periodic report on the CEDAW. Moreover, UNCT confidential report was submitted to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW Committee). The key issues highlighted in the report included cases of political violence against women and backlashes against gender equality and women's empowerment agenda after the March 8 protest. Also, UNCT supported informal CEDAW Coalition of 17 non-governmental organizations in drafting of a CEDAW Shadow Report with a special focus on women facing discrimination.

The UNCT provided support to the Kyrgyz Republic's delegation in making substantive input to the work of the Commission on the Status of Women 63 during the concluding session (March 2019) in New York, including technical support to formulation of the statement of the Kyrgyz Republic on gender-responsive social protection and supporting of the outcome documents of the 63rd session.

The Ministry of Education and Science (MES) approved and adopted a methodology “non-discrimination and gender expertise of educational and methodological materials”. UN continues supporting institutionalization of teaching programs and sensitizing education sector employees towards non-discriminative and gender sensitive methods in education material development and teaching.

Victims of gender-based and domestic violence received comprehensive support in 26 municipalities, including legal advice, social and psychological support via specially created local committees. More than 1200 justice practitioners out of which more than 500 were women were trained in criminal legislation, including 314 justice for children professionals on child friendly and child sensitive procedures.

#### **Freedom of Expression:**

The UN built the capacities of media in quality reporting. The Gender Journalism Education curriculum was developed in partnership with 12 Universities in the Kyrgyz Republic, and sustainability of 25 community media in the Kyrgyz Republic were strengthened. Twenty-five community media outlets created interactive platforms between representatives of local authorities and villagers and raised awareness of 141,000 mostly rural populations on progress to SDG5 and SDG16. Recommendations on migration and counter-trafficking sensitive language were developed for the Media Code of Conduct.

#### **Trafficking in Person:**

The UNCT contributed to adoption of the National Referral Mechanism to assist victims of trafficking and supported the implementation of Government Program on Combating Trafficking in Persons, 2017–2020. The Prime Minister signed the governmental decree # 493 on national referral mechanism, developed in line with international standards and based on a victim-centered approach. Also, national standards on operation and management of state-funded shelter for victims of trafficking were adopted. Public outreach was supported engaging 5000 youth activists and reaching out to over 60,000, to eradicate trafficking in persons in the Kyrgyz Republic. Additionally, the online counter-trafficking awareness raising campaigns reached out to more than 800,000 people across the country.

### **Human Rights:**

In 2019, the Kyrgyz Republic became the first country in the world that ended statelessness on its territory. With the UN support, the state ratified the Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities and adopted a National Human Rights Action Plan 2019–2021. The state also welcomed visits of UN Special Procedures including the Working Group on Enforced and Involuntary Disappearances and the Special Rapporteur on Minority Rights. Thirty-three staff of six state training centers, 12 staff of national human rights institutions and national preventive mechanisms, and 23 lawyers and human rights defenders increased their capacity and knowledge in the field of human rights and equality. Eighty-two graduates, including 50% from ethnic minority backgrounds, over 50% women and seven people with disabilities completed internships in state and local administration bodies. In addition, the UN strengthened capacity of state authorities, national human rights institutions and civil society on reporting to UN Human Rights Mechanisms as well as implementation and follow-up to UN Human Rights Mechanisms recommendations. In 2019, 98 state officials and civil society representatives (including 42 women) participated in working groups/workshops on engagement with UN Human Rights Mechanisms organized or facilitated by the UN. Technical support was provided to the Ministry of Labor and Social Development to implement the UN Convention on the

Rights of Persons with Disabilities which has been ratified in March 2019, including support for the development of the Priority Action Plan for 2019–2021, and the alignment of seven pieces of legislation with the CRPD.

The UN also facilitated 40 urban and rural municipalities across the country to engage youth in decision making and local development. Over 100 national stakeholders including national security officers, lawyers, journalists, civil society representatives upgraded their knowledge on international and national standards in the area of human rights protection. Three pieces of analytical research were conducted with the support of the Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights on the human rights situation and criminal cases relating to prevention of violent extremism (PVE) at the investigation stage, on judicial practice in PVE cases, and on the human rights situation of prisoners convicted for extremism.

Despite this progress, the human rights situation in the country in 2019 remained a source of constant concern for the UN and the development partners. The main concerns were shrinking of civic space and restricting fundamental freedoms, Government's attempts to limit obligations under international human rights treaties, and pressure on human rights defenders including registration of cases against journalists.

### Preventing Violent Extremism (PVE):

The UN contributed to establishing policy framework, drafting amendments to PVE laws as well as building consensus with national counterparts for a comprehensive approach to PVE by involving all relevant actors. By the end of 2019, 3700 people directly benefitted from UN interventions (at least 50% were women), including enhanced knowledge in PVE to raise their communities' resilience. About 2000 people took part in preventive seminars and campaigns and 1700 people underwent special trainings on PVE, media literacy, LSG, gender sensitivity and human rights, including juvenile justice. National Action Plans on Preventing Violent Extremism and UNSCR 1325 had been adopted in 2018. Under PVE projects the UN has integrated civic education in 11 madrasahs (religious schools) and 8 vocational schools. Students are improving their soft skills, critical thinking and learning about their rights and obligations, peace and radicalization, thus improve their resilience to violent ideologies.

