



UNITED NATIONS  
TAJIKISTAN



UN ANNUAL RESULTS REPORT 2021

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## ACRONYMS

<b>ACT-A</b>	The Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator	<b>NFSP</b>	National Food Systems Pathways
<b>ADB</b>	Asian Development Bank	<b>PHC</b>	Primary Health Care
<b>BOS</b>	Business Operations Strategy	<b>REACT</b>	Rapid Emergency and Assessment Coordination Team
<b>CAREC</b>	Central Asia Regional Economic Corridor	<b>RRRA</b>	Regional Risk and Resilience Assessment
<b>COP</b>	Conference of the Parties	<b>SDGs</b>	Sustainable Development Goals
<b>CSOs</b>	Civil Society Organizations	<b>SEA</b>	Strategic Environmental Assessment
<b>CSRG</b>	Civil Society Reference Group	<b>SME</b>	Small and Medium Enterprises
<b>EIA</b>	Environmental Impact Assessment	<b>SRH</b>	Sexual Reproductive Health
<b>GBV</b>	Gender Based Violence	<b>STEM</b>	Science, Technology, Engineering, Math
<b>GFSS</b>	Global Food Systems Summit	<b>SUN</b>	Scale Up Nutrition Movement
<b>GPE</b>	Global Partnership for Education	<b>TFA</b>	Trade Facilitation Agreement
<b>IFIs</b>	International Financial Institutions	<b>UNRC</b>	United Nations Resident Coordinators systems
<b>ISDB</b>	Islamic Development Bank	<b>UNCT</b>	United Nations Country Team
<b>ISEF</b>	Integrated Socio Economic Framework	<b>UNDAF</b>	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
<b>IWRM</b>	Integrated Water Resource Management	<b>UNSDCF</b>	UN Strategic Development Cooperation Framework
<b>NDC</b>	Nationally Determined Commitments	<b>UPO</b>	Universal Periodic Review





## FOREWORD



For Tajikistan and its neighbors 2021 was a turbulent year as the Government and the UN focused significant attention on preparing for a potential Afghanistan regional refugee response as well as providing emergency responses to natural disasters (floods, mudslides and earthquakes) and supporting stability at Tajikistan's northern and southern border areas. These events all pose continued challenges to the country's development pathway.

In 2021 the UN adopted the Common Agenda as our framework for accelerating achievements towards the Sustainable Development Goals. The Common Agenda recognizes that to achieve a breakthrough, we must recognize that humanity's very future depends on solidarity, trust, and our ability to work together as a global family to achieve common goals. No community or country, however powerful, can solve its challenges alone. We have to find a way to care for one another again.

Tajikistan has been an important partner to the UN on the global stage through its promotion of important multilateral priorities related to climate change, water, and glacier preservation. However, we must all intensify our efforts. The threats to the achievement of the SDGs are greater than ever.

In 2021 the UN in Tajikistan made a concerted effort to align and redesign its work by integrating the COVID-19 response Integrated Socio-Economic Framework plan with the longer-term UN Development Assistance Framework Joint Workplans. This allowed the UN to continue to focus on providing immediate socio-economic recovery support to the Government and people of Tajikistan in a manner that was seamlessly integrated with longer term sustainable development support. Important COVID-response work continued in 2021 that was integrated with UN programmes that supported food systems, gender equality, financing of the SDGs, migration, youth, and others.

2021 was also a key year for the Government on the topic of human rights. The Government of Tajikistan, with the support of the UN, reviewed its human rights commitments and progress in preparation for its Universal Periodic Review cycle in November 2021. The UPR meeting in Geneva and a visit of UN Special Rapporteur on Trafficking in Persons resulted in a large number of recommendations to the Government and those accepted focused on the area of rights of vulnerable people, such as rights for people with disabilities, rights of children, rights of women, rights of people living with HIV/AIDS, and socio-economic rights. Supporting the Government to implement these recommendations will be a focus of the UN in 2022.

2021 was also the first year of the implementation of the UN's Business Operations Strategy, which brings together UN agencies in joint work streams to increase efficiency of our work. The overall multi-year implementation framework includes cost-savings of 1.5 million and in its BOS Annual Review of 2021 the UN Operations Management Team estimates a cost-avoidance of 1,2 million was achieved in the first year of implementation.

The UNCT also made a concerted effort to address issues of Disability Inclusion within the organization by bringing on board a Disability Inclusion advisor, conducting an internal assessment of the UN operations and programmes, and developing an Action Plan for implementation in 2022-2023 framed around the principle of "Nothing about Us Without Us."

In 2021, the UN family in Tajikistan provided:

- more than 2.2 million individuals with essential health services
- more than 2.1 million vulnerable children and adults received cash assistance
- more than 542,800 children and vulnerable households with food assistance
- more than 14,000 people free legal services
- 32,258 people with disaster risk reduction services
- 24,800 people with an opportunity to improve their livelihood

We believe 2022 will bring new challenges for Tajikistan and the whole international community. We will overcome these challenges by working together across all countries in the region and in the world, by putting those left farthest behind at the center of our efforts and by ensuring civil society organizations are integrated into all our efforts as the UN, the Government of Tajikistan, and the international development partners working in Tajikistan.

On behalf of the United Nations Country Team in Tajikistan, I thank all our partners from this past year. I am looking forward to renewed partnership and commitment in 2022 to meet our challenges head-on and multiply our achievements for peace, planet, and prosperity.

**Ms. Sezin Sinanoglu**  
Resident Coordinator  
United Nations Tajikistan





# UNCT COMPOSITION

The United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in Tajikistan remains the partner of choice for the Government of Tajikistan and stands firmly in support of the country's commitment to achieving the SDGs and the development agenda put forward by the Government.

The UN's presence in Tajikistan consists of 17 resident and 3 nonresident organizations country presence programmes. The UN in Tajikistan is led by the Resident Coordinator (RC), who is the designated representative of the UN Secretary-General. The United Nations is

guided by the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2016–2020 (which was further extended until the end of 2022) and is fully aligned to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) as well as to the National Development Strategy 2016-2030, with the goals of addressing the needs of the vulnerable and ensuring that human rights and gender equality are central to the work of the United Nations across humanitarian, peacebuilding, and sustainable development initiatives.

The following agencies are members of the UNCT in Tajikistan:

## Resident UN Agencies<sup>1</sup>



## Non-Resident UN Agencies<sup>2</sup>



1. UN agencies located in Tajikistan  
2. UN agencies located outside Tajikistan

# KEY DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS IN TAJIKISTAN

The United Nations in Tajikistan expresses its gratitude to its government counterparts at the national and sub-national levels, civil society organizations, private sector, academia, and media, as well as to the international community and development actors for the partnerships and collaborations that have played a key role in improving the lives of people in Tajikistan as detailed in this report.

These partnerships contributed towards achievements such as increased access to justice; implementation of socio-economic interventions to tackle the negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic; strengthening

health systems; emergency and disaster response and risk management; increased institutional capacities of key national counterparts; promotion of gender equality; addressing food insecurity and malnutrition and strengthening food systems; establishing new systems for innovative financing modalities to achieve SDGs; and other areas.

- Executive Office of the President of Tajikistan
- Government Ministries, Agencies and Committees
- Parliament of the Republic of Tajikistan
- Supreme Court of RT

## NATIONAL GOVERNMENT

- Agency for State Financial Control and Anti-Corruption
- Agency of Land Reclamation and Irrigation
- Agency on Social Insurance and Pensions
- Agency on Social Protection of the Population
- Agency on Statistics under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan
- Agency for export under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan
- Committee for Food Security under the Government of Tajikistan
- Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defense
- Committee of Youth and Sport under the Government of Tajikistan
- Committee on the Tourism Development under the Government of Tajikistan
- Committee on Environmental Protection under the Government of Tajikistan
- Committee on Women and Family Affairs under the Government of Tajikistan
- Consultative Council for improving investments climate under the President of Tajikistan
- Department on Geology under the Government of Tajikistan
- Division on Human Rights Guarantees of the Executive Office of the President of Tajikistan
- Drug Control Agency under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan
- Housing and Public Utilities Service
- Human Rights Commissioner/ Ombudsman
- Local Development Committee under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan
- Ministry of Agriculture
- Ministry of Culture
- Ministry of Economic Development and Trade
- Ministry of Education and Science
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Ministry of Finance
- Ministry of Health and Social Protection of the Population
- Ministry of Industry and New Technologies
- Ministry of Interior
- Ministry of Justice
- Supreme Court of RT
- Ministry of labor, migration and employment of the population
- Ministry of Energy and Water Resources
- General Prosecutor Office of RT
- Border Forces of the State Committee for National Security of RT
- Custom Service under the Government of RT
- National Development Council under the President of Tajikistan
- National Bank
- National Biodiversity and Biosafety Center
- National Commission of Tajikistan for UNESCO
- Republican Institute of In-Service Teacher Training
- State Institution Republican Center of Information Technologies and Communications
- National Scientific and Research Institute of Obstetrics Gynecology and Perinatology
- Republican Center for Healthy Lifestyle
- Republican Center for Nutrition
- Republican center for treatment and prevention of HIV/AIDS
- Republican Centre for Medical Statistics and Information
- Republican Centre for SRI of Pediatrics and Surgeon
- Sanitary Epidemiology Surveillance Service
- State Committee on Investments and State Property Management
- State organization "Center of management of PPP projects"
- State organization "Center to support entrepreneurship-Business incubator"
- State organizations "Free Economic Zones: Sughd, Danghara, Panji Poyon"

