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UN ANNUAL RESULTS REPORT 2022

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1993-2023
30 years of successful cooperation

UN ANNUAL RESULTS REPORT 2022
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TABLE OF CONTENT

ACRONYMS

Foreword by Resident Coordinator	04
UNCT Composition	05
Key Development Partners in Tajikistan	06
Key Development trends	10
Overview of UNDAF Results by Output and Outcome	11
Outcome 1. Democratic Governance, Rule of Law and Human Rights	15
Outcome 2. Sustainable and Equitable Economic Development	19
Outcome 3. Social Development (health, education, social protection)	23
Outcome 4. Nutrition and Food Security	29
Outcome 5. Inclusion and Empowerment of Vulnerable Groups	32
Outcome 6. Resilience and Environmental Sustainability	35
Support to Partnerships and Financing	38
UN Reform Results	39
Evaluations and lessons learned	42
Financial Overview and Resource Mobilization	45
UN Focus for Year Ahead	49

DDP	District Development Plan	NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
ADB	Asian Development Bank	NDC	Nationally Determined Commitments
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction	IPC	Integrated Food Security Phase Classification
GBAO	Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast	ISEF	Integrated Socio Economic Framework
GCF	Green Climate Fund	SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations	ISDB	Islamic Development Bank
CSRG	Civil Society Reference Group	SME	Small and Medium Enterprises
GoT	Government of Tajikistan	UNRC	United Nations Resident Coordinator
GBV	Gender Based Violence	UNCT	United Nations Country Team
ICT	Information Communication Technologies	UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
INFF	Integrated National Financing Framework	UNSDCF	UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
IFIs	International Financial Institutions	UPR	Universal Periodic Review



FOREWORD



In 2022 as the world emerged from the COVID-19 pandemic and experienced the turbulence from the war in Ukraine, Tajikistan demonstrated resilience with an increasing GDP, lower than expected inflation and a stronger fiscal position. There is still higher than normal risk and uncertainty stemming from climate change as well as the continuing war in Ukraine which may disrupt food and energy supplies and reduce employment opportunities for Tajik labour migrants in Russia. Ongoing instability in Afghanistan and tensions on the Kyrgyz-Tajik border add to the country's security concerns.

Despite these headwinds, Tajikistan continues to position itself to pursue transformative, inclusive, and green economic development. In this, the UN system remains a trusted partner of the Government, offering impartial and evidence-based solutions to achieve the goals of the National Development Strategy (NDS 2030) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This enables the UN system to advocate for policy and institutional changes that will create *opportunities for each person to realize his or her potential based on equality, justice and respect for human dignity*.¹

In 2022 Tajikistan continued its cooperation with international human rights mechanisms. It received 234 UPR recommendations from 80 Member States and prepared a draft national action plan. The adoption of the **Law on Equality and Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination** was a key achievement. In December the country was visited by the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders. To strengthen the resilience of the social protection system, the Government, with policy advice from the UN system, launched the **Social Protection Strategy 2040**. It offers a 'single window' for the provision of social services which will reduce fragmentation and strengthen coordination among service providers and better include vulnerable groups. Tajikistan also made progress to rollout the Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF). This will help to **catylyse the flow of development finance** to achieve the goals of the NDS and SDGs. With support from the UN system, the Government of Tajikistan also launched the **Green Economy Strategy, 2023-2037**. It aims for

greater economic development that is anchored by environmental sustainability, a reduced carbon footprint, and improved living conditions. Climate change impacts are creating hardships, especially water scarcity and more frequent and severe natural disasters. Tajikistan continues to raise issues of **water, climate change and disaster risk** reduction internationally. As a key sponsor of UN General Assembly Resolution 71/22 on establishing the International Decade for Action 'Water for Sustainable Development, 2018-2028' Tajikistan organized a High-Level Water Conference Dushanbe in June 2022. The country also successfully advocated for the adoption of the UN General Assembly resolution "International Year of Glaciers Preservation, 2025", which declares not only an International Year of Glaciers Preservation and a World Day of Glaciers but also calls on the establishment of a UN Trust Fund and convening an International Conference in 2025.

Global partnerships are essential to achieve the goals of the NDS and SDGs. No country, regional bloc or group can implement solutions for sustainable, human-centred development alone. In 2022, the UN system continued to act as a convenor to bring together multiple stakeholders. Two examples are a partnership with the European Union to support ongoing reform and digitalization of the civil registry system and engagement with the Green Climate Fund (GCF) to secure climate finance to address the complex, connected issues of water scarcity, climate change and disaster risk reduction. In 2023, the Government and UN system begin implementation of the new UN **Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (CF)** for the period 2023-2026. The transformational changes from cooperation are expected to contribute toward sustainable economic growth and the creation of decent jobs, more effective and accountable public institutions and delivery of essential social services, and stronger social inclusion and resilience. CF results and strategies are focused on reaching out to vulnerable groups to ensure they are not left behind. To do this, results will be achieved in broad partnership with civil society groups, NGOs, community groups, human rights institutions, academia, media, the private sector, and international partners. On behalf of the United Nations Country Team in Tajikistan, I thank all our partners for our active and effective collaboration in 2022. In 2023, we mark 30 years of UN presence and partnership in Tajikistan and we look forward to expanding our cooperation and deepening our mutual commitment to support the people of Tajikistan on their path toward sustainable development.

Ms. Sezin Sinanoglu
Resident Coordinator
United Nations in Tajikistan



UNCT COMPOSITION

The United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in Tajikistan is the reliable partner for the Government of Tajikistan and supports the country's national priorities and commitments to achieve the SDGs.

The UN in Tajikistan consists of 19 resident and nonresident agencies and country presence programmes. The UN in Tajikistan is led by the Resident Coordinator (RC), who is the designated

representative of the UN Secretary-General. In 2016-2022, the United Nations was guided by the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) in full alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and the National Development Strategy 2030. In 2022, UN in Tajikistan has completed the final year of UNDAF implementation and as of January 2023 launched the new UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2023-2026.

The following agencies are members of the UNCT in Tajikistan:

Resident UN Agencies¹



Non-Resident UN Agencies²



KEY PARTNERS IN TAJIKISTAN

The United Nations in Tajikistan expresses its gratitude to the national and local levels government counterparts, civil society organizations, private sector, academia, and media, as well as to the international community and development actors for the productive partnerships in 2022.

These partnerships contributed to increased access to justice, democratic governance and rule of law; strengthening sustainable economic development, establishing new systems for

innovative financing modalities to achieve SDGs, implementation of socio-economic measures to tackle the negative impact of the COVID-19; enhancing health, education and social protection systems; improving food and nutrition systems, empowering vulnerable groups and promotion of gender equality, environmental sustainability, emergency and disaster response and risk management; Moreover, it contributed to increased institutional capacities of key national partners for effective planning and advancing the national priorities and SDGs.



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

KEY PARTNERS IN 2022

STATE PARTNERS

- Academy of Public Administration
- 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 of 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
- 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"
- Supreme Court of RT

REGIONAL AND DISTRICT ADMINISTRATIONS

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

CSOs AND ASSOCIATIONS

- 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
- Equality D'Jure to Equality D'Facto
- Economy and Education
- Rushdi Inclusia
- Gender and Development
- Tajik Family Planning Society
- PO "Union of persons with disabilities"
- Public organizations of parents of children with disabilities
- Other national/regional/local level civil society organizations
- PO Peshraft
- Public Association Kuhhoi Pomir

PRIVATE SECTOR

- Association of Microfinance Organizations of Tajikistan
- 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 Unievrsity
- LLC "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

ADB

CDC

USAID

Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

JICA

THE WORLD BANK
IBRD • IDA | WORLD BANK GROUP

The Global Fund
To Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria

gef

giz Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Gavi
The Vaccine Alliance

german cooperation
DEUTSCHE ZUSAMMENARBEIT

ADAPTATION FUND

IsDB
البنك الإسلامي للتنمية
Islamic Development Bank

GREEN CLIMATE FUND

Migration Multi-Partner Trust Fund

JOINT SDG FUND

GPE
Transforming Education

KEY FACTS ABOUT TAJIKISTAN

Population over 10 million
AoS, 2023

Poverty rate 22.5 %
Gov-t 2022

GDP growth rate 8%
2022, World Bank

GDP per capita \$897
2022, World Bank

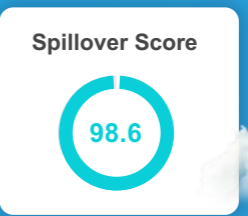
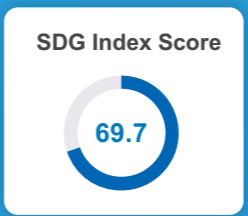
Population growth 2,1 %
2021, World Bank

Personal remittances, received (% of GDP) 33.4%
2021, World Bank

Human Development Index 0.685
HDI 2021



CHAPTER 1 KEY DEVELOPMENT TRENDS



SDG DASHBOARDS AND TRENDS



Dashboards: ● SDG achieved ● Challenges remain ● Significant challenges remain ● Major challenges remain ● Information unavailable
Trends: ↑ On track or maintaining SDG achievement ● Moderately improving → Stagnating ↓ Decreasing ●● Trend information unavailable

Source: <https://dashboards.sdgindex.org/profiles/tajikistan>

1. KEY DEVELOPMENT TRENDS



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The economy demonstrated greater than expected resilience in 2022. Gross domestic product increased by 8 percent, higher than most peers in Central Asia¹.