Promoting confidence-building and cross-border cooperation between communities along the Kyrgyz-Uzbek borders by the UN and other counterparts contributed to increased level of mutual trust between residents of both countries reflected in assessments showing that 62% of citizens consider relations between the Kyrgyz Republic and Uzbekistan as positive in comparison to 31% in 2016.

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*Under UNDAF Priority II, with UN's multidimensional approach, significant progress was achieved in terms of strengthening the Parliament, support to Justice Sector, Human Rights, Gender, PVE and Persons with Disabilities. More than 6000 people were helped to redress human rights violation, and at the same time lawyers and human rights defenders increased their capacity and knowledge in the field of human rights and equality. Women in legal practice and police received especial focus and thereby enhance confidence and became more socially and economically empowered. In PVE, religious leaders (female and male) and civic activists improved their knowledge on prevention of violent extremism and radicalization and were able to implement more than 70 local initiatives involving more than 4000 people. Citizens became more sensitized and proactive on the menace of trafficking. With all the progress that has been achieved, there is still important work ahead, For example, the Government has pledged to ensure birth registration for all children born on the territory of the Kyrgyz Republic and to prevent statelessness at birth by end 2020. However, an important gap is the adoption of the Stateless Status Determination procedure . The UN System stands committed to support the Government in all its efforts under the remit of this UNDAF outcome.*

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<sup>6</sup> This is an important mechanism to protect stateless persons and ensure that they obtain proper legal status and are entitled to rights, and to consider accession to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.



## UNDAF Priority III:

Environment, climate change,  
and disaster risk management



**UNDAF Outcome:**

By 2022, communities are more resilient to climate and disaster risks are engaged in sustainable and inclusive natural resource management and risk informed development

**Related SDGs:**



**Numbers at a glance:**



**12** policies and legislation on environment and DRR refined or drafted



**More than 72,000 ha** covered through integrated management plan



Second funding proposal for Green Climate Fund successful worth **\$30 million**



**35,000 ha** covered by soil and agrochemical studies



**16,635**

vulnerable people benefitted from DRR activities



Air pollution workshops conducted in **18 schools**



**170**

disaster mitigation projects implemented



Disaster preparedness training conducted in **42 schools**



**64,400**

children enhanced behavioural skills through emergency drills

**Participating UN agencies:**



World Health Organization



The nine UN agencies, with their respective mandates and expertise, worked with the Government counterparts under this UNDAF Priority area and achieved the following:

The UN agencies contributed to refining **environmental and disaster risk management policies, strategies and frameworks**, including:

1. Concept of Forestry Development - approved by the Government (Decree No. 231);
2. Strategy on Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation was reviewed and expected to be finalised in 2020;
3. Health and Pollution Action Plan was formulated to curb the negative impact of air and water pollution;
4. The National Concept on Protection of Population and Territories from Natural Disasters and Emergencies 2018–2030 was developed and adopted;
5. Regulatory framework of the Unified System of Integrated Monitoring and Forecasting of Emergency Situations (jointly with World Bank) was developed and adopted;
6. The intersectoral Pandemic Plan Preparedness and action plan was prepared;
7. Multi-sectoral National Action Plan for Health Security was developed;

8. International Health Regulations core capacities strengthened to manage public health emergencies;
9. National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan were developed and adopted;
10. The Law on International Humanitarian Aid and the Law on Civil Protection was developed;
11. Disaster Risk Analysis and Assessment methodologies developed and promoted to make local development plans risk-informed and child-sensitive;
12. Draft National Sustainable Energy Action Plan was developed.

#### **Disaster Risk Reduction:**

In 2019, the UN agencies supported establishment of the Unified System of Integrated Monitoring and Forecasting of emergency situations in the Ministry of Emergency Situations. The UN together with the Ministry of Emergency Situations (MoES) of the Kyrgyz Republic, State Agency on Environment Protection and Forestry and the local self-governments of five provinces contributed to the strengthening resilience for vulnerable communities by supporting implementation of 78 out of 272 projects (29 percent) in the national program of Special Preventive Liquidation Measures for Disaster Prevention, as well as 20 out of 88 projects (23 percent) within the national Tree

Planting program for disaster prevention (Green Projects). Moreover, in 2019 UN supported 16,635 vulnerable beneficiaries with disaster risk reduction activities and 170 disaster mitigation projects were implemented in the target areas.

### DRR in Schools:

As a result of school-based DRR and climate CCA interventions, DRR is practiced in more than 50% of schools. In 2018–2019, 64,400 children (approx. 38,640 girls) from 119 schools enhanced their safe behaviour skills through participation in emergency drills. A national communication campaign in support of school safety also boosted public awareness on the importance of DRR activities and child participation in schools. In addition, air pollution workshops were conducted in 18 schools in Bishkek and Osh to raise awareness of children on the increasing risk of air pollution, its health impact and protection measures. The National disaster preparedness training in schools, targeting communities most vulnerable to natural hazards, was conducted in 42 target schools and reached more than 3606 participants, of which 56 percent of participants were women and girls.

With a whole of society approach, the UN contributed to the capacity development of youth and young professionals in DRR and CCA, e.g. by providing support to the organization of an International Summer school in Kokomeran River Valley, as well as facilitating the establishment of the Central Asian Disaster and Climate Resilience Youth Network. As a result, 28 students and young researchers

were trained and obtained new knowledge on landslides and climate change induced risks.