## REGIONAL AND DISTRICT ADMINISTRATIONS

- Khatlon region
- Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Province (GBAO)
- Sughd region
- Districts of Republican Subordination





## CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS:

- Association of Youth organizations of Tajikistan
- CSO Network on Rule of Law
- Bureau for Human Rights and Rule of Law
- Human Rights Center
- Youth Ecological Centre of the Republic of Tajikistan
- Guli Surkh
- IRODA
- Khoma
- Korvoni Umed
- Najoti Kudakon
- Nasli Javononi Tojikiston
- PO "Hamsol ba Hamsol"
- PO "Youth Organization Peshraft"
- Refugee, Children and Vulnerable Citizens
- PO Ilmkhona
- Right and Prosperity
- D'Jure Equality to D'Facto Equality
- Economy and Education
- Rushdi Inclusia
- Gender and Development
- Peshshaf Forum
- Tajik Family Planning Society
- PO "Union of persons with disabilities"
- Other national/regional/local level civil society organizations
- PO Peshraft
- Association of Microfinance Organizations of Tajikistan
- Public Association Kuhhoi Pomir



## PRIVATE SECTOR

- Business incubator "Accelerate Prosperity"
- Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- National Association of Small and Medium Businesses of the Republic of Tajikistan (NASMB RT)
- National Dehkan Farms Association
- American Chamber of Commerce in Dushanbe
- Tourism Development Association
- Hilton Hotel
- Coca Cola Tajikistan
- Alif Group
- 55 Group



## ACADEMIA AND RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS

- Academy of Science, Institute of Economy and Demography
- Research institute "Zerkalo". LLC "Z- analytics"
- Academy of Science, Institute of geology, seismological construction and seismology
- Academy of Science, Institute of water problems, hydropower engineering and ecology
- State Scientific Institution «Center for Research of Glaciers of the National Academy of Sciences of the Tajikistan»
- Khorog State University named after M. Nazarshoev
- Khujand State UnievrsityLLC "Tahlil va Mashvarat"
- Russian-Tajik Slavonic University
- Scientific Research Institute of Labour, Migration and Employment
- Centre for Strategic Research under the President of Tajikistan
- Tajik National University
- Scientific and research institute on Economy and Demography



## EMPLOYER AND WORKERS ASSOCIATIONS

- Federation of Independent Professional Unions of Tajikistan
- Employers Union of Tajikistan



## INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS

- European Union
- Government of Australia
- Government of Austria
- Government of Belgium
- Government of Canada
- Government of Denmark
- Government of Finland
- Government of France
- Government of Germany
- Government of Italy
- Government of Japan
- Government of Luxembourg
- Government of Norway
- Government of Slovakia
- Government of Sweden
- Government of Switzerland
- Government of the Czech Republic
- Government of the Russian Federation
- Government of the United Kingdom
- Government of the United States of America, USAID
- Joint SDG Fund
- GAVI, the Vaccine Alliance
- Global Environment Fund
- Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria
- UN COVID MPTF
- UN Migration MPTF
- UN Peace Building Fund
- UN Agencies Thematic Funds
- World Bank Group
- Islamic Development Bank
- Private donors from Spain, the Republic of Korea, Italy, Japan, Sweden, and the United States of America









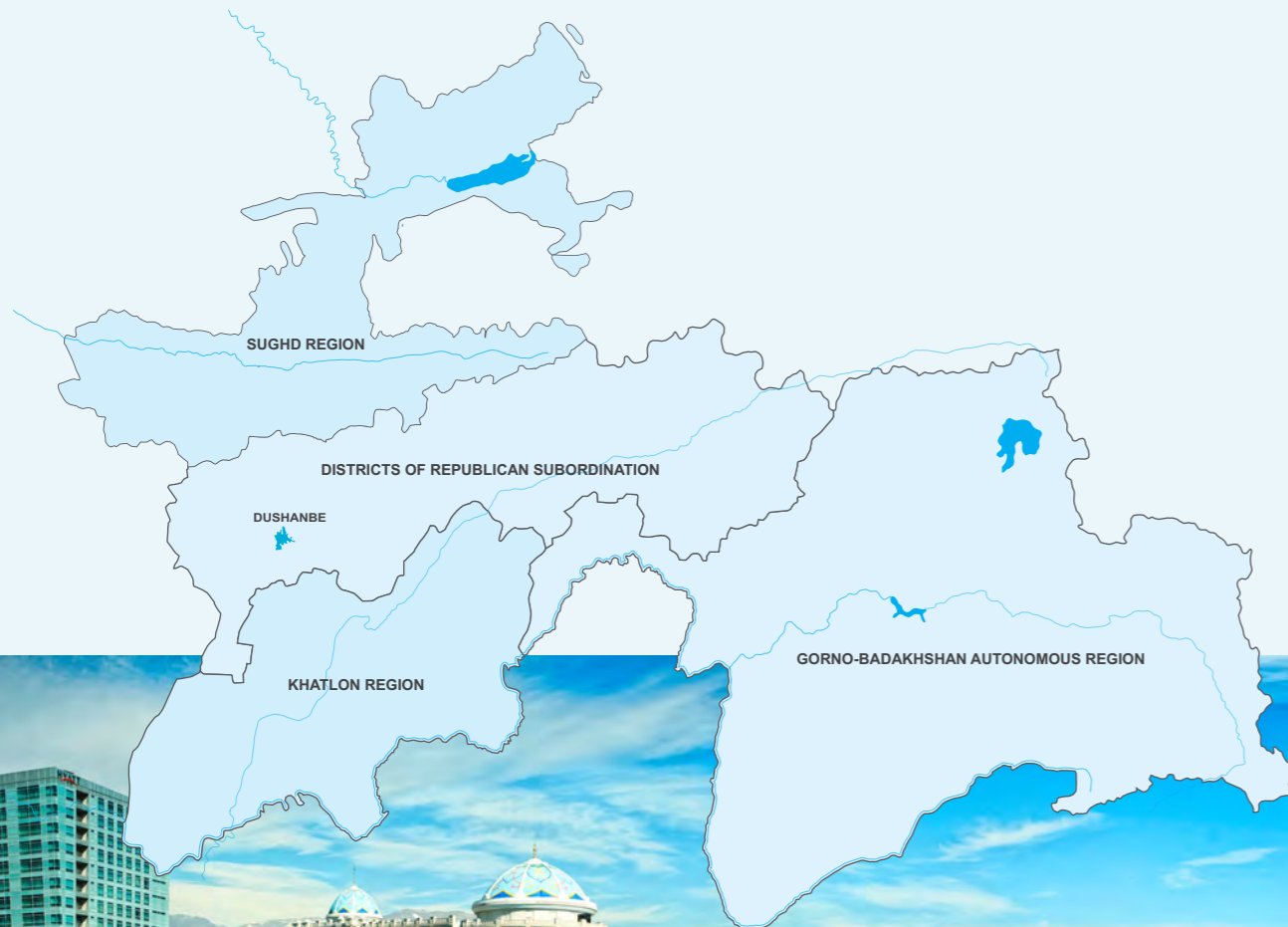


## CHAPTER 1

# KEY DEVELOPMENTS IN THE COUNTRY

# KEY FACTS ABOUT TAJIKISTAN

 <b>Population</b> <b>9,5 million</b> 2020, AoS	 <b>Poverty rate</b> <b>23.6%</b> 2019, AoS	 <b>GDP per capita</b> <b>\$ 859</b> 2020, World Bank
 <b>Personal Remittances Received (Percent of GDP)</b> <b>26.7%</b> World Bank	 <b>Population growth rate (annual)</b> <b>2.3%</b> 2020, World Bank	 <b>Human Development Ranking</b> <b>125 out of 189, HDI Index 0.66,</b> Medium Human Development 2019, UNDP



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Despite the challenges brought by the pandemic, Tajikistan's economy began recovering in 2021, with GDP growing by 9.2 percent compared to 4.5 per cent in 2020; however, this growth did not benefit everyone equally. While macroeconomic recovery made progress in 2021, it is not clear whether there has been a commensurate recovery in household income and the labour market situation. More than 20 percent of households reported in August 2021 that no family member was working. The proportion of households reporting that they had to reduce their food consumption remained high (33 percent) compared to the pre-pandemic levels (20 percent). A positive development for many households was that outgoing labour migration to Russia returned to pre-Covid levels in 2021 since personal remittances are a major source of income for families across the country. In 2019, they amounted to over USD 2.3 billion, equivalent to almost 28 percent of Tajikistan's GDP. Concerns are mounting now about the impact of the 2022 economic sanctions on Russia and what impact this may have on Tajikistan household income and well-being.