Apart from extractive industries, which contracted by 1.3 percent, other industrial sub-sectors, such as manufacturing and utilities, expanded by 16 percent and 17 percent, respectively, while agricultural output increased by 8 percent. With increases in global food and fuel prices moderating, the annual inflation rate in Tajikistan dropped to 4.2 percent.

Overall, Tajikistan's fiscal situation improved in 2022 with a moderate increase in revenue and expenditure. The fiscal deficit in 2023 is expected to reach 2 percent of GDP with limiting borrowing to keep debt levels manageable. Tajikistan is still at risk of debt distress; any significant increase in external borrowing on commercial terms could affect debt sustainability².

Development partners, including donors, are considering direct budget support to Tajikistan, which should expand the fiscal space.

Although Tajikistan ended the year in a better-than-expected socioeconomic situation, there is higher than normal risk and uncertainty stemming from the war in Ukraine and the future state of the Russian economy.

Besides disruptions in food and energy supplies and the threat of higher inflation, a deeper recession in Russia will considerably reduce employment opportunities for Tajik labour migrants³.

At present, there is adequate demand for workers in Russia. Apart from a dip in the first quarter, the total inflow of personal remittances to Tajikistan increased by 76 percent in the first three quarters of 2022 compared to the same period in 2021⁴.

Increased remittances helped to boost household spending with a modest reduction in the national poverty rate from 23 percent in 2021 to 22.5 percent in 2022. However, this situation depicts an economy still too reliant on remittances and domestic consumption and affirms the need for transformative, inclusive, and green economic development.

To respond to events in Afghanistan and border tensions between the Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan, the Government continues to prioritize security and counterterrorism. In September, a major conflict erupted on the Kyrgyz-Tajik border with significant human casualties, population displacement, and destruction of infrastructure. At the same time, the two Governments continue to negotiate border demarcation. Provincial leaders and law enforcement on both sides collaborate to prevent local disagreements over water, land, and grazing from escalating.



© Shodibek Sharipov, FAO Tajikistan

In 2022 Tajikistan continued its cooperation with international human rights mechanisms. It received 234 UPR recommendations from 80 Member States and prepared a draft national action plan for their implementation. A key achievement is the adoption of the **Law on Equality and Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination**.

This is welcome step, expected to promote equality and benefit the situation of vulnerable groups. The Government also submitted its national periodic reports to the Committee on the Rights of the Child, the Committee against Torture and the Committee on Elimination of Discrimination of against Women.

Its national report on economic, social and cultural rights was reviewed by the relevant Committee in October 2022. In addition, in December the country was visited by the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders who issued preliminary recommendations.

Tajikistan made progress to rollout the Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF). A High-Level Working Group on Financing was established under the National Development Council chaired by the President of Tajikistan.

The NDC is a national coordination platform for dialogue, coordination and policy coherence to **catalyze the flow of development finance** to achieve the goals of the **National Development Strategy** (NDS 2030) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). A draft Roadmap to finance the SDGs has been prepared⁵.

With support from the UN system, the Government of Tajikistan launched the **Green Economy Strategy, 2023-2037**. It aims for greater economic development that is anchored by environmental sustainability, a reduced carbon footprint, and improved living conditions. In addition to a renewed focus on renewable energy, the country aspires for green industrialization and sustainable food systems.

Increased financing for inclusive, and green economic development is crucial for Tajikistan to realize the goals and objectives articulated in the strategy.

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and geopolitical and economic uncertainty fueled by the war in Ukraine have created a global cost of living crisis.

This has exposed the weak social protection systems in many low and middle-income countries. In 2022, the Government, with UN system policy advice, launched the **Social Protection Strategy 2040** to offer a comprehensive system of social assistance that responds effectively to vulnerable groups.

A 'single window' for the provision of social services will reduce fragmentation and strengthen coordination among service providers.

Tajikistan actively participated in the **Transforming Education Summit** convened in 2022 by the UN to address a global crisis for equity, inclusion, and quality of education.

The Ministry of Education and Science, with UN system support, has identified key **education system reforms**: (1) inclusive and healthy schools, (2) learning and skills for

life, (3) work and sustainable development, (4) teaching and digital learning and transformation, and (5) education financing.

Reforms are being promoted through development platforms, including the Development Coordination Council and Local Education Group, and incorporated into the National Education Strategy and frameworks, including the new UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework, 2023-2026.

Climate change impacts are creating hardships, especially water scarcity and more frequent and severe natural disasters.

Tajikistan continues to raise issues of **water, climate change and disaster risk reduction** internationally.

As a key sponsor of UN General Assembly **Resolution 71/22** on establishing the International Decade for Action 'Water for Sustainable Development, 2018-2028' Tajikistan organized a High-Level Water Conference Dushanbe in 2022. It called for urgent action to ensure access to safe and affordable drinking water and to recognize the crucial role of water in preserving livelihoods and the environment.

The UN General Assembly also declared 2025 as the International Year of Glaciers. The Republic of Tajikistan proposed this resolution and raised awareness about the loss of glaciers as a source of fresh water.

Tajikistan has called for an International Fund for Glaciers to study the effects of global warming and identify ways to slow melting. In 2022, Tajikistan also hosted a Regional forum of the Heads of Emergency Authorities of Central Asian Countries to enhance cooperation in Central Asia on climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction.



© Press-center of the President of Tajikistan

¹ Tajikistan Agency of Statistics. Owing to its weak external position and economic dependency on Russia, earlier forecasts were that Tajikistan would suffer disproportionately from sanctions regime and economic fallout of the war in Ukraine.

² IMF Initial Assessment, Article IV consultations: <https://asiaplustajik.info/ru/node/320340>

³ An estimated 500,000 working-age people, mostly men, leave the country every year to work overseas as temporary labour migrants and Remittances account for an estimated 27 percent of GDP Asian Development Bank, December 2020, Strengthening Support for Labour Migration in Tajikistan and World Bank data, 2020 in UN, CCA, *ibid.*, and

⁴ UNRCO calculations using balance of payment data from the National Bank of Tajikistan

⁵ A major input to the work of the NDC and road map was a study conducted by the UNCT under a joint programme: Financing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Tajikistan. This was reported by the UNCT in 2021.



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CHAPTER 2 OVERVIEW OF UNDAF RESULTS

OUTCOMES

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 2016-2022, as a mechanism to support the achievement of Tajikistan's development priorities aligned with SDGs. The United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) was established around four strategic 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 2022, the 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, a strong partnership between the UN Agencies and national stakeholders, and communication with development partners have contributed to the effectiveness of the UNDAF implementation.



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



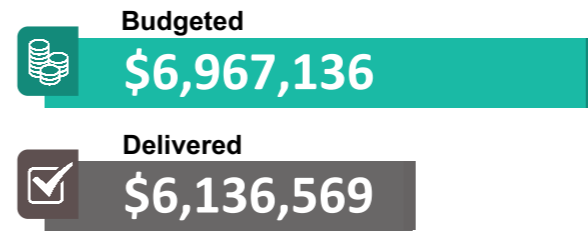
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OUTCOME 1



DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE, RULE OF LAW AND HUMAN RIGHTS

People in Tajikistan have their rights protected and benefit from improved access to justice and quality services delivered by accountable, transparent, and gender responsive legislative, executive and judicial institutions at all levels



Effective institutions that are accountable and free from corruption are essential for sustainable development. Embedding equality and non-discrimination in the legislative framework and ensuring freedoms of association and participation are central to enhance the legitimacy and fairness of laws and to build trust and social cohesion.