The Ministry of Emergency Situations was supported in the development of a unified Immediate Response Ration food basket, which covers energy and nutrient intake standards. Capacity of the MoES has been strengthened to sustain

application of Disaster Risk Analysis (DRA) methodology in 102 municipalities and expand it to an additional 73 municipalities in 2019. These authorities are reviewing their local development plan and budget to make them risk-informed and child-sensitive in relation to DRR. For the first time, a new evidence-based reporting methodology was drafted that factored in current and historical data on climate, emergencies, damage and the impact of natural hazards on the agriculture, forestry, fisheries and water sectors.

#### **Climate Change:**

In 2019, UN agencies succeeded with the second funding proposal for Green Climate Fund of USD 10 million for “Climate services and diversification of climate sensitive livelihoods to empower food insecure and vulnerable communities in the Kyrgyz Republic” project and additional USD 29.9 million for a project “Carbon Sequestration through Climate Investment in Forests and Rangelands” to reverse forest and rangeland degradation. UN supported the State Agency for Environmental protection and Forestry in assessment of forest resources in two-state natural parks «Kan-Achuu» and «Alatai» for formulating forest management strategies to address forest degradation and deforestation while increasing indirect benefits to people and the environment.

Based on the inventory results the UN helped to develop the integrated management plan for Toktogul Leskhoz Jalal-Abad Province covering 72,324 ha (jointly with World Bank Forestry project) and over 7 thousand hectares of forest territory have been restored, the soil and agrochemical studies began on an area of more than 35,000 ha. Training on principles of sustainable management of forest and land resources, as well as improving intersectoral cooperation was provided to local governments, farmers, and foresters. Energy-efficient technologies were introduced, including the use of solar panels.

#### **Geo-Parks:**

The UN supported expansion of the concept of protected areas, as a unified geographical area where sites and landscapes of international and national geological significance are managed with a holistic concept of protection, education and sustainable development. A potential site was identified in Batken Oblast as the first national geopark that serves as a basis for the development of other geo-parks in the country.

#### **Health Emergency:**

With the technical support of the World Health Organisation, the multi-sectoral National Action Plan for Health Security was developed and costed. The plan is a multisectoral

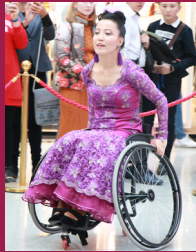
### UNDAF Priority III

strategy, which lays out the priority actions for fully implementing the International Health Regulations and having all of the capacity and systems in place to manage emergencies. Institutional capacity of health organizations, including the National Red Crescent Society and the Ministry of Emergency Situations was improved in coordinating the activities on sexual and reproductive health of adolescents in emergencies.

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*Under this Priority Area, significant progress was made under disaster risk reduction, climate change and health emergencies, including some innovative models such as that of the geo-parks. An effective implementation of the concept of geo-park can potentially contribute to sustainable management of natural resources, conservation of vital ecosystems and improved livelihoods of local communities. Twelve key policy frameworks and legislation, including on forest management, contributed to better mitigation and adaptation strategies and communities' resilience. A vast area of 72,000 hectares was restored. Involvement of communities, e.g. youth with improved skills is contributing to enhancing resilience of its population to climate-driven hazards including through promotion of scientific research and initiatives. The Multi-Sectoral National Health Plan, and capacity building thereunder, greatly helped in mitigating the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020.*

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## UNDAF Priority IV:

Social Protection, health,  
and education

### UNDAF Outcome:

By 2022, social protection, health and education systems are more effective and inclusive, and provide quality services.

### Related SDGs:



### Numbers at a glance:



**680**

legal professionals trained in children handling



**1,964**

women with drug addiction supported



**More than 90%**

schools have internet connectivity



**15,000**

children with special needs started in 50 pilot schools



**632**

specialized refrigerators arranged through GAVI for vaccination



**80**

health facilities supported with IT equipment





HIV prevention reached out to **more than 31,000** people with vulnerabilities



**19,000** children enrolled in Grade 1 through online registration system



**More than 10,000** newborn and children benefitted from 23 healthcare facilities



The Kyrgyz Republic has become a 50<sup>th</sup> associated member of the International Health Behavior in School-Aged Children (HBSC) Network



Better maternal and child health services in **24 out of 68** district hospitals



Over 1,300 schools have as of December 2019 introduced freshly prepared hot meals for the primary school children. National School Meals law was endorsed by the Kyrgyz Parliament in October 2019, prescribing schools to provide hot meals to the primary school children



Education Management Information System introduced in **50 schools**

**Participating UN agencies:**



## UNDAF Priority IV

In line with NDS 2018–2040, the UNDAF Priority IV was focused on the following national priorities:

### **Social Protection:**

The Government submitted its State Party Reports to the CRC Committee and to the CEDAW Committee. As a result of UN advocacy, the Kyrgyz Republic also ratified the CRPD. Now, the UN has been working closely with the Government to support the implementation.

UN has been working with the Ministry of Education and Science to advocate for providing hot nutritious meals to all the primary schools in the countries, resultantly the law was adopted by the Parliament. As of end 2019, 1300 out of 2200 school provided hot meals to school children. In addition to the meals, the program offers nutrition education for the children and their caregivers, technical advice on nutrition and hygiene to schools and relevant local authorities.