Through significant support from the UN, Tajikistan was the first Central Asian country to receive the COVID-19 vaccine through the COVAX mechanism in March 2021, with the official launch of the National Vaccine Deployment Plan. Frontline health workers and medical professionals were the first to be vaccinated, with teachers also being included as a priority group. The measures put in place for COVAX to be able to rapidly deploy vaccines also supported the Government to be

able to accept bilateral donations of vaccines and maximize its vaccine deployment country wide. The number of new cases of COVID-19 being reported in the country significantly dropped in the second half of the year and schools have been operating without interruptions since August 2020.

Tajikistan remains prone to environmental disasters and 2021 was no exception. The country experienced multiple emergency response incidents, including floods, landslides, and mudflows in the Khatlon region (affecting more than 18,000 people), as well as an earthquake in Rasht valley (affecting 16 villages and damaging over 300 households and more than 20 social sector facilities).

The country was also affected by the regional geopolitical instability caused by recent events in Afghanistan and by the continuing border dispute in the north of the country. Tajikistan joined preparations for an Afghanistan Regional refugee response plan and worked with the Government to put in place contingency plans and preparations for reception centers and hosting facilities. In 2021 UNHCR registered 5,598 new arrivals from Afghanistan and estimates are that there are further asylum-seekers in the country seeking to regularize their status with the Government.

In preparation for COP 26 and as part of its commitment under the Paris Agreement, Tajikistan submitted a revised set of targets to reduce greenhouse gases (GHG) in 2021. The revised targets are broader in scope, taking into consideration the adjusted 1990 baseline. Although Tajikistan's share of GHS is less than 1% of the global total, it is likely to suffer disproportionately from global warming owing to its fragile ecosystem, vulnerability to natural hazards, and socioeconomic situation. In light of this, the country needs to choose an alternative path to economic diversification that not only protects its natural resources but centers around people, especially those who are the most vulnerable in society.

The COVID-19 pandemic and political upheavals of 2021 are likely to reverse progress towards the SDGs, seriously delaying the achievement of those national SDGs that were lagging, while limiting the Government's capability to improve the socio-economic situation, strengthen rule of law and good governance, and carry out other important and urgently needed reforms, particularly in relation to the investment climate. Regional security dynamics and internal political context pose multiple challenges to the rule of law, human rights, inclusiveness, and participation, as well as social cohesion and peace.





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## CHAPTER 2

# OVERVIEW OF UNDAF RESULTS

The UN's partnership with the Republic of Tajikistan is based on trust, mutual ownership, and accountability. Since the country's independence in 1991, the UN has been the closest humanitarian and development partner, helping Tajikistan set up its various institutions, investing in economic and social development and supporting the national goals.

The Government of Tajikistan in collaboration with the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) have formulated the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (initially covering the period from 2016-2020 and now further extended until 2022, as a mechanism to support the achievement of Tajikistan's development priorities. The United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) was established around four distinct yet interlinked areas of cooperation (pillars), containing six

(6) strategic "outcomes" that were identified jointly by the Government of Tajikistan and the UN, with the involvement of civil society.

In 2021, UNDAF remained relevant and aligned with the Tajikistan national developmental goals, addressing priorities and needs of the country and its citizens, while UN Agencies were effectively following their mandates and international norms and standards. UN Agencies demonstrated neutrality, impartiality, technical expertise and reputation in facilitating Tajikistan's progress in critical reform areas, linking them to SDGs. Also, factors such as active dialogue with the Government, quick decision-making procedures, a strong partnership between the UN Agencies and national stakeholders, and communication with development partners have contributed to the effectiveness.

# OUTCOMES



**1. Democratic Governance, Rule of Law and Human Rights**



**2. Sustainable and Equitable Economic Development**



**3. Social Development (health, education, social protection)**



**4. Nutrition and Food Security**



**5. Inclusion and Empowerment of Vulnerable Groups**



**6. Resilience and Environmental Sustainability**





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## COVID-Response

The UN continued to support the Government of Tajikistan to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, providing technical and financial assistance to address the primary impacts of the pandemic to the health system and mitigating secondary impacts of COVID-19 on the socio-economic situation, which has been significantly affected. To assist Tajikistan in managing the public health crisis and supporting socio-economic recovery, the UN in Tajikistan developed an Integrated Socio-Economic Response Framework (ISEF) in 2020. The Integrated Socio-economic Response Framework to COVID-19 was developed as part of a broad partnership among all UN agencies in Tajikistan, under the leadership of the Resident Coordinator. In 2021 the UN worked together to integrate the ISEF and the UNDAF Joint Work Plans to ensure a seamless and coherent short-term, medium- and long-term response to COVID-19 and to sustainable development challenges.

UN Agencies supported the Ministry of Health to draft and finalize a National Deployment and Vaccination Plan, which outlined Tajikistan's priority target groups - health workers, older people with chronic conditions and comorbidities, essential workers and teachers as key priority groups for the first stage. The plan built a strong foundation for the country to adequately prepare its health system to initiate an immunization campaign with the first batch of the vaccines received in March. In 2021, UN agencies supported procurement and shipment of over eleven million doses of COVID-19 vaccine – 42 per cent through the COVAX Advance Market Commitment platform. The National Deployment and Vaccination Plan also provided a framework to roll out partnerships with international finance institutions. UN agencies have also been involved with immunization campaigns, capacity building of health workers, provision of essential equipment, strengthening logistics and cold chain to immunize hard-to-reach communities and generating demand for vaccination.



## Key ISEF COVID-19 Results

### Health



**2,296,555**  
Maternal health



**511,725**  
Vaccinations



**14,000**  
Health workers supported

### Protection



**754,812**  
accessed water,  
sanitation and hygiene



**880,112**  
provided with  
hot meals



**13,615**  
accessed social  
protection services

### Economic recovery



**15,091**  
direct beneficiaries of food  
supply protection regimes



**3115**  
workers supported during and  
after the COVID-19 pandemic

### Macroeconomic response



socio-economic  
impact assessments



economic impact  
assessment (fiscal policy)

### Social Cohesion



**7**  
institutions capacity built  
to shape policy response



**57**  
CBOs supported



**5**  
social dialogue and  
advocacy established





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### UN Joint Action for Nutrition

Food security and nutrition remain one of the key areas of concern in Tajikistan, with one in every three households in Tajikistan being moderately or severely food insecure and an estimated 30 to 50 per cent of households being unable to afford a nutritious diet. The UN closely engaged the Government and development partners on combating malnutrition and in 2021 developed a UN Joint Strategic Framework on Nutrition to scale up the work to tackle food security and malnutrition in the country. Through school feeding programmes, the UN reached more than 542,800 children with hot school meals in about 2,000 schools across the country in 2021.

At the policy level, the UN focused on supporting the Government to take action on strengthening food systems as a response to the Global Food Systems Summit convened in September 2021. The UN supported the Government to implement a series of national and sub-national dialogues that convened hundreds of stakeholders, including local authorities, small-holder farmers, and producers to identify challenges and opportunities for food systems in Tajikistan. The result of these dialogues was a National Food Systems Pathway that identifies a set of transformative policy actions to end food insecurity. The UN will support the Government now in the implementation of this Pathway going forward in order to address the root causes of malnutrition.

### Financing for SDGs

The COVID-19 pandemic had a significant impact on the abilities of Governments across the world, including the Government of Tajikistan to achieve SDGs. It prompted the Government of Tajikistan to identify new modalities of

financing mid to long term strategies and to explore partnerships to enable the country to realize the promise of SDGs. In 2021, The Government of Tajikistan, with support from the UN, has made significant progress in strengthening the policy framework and institutional architecture for financing national priorities and the SDGs. Through the integrated policy advice from the UN, for the first time, the Government has a clear picture of the costs, available resources, financing gaps, and relative merits of policy alternatives. A joint working group of UN technical experts built a strong analytical base on the national architecture for financing SDGs and based on this, supported the Government to formulate a roadmap for financing the National Development Strategy. The roadmap provides guidance and options to advance development priorities and unlock additional sources of financing.