Building upon the successes of previous years and relationships of trust with the Government and partners in civil society, the UN system supported pragmatic governance reforms.

These helped to strengthen legislation and policies and enhance accountability systems, including in public administration, the judiciary and law enforcement bodies, and human rights institutions.

In line with international standards, the UN supported Government institutions to develop new capacities design and deliver quality and inclusive public services that are gender-sensitive and evidence-based, including for independent monitoring and oversight.

Rights holders, especially from vulnerable groups, enjoyed increased access to information and services, including free legal aid, and opportunities to voice their concerns and to claim their rights.

The UN system continued to advocate together and to offer policy advice and technical support to identify legal and policy changes in line with the National Development Strategy (NDS) 2030 and the international commitments of Tajikistan.

The adoption of the Law on Equality and Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination was a significant accomplishment. The UN system continued to promote access to justice and support the delivery of state-funded free legal aid to vulnerable groups.

A culture of measurement, monitoring, and evaluation is essential to achieve the SDGs. The UN system continued to strengthen working mechanisms to monitor and manage for results.

TajStat and other statistical bodies were supported to identify and address major gaps in information and statistics for SDG-related indicators and for vulnerable groups and to generate high quality, disaggregated data.

Progress towards the outcome:

- Twenty-five (25) national or sectoral legal frameworks, programmes, and strategies, including for the social protection system, were successfully adopted or strengthened to reflect international standards and SDG indicators and targets
- Government and CSOs convened and supported to prepare the National Action Plan (NAP) to implement the recommendations of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR)
- Free legal aid provided to 12,044 vulnerable people, including asylum seekers and refugees, of which two-thirds were women
- For the entire UNDAF period more than 60,000 people received essential legal aid and advice
- The proportion of people satisfied with their legal aid services rose from 69 to 98 percent between 2018 and 2022
- All major measures in the Judicial and Legal Reform Programme (JLRP) were implemented, with over 20 percent supported directly the UN system
- Legal and operational frameworks for the criminal justice system were brought into stronger compliance with international standards; for example, over 300 staff of civil registration offices, police, and judges are capable to deliver quality, child-friendly protection services for children in contact and conflict with the law
- A further 19 indicators for the NDS and SDGs were brought into alignment with international data standards and for which reliable national data are now available, disaggregated by sex.



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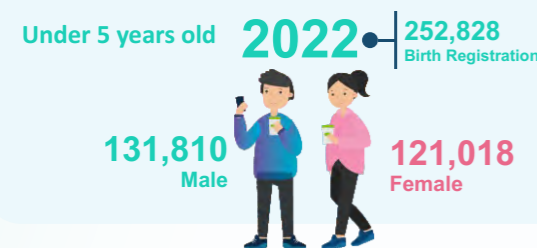
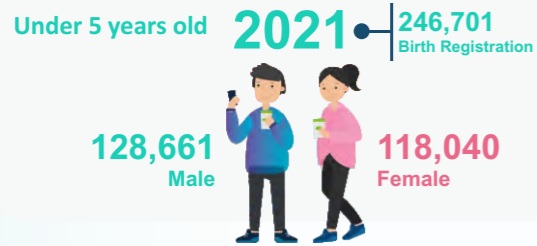


Challenges

- > There are persistent challenges for the rule of law and public freedom, worsened by corruption
- > The Law on Legal Aid adopted in 2020 significantly changed eligibility requirements for criminal legal aid in Tajikistan. This has resulted in a sharp decline in the number of people receiving criminal legal aid, leaving many vulnerable individuals without legal representation at critical stages in the criminal process. The Law on Legal Aid also does not provide for private prosecutors for victims of gender-based violence.
- > Legal aid eligibility for children is now tied to parents' financial status, making it difficult for all children to access legal aid and increasing their vulnerability
- > Civil society organizations (CSOs) encounter persistent obstacles to support implementation of recommendations from UN human rights mechanisms.

SUCCESS STORY, OUTCOME 1

Registering the 'invisible' in Tajikistan



Birth Registration	2021	2022
Under 1 year old	218,206	232,733
After 1 year old	53,015	49,997
Total registration	271,221	282,730

Being un-registered can have serious consequences. Take Fatima: She is 13, from rural Khatlon district. Her father is Tajik and her mother is Uzbek and their marriage is unofficial. Fatima's mother has no official identity and Fatima and her siblings are un-registered. This makes them 'invisible' in Tajik society and hinders access to a range of basic social services including education, health care and social protection.

To address this situation, the UN system supports a Law and prosperity programme help families to register their children. The programme fosters partnership and data sharing between local authorities, civil registry offices, and civil society organizations to identify unregistered children and issue identify documents, including through mobile units in remote, rural areas.

Today, Fatima and her siblings have birth certificates and enjoy the rights and privileges of citizenship. They can fulfill a lifelong dream to visit Uzbekistan and reunite with their mother's side of the family. All things are now possible for Fatima.



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At school I developed one more dream - I would like to become a teacher. And I also want all children on Earth to never have problems with their identity documents!

Fatima

¹ Tajikistan is ranked 150 out of 180 countries. Corruption perceptions index 2021. <https://www.transparency.org/en/cpi/2021/index/tj>

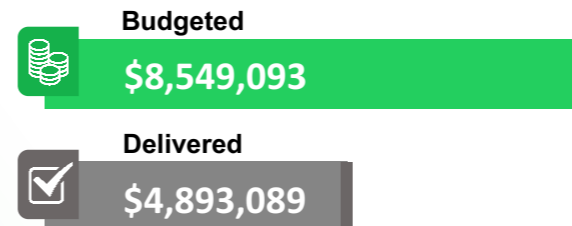


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OUTCOME 2

SUSTAINABLE AND EQUITABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

People in Tajikistan benefit from equitable and sustainable economic growth through decent and productive employment, stable energy supply, improved access to specialised knowledge and innovation and a more favourable business environment entrepreneurs and farmers



Engagement with the Green Climate Fund (GCF) was accelerated and the UN system helped to elaborate the GCF Country Work Programme¹ for 2022-2027 to attract climate finance. With UN system guidance, six priority projects were submitted for review by the GCF Secretariat, ranging from USD \$11 to \$87 million.

At local level, the preparation or updating of District Development Plans (DDPs) for 10 districts helped to align with national strategies, incorporate SDG targets, and integrate cross-cutting measures for gender equality, youth empowerment and climate resilience².

The sustainability of district plans is supported by new capacities of district authorities and municipalities to conduct participatory consultations with local communities and stakeholders

The UN system continued to support targeted livelihood, food security and employment support programmes that reached over 14,000 beneficiaries, of whom 55 percent were women

Engagement with medium and small enterprises (MSMEs) was sustained to offer business counselling, legal support and information services for COVID-19 adaptation and digitalization. UN support enabled 47 local economic infrastructure projects, 18 social infrastructure projects in rural areas, and 97 small capital grants or microfinance loans to promising entrepreneurs, of whom 58 percent were women and 42 percent were men young people.

The quality of growth since 2000 has not done enough to reduce income disparities and create decent jobs. To support the people of Tajikistan to recover from the COVID pandemic and begin a transition to sustainable growth the UN system worked with the Government and partners in the business sector and civil society to pursue transformative, inclusive, and green economic development.




The aim is to reduce the economic dependency on remittances and consumption and establish a policy and regulatory environment that promotes cost-effective government and private investment in productive and green enterprise.

Agriculture is a main source of livelihood, contributing about one-quarter of GDP: Inclusive and green growth must enhance small-holder productivity and enhance food security.

Intervention strategies involved integrated policy support and advice at the national level and technical assistance for local government bodies. The capacities of over 850 national and local actors were strengthened to carry out strategic planning, budgeting, and monitoring of development programs. All UN supported initiatives sought to ensure the participation of women at risk of being left behind and other vulnerable groups.