A digitalized case management system aimed to assist families in difficult life situations and prevent violence against children has been created. With the UN support, the Government has developed a new integrated tool that links active labour market programs and social assistance by provision of a one-time financial assistance to poor and low-income families on a social contract basis, and

also links *uy-bulogo komok* cash transfers with agricultural interventions.

### **Strengthening Healthcare System:**

Adoption of the “Healthy Person-Prosperous Country» (Decree # 600) sets the Government vision of health care development till 2030. UN facilitated signing of the Joint Statement of Government of the Kyrgyz Republic and development partners to support implementation of the strategy by 25 development partners, thereby committing to a government-led partnership, with openness in policy discussions and transparency in management.

### **Maternal and Neonatal Health:**

In 2019, at least 10,000 newborns and children were reached through 125 healthcare providers, and resuscitation equipment provided to 23 facilities. Another investment – in water supply, sanitation and heating system of 11 healthcare facilities in south of the Kyrgyz Republic – is servicing more than 25,000 deliveries per year. Maternal and child health services were substantially improved in 24 of 68 district hospitals. Implementation of the review mechanism and clinical audits of maternal deaths by the Ministry of Health is contributing to safer pregnancies.

### Support to the Ministry of Health included:

- Development of postnatal home visiting services for newborns and the testing in Nookat and Suzak rayons.
- Completion of the first phase of the Cold Chain Equipment Optimization Plan with the installation of 632 specialized refrigerators. UN supported activities on vaccination coverage with particular focus on internal migrants and population of hard to reach areas.
- UN supported research and development of Rotavirus vaccine.
- Technical support for development of a regulatory framework on telemedicine at primary health care level was provided.
- HIV self-testing was piloted in focused communities. Medical workers of nine AIDS Centers across the country and 8 family medicine centers in Osh, Chui and Jalalabad oblasts and Bishkek city now provide integrated sexual and reproductive health and HIV services to key populations and people living with HIV.
- Supported institutional capacity building in the areas of HIV and TB response including capacity to procure timely and quality diagnostic tests and medicines.
- The Kyrgyz Republic is fully aligned with the latest WHO treatment recommendations. Percentage of individuals receiving opioid substitution treatment (OST) for 6 months increased from 51% to 56%.
- Sputum transportation system now operating in 5 out of 7 oblasts directly contributing to improved implementation of diagnostic algorithm and DST (drug susceptibility test) coverage to 68%.
- Supported to strengthening of the national TB surveillance information system, in 2019 UN distributed 215 sets of IT equipment to 80 health facilities countrywide.
- Strengthened the primary health care services for universal health coverage and development of the Government Decree # 422 piloting a new model of Family Medicines Centers in Bishkek, Osh and 3 rayons of Issyk-Kul Oblasts.
- Supported approval of the Government Decree № 579 to include hypertension drugs within the State Guaranteed Benefit Package of healthcare. The new mechanism on pricing regulates the markups at wholesaler and pharmacy level.
- Supported the Ministry of Health conduct operational review of measles outbreak in May 2019 to capture the lessons learned from the response to the outbreak.

## UNDAF Priority IV

- The Government of the Kyrgyz Republic with support of four UN agencies developed and adopted the Food Security and Nutrition Program for 2019–2023 (FSNP),

to reduce the number of children under five who are stunted by 30% and anemia in women of reproductive age and in children aged 6–9 months by 40%

In the Kyrgyz Republic the primary health care (PHC) service provided by 49 Family Medicine Centers, 701 Family Group Practitioners, 17 legally independent Family Group Practitioners, 1045 Feldsher-Obstetric Points (FOP) (2019). The development of PHC has long been a priority for the Kyrgyz Republic and it remains so in the health care development program “Healthy person – prosperous country” for 2019–2030. The improvement of PHC service through development of an effective model of Family Medicine Centers that incorporates services for prevention, early detection and case management is high priority of the program. PHC is the foundation of the health delivery system covering the largest share of the population with the free or low copayment services, that contributes significantly to equity and to benefits of the poor. In order to accelerate the PHC reform the Government issued the Decree #422 assigning MOH and MHIF to pilot a new structural and functional model of PHC, which aims to improve the quality of health services. Upon pilot completion and in case of achievement of positive results, the pilot model will be disseminated throughout the entire PHC system of the Kyrgyz Republic in 2021.

## Reproductive Health and Family Planning

A Guideline on organization and coordination measures to protect sexual and reproductive health of adolescents in humanitarian settings was adopted by the expert council and approved by the Order of Ministry of Health.

The monitoring tool on implementation of the Law on Reproductive Rights was approved by the Parliament. After testing of the Parliament’s monitoring tool on

implementation of this law, the Parliament identified the most obvious gaps and challenges in the country and have developed a report with concrete recommendations on improving sexual and reproductive health for relevant stakeholders and ministries, which was endorsed by the Parliament.

## Prevention and control of non-communicable diseases<sup>7</sup>

Inter-sectoral collaboration strengthened and enforced smoke-free environments in public places. Public transport, all sports facilities, sports events implemented a smoke-free policy. Universities without tobacco program supported engagement of youth into the tobacco control.

The UN provided technical support to promote international food standards of Codex Alimentarius within the frame of the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) /WHO CODEX Trust Fund Project 2017–2019. New regulations of the CODEX Contact point and review of the national legislation on compliance with international food standards of Codex Alimentarius have been developed and endorsed.