### GBV response and prevention

During 2021, the UN strengthened and upscaled its partnership with the Government to combat gender-based violence. The UN provided 80,000 individual beneficiaries with essential services for the response and prevention of domestic violence. Through institutional capacity strengthening, advocacy, and awareness-raising activities, the new draft of the Criminal Code of Tajikistan prepared by a multi-sectoral technical working group and presented to the Government for consideration at the end of 2021 includes a specific article on domestic violence, article 153, which mandates penalties ranging up to 7 years imprisonment.

# OVERVIEW OF UNDAF RESULTS BY OUTPUT AND OUTCOME



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# OUTCOME 1 DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE, RULE OF LAW AND HUMAN RIGHTS



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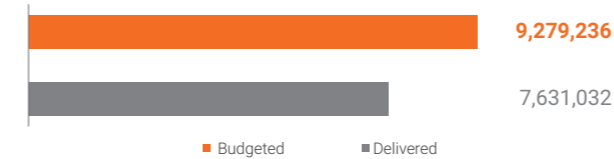


**13,799**  
people claimed their rights using free legal aid services provided by the Government and CSOs

**40%**  
state budget contribution for free legal aid services to vulnerable populations

**8**  
laws and state programmes revised to reflect international norms and standards

Budget for Outcome 1 in \$ USD



UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNODC, UNHCR, OHCHR, UNRCCA, IOM

The UN remains a trusted partner of the Republic of Tajikistan to promote human rights and advance a rights-based agenda for the people of the country, advocating for the effective and accountable delivery of the public and social protection services.

providing free legal aid to vulnerable populations has increased 40% according to the annual state budget. Free legal aid was provided to 13,799 people, including refugees and asylum-seekers across the country, with the level of satisfaction and quality being rated at 98%.

On a policy level, the UN continued to provide technical support and create platforms among key national stakeholders to facilitate amendments to and adoptions of key policy documents. As a result, in 2021, eight laws and state programmes were revised to be in line with international norms and standards. Enhanced policies and legislation include the Criminal Code of the Republic of Tajikistan, laws regulating nationality and issues around statelessness, and the asylum and the protection of refugee's policies. The UN also engaged with the Parliament of the Republic of Tajikistan to adopt amendments to the criminal procedure code to make court proceedings against or involving children to be more child friendly.

### Support of Civil Registration System Reform in Tajikistan

The civil registration system reform project is being implemented in close cooperation with the Ministry of Justice. This project works with stakeholders to make civil registry institutions and mechanisms more functional and responsive to the population's needs both through developing capacity among relevant institutions and stakeholders, as well as simplifying and standardizing the business processes.

UN agencies made considerable progress facilitating dialogue and joint coordination between the Government and civil society organizations. In 2021, three strategic documents were produced by the Government with the close cooperation of CSOs. The creation of the Midterm Development Programme 2021-2025 followed a participatory approach and involved a wide range of non-state actors. Members of the civil society have also been engaged in the development of the National Human Rights Strategy and are engaged to produce UPR reports with the technical support of the UN in Tajikistan. UN Agencies in Tajikistan, in partnership with the Organization of People with Disabilities, supported the adoption of the state programme "Accessible environment for 2021-2025". Among CSOs surveyed, 85% expressed satisfaction with their participation and continuous engagement in the implementation of recommendations of UN human rights mechanisms.

In 2021, UN jointly with the Ministry of Justice piloted a Mobile Civil Registry Office to reach out to people living in remote areas to render legal aid and information on civil registration processes. In total, 386 people (60% women) received CR services from the Mobile Civil Registry Office. The Mobile Civil Registry Office carried out 296 registrations (279 of births, 3 deaths, 11 marriages, 1 registration of adoption, 1 paternity registration) and 90 free legal consultations in 18 remote districts of Sogd, Khatlon, GBAO and DRS. This pilot will serve as an innovative approach to scale up provision of mobile civil registration services and covering vulnerable population in hard-to-reach locations across the country.

The UN remains active in the area of access to justice and continues to support state-funded free legal aid to vulnerable populations. Following the establishment of the State Agency for Legal Aid (SALAC) in 2020, together with 37 state Legal Aid Centers across the country, UN agencies led advocacy to ensure the sustainability and state ownership of the State Free Legal Aid System. As a result, the Government's financial contribution towards



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## OUTCOME 2 SUSTAINABLE AND EQUITABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



**268,044**  
people covered by alternative cost-efficient renewable energy in rural areas.

**2,753**  
people received on-job training on entrepreneurship/business

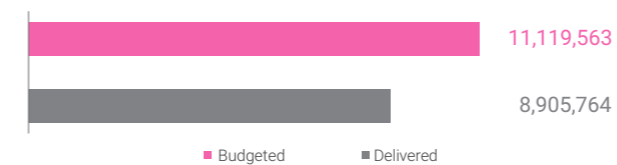
**861**  
full time and seasonal jobs created

**3**  
by-laws on renewable energy sources and energy efficiency

**24,799**  
people improved their livelihood through support programs

**106**  
business start-ups developed by young people

Budget for Outcome 2 in \$ USD



UNDP, FAO, UN WOMEN, UNESCO, UNFPA, ILO, WFP, IOM, UNECE, UNHCR, UNICEF

Poverty reduction and inclusive economic development remain one of the core priority areas for the Government of Tajikistan and the UN continues to provide technical expertise to assist the Government of Tajikistan in the development of effective policies and programmes to achieve its ambitious vision to transform the economy.

achieved due to strong and effective partnerships with state partners as well as private sector, through the provision of equipment, as well as technical and business consulting.

On a policy level, the UN assisted the Government to finalize the new Mid Term Development Plan for 2021-2025 aligned with the sustainable development goals and with a strong emphasis on rapid industrialization, green economy, digital economy, and innovation. The UN in Tajikistan also engaged with key line ministries to draft a set of programs and strategies, including the National Investment Plan National Export Promotion Program for 2021-2025, the Concept of development of productive employment in the Republic of Tajikistan until 2040, the National Roadmap on Digital Economy and the Strategic Roadmap on Enhancing Food Safety at the all-national level until 2030. In 2021, UN agencies collaborated with the Parliament of Tajikistan and its Committee on Economic and Finance to enhance its oversight capacity with regards to SDG acceleration and national development financing.

UN agencies have also been promoting sustainable economic growth with the focus on climate smart solutions and innovations in the management of natural resources. UN provided technical expertise to update and amend six by-laws on water supply management and 3 by-laws on renewable energy sources and energy efficiency. Jointly with the Committee for Environmental Protection, the UN selected two demo plots in Khuroson and Yovon districts for the installation of solar powered irrigation systems (SPIS). As a result of these interventions and support, 268,044 (40% women) people are now covered by alternative cost-efficient renewable energy in on-grid and off-grid rural areas. UN provided support on data collection related to sustainable energy and water resources management and monitoring to improve national capacity for integrated energy and water resources management.

In collaboration with other development partners, the UN promoted entrepreneurship and a start-up ecosystem by bringing diverse stakeholders together on platforms such as Startup Choikhona, InnoResponse platforms and the State Business Incubator. As a result, 35,409 women registered with the Government as individual entrepreneurs and 106 start-ups developed by young people between the ages 15 to 29 received further support.

UN Agencies assisted in creating full-time jobs through agricultural and small business activities. 861 full and seasonal employment opportunities were created in 2021. This intervention improved the livelihood opportunities for 24,700 people. These results were



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## OUTCOME 3 SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (Health, Education and Social Protection)

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### OUTCOME 3.1 HEALTH



**93%**  
women attended at least four times during pregnancy for ante-natal care

**8x**  
times increase from 4500 to maximum 34,400 weekly COVID-19 testing capacity

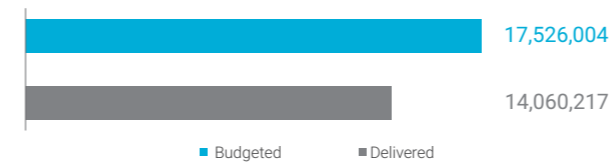
**28,900**  
people were tested for HIV/AIDS.

**97,6%**  
births delivered by skilled health personnel at health facilities (20%+)

**3.04**  
million people received full doses of COVID-19 vaccines

**1.27**  
million children vaccinated against polio

Budget for Outcome 3.1 - Health in \$ USD



WHO, UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA, UN WOMEN, UNODC, WFP, UNHCR, UNDRR, ILO, FAO, UNOPS, UNAIDS, OIE, IOM

improving a family planning services, ensuring resource mobilization and commitment by the Government to end maternal mortality and morbidity.

Tajikistan's Government is committed to providing equitable access to essential health care services and has been working closely with the UN agencies to strengthen the health system in the country.

The UN continued to support the national response on tuberculosis, including through procurement of high-quality diagnostic tests, antiretroviral tests and second-line tuberculosis medicines. Tuberculosis treatment cases' success rate reached 91,3%.