Progress towards the outcome:

UN support led to the development and adoption of 14 strategic policy frameworks at national and local levels, that incorporated SDG targets and indicators. Major achievements include:

-  National Green Economy Strategy to 2037
-  National Program for the employment of youth, women and people with disabilities
-  Strengthened National Program for private sector development to 2025
-  A National Development Strategy for Agriculture and updated Food Safety Strategy to 2030
-  Updating of the Law on electronic commerce and the National Investment policy review procedure



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¹ Green Climate Fund (GCF) Country Programmes are the cornerstone of each country's pipeline of international climate finance.
² Annual report of LITACA, SCM, NDC projects



SUCCESS STORY, OUTCOME 2



Farmer Field Schools that leave no one behind

Across Tajikistan, **one in four families** has at least one family member working abroad as a temporary labour migrant. Representing about 10 percent of the population, migrants are mostly men from rural areas. The families they leave behind are often vulnerable, struggle to manage small farms, and have poor economic resilience.

Farmer field schools are a way to increase the capacities of women and young people to fill the gap. A joint initiative of the FAO, IOM, UNICEF and UN Women, the project is funded by the Migration Multi-Partner Trust Fund. Field schools were **pioneered** over 25 years ago as an alternative to top-down rural extension approaches. Students learn-by-doing with practical field exercises, direct observation, discussion and decision-making.

Fifty **Farmer field schools** are up and running in three regions to educate 1,000 young people. Students engage in hands-on activities and peer learning on topics like drip irrigation, organic farming, and greenhouse cultivation, as well as life skills. They come away with new skills to boost farm productivity, grow value-added crops, and help their families to cope with uncertainty.

The project will continue to monitor its direct and indirect contributions to improve local livelihoods. Evidence will be offered to the Government and international partners to scale-up implementation.



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Challenges

- As it emerges from the COVID-19 pandemic, the economy faces heightened risks and uncertainty stemming from a tightening sanctions regime on the Russian economy and border insecurity with the Kyrgyz Republic and Afghanistan³.
- Major gaps in investment policies hamper the ease of doing business and effective mobilization of private and foreign direct investment⁴
- The fiscal space of the Government remains constrained, the efficiency of public spending is generally low⁵, and capital markets are limited; together these diminish the prospects for innovative financial solutions, including green bonds and blended finance with the business sector.
- Digitalization and the introduction of e-services remains a low priority of the Government, slowing the pace of investment in digital technologies and equipment.

³ <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/38098>
⁴ For example, there are concerns related to double taxation, compliance with ILO labour standards, and limited judicial independence Investment Policy Review, UNCTAD, November 2022
⁵ <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/tajikistan/publication/per-2022>



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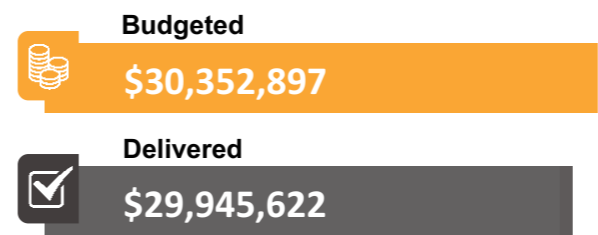
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OUTCOME 3



SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL PROTECTION

People in Tajikistan benefit from quality, equitable and inclusive health, education and social protection systems



While poverty rates have fallen, Tajikistan remains the poorest country in Central Asia and a child born today is expected to be only half as productive as she or he could be with good health and education. There are gaps in the quality and coverage of essential social services, especially in under-served rural areas and for vulnerable groups.

The country is highly vulnerable to external economic shocks. The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted structural vulnerabilities and widening inequalities. These undermine prospects to achieve the NDS goals and SDGs for a growing, diversifying economy and a thriving, productive society. Efforts to secure the health and well-being of people in Tajikistan depend upon increased more equitable investment in essential health care, education, and social protection. In turn, quality, affordable essential services will back-stop secure livelihoods and a stronger, more resilient economy.

HEALTH Progress towards the outcome

The UN system continued to work toward stronger health systems and health promotion. In 2022 there was added focus on quality assurance, improved financing and health information systems, and the cost-effectiveness of essential commodities: medicines, vaccines and medical devices. Health managers and services providers strengthened their capacities to deliver quality services in line with guidelines and protocols that met international standards. Fiscal space and costing analyses helped to improve the targeting of health and social protection spending. Concerted efforts were made to institutionalize responses to vulnerability and non-discrimination in health policy and service standards.

Immunization

Special efforts helped to maintain routine immunization in the context of COVID-19 pandemic and vaccination roll-out; 97 percent of children under one year received a 3rd dose of pentavalent vaccine, including supplementary campaigns against measles, mumps, and rubella and poliovirus. Joint advocacy by the UN and other international partners contributed to increased Government financing for vaccines.

Health of women and children

Demand creation campaigns and public health fairs enabled more than 4,000 women and girls to receive high quality sexual and reproductive health, menstrual health and family planning services

Health of women and children

The Ministry of Health and Social Protection increased its share of spending on contraceptives by 5 percent; more than 900,000 women of reproductive age enjoyed family planning services contributing an increase of the contraceptive prevalence rate from 39 percent in 2018 to 44% in 2022.

The percentage of pregnant women receiving antenatal care increased from 64 percent in 2017 to 75 percent in 2022; a service package for Quality care for Reproductive, Maternal, Neonatal, Child and Adolescent Health was adopted and costed

280 health providers are offering quality perinatal care including emergency obstetric care according to approved national standards and a new midwifery support programme was established with Kazakhstan to strengthen service standards, curricula and training

A Bebbio parenting app to promote nurturing care of young children was introduced.

TB and HIV

The Government was supported to adopt new Tuberculosis treatment protocols and training packages for modified short treatment regimens; the treatment success rate is on track to meet the SDG target

Efforts to strengthen epidemiological surveillance and to expand and optimize quality services for people living with HIV led to an increase in the number of people who knew their status from 67% in 2016 to 88%; of these 92 percent enjoy antiretroviral treatment in 2022

Teenergizer networks were supported to establish a presence in Dushanbe and Kulob to advocate for the rights of HIV-positive adolescents and for their meaningful participation in society.

Challenges

- Insufficient budget resources for the health sector including a shortage of contraceptives
- Poor health infrastructure, especially at district level, unequal distribution of health personnel between urban and rural areas, and frequent staff turnover
- Absence of a unified supply chain and logistics systems for health commodities
- Lack of a midwife position within the framework of family medicine, reducing women's access to quality reproductive health services
- Dependency on international sources to fund HIV prevention programs and pervasive social stigma and discrimination⁴

¹ World Bank, 2020, Poverty headcount ratio at national poverty lines (% of population). Poverty headcount ratio at \$1.90 a day (2011 PPP) (% of population). The number of people living in extreme poverty, or on less than \$1.90 per day, is unchanged for the past 15 years.

² World Bank, 2019, Early Childhood Education and Care: A Focused Review of Preschool Education in Tajikistan.

³ The Bebbio parenting app provides comprehensive, evidence-based information and interactive tools for tracking child development, immunization and health check-ups, as well as support with early learning, nutrition, responsive parenting, protection and safety.

⁴ For example, the Criminal Code of the Republic of Tajikistan criminalizes HIV transmission.



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SUCCESS STORY, OUTCOME **3**

HEALTH

Access to new vaccines for all children

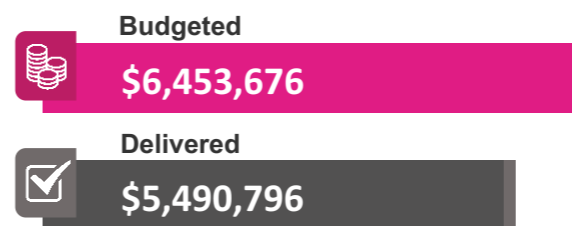
All children deserve a bright and healthy future. However young children are susceptible to infectious diseases that endanger their lives. While vaccines and routine immunization are the best ways to safeguard against these threats, new vaccines remain inaccessible for many developing countries.

Making new vaccines available to children in Tajikistan and providing caregivers with the information and support they need is crucial to ensure that no one is left behind.

With UN support, Tajikistan introduced three new vaccines in the past five years, including the pneumococcal vaccine. This will help to prevent an estimated 5,000 cases of pneumonia, 7,000 cases of sepsis, and 500 cases of meningitis each year.