## Education

With the UN support, the Government has provided high-quality Internet connection to more than 600 schools, based on UN Children's Fund's Internet connectivity mapping. By September 2019, more than 90 per cent of all schools were connected. In addition, UN supported optimization of the education management information system by piloting Open Electronic Management

Information System modules in 50 schools. The system now has records for more than 3000 educational organizations. The UN contributed to the inclusive education policy, representing a major step forward for the inclusion of children with disabilities in mainstream schools. Improved the infrastructure of the schools in the country and launch freshly prepared nutritious meals in 2200 primary schools in the country.

The UN system also responded to the MES request to support soft (transversal) skills development among students and improve IT skills of teachers and continues its activities through initiatives in Education for Sustainable Development.

### Youth:

The UN supported the development of Concept of Youth Policy for 2020–2030 under the leadership of the State Agency on Youth, Physical culture and Sport, which was adopted in October 2019. Through the Youth and Child-Friendly Local Governance initiative (globally known as Child-Friendly Cities), and with the leadership of municipal authorities, the UN succeeded at bringing issues raised by children and young people into local planning processes, and covers 42 urban and rural municipalities, reaching 11,000 adolescents and young people. The Kyrgyz

<sup>7</sup> Non-communicable diseases (NCDs) are generally of long duration and are the result of a combination of genetic, physiological, environmental and behaviours factors. The main types of NCDs are cardiovascular diseases (like heart attacks and stroke), cancers, chronic respiratory diseases (e.g. asthma) and diabetes.

## UNDAF Priority IV

Republic has become the 50<sup>th</sup> associated member of the International Health Behavior in School-Aged Children Network after successful completion of the pilot study with the technical support of the UN.

### **Meals for School Children:**

Children and adolescents in Yurievka *ayil okmotu* in Chui Province identified lack of hot meals in school, school sanitation and hygiene (lack of washbasins for washing hands) as the priority in the participatory research within Youth and Child Friendly Local Governance initiative. The municipality responded with allocation of 300,000 in 2018–2019 from the local budget for school cafeteria renovation, and also, with grant from donor organizations, arranged a catering unit. As a result, hot meals were available for 427 schoolchildren of primary school from first to fourth grades in 2019. Previously the municipality suffered from the outbreaks of Hepatitis A among children, for example, 11 children fell ill in 2017, after installing washbasins for washing hands, cases of hepatitis infection fell sharply, to 3 cases in 2018.

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*Under this Priority Area, tangible results were achieved. The CRPD was ratified and National Counter-Trafficking Mechanism was strengthened. In health, vaccination coverage was significantly increased from 49% to 72%. Telemedicine, family medicine, TB surveillance, stunting were improved. Better partnerships among development partners in health sector benefitted the government in tackling the COVID-19 crisis. For the first time, nearly 19,000 children (96.3 per cent of expected children) were enrolled in Grade 1 in Bishkek through an online school registration system. This continues to enable equitable access without “informal payments” and avoids risk of exclusion of children from internal migrant families.*

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## SDG Advocacy

## SDG Advocacy

The UNCT continued its support to mainstreaming and accelerating implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The first ever comprehensive dialogue between UNCT and the Office of the President took place in September 2019 that reinforced mutual commitment on the national SDGs, including through the integration of national SDGs into renewed UNDAF Joint Work Plan 2020–2023. To lay a solid foundation for the new Joint Work Plans starting in 2020 as well as for aligning UNCT programming and the imperatives of the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework, it was necessary to update the Common Country Analysis. Therefore, UNCT began to update the Analysis to ensure it better reflects analysis on SDGs inter-linkages, leaving no one behind (LNOB), sub-regional dimension and risks as well as the national financing landscape.

### **Performance and Challenges:**

The SDG Index of the Global Sustainable Development Report 2019 assess the country's SDG performance at the score of 71,6 (1,7 higher than the region's average). The Country is on track to maintaining the achievement of SDG1, SDG7, SDG8 and SDG 13. The major challenges

are observed on SDG16 due to high perception of corruption and insecurity, stagnating trends on SDG4, SDG5, SDG9 and SDG 15 will require further support and transformative actions. Overall, the Kyrgyz Republic continues to face serious challenges on going forward with SDGs implementation and fully operationalizing the 2030 Agenda. The country has been making a clear progress towards establishing horizontal links between the 2040 Strategy and the numerous sectoral strategies (more than 180 strategies and policy frameworks have been now revised and aligned with country's long-term development vision), however vertical strategic policy coherence is still weak. There is a huge gap between national development frameworks and budget planning and monitoring that requires a transition to outcome-based integrated national budgeting and financing to support SDG-based public investment.

In this context, the UNCT took forward the MAPS Report findings, reviewed progress towards UNDAF outcomes, and operationalized a plan for joint UN system support for the SDGs, which represents a forward-looking articulation of the UN system's priorities for supporting SDG progress in



the Kyrgyz Republic over the 2019–2022. This includes: 1) strengthening country ownership of the SDGs; 2) improving public management and administration to deliver the SDGs; 3) supporting priority human development needs; 4) building a resilient society.