In 2021, UN Agencies provided support to the multisectoral working group in development and approval of the Strategy on Healthcare of Population of the Republic of Tajikistan for the period to 2030, and jointly with the Government formulated an action plan for 2021-2023. Guided by the COVID-19 Country Preparedness and Response Plan and ISEF, UN agencies continued to support different stakeholders to address an immediate impact of the pandemic to health systems.

In November 2020, WHO early surveillance mechanism identified reemergence of vaccine derived polio cases in the south of the country and in Dushanbe. Following a global polio response framework, throughout the first half of 2021 UN agencies closely engaged the Ministry of Health to initiate a national polio vaccination campaign and provided supplementary polio immunization for 1.27 million children, with the 99% coverage.

UN Agencies continued to support country level coordination, planning and implementation of COVID-19 vaccine deployment plan, assist in equipping front line workers and generate demand for the vaccines among the target population. With the technical support of the UN agencies and partnerships created between the Government and IFI's, around 3.04 million people received full two doses of COVID-19 vaccines. UN Agencies also achieved significant progress in strengthening laboratory capacities in detecting COVID-19 and weekly testing capacity for COVID-19 increased from 4,500 to maximum 34,400.

UN Agencies continue to leverage existing and new partnerships modalities to strengthen health systems in the country. In 2021 WHO, UNICEF, GIZ launched an EU funded Health Development Programme to strengthen health sector governance and financing mechanism, improve quality of integrated PHC delivery and effective infection prevention and control systems across the health care delivery systems; UNFPA, UNICEF and WHO launched an ISDB funded mother and child health services in Khatlon region; FAO and WHO further strengthened integration of One Health, with an aim to capacity build stakeholders to combat antimicrobial resistance.

UN agencies continue to support implementation of the National HIV/AIDS Programme aimed at accelerating the progress and curbing the HIV epidemic in Tajikistan, reducing AIDS mortality, and achieving universal access to high-quality HIV prevention, treatment, and care services for everyone. HIV prevention programmes covered more than 30,000 people from vulnerable groups and 93 percent of people living with HIV received antiretroviral therapy.



© WHO Tajikistan


Using strong evidence from the study on family planning services, UN provided technical support to the Ministry of Health to revise an ongoing State Programme on Reproductive Health for 2019-2022. As a result, Ministry of Health developed a new transformative Action Plane on Reproductive health commodity security (RHCS), aimed at






## OUTCOME 3.2 EDUCATION



 **542,800**  
children in schools received daily school meals

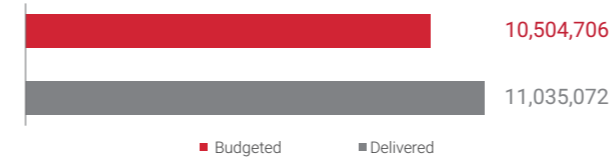
 **741,000**  
school children and teachers supported with hygiene items (soap, sanitizers and chlorine, and other disinfectants)


 **183,391**  
children benefitted from innovative learning approaches (digital and TV education models)

 **8,377**  
young people were trained on 21st century transferable skills

 **2 million**  
children benefitted from COVID-19 safety awareness campaign

Budget for Outcome 3.2 - Education in \$ USD



 UNICEF, UNESCO, UNHCR, WHO, UNFPA, WFP

Throughout the year, UN agencies continued to support education institutions with practicing safety standards and taking precautionary measures to prevent COVID-19. Through a nation-wide safety campaign, the UN reached all schools and pre-school facilities reaching more than two million school children with safety awareness campaign.

New strategic partnerships were established with bilateral donors and international financial institutions. With the support of the European Union, UNESCO, UNICEF, the Ministry of Education and Science of Tajikistan signed the Quality Education Support Programme II which was then launched in December of 2021., UN Agencies launched a new initiative for scaling up access to early childhood education jointly with the Global Partnership for Education (GPE).

The UN supported Innovation Labs were expanded in eight more districts, bringing the number of Innovation Labs in Tajikistan to 24, through which 8,377 young people were trained on 21st century transferable skills essential for the contemporary job market.

The pandemic has endangered the progress made towards the achievement of SDG 4 and its targets, which is resulting in learning loss and stagnating the improvements to the quality of education. To address this, more focus and support was provided by working closely with education policymakers on mitigating learning loss and building resilient education systems by raising awareness, building capacity, and providing policy advice.

UN agencies support the Ministry of Education and Science in implementation of the National Education Strategy 2021-2030, providing technical support in result-based planning, formulation of the monitoring and evaluation framework for the national strategy. Several policy documents setting the vision of the country for new education reforms including the National Learning Assessment Concept, the National Concept on Inclusive Education and the STEM strategy have been finalized and are pending Government approval.

Reforms to in-service teacher training and support systems have been initiated through the introduction of blended learning and a comprehensive continuous professional learning management system. Teachers' capacities were also built on preventing violence and bullying in the schools, global citizenship, and leadership skills, including on healthy lifestyles and nutrition.

The school feeding programme supported by the UN reached over 542,800 primary school children in approximately 2,000 schools. The UN and the Ministry of Education and Science of Tajikistan signed a memorandum of understanding on the establishment of a school feeding centre under the mandate of the ministry.



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## OUTCOME 3.3 SOCIAL PROTECTION

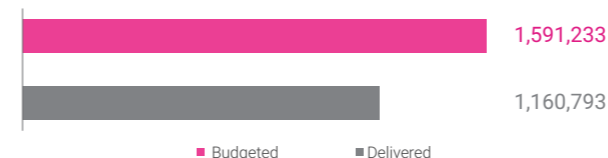


 **2,138,556**  
people covered by social protection systems

 **360**  
state officials have improved capacity to provide quality social protection services

 **6**  
legislations and strategic documents developed to strengthen social protection systems

Budget for Outcome 3.3 - Social Protection in \$ USD



UNICEF, WFP, ILO, UN WOMEN, UNFPA, UNHCR, IOM

The UN has been demonstrating strong commitments in assisting the Government in the development of integrated social protection strategies, providing technical assistance to tackle the most urgent issues including strengthening access to social services for vulnerable groups, investing towards development of capacities in service delivery at national and regional levels.

On a strategic level, UN agencies closely engaged different ministries to develop six legislations and strategic documents, including a draft of the National Migration Strategy to enable stronger protection framework for the migrants, Procedures on the implementation of a cash transfer pilot in selected schools and Guiding Document on provision of School Feeding.

UN led advocacy resulted in establishment of the national Steering Committee on Population and Development Affairs jointly with the Agency of Statistics and the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade. Steering Committee serves as an important platform for promoting the demography and population dynamics, linkages with the developmental agenda and brings together national stakeholders, development agencies and academy. In 2021, it resulted in draft of the Concept of Demographic Policy of Tajikistan.

In 2021, a total of 2,138,556 vulnerable people received support (cash assistance, services), overachieving the target by 40 percent. From the total number of vulnerable people 1,450,487 were children, 677,810 - working age population and 10,259 - elderly persons. Increase in the number of beneficiaries is mainly because of additional COVID-19 emergency payment made by the World Bank and country-wide expansion of the Targeted Social Assistance scheme.

Improving the quality of the services at sub-regional level is a priority for the UN Agencies, and in recent years, Tajikistan is facing increased demand in the number of qualified social workers. The United Nations

supported the Government to draft a State Programme on Developing Workforce in the Social Protection Sector. UN agencies have also been engaged with the Academy of Public Administration under the President of the RT to provide systematic and comprehensive in-service and pre-service training to senior level civil servants as well as middle level service providers at national, sub-national and regional levels. In 2021, a total of 360 state officials across the country were engaged in capacity building activities to improve the quality of social protection services.

The UN advocated for changes in approaches to social assistance resulting in application of the per capita metric, as opposed to per household, to consider the sizes of Tajik families and the cash plus model. Financing social protection systems remains one of the key challenges for the Government and UN agencies has been working to build technical expertise and enabling the environment for the state institutions to be able to explore alternative financing modalities.



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# OUTCOME 4 NUTRITION AND FOOD SECURITY



**3**  
policies and programmes reviewed/  
developed in line with internationally  
mandated standards

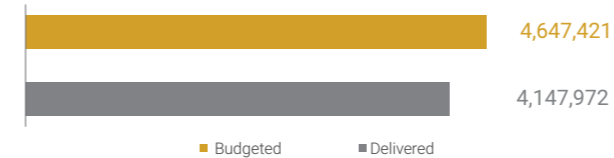


**13,165**  
children treated and cured  
from severe and moderate  
acute malnutrition



Established national multisectoral  
coordinating mechanisms

Budget for Outcome 4 in \$ USD



FAO, WFP, UNICEF, UNDP, ILO, WHO

UN Agencies have been strategically focusing on nutrition, especially nutrition of children raising the profile of this sector on the political agenda and influencing several important policy decisions. With the leadership of the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of the Population and support from development partners, the Multisectoral Action Plan on Nutrition 2021-2025 was developed and endorsed by the President of the Republic of Tajikistan in 2021 with an overall aim to improve maternal and child nutrition in Tajikistan by 2025. UN Agencies support the Government to develop a strategic roadmap on enhancing Food Safety until 2030 and assist in formulation of a national food systems pathway (NFSP).