The UN system supported campaigns to promote family and caregiver acceptance of new vaccines, based upon diligent quality control and testing. It also helped to launch the **Bebbo** parenting app that provides information about vaccine schedules and enables families and caregivers to record immunizations, maintain routine checkups and track key developmental milestones.

Tajikistan maintained an impressively high immunization rate throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. The UN will continue supporting Tajikistan to safeguard children's health, reduce burden of diseases and prevent future outbreaks.



Provided 950 schools across Tajikistan, serving over 740,000 children, with critical hygiene items (soap, sanitizers and chlorine, and other disinfectants).

EDUCATION

The UN system worked to address critical challenges in education. Teachers, schools, parents and care providers developed new capacities to ensure safe and inclusive access to quality education for their children, including families and children from vulnerable groups. Education system strengthening was supported through coherent and coordinated efforts with the Government and other education system actors. These sought to leverage policy advice, technical expertise and financial resources to support implementation of the National Education Development Strategy 2030 and SDG 4 targets.

The education sector is the largest recipient of external financial aid from the international community; it must demonstrate value for money and transparency. Connecting education with employability, the UN system supported policies and programmes for more inclusive and higher quality education that offers all children and young people the 21st century skills for employment success in a diversifying economy and more robust formal labour market. Priorities include a digital transformation in learning, competency-based education, and the transition to a 12-year education system.

Progress towards the outcome

- Supported, as part of the **Transforming Education Summit**, the Ministry of Education and Science to identify key education system reforms to achieve inclusive and healthy schools, digital teaching and learning, and sustainable education system financing
- Secured **USD \$88.6 million** to implement priority education reforms and improve learning outcomes for all children
- Increased **access for 250,000** children of pre-primary age and over **1.5 million primary school students** to high quality digital learning resources and tools
- Supported the mainstreaming of **750 Afghan refugee children** in the national education system
- Facilitated the Government to issue a costed implementation plan for the **Youth Strategy 2030 developed with a focus** on learning outcomes, technical and vocational skills
- Ensured that over 550,000 children** of primary school age had access to nutritious school meals, across 1,914 schools in 54 districts



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Challenges

- Greater buy-in and investment of Government is needed to ensure the success of the digital learning agenda and digital ecosystem; without systems-level reform and resources, the development of digital competencies and use of digital technologies in teaching and learning processes will remain limited
- To cement the transition from learning to earning, the competency-based education reform (curriculum and teaching practices) must be further tailored to different regions, and learner abilities and made more inclusive for vulnerable groups
- Increased public investment in early childhood education is urgently needed and the Government, UN and other international partners must pursue public-private partnerships and innovative blended financing



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EDUCATION

SUCCESS STORY, OUTCOME 3

New schools for new lives

School No.3 in Vahdat is one of the few schools in Tajikistan to host Afghan refugee children: of 2,500 students, over five hundred are refugees.

Like many schools in Tajikistan, it had no access to clean water and handwashing facilities and classrooms did not comply with international standards for safe learning.

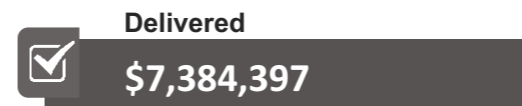
When the Taliban seized power in Afghanistan in 2021, many Afghan families fled to neighboring countries, including Tajikistan.

With UN support, the Government launched a rapid needs assessment to identify gaps in existing services and develop measures to accommodate current and potential refugees.

In early 2022, a joint initiative the UN system mobilized resources to fully rehabilitate the education and water, sanitation and hygiene facilities of the school. Today, Tajik and Afghan students enjoy furnished and safe classrooms and washrooms. The initiative serves as a model for further school rehabilitation in conflict affected areas and includes peer-to-peer learning to promote tolerant, inclusive, and peaceful communities.

'My new school is brand new. The classes, the building, the washrooms are all brand new. I enjoy this environment very much! I also like my teachers very much.'

'Rukhmina Saidova (15 years), School No.3, grade 9



SOCIAL PROTECTION

Having an adequately financed, high quality and inclusive social protection system is central for Tajikistan to achieve its NDS goals and the SDGs. The UN system worked to strengthen the social protection system to increase the coverage, quality and adequacy of income, labour and protection benefits and services and to include vulnerable groups, including seasonal migrants and refugees, asylum seekers and stateless persons.

In line with national strategies, social protection ministries and bodies at central and local levels were supported to identify and assess the needs of vulnerable groups and to adapt strategies, plans and budgets and monitoring frameworks to be inclusive, gender-responsive, and evidence-based.

Stakeholders developed new capacities to undertake costing analysis and results based budgeting to improve the targeting, coverage and effectiveness of social protection spending.

Progress towards the outcome

In a year of upheaval, UN system support enabled the social protection system to respond quickly and effectively:

2.1 million vulnerable people to had access to cash assistance, social care services, and assistive devices; this included 1.5 million children and over 10,000 older persons

3.1 million schoolchildren in 1,900 schools enjoyed hot nutritious meals

Emergency cash transfers were made to nearly 10,000 refugees and asylum seekers

Three key policies and strategies advanced by the UN system were adopted by the Government:

Strategy to develop social protection in Tajikistan up to 2040,



State programme to develop a professional social protection workforce, and



A revised method to cost targeted social assistance

New legislative frameworks are being developed with UN support across a range of issues including education cash transfers to poor families, alternative care for orphaned or abandoned children social protection of migrants, productive employment and trade unions

Challenges

- Low wages and informality are major determinants of vulnerability especially for women and young people; high levels of informal employment excluded a large share of the population from social protection programmes and benefits
- Approaches within the Government and international community to strengthen the social protections system are still too fragmented and a lack of skilled staff and turnover limit implementation; the new strategy to develop the social protection system and workforce strategy will help to address these challenges



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OUTCOME

4



NUTRITION AND FOOD SECURITY

The nutritional status of the people in Tajikistan is improved through stable access to sufficient, appropriate and safe food, improved child feeding practices, and safe water and sanitation



Budgeted



\$2,699,176

Delivered



\$2,003,796

Food security and malnutrition are major concerns: About 1 in 3 households are moderately or severely food insecure, and nearly 1 in 10 face severe food insecurity. Malnutrition is significant and varied with persistent undernutrition and micronutrient deficiencies as well as the emergence of obesity. It is estimated to cost 1 percent of GDP in economic losses annually².

Climate change is expected to increase the magnitude and frequency of climate-related hazards and disasters such as flooding and drought. This threatens agricultural productivity and food security with the prospect of worsening poverty and vulnerability. While the Tajikistan economy demonstrated great resilience to the COVID-19 pandemic, it aggravated structural vulnerabilities and inequalities.

Ongoing negative effects include poor health, inflation, higher food prices and scarcity. Gaps exist in institutional capacities to deliver quality nutrition services and reach under-served rural and remote areas of the country to promote healthy nutrition. The UN system delivered coherent support to implement national frameworks it had helped to prepare in previous years: the Multisectoral Action Plan on Nutrition, 2021-2025 and the Strategic Pathway for Food Systems to 2030.

The UN system remained focused on building capacities for evidence-based planning, budgeting, implementing and monitoring of food security and nutrition policies and programmes.

Progress is being made: Government service data indicate that the proportion of children under 5 years who are underweight for their age decreased from 12 percent in 2017 to 7.6 percent in 2022. The rates for females and males are 7 and 8 percent respectively³.

Progress towards the outcome

The UN system:



Conducted an Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) with the Government and civil society to measure the impacts that shocks have on incomes, food diversity and nutrition and to provide information to decision makers about how to allocate emergency food supplies



Supported new planning and extension capacities that contributed to a 10 percent increase in the production of food crops



Contributed to important new legislation and policy frameworks, ensuring alignment with Government commitments and international standards:

- > A national strategy for nutrition and physical activity
- > The law for drinking water supply and water disposal
- > The Law for food fortification
- > A national program of action to promote healthy diets and prevent obesity
- > Updating of protocols for the Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition (IMAM)

Challenges

- > The COVID-19 pandemic and sanctions regime affecting Russia are having negative effects including: Higher prices and scarcity of fertilisers, seeds, and veterinary supplies and increasing food prices, especially for poor and low-income households
- > There is a lack of funding for food security and nutritional surveillance and data collection



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² Tajikistan has the highest rate of malnutrition among the former Soviet republics Global Hunger Index. <https://www.globehungerindex.org/tajikistan.html>; UNICEF and World Bank, Nutrition situation analysis report, 2012.