In partnership with the State Agency for Youth, Physical Culture and Sports, the UN system launched the **SDG Youth Ambassadors Program** to promote the role of young people

in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Thirty-four young activists from the Kyrgyz Republic were selected as Ambassadors (2 for each SDG) to raise awareness among stakeholders and their peers through holding presentations, trainings, etc. in various institutions. The Youth Ambassadors also took active part in Youth Day celebrations in Osh, UN Day in the Kyrgyz Republic, Jashtar Camp in Karakol, Talas and other cities where they shared information about the role of youth in promoting the SDGs.

Zhanybek Akhmatov, SDG 10 Youth Ambassador organized multiple presentations on the SDGs across the country and mobilized young students at his university to create the SDGs Club. The Club established partnerships with the mayor's office in Tokmok and produced several educational videos, including one on leaving no one behind. Zhanybek organized an SDG Move Club online where youth was invited to watch SDG-related documentaries and discuss how certain global issues are reflected in the Kyrgyz Republic. To deepen his knowledge, Zhanybek also focused on the role of youth in the implementation of the SDGs in the Kyrgyz Republic in his bachelor's thesis. Zhanybek was also active in raising awareness on the SDGs through the Ambassadors' Instagram page (@sdg\_kg) and promoting the UN75 Campaign.

In 2019, the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic committed to the preparation of its first VNR to track the progress of national SDGs implementation to be presented at the High Level Political Forum under the auspices of the UN Economic and Social Council in July 2020. In response to the Prime-Minister's request, the UN system supported the

VNR process to ensure the participation of a wide range of national stakeholders and development partners in the process. The UN supported the Coordination Committee on preparation of the VNR under the auspice of the Vice-Prime Minister. Technical assistance was also provided to the five Government VNR working groups. To make the process

participatory, civil society organizations, youth groups, academia, the private sector and business associations, and the donor community were also supported. The VNR working groups were also supported in collecting and

processing the data, Rapid Integrated Assessment, SDG complexity analysis, analysis of the vulnerable groups and guided by the crosscutting LNOB principle.

In cooperation with the UN system in the Kyrgyz Republic, in November the Government hosted a workshop on stakeholder engagement for VNR and the 2030 Agenda. The workshop was attended by 43 VNR working groups' members representing 31 government ministries and agencies. The workshop helped emphasize the importance of engaging various stakeholders in the processes around the 2030 Agenda including VNR, provided practical examples of stakeholder engagement during VNR process in other countries and helped VNR working groups brainstorm on key stakeholders and elaborate a draft strategy for engaging stakeholders into the Kyrgyz Republic's VNR.

### **Rapid Integrated Assessment and SDG Complexity Analysis:**

2020 VNR, UNDP conducted the Rapid Integrated Assessment of development planning documents including:



(I) mid-to long-term programs and state level programs (including sector-specific);



(II) national action plans for mid-term implementation of programs and strategies;



(III) Strategies (including long-term 2040 Strategy)



(IV) concepts for the sector-specific areas of development

## RIA Findings



Rapid Integrated Assessment also helped in assessment of the **sustainable development financing** that estimated that potential SDG finance during 2008–2017 was dominated by flows from remittances, which comprised 42%, followed by state budget (28%) of the total financing from all sources. Official Development Assistance and

Foreign Direct Investments each accounted for 12% and 11% respectively, with bank loans from abroad providing another 7%.

**SDG complexity analysis** started in cooperation with the Ministry of Economy, aiming to build a system of inter-

relations among the SDG targets in the context of the national strategies and programs. This system can be used for a detailed analysis of SDG accelerators and clusters, and institutional inter-linkages. The instruction document was developed and the analysis will be completed in 2020.

### **The North and Central Asian Multi-Stakeholder Forum on Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals**

was organized by UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) in collaboration with UN Resident Coordinator's Office and UNCT in Kyrgyz Republic in August 2019 at Issyk-Kul. It provided an opportunity to discuss the status of implementation of the SDGs and possible actions to accelerate implementation of the 2030 Agenda in UN Member States in the North and Central Asia sub-region.

During the Forum, Armenia and the Kyrgyz Republic expressed their interest in conducting joint work on the implementation of the SDGs, in particular on the preparation of VNRs. In pursuance of expression of interest, in December 2019, UN ESCAP and UN Resident Coordinator's Offices in these countries kicked off a "twinning" exercise to exchange best practices and methodologies for the preparation and follow-up of the VNR. With support of the UN, heads of the Kyrgyz Republic VNR working groups as well as key VNR stakeholders went on a study tour to Yerevan where they had a chance to meet with a variety of Armenian stakeholders engaged in its first (2018) VNR and upcoming (2020) VNR. The Delegation also visited the SGD Innovation Lab of Armenia and an innovative center for youth as great examples of SDG acceleration in the country. In addition, these countries have the possibility to consult with ESCAP via the SDG Helpdesk, where they can also exchange projects and other SDGs implementation related issues with each other. The twinning exercise has raised lots of interest worldwide and different UN agencies and donors are already planning to support the replication of the exercise.