UN has collaborated with the National partners in building the local capacities to address the issues of stunting, wasting and micronutrient deficiencies among children and women, and the general improved access to health care services, as well as the access to water and sanitation. Through provision of quality nutrition services, including treatment of severe and moderate acute malnutrition as well as counseling on maternal nutrition and infant and young child feeding by skilled doctors and nurses contributes to increased access to the services and improved behavior by caregivers of children. These nutrition services are critical in reducing the prevalence of stunting, wasting, and other forms of malnutrition.

Nutrition cuts across multiple sectors and the establishment of a Multisectoral Coordination Council is therefore critical. A platform has been established with membership extending to 16 ministries and agencies in coordination with the Ministry of Health and Social Protection under the framework of the Scaling Up Nutrition Movement. Continued Development Coordination Council, Scaling Up Nutrition, and other UN nutrition and food security partnerships platforms to discuss and update each other on the outputs and activities are in line with the current UNDAF and the Government's nutrition priorities.

UN has been effectively tackling issues around breastfeeding, consumption of iodized salt, child and maternal nutrition, children stunting and wasting, including through work on the ground to transform parenting practices and enhancing knowledge, school feeding programs among others.

With the link to the ISEF, UN agencies conducted three promotion campaigns around hygiene, healthy diet and food safety to promote good hand hygiene practices in communities, schools and the workplace contributing to the prevention of COVID-19 and other food borne and communicable diseases.

A consolidated effort among UN agencies (FAO, UNICEF, WFP, WHO) has led to the drafting of an UN Strategic Framework for Nutrition, which will set the foundation for a joint work plan to coordinate and harmonize nutrition-related activities. The framework aims to strengthen the collaboration of agencies focusing on nutrition and will complement each other's comparative advantages to support the Government of Tajikistan to sustain and adapt existing nutrition services. This framework will lay the foundation for pooled resources and contribute to advocacy for the sustainability of nutrition activities, including the prevention of acute malnutrition, contributions to the implementation of the Multisectoral Action Plan on Nutrition 2021-2025 and achievements of the national nutrition targets and cover the period of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2023-2026.







## OUTCOME 5 INCLUSION AND EMPOWERMENT OF VULNERABLE GROUPS



**600** teachers went through the training on Positive parenting without violence and discrimination. The training module was developed in the frames of the Spotlight initiative

**170** health workers and police have strengthened their knowledge based on the National Protocol for provision of quality essential services for survivors of rape and SGBV

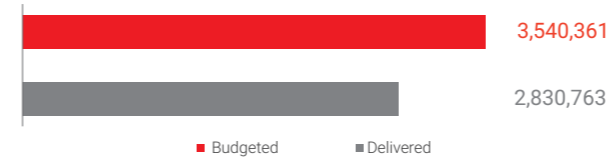
**583** government officials improved knowledge policymaking on gender based violence and discrimination of vulnerable groups.

**94** CSOs capacity strengthened and engaged in programmes that address violence and discrimination

**9** draft amendments and recommendations submitted on GBV/SRH, violence and right of the vulnerable groups

**9** state institutions supported to provide quality health, justice, social, care and protection services to act against gender misconception and stereotypes

### Budget for Outcome 5 in \$ USD



UN WOMEN, UNICEF, IOM, UNHCR, WHO, UNODC, UNDP, UNESCO, OHCHR, UNFPA, WFP, UNAIDS

The UN has played an important role supporting the Government of Tajikistan in efforts to eliminate Gender-Based Violence (GBV), foster gender equality, and inclusion of the vulnerable population. Violence against women and girls, including domestic violence, is widespread around the world, and has worsened during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The permanent Civil Society Reference Group (CSRG) of the Spotlight Initiative, composed of ten members representing different groups, regions, expertise and demonstrated experience in gender equality and eliminating violence against women and girls promoted accountability and oversight of the Initiative, and supported the programme's efforts to engage civil society more broadly continuously and meaningfully through reaching out to those left behind.

At the policy level, UN Agencies continued to provide technical assistance and recommendations to amend legal frameworks, protocols, and national documents to be more in line with the international standards and norms. High level advocacy jointly with the Office of Ombudsman and in collaboration with the relevant ministries lead to the elaboration of the complaint mechanism for girls and women.

Through these joint partnerships, the initiative ensured it reached the women left farthest behind, by organizing 5 mobile health clinics in the remote areas of the Spotlight programme target districts in order to reach over 1800 women and girls of reproductive age who have limited geographical access to quality SGBV/SRH services otherwise. Moreover, a School of Gender Activists trained 20 local citizens-activists from Spotlight target districts, representing CSOs from various sectors and representing different beneficiary groups, increased the potential of their own CSOs through follow up activities and the cascading knowledge in their locations, engaging women farthest behind among other key populations.

The Government of Tajikistan in close consultation of the relevant stakeholders developed and adopted a new National Programme to combat the epidemic of HIV/AIDS for the period 2021-2025. The programme included activities to promote gender equality, opportunities and rights of women living with HIV and key populations.

On International Day for the Elimination of Gender-Based Violence, the Government of Tajikistan, the United Nations, and the European Union launched Spotlight Initiative which aims to end sexual and gender-based violence against women and girls. Tajikistan is one of the two countries in Central Asia where the Government, the UN and the EU are partnering to increase financing and expertise through the Spotlight Initiative to end sexual and gender-based violence.



Spotlight Initiative draws on extensive expertise of the civil society organization engaged in the field of preventing sexual and gender-based violence against women, leverages evidence and experience of these locally run organizations committed to end violence against women and girls. With the support of the UN, more than 40 civil society organizations across the country came together to implement a Civil Society Strategy in Tajikistan – a document first of its kind for the country.





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### “Orange Ball” girls football tournament

The 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence is an annual international campaign that kicks off on 25 November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, and runs until 10 December, Human Rights Day. Each year, over 50 organizations across Tajikistan participated in the campaign organizing close to 100 events of various type and scale, covering at least quarter a million people.

This year, the national futsal tournament named “Orange Ball” was conducted among girls aged 13 – 17 years old with a key mission to encourage more girls to engage in sports, particularly futsal, provide them with equal opportunities and break the gender-based stereotypes. A total of 224 girls,

aged 13 to 17, participated in the tournament across the country and had the opportunity to perform at regional and national levels. All participants received high quality athletic apparel kits and sports accessories to motivate them for further participation. Players with higher performance levels will have an opportunity to play for the Tajik National Team in the CAFA tournament in 2022. In the final match, Khatlon team won over J. Rasulov team (4-1) and became the winner of the Orange Ball tournament and the event concluded with the mobile theater show performed by Youth Peer Education Network volunteers, promoting the idea of life free of gender-based and domestic violence.

### Youth engagement in Tajikistan

Y-PEER - Youth Peer Education Network, a groundbreaking and comprehensive youth-to-youth initiative was officially launched in Tajikistan in 2007 and was registered as national public organization in 2012, becoming one of the strongest youth organizations in the country. Uniting more than 100 young people and several partner CSOs – “Shams” NGO in Sugd and “Tomiris” NGO in Khatlon, Y-PEER network engages youth into design and implementation of youth policy on national level. With support of UNFPA, Y-PEER was instrumental in promoting reproductive health education and formation of healthy lifestyle among students through incorporation of these topics into the national education curricula. Y-PEER also manages several Adolescent Innovation Labs established in various parts of the country with support of UNICEF with intention to develop skills and creativity of adolescents and youth in the district and preparing them for transition from school to work life. Network’s know-how is peer to peer education – young people educate their peers on various topics from healthy lifestyle to HIV/AIDS and SRHR prevention, from gender equality to leadership and mental health.



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## OUTCOME 6 RESILIENCE AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY



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**263,228**

benefitted from community level interventions on disaster risk reduction and disaster risk management



**32,000**

people benefitted from the local level disaster risk reduction interventions



**27,000**

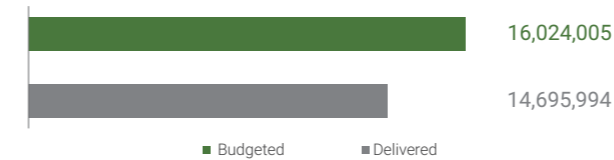
people benefitted from the innovative solutions for sustainable natural resource management



**9**

institutional capacity development interventions aimed at disaster risk management and emergency preparedness supported

Budget for Outcome 6 in \$ USD



UNDP, UNICEF, WFP, UNHCR, UNDRR, UNECE, UN OCHA, UNESCO, UNRCCA, UNFPA

The Republic of Tajikistan experiences multiple natural hazards such as avalanches, earthquakes, floods, mudflows, and landslides every year. UN Agencies closely cooperating with the specialized ministries and committees to strengthen a legislative framework and policies in the areas of Disaster Risk Management, sustainable natural resources management, climate change and environmental protection.