³ Progress based upon service data of the MoHSP.



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SUCCESS STORY, OUTCOME 4

Food security and data for better decision-making

About 1 in 3 households in Tajikistan do not have enough food. But not enough is known about who they are, where they live, or the severity of their situation. This prevents an effective response by the Government and UN system to adequately address rising levels of food insecurity in vulnerable communities.

In 2022, the UN system supported the Government to conduct the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC). This is a global initiative to monitor food and nutrition security. It helps to measure the impacts that shocks have on incomes, food diversity and nutrition and to provide information to decision makers about how to allocate spending and emergency food supplies.

While a previous exercise provided only general, regional data, the new IPC survey reached 6,900 households in 65 districts. Data analysis was done by the Government at national and district levels with national and international NGOs and the UN system. Districts that had previously been considered food secure were shown to have critical gaps

The IPC results allow the Government, UN system and other partners to target the most vulnerable districts for food security interventions and to better coordinate their efforts. It will be conducted every two years and survey results are available in the Tajikistan Vulnerability Atlas. This is an interactive, public access platform and resource to map and understand regional disparities and vulnerabilities.

'I am a small trader, everything I earn is used to buy food for my family. My participation in the data collection is important; being part of this exercise, I can contribute to efforts to lives better for everyone in my community'

Bakhriniso, family head in Bokhtar, Khatlon.



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OUTCOME 5 

INCLUSION AND EMPOWERMENT OF VULNERABLE GROUPS

Women, youth, children, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups are protected from violence and discrimination, have a voice that is heard and are respected as equal members of society



Budgeted

\$3,234,515

Delivered

\$2,396,227

Gender-based discrimination and exclusion exists at many levels and traditional gender roles are still widespread. Ending violence against women and girls requires transformational change to address harmful social norms. The UN system continued to advocate together and to offer policy advice and technical support for legal and policy changes that promote, enforce, and monitor gender equality and non-discrimination, including actions to address gender-based and domestic violence.

More than 2,100 officials from national and local government improved their knowledge about international standards and skills to review and strengthen legislation, policy and programmes, in line with the international commitments of Tajikistan.

The adoption of the Law on Equality and Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination was a momentous achievement. It defines and codifies a framework to realize the rights of all people with measures to redress violations with new concepts such as discrimination, both direct and indirect, sexual harassment, forced separation and protection from victimization.

Partnership with civil society is an enabler of change. More than 123 CSOs enjoyed opportunities to network, to build their knowledge and skills, and to create platforms for knowledge sharing and coalition initiatives. The UN system invested significantly to strengthen core capacities to design and implement programmes, to monitor and report on progress, and to use data and evidence to advocate for the rights vulnerable groups: women and girls living in poverty, persons with disabilities, people living with HIV and stateless persons. A special focus was to strengthen civil society networks that address gender-based and domestic violence and improve access to sexual and reproductive health information and services. New mechanisms include:

- > A civil society reference group of 10 organizations to spearhead common advocacy and policy policies; the group came together with support from the joint EU-UN Spotlight Initiative
- > A school for gender activists to advocate for gender equality policies and programmes and for stronger Government implementation and monitoring.

- > A study to understand current public knowledge and attitudes about violence against women and girls¹
- > A knowledge hub <https://ogoplatforma.tj> provides public access to resources and information about latest developments that concern gender equality and gender-based violence.
- > A national platform: 'Life without Violence' <https://ogoplatforma.tj> that convenes 48 organizations to promote behavioral change and implement transformative initiatives.

Progress towards the outcome

- Adoption of the Law on Equality and Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination
- Amendments to the criminal code to toughen punishment for cases of child abuse, including sexual violence against children.
- A Gender Mainstreaming Strategy and Action plan to 2030 that calls for more women in decision-making positions in state institutions.
- A national communication strategy 'Oila Makoni Mehrubonist' or 'Family is Love'
- Comprehensive State Programme to 2030 to develop a professional social protection workforce
- New standard operating procedures for the police, health, and psychosocial services to respond to cases of violence and that put the victims needs first.
- Integration into District Development Plans of concrete, measurable and costed interventions that address violence, linked to indicators and targets for SDG5.
- Enabled CSOs to prepare independent monitoring reports for the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).



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Challenges

- > Social and behavioural change is complex and takes time; change was limited by a lack of Government and civil society partners in all regions of the country and short timeframes to implement Spotlight-funded initiatives.
- > Understaffing and high turnover of Government staff in remote, under-served areas was a major limitation.
- > A lack of reliable, disaggregated statistics continued to impede programme design and delivery; high quality disaggregated data with a focus on key SDG-related data gaps and vulnerable groups is essential to track their inclusion and enjoyment of essential social and protection services.

SUCCESS STORY, OUTCOME 5

Ending violence and offering hope

Women and girls in Tajikistan face multiple risks: Forced marriage, limited schooling and decent jobs, unequal access to land and assets, care work that goes unpaid, and violence. Some or all of these risks create heart-rending vulnerability. Such was the case for Ramziya Nazarova.

Married young and without education or vocational skills, she suffered abuse and violence at the hands of her husband and mother-in-law.

Following the birth of a second child with a disability, she and her children were abandoned to the street.

A second marriage and third child followed, as did the violence. A freak accident caused a severe back injury. Now disabled, the prospects for Ramziya Nazarova and her children were dim.

Ramziya Nazarova connected with Zarshedabonu an NGO that offered free legal aid, social and health assistance. She was referred to other NGOs for additional specialized care and support, including counselling and physiotherapy.

These NGOs, including Affif, a coordinating and training NGO, enjoyed funding and support from the Spotlight Initiative – a joint EU-UN global initiative to eliminate violence against women and girls.

Implemented as a joint programme by the Government and UN system, the Spotlight Initiative strengthened the quality of basic services offered by NGOs to vulnerable groups of women and girls, including health, legal aid, access to police, and crisis centers. NGOs also help to document cases of violence, support victims to report to authorities, and strengthen case management and investigation.

Ramziya Nazarova now has regular physiotherapy, can walk independently, and she has a web of support to help care for her children.

And today, more women and girls in Tajikistan, and especially those with disabilities have access to caring community organizations that put their interests first.



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Spotlight changed my life by helping me to recover and raising my self-esteem! I want to work, to become an entrepreneur. Although I have no education, I can do everything. Life has taught me a lot'

Ramziya Nazarova

¹ Three quarters of respondents agreed that violence against women is a serious problem.

¹ Name changed to protect her privacy.

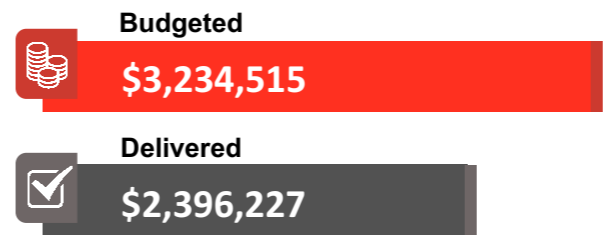


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OUTCOME 6 

RESILIENCE AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

People in Tajikistan are more resilient to natural and man-made disasters and benefit from improved policy and operational frameworks for environmental protection and sustainable management of natural resources



Sustainable economic growth and the health and wellness of the population are at risk from the degradation of water, air, forests, and agricultural land, and accelerated biodiversity loss.

Tajikistan is disaster-prone; climate change is expected to cause an increase in the magnitude and frequency of climate-related hazards such as flooding and drought. This threatens agricultural productivity and food security and undermines resilience. Competing demands for water, land and hydropower generation are an ongoing source of trans-boundary tension and potential conflict in the Ferghana Valley. Sustainable management of natural resources depends upon policy and regulatory change and capacity development for climate change adaptation and mitigation, more efficient use of ecosystem resources, especially water.

Effective disaster risk reduction (DRR) and increased community readiness to respond to disasters and emergencies are essential. In 2022, the UN system worked together to offer mechanisms and fora for effective policy design and implementation, focused on the inter-actions between environment, energy, agriculture, and livelihoods, especially for rural communities and vulnerable groups.

In 2022, over 7,000 people, of whom 40 percent are women, took part in interventions to strengthen natural resources management, climate change adaptation, biodiversity conservation, and the transition to green energy.