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<sup>8</sup> See the SDG Helpdesk: <http://sdghelpdesk.unescap.org/>

## Data and Monitoring for SDGs

Strengthening capacities for the national SDGs data and monitoring remained a strategic priority in 2019. Compared to the other countries in the region, the Kyrgyz Republic has been more advanced on aligning the global SDG framework into the national context and expert's assessment confirm relatively high SDG data availability, although some challenges exist especially in the area of disaggregation. Therefore, UN agencies focused on delivering targeted policy support to building capacity for national SDGs data collection, monitoring, analysis and reporting for evidence-based policy making. The National Statistics Committee NSC, supported by the UN agencies, released results of **Multi Indicator Cluster Survey** on situation of women and children which generated 31 SDG globally compliant indicators out of 85 currently available. Similarly, the UN agencies and the World Bank's collaboration with the NSC facilitated institutionalizing **National Multidimensional Poverty Index** that serves a breakthrough for better understanding the poverty dimensions, better informed policy making and sustained national poverty reduction efforts.

Comprehensive LNOB assessment was launched by ESCAP in coordination with the UN agencies to serve a ground for looking beyond population averages to identify who they are, where they are located and their specific needs. This has helped to design specific set of actions and prioritize outcomes for vulnerable groups to mainstream the principle of LNOB in the implementation of the national sustainable development goals.

The UN provided support to the NSC to conduct pilot census including the organizational, methodological and technical support for the field work and subsequent data processing. This served the basis for population and housing census. The NSC was also supported in developing a program of publicity and branding for the 2020 Census.

For tools and systems, progress has been made to support SDG data collection and monitoring, including through improving the national methodology of **food security, nutrition and labour indicators** (for example, the national adaptation of the 21 SDG indicators under FAO custodianship), and adjusting data collection tools. UN

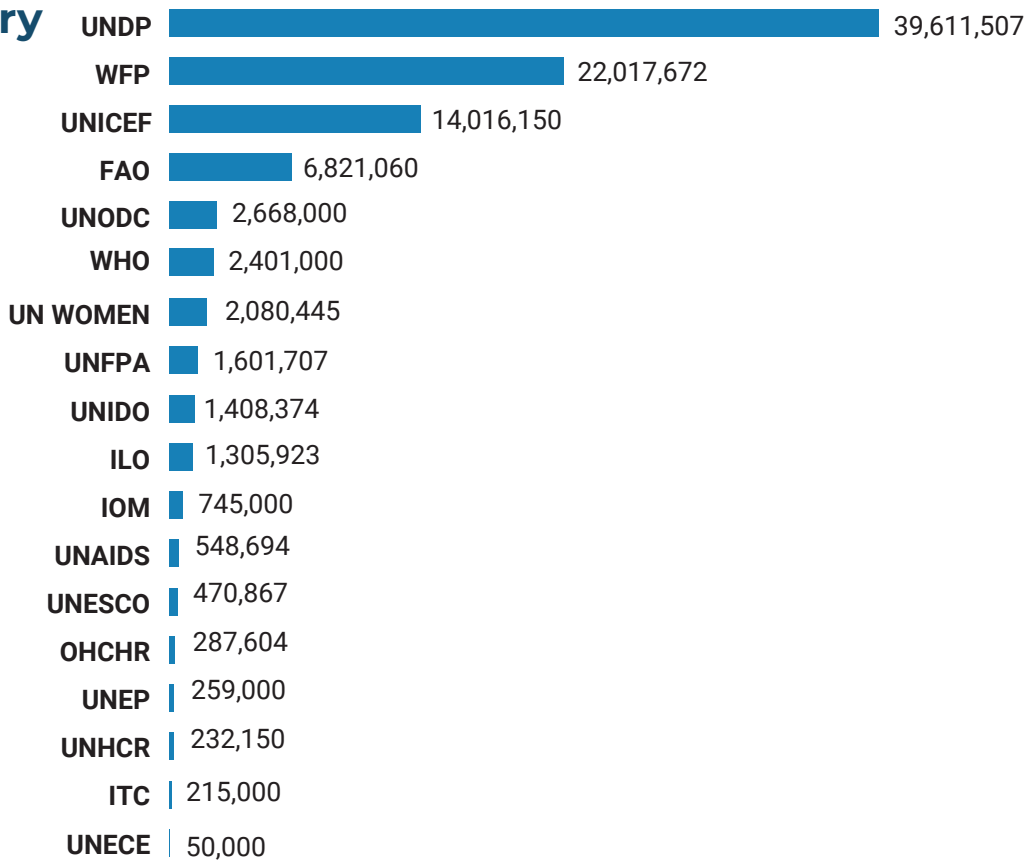
agencies continue providing data-driven technical support to building emergency preparedness and response capacity of the Government. The UN assisted in the establishment of the **Unified Integrated Disaster Monitoring and Forecasting System** to help state authorities and scientific-research institutes to automate the collection and process the data related to monitoring and forecasting of disasters.

The UN provided support to the development and introduction of the **Unified Registry on Crimes and Misdemeanors** to ensure complete and disaggregated data collection on crimes and victims. The UN assisted the government in design of state policies including the NDS 2040, SDG Mainstreaming, Acceleration, Policy Support, evidence-based statistics for quality decision making aimed at the promoting gender equality in the country. The revised methodology for collecting gender statistics and **data on gender-based violence** and trafficking in persons allow better SDGs indicators monitoring of crime victims' situation, trends analysis and targeted measures to prevent these types of crimes.