UN assisted in developing of the relevant chapters on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in line with the Espoo Convention and continued to support the country on integrated water resources management (IWRM) under the EU Water Initiative.

In 2021, at least 9 institutional capacity development interventions aimed at disaster risk management and emergency preparedness, climate change, biodiversity conservation, chemicals management and renewables, sustainable natural resource management and environmental protection were supported. As a result, on-site training, resulted in the development of the specific short-, medium- and long-term measures to address safety deficiencies in the tailing management facilities (TMF).

In 2021, Rapid Emergency and Assessment Coordination Team (REACT) member agencies and the Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defense of the Republic of Tajikistan (CoES) responded to mudflows and floods disasters in Khatlon region, and an earthquake disaster in Rasht Valley. UN Agencies along with other REACT partners ensured delivery of immediate life-saving food and non-food relief assistance covering the needs of over 2000 affected households. Furthermore, 1750 affected people (250 households) affected by the

In 2021, a total of 263,228 benefitted from community level interventions on disaster risk reduction, disaster risk management as well as climate change adaptation, sustainable natural resources management and environmental protection.

A regional cooperation is established in climate negotiation and diplomacy among Central Asian Countries. The first-ever Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction in Central Asia was adopted by Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan. CAREC setup its first Central Asian pavilion in the history of the COP26 through support of a regional climate change project. Kazakhstan and Tajikistan cooperated as part of the Green Bridge Partnership Program to Promote Climate Policies in the Central Asian Region. MoU signed among Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan for regional conservation of snow leopards' ecosystems and landscapes in the Western Tien Shan and Pamir-Alai for cooperation in transboundary research and monitoring of snow leopards and combating illegal wildlife trade.

In the area of trade and trade facilitation, UN supported Tajikistan in implementation of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) and the national trade facilitation strategy, provided assistance for the digitalization of multimodal transport data and document exchange and delivered a national study on current and potential strengths and weaknesses in integrating the SPECA Sustainable Trade Principles, from policy, legal and economic perspectives.



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## SUPPORT TO PARTNERSHIPS AND FINANCING

The Government of Tajikistan with support from the UN System has made significant progress in strengthening the policy framework and institutional architecture for financing national priorities and the SDGs. UN approach is cross cutting, leveraging partnership opportunities and creating a moment for advocacy and technical support to enable Tajikistan to achieve SDGs. The road to SDGs has become even harder for Tajikistan with major reversals after the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. Even before the pandemic, it was apparent that Tajikistan needed to attract significantly more financing to achieve its ambitious development goals by 2030. COVID-19 pandemic had a major impact on reversing progress made to achieve SDGs in Tajikistan, prompting the Government to find alternative modalities to finance social programmes and explore unconventional partnerships to enable socio economic development in the country.



### Joint SDG financing Programme

The joint UN initiative “Financing SDGs in Tajikistan” has been designed to improve accountability and transparency of the effective budgeting practices. The initiative brought together different ministries and parts of the Government together under the National Development Council, creating a collaborative platform in carrying out reform in public finance management, improve investment climate, and support private sector development. UN provided technical support to the members of the group to analyze existing fiscal space, financial architecture and develop Roadmap for Financing SDGs, that provides guidance and options to advance development priorities and to unlock additional sources of financing use innovative approaches, such as gender-responsive budgeting for a more transparent and inclusive systems.

### COVAX / ACT Accelerator

Tajikistan became a first country in Central Asia to receive a COVID-19 vaccines through the COVAX mechanism – a global partnership co-lead by UN Agencies to ensure equitable access to the tools to fight the pandemic. This has been a result of a long partnership between the Ministry of Health and the UN Agencies, who assisted with the development of national vaccination plans, strengthening cold chain infrastructure and capacity building of thousands of medical professionals to conduct a national immunization campaign. Through this engagement, UN Agencies enabled the Government to create strong partnership with the multilateral and international financial institutions like World Bank Group and Asia Development Bank, and attract additional emergency financing to procure vaccines, diagnostic and testing tools, cold chain equipment.

### Regional Risk and Resilience Assessment (RRRA)

The UN has also been working closely with development partners on issues of fragility and peacebuilding. Regional Risk and Resilience Assessment (RRRA) brought together technical experts in the region to identify key drivers of fragility in the border areas of the Ferghana valley, including the Kyrgyz-Tajik border areas. The findings of the assessment make strong argument around interlinkages between economic prosperity and social cohesion affecting countries in the region. The RRRA also revealed an opportunity for the IFI's to invest into the conflict prevention and create resilience among the cross-border communities, support conflict prevention – an area not usually invested by the IFIs.

The UN Common Country Analysis incorporated findings from RRRA, prioritized support through enhancing livelihoods, entrepreneurship, and SME development, improving access to finance for youth and women and investment in further analysis and programmes to support and empower youth in local peace and development processes.

### Regional Refugee Preparedness and Response

With the sudden shift in the security context in Afghanistan in 2021 and with high likelihood of refugee influx to the neighboring countries, the United Nations activated the Refugee Coordination Model to support the Government to prepare for the potential influx and preposition resources to address potential emergency. UN provided technical support to the Government to establish the inter-agency working group at the national level, design short- and long-term refugee influx scenarios, led resource mobilization and stakeholder engagement with the donors, civil society. This partnership created synergies between the Government and IFIs to upgrade community infrastructure and services within the existing programs to better address the needs of the refugees and the local communities.

### Spotlight Initiative

Gender based violence remains one of the pressing issues in Tajikistan. In 2021, the UN and European Union jointly with the Government launched the Spotlight Initiative - a flagship programme aimed to eliminate gender-based violence and leverages comparative advantages of different UN agencies to tackle the issue from different angles. This programme has been instrumental to bring together the Government and the Civil Society Organizations, creating organic partnership between the two with the joint strategy and advisory board.



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## EVALUATIONS AND LESSONS LEARNED

The UNDAF has served as an effective partnership vehicle between the Government of Tajikistan and key stakeholders to make progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals' targets, ensuring that the rights and needs of the poor and people in vulnerable situations have been considered and addressed. UNDAF under all outcomes is addressing the needs of vulnerable populations, effectively promoting the principle "leave no one behind". In 2021 the UN contracted an external independent evaluation of the UNDAF to provide learning and knowledge for the design of the UNSDCF. Key lessons learned from the evaluation include:

### Data availability results in challenges to robust analysis and programmatic response design

There is limited official data available for robust analysis of vulnerabilities and needs. The UN should continue to invest in Government capacity for data collection and analysis. The UN should also explore innovative data solutions as well as stronger joint action to support Government SDG indicator data collection and monitoring. The UN needs to better utilize global knowledge on establishing regular framework for collection of in-country evidence, including mapping of vulnerability pockets and analysis of multidimensional poverty issues, which could be easily adapted to emerging challenges, to understand the needs of emerging vulnerable groups, e.g. refugees and host communities or people affected by conflicts or big disasters. The Vulnerability and Resilience Atlas developed by the UN remains a relevant and important tool.

### Reforms to promote structural job creation

In addition to its robust actions to support skills for jobs and livelihoods, especially targeting women and youth, the UN should increase its focus on integrated policy advice to the Government on the reforms needed to the investment climate for decent job creation efforts to bear fruition.

### COVID-19 Response

The ISEF was a highly relevant strategic approach to bring together a coherent UN response to COVID-19 pandemic and its achievements should be built on and scaled up to promote economic empowerment of those left farthest behind also through longer-term interventions.

### Policy Dialogues, Advocacy and Donor Coordination

Several good examples of coordination for policy dialogues and advocacy were noted, both in specific sectors such as health and education, but also through platforms that brought together the UN, Government, civil society and international partners. The UN should continue to play a key role in this type of convening efforts and ensure participation of LNOB groups in these discussions.

### Partnerships

The evaluation noted the strong partnerships the UN has leveraged over the course of the UNDAF to improve collaboration toward SDG achievements. The evaluation highlighted the importance of engaging with the Government through a strengthened and more dynamic and robust Joint National Steering Committee and engaging more with key partners from the private sector and the media.