Capacities of Government at national and local levels were increased for multi-hazard risk management. With UN support, the Government hosted the Second High-Level International Conference on Water for Sustainable Development and brought greater attention to glacier protection. The Government was also supported to participate in UN Climate Change Conferences (COP 26 & 27) with policy and negotiating positions to achieve carbon neutrality.

Progress towards the outcome


New legislation and policy frameworks were adopted by the Government to strengthen natural resource management and climate change adaptation, for example:


1. NRM - 1 (Law of the Republic of Tajikistan "On Genetic Resources", #1865)
2. Chemicals: 3 (Gov Decree # 557 on limiting and approving quotas for import of ODS of Group I;


3. Gov. Decree #314 on licensing activities on purchase, selling, use, utilization and destruction of ODS and products containing them;


4. State standard (#1116–2021) on Labelling of HFC, F-Gases products and F-Gases containing equipment with high GWP, approved by Standard Agency)

5. Chem: 1 (Ratified Kigali Amendment of the Montreal Protocol, #654)


 Nine national sector action plans were costed and aligned with [Sendai Framework](#) and National DRR Strategy and disaster risk assessments and DRR actions plans were undertaken by 58 local government bodies and agencies, including civil society groups


 Policy and programme responses were identified to reduce pollution of the Syr Darya River Basin, improve water management, and prevent accidental water pollution


 A joint UN programme in the GBAO region engaged over 10,000 people including children and young people in community events to discuss climate change, disaster risk reduction and emergency preparedness and response

 Communities in the Sughd region and Ferghana valley enjoyed opportunities to identify local solutions that address climate and disaster risks; participatory and confidence-building measures helped to nurture regional dialogue between Tajikistan, the Kyrgyz Republic, and Uzbekistan.

The UN system also offered rapid humanitarian response:

 Following the eruption of border clashes between the Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan in September, 5,000 people including 3,254 children were reached with lifesaving humanitarian assistance.

 Afghan refugee families in Vahdat and Gafurov districts received urgent humanitarian support, including food, shelter and supplies for winter.

 Refugee accommodation centres and education facilities were rehabilitated at key points along the border with Afghanistan.



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¹ The global [Sendai Framework](#) for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030) and Government of Tajikistan National Strategy on DRR, 2019-2030.

PARTNERSHIPS AND FINANCING FOR THE 2030 AGENDA



Challenges

- > In conflict areas, the access of UN system to offer immediate humanitarian was slowed or restricted by Government.
- > Government policy toward Afghan refugees is ambiguous and adherence with international refugee conventions is inconsistent.
- > Coordination hurdles across ministries and local governments impede more rapid implementation of the National Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction
- > There is limited inter-governmental collaboration in Central Asia on urgent cross-boundary issues, especially water management.

SUCCESS STORY, OUTCOME 6

Resilient schools – resilient children

For over three million children in Tajikistan, disasters are an ever-present threat: Avalanches, earthquakes, floods, and landslides threaten their basic rights and prevent them from reaching their full potential.

Askarova Nuqra is 14 and lives in Shul village. She attends grade 8 in School No. 2, an older building in the mountainous Rasht district that is highly vulnerable to disasters. Nuqra is the leader of her School Disaster Management Team. She provides training to her peers about disaster risk reduction, emergency preparedness and response and first aid. And she helps to increase awareness in her community.

These Teams are a key part of a UNICEF and Red Crescent Society effort to reduce disaster risks and improve school safety in 12 schools in high risk areas of the Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous and Rasht regions. Funded by USAID, the programme has a child-centred and led approach.

It serves as a model for how to mitigate the negative effects of disasters and climate change on children and have safe, resilient schools. The UN system is working with the Government to scale-up the project to other high risk areas and to ensure the participation of children and young people in efforts to reduce disaster risks and adapt to climate change.



© UNICEF/Tajikistan/2022/M. Nazarova

'I am proud to be part of the School Disaster Management Team, because I'm helping my classmates, my family and my community to become more resilient to disasters and climate change'

Nuqra



© Didor Sadullabey, UN Tajikistan

The Government of Tajikistan with support from the UN System made significant progress to expand and strengthen partnerships, including South-South partnerships, and improve the institutional architecture to finance the NDS goals and the SDGs.

Partnerships

New and innovative partnerships:

- > Tajikistan organized a **High-Level Water Conference Dushanbe in 2022**. It called for urgent action to ensure access to safe and affordable drinking water and to recognize the crucial role of water in preserving livelihoods and the environment.
- > A strategic partnership with the **European Union** to support ongoing **reform and digitalization of the civil registry system**; this is a gateway for people, and especially vulnerable groups to gain access to state-provided health and education services.
- > National and regional investment forums in Sughd, GBAO, and Khatlon regions that resulted in over 90 trade agreements¹ with entrepreneurs from Russia, Kazakhstan, Belarus, Uzbekistan, China, Turkey, and Saudi Arabia².
- > These helped to develop competitive value chains and export markets for value-added products such vegetable oil, dried fruits and nuts, fresh vegetables and fruits, and honey and they have promoted decent work and enhanced the livelihoods of women and vulnerable groups³.
- > Advocated successfully to include family planning commodities for consideration by the **Global Funding Facility for Women, Children and Adolescents**
- > Facilitated a new partnership between the ministries of health and social protection and the border service to strengthen health response and sanitary quarantine at border crossings.
- > In **education**, the UN system convened the Government, bilateral donors, and IFIs to introduce innovative and blended business modalities to finance the education system. This included USD **\$88.6 million** to implement priority education reforms and improve learning outcomes for all children.
- > For **food security and nutrition**, the new law on food fortification showcased the ability of the UN system to convene Government, the business sector (e.g. private sector millers and salt producers), and international partners to take action in a 'shared value partnership'. Exchange with Uzbekistan enabled the sharing of lessons and good practices for food fortification that is private sector led.
- > To respond to **gender-based violence in emergencies**, the UN helped to establish an inter-sectoral working group co-led by the Committee on Emergency Situations and the Committee for Women and Family Affairs; the group will spearhead efforts to mainstream gender equality considerations in emergency preparedness and response.

In health, the UN system:

- > Convened international and national health partners to issue joint statements on health financing and strengthening primary health care.

¹ 60 during Sughd 2022 Forum and 30 during Pamir Invest, source Asia Plus.

² <https://bit.ly/3Cz1ZEN>

³ <https://www.undp.org/tajikistan/stories/hope-in-rural-tajikistan>

Financing for the 2030 Agenda

To 2030, achievement of the goals of the [National Development Strategy \(NDS 2030\)](#) SDGs is estimated to require investment of **USD \$92.5 billion**⁴. According to NDS estimates, the state budget and development partners are expected to cover 54 percent or USD 49.7 billion. The NDS assumes that the private sector will cover the balance of the financing requirement.

In 2022, Tajikistan made progress to rollout the Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF). A High-Level Working Group on Financing was established under the National Development Council chaired by the President of Tajikistan. The NDC is a national coordination platform for dialogue, coordination, and policy coherence to **catalyse the flow of development finance** to achieve the NDS goals and SDGs. With UN support, a draft Roadmap to finance the SDGs has been prepared.



To unlock private sector resources for SDGs, the UN system worked closely with the Consultative Council for Investment Promotion under the President of Tajikistan and with private sector stakeholders to conduct an analysis of the regulatory framework for venture investments and raise awareness about best international practices to attract green financing.

Engagement with the Green Climate Fund (GCF) was accelerated, and the UN system helped to elaborate the GCF Country Work Programme⁵ for 2022-2027 to attract climate finance. With UN system guidance, six priority projects were submitted for review by the GCF Secretariat, ranging from USD \$11 to \$87 million.

To address the complex, connected issues of **water scarcity, climate change and disaster risk reduction**, the UN system mobilized financing from the European Union for water management and multi-hazard risk management and from the Islamic Development Bank for water resources management in the Khatlon Region.


Looking forward, the UN Country Team (UNCT) developed a Partnership and Resource Mobilization strategy to guide joint resource mobilization efforts for the next cooperation framework.


The UNCT is committed to expanding its strategic partnerships and network of donors. In addition to support from the European Union and bilateral donors, it continues to explore new and innovative financing options, including government cost-sharing, financing from international financial institutions (IFIs), and collaboration with the private sector. As a part of the strategy the UNCT will consider a **country pooled fund**⁶.