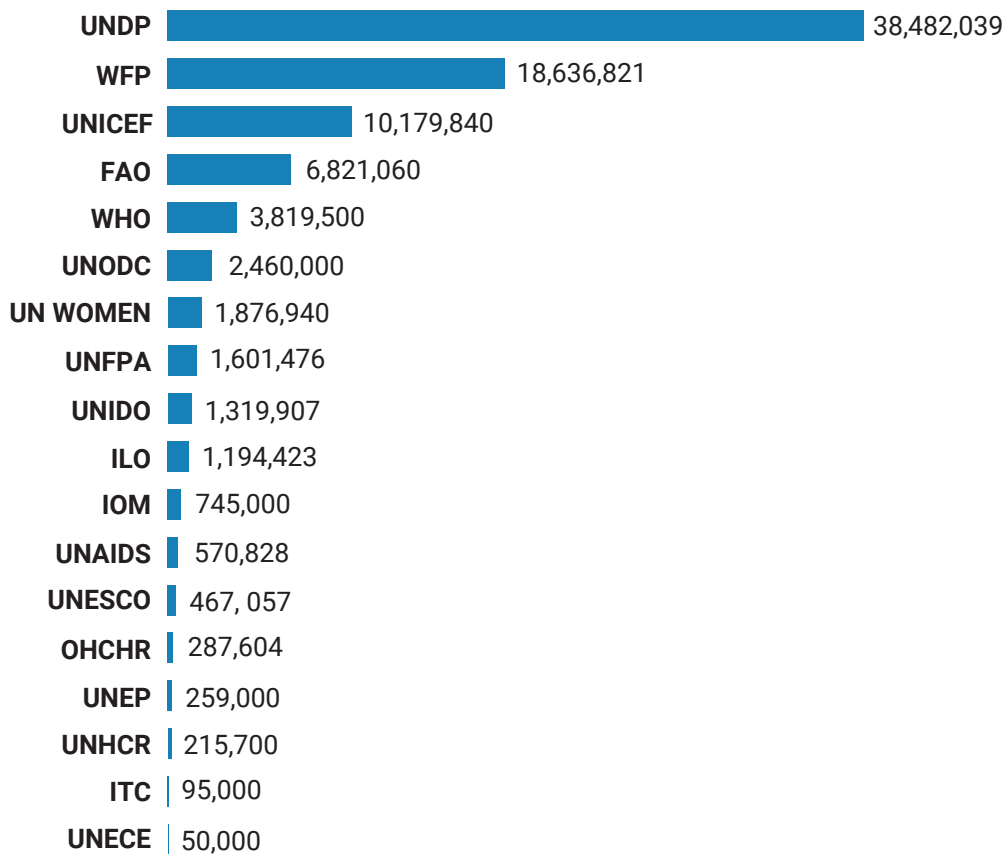


# UNDAF Delivery

## Funding raised 2018–2019, USD

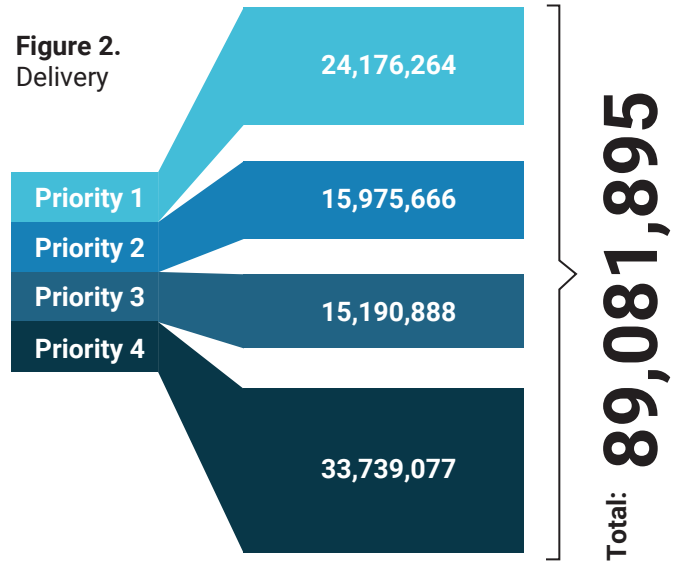
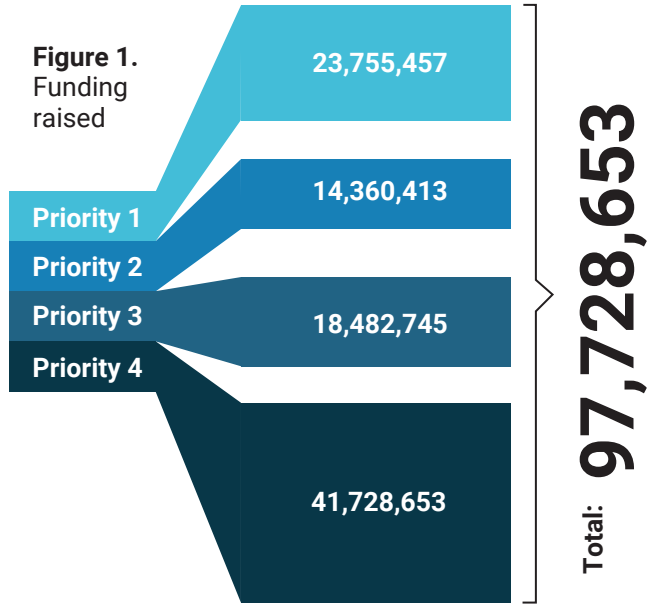


## Delivery 2018–2019, USD





# Funding raised and Delivery by Priorities 2018–2019, USD



# UN Donors and funding agencies



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