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## FINANCIAL OVERVIEW AND RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

### Funding Compact

In line with the Funding Compact the UN aims to increase funding channeled through joint programmes and Multi-Partner Trust Funds in 2022 as well as the establishment of One UN Country Fund tied to the new UNSDCF designed to mobilize resources for multi-sectoral integrated UN joint programmes responding to key under-funded areas of the UNSDCF. During 2021 the UN continued to demonstrate a high capacity to work closely together in an integrated fashion to respond to crisis through the Joint Work Plans of the UNDAF and key joint programmes and initiatives such as the development of the UN Nutrition Framework. During 2021 the UN mobilized resources and launched 3 new joint programmes on spotlight initiative to end violence against women and girls, support to migrants left behind families, health capacity building for combating antimicrobial resistance in Tajikistan for total amount of over \$8 million USD.

### Platforms for mobilizing and coordinating resources

A priority for the UN continues to be strengthening the coordination among national and international stakeholders and demonstrating the importance of multilateralism and the UN's comparative value. The UN in partnership with the Government's Committee of Emergency Situations (COES) co-chairs the Rapid Emergency Assessment & Coordination Team (REACT), which includes national and international partners supporting emergency preparedness and response in Tajikistan through their Humanitarian Emergency

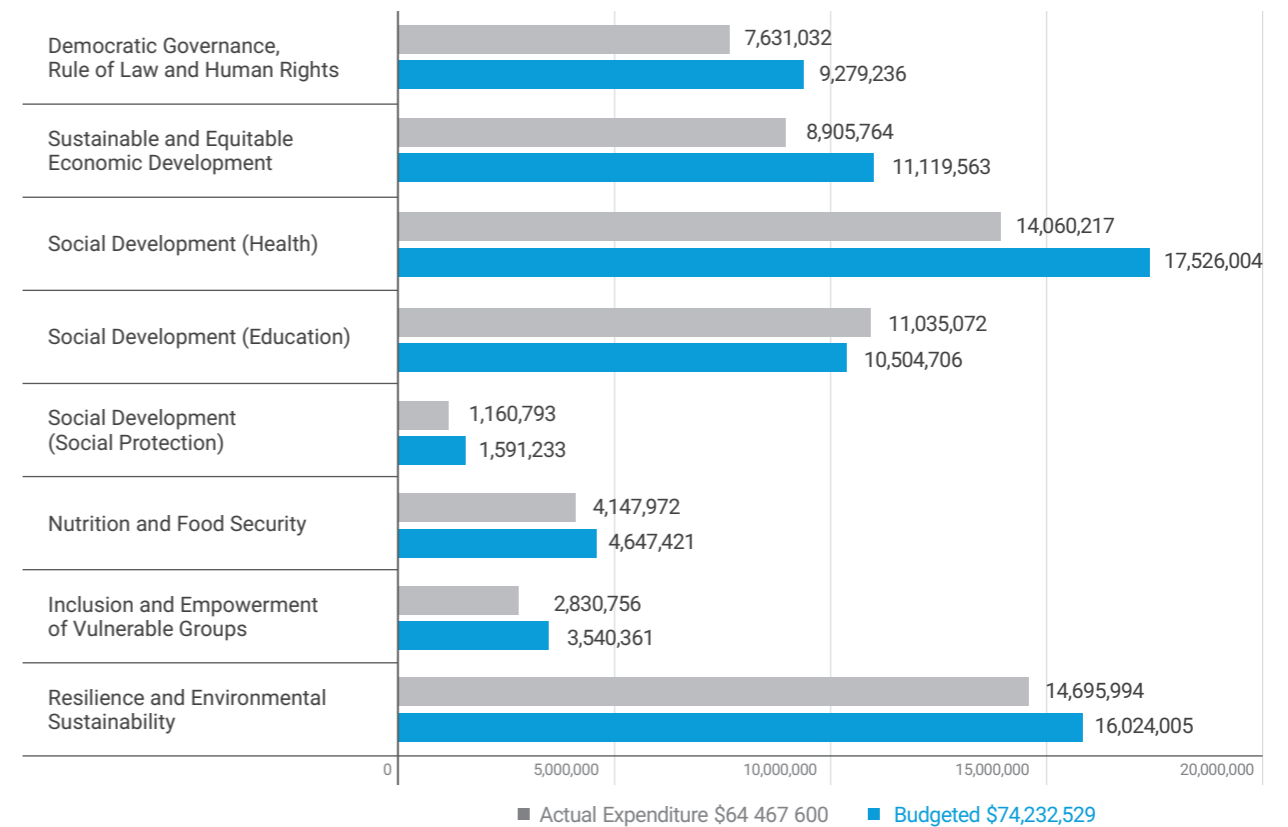
Response Strategy. REACT is an important platform to coordinate the partners' financing and activities. In 2021 the UN, Government and other partners worked together to respond to a number of significant natural disasters with close to \$1.7 million USD allocated and 10,000 beneficiaries and 2,100 households reached. In November 2021 the UN supported REACT and COES to conduct an After-Action Review of emergency response efforts in 2021 aimed to inform the development of the 2022 workplan and with a focus on data collection, prevention and linkages to National DRR Platform, and institutional capacity strengthening of REACT partners.

In 2021 the UN Resident Coordinator was elected to take on the role of Chair of the international development coordination platform - the Development Coordination Council, which is composed of international stakeholders. Through this role the UNRC focused on strengthening the relationship between the UN and the Government towards development coordination; raising awareness of development partners of international normative commitments around the aid effectiveness agenda; and promoting the importance of Agenda 2030 under-pinning development efforts.

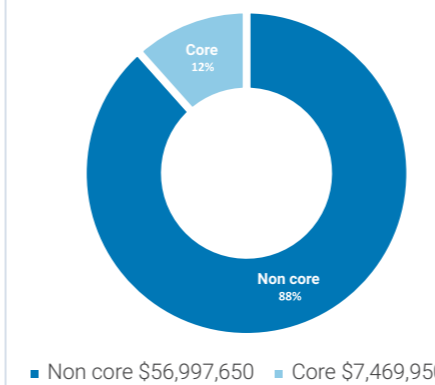
### Priority Issues

Priority issues that are of prominence during 2022 for increased investment and resource mobilization include Green Recovery, Food Systems and Nutrition, Water and Climate Change, LNOB efforts, and Prevention and Resilience.

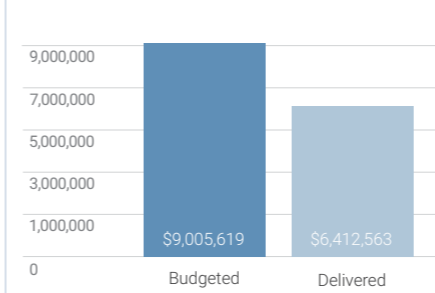
UNDAF Delivery per Outcome in 2021



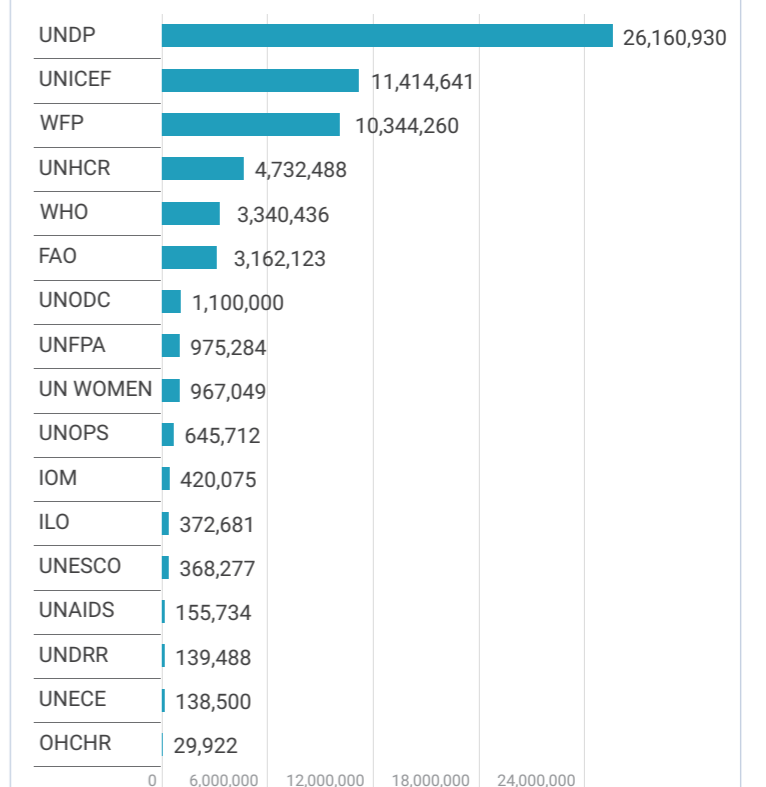
Expenditure by funding modality



Total joint programme delivery



UNDAF Delivery by UN Agencies











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