UN SYSTEM WORKING TOGETHER




The UN system works together to make a strategic and value-added contribution toward the goals of the [National Development Strategy](#) and SDGs. In 2022, UN system sought more integrated and agile ways of joint programming to:

 Identify and deploy digital technologies to increase access, quality and inclusiveness of essential services;

 Change behaviours to address negative social norms and behaviours, especially gender norms and norms affecting vulnerable groups;

 Employ innovative strategies and approaches to reach young people and mobilize their engagement in SDG-related initiatives and

 Collaborate effectively with international financial institutions and the private sector.

Examples from this report are:

Governance and human rights: 

Economy 

- > Joint advocacy and policy advice to secure the new Law on Equality and Prevention of Discrimination
- > Convening and enabling CSOs to contribute to the National Action Plan (NAP) to implement recommendations of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR)

- > Joint policy advice for the National Green Economy Strategy and National Program for the employment of youth, women and people with disabilities



⁴ ECORYS, Roadmap for financing the SDGs in Tajikistan, Final Report 2021. The study was conducted under a UN joint programme: Financing Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Tajikistan.
⁵ Green Climate Fund (GCF) Country Programmes are the cornerstone of each country's pipeline of international climate finance.
⁶ As part of the ongoing UN reform process, there is an expectation that the UN system and member states will establish country-level pooled funds to mobilize resources for CF implementation, in a coherent and coordinated manner. UNSDG, SDG Financing and Funding the Cooperation Framework, CF Companion Piece, July 2020, 16.



Social development

- > Joint advocacy to secure increased Government financing for vaccines
- > As part of the global [Transforming Education Summit](#) supported key education system reforms to achieve inclusive and healthy schools, digital teaching and learning, and sustainable education system financing

Food security

- > Conducted an Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) with the Government and civil society to measure the impacts that shocks have on food security and to provide better data to allocate spending and emergency food supplies

Inclusion

- > A Gender Mainstreaming Strategy and Action plan to 2030 that calls for more women in decision-making positions in state institutions

Resilience

- > A joint UN programme in the GBAO region that engaged over 10,000 people including children and young people in community events to discuss climate change, disaster risk reduction and emergency preparedness and response.

In 2022, the Government and UN system developed and launched a new **Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (CF) for the period 2023-2026**. It represents a joint commitment to continue to work together and with country partners toward the achievement of Tajikistan priorities and the sustainable development agenda. The transformational changes from cooperation are expected to contribute toward sustainable economic growth and the creation of decent jobs, more effective and accountable public institutions and delivery of essential social services, and stronger social inclusion and resilience.

CF results and strategies are focused on vulnerability and reaching out to vulnerable groups¹ to ensure they are not left behind. To do this, results will be achieved in broad partnership with civil society groups, NGOs, community groups, the human rights institutions, academia, media, the private sector, and international partners. To support implementation of the CF the UN system also prepared:

- > **A Partnership and Resource Mobilization strategy**
- > **A Joint Communications and Advocacy strategy**

¹ Vulnerable groups: Some groups of women*, children from low-income and single parent households, persons with disabilities, rural communities in disadvantaged economic areas, people living in isolated rural communities, informal sector workers, seasonal migrants and their families, older persons, refugees, and asylum-seekers, and other key population groups at risk of being left behind.
* Amongst women: Older women, women in rural areas, women heads of households, women with disabilities, women in detention, women survivors of domestic and gender-based violence, women with HIV, stateless women, and refugee and asylum-seeking women



LESSONS LEARNED

Useful evaluations and studies were conducted by the UN system with the Government and other development partners, including evaluation of the just concluded UN Development Assistance Framework¹. Consultations to prepare the new Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (CF), 2023-2026 involved 30 government ministries and 53 partner organizations from civil society, the private sector, and international organizations including International Financial Institutions.

EIGHT CRITICAL LESSONS

1 Partnerships with civil society The UN system will continue to expand partnerships with civil society organizations (CSOs) including academia and volunteer groups. They are essential to strengthen public participation in policy making, deliver services, and build trust in institutions and social cohesion.

2 Strategic engagement with the private sector Engagement with the private sector has been uneven and there is un-tapped potential. The UN system will work in a coordinated and strategic manner with the private sector to identify shared value partnerships and investment opportunities² that support achievement of the NDS and SDGs

3 A focus on young people Cooperation efforts must focus on giving young people (15-30 years), especially women and from vulnerable groups, a greater stake in development. Young people and their organizations can offer fresh perspective and ideas to strengthen human rights and civic participation, address climate change,

4 Digital services, economy and governance Achievement of the NDS and SDGs will depend upon Government investments in ICT infrastructure and skills to promote technology adoption for digital governance and digital economy. Special efforts will be needed to ensure that vulnerable groups have fair access to digital services and platforms

5 Policy coherence for sustainable, green economy Policy and fiscal incentives and new business models for green economic diversification and growth must decouple economic development from environmental degradation and support country efforts to reduce carbon emissions and pollution and enhance energy efficiency. Policy coherence must focus on removing the silos between climate and environment policy and the economic sectors

6 Peacebuilding and conflict resolution The UN system will support increased resilience of communities in cross-border areas with innovative, local solutions to address social and economic deprivations and conflict over resources including water

7 A financing agenda Building on its support for the National Financing Framework, the UN system will strengthen dialogue and policy coherence to **catalyse the flow of development finance**. The UNCT will consider a country level pooled fund for Tajikistan to provide incentives for increased Official Development Assistance as well as funding from IFIs, the private sector and national financial institutions.

8 A data agenda Traction to achieve the goals of the NDS 2030 and the SDGs will depend quality data and evidence. A lack of reliable, disaggregated statistics continues to hamper programme design and delivery. A focus on key SDG-related data gaps and vulnerable groups is essential to track their inclusion and enjoyment of essential social services and economic support programmes



UNDAF EVALUATION 2016-2022

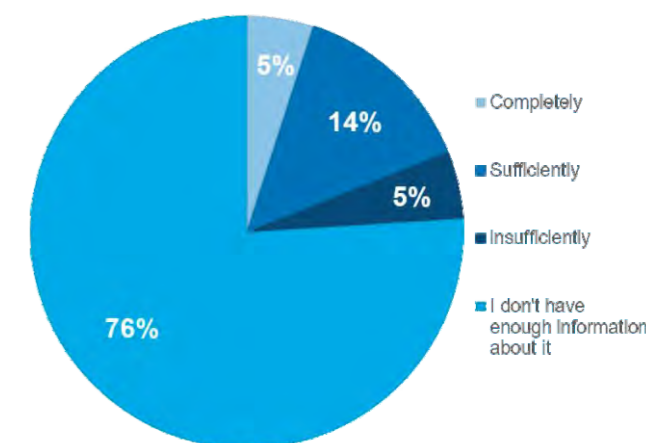
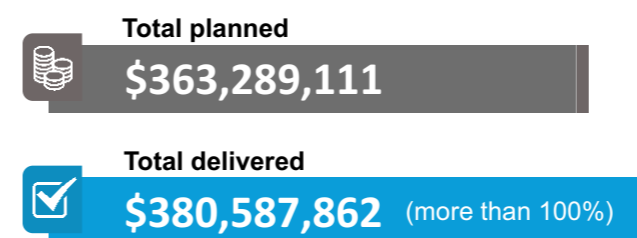
UNDAF 2016-2022 Evaluation conducted in 2021 revealed that UNDAF Tajikistan has been relevant from the design throughout the entire period of its implementation, addressing development priorities and needs of the country and its citizens.

UN Agencies were effectively following their mandates, international norms, and standards, while being flexible and reliable partners, accountable for progress under UNDAF outcomes.

During the COVID19 pandemic- the UN team prepared and implemented measures under a comprehensive Integrated Socio-economic Response Framework (ISEF) for Tajikistan which was combined with UNDAF JWPs 2021-2022. ISEF aligned with the needs that COVID-19 created in Tajikistan.

UNDAF Effectiveness and efficiency

UNDAF 2016-2022 has been implemented efficiently.



UNDAF Sustainability and Impact

UN Agencies have considered sustainability of results from the UNDAF design throughout implementation phases and supported to enhance policy processes in Tajikistan, through assistance to identify priorities and define appropriate measures. These efforts have been important and improvements evident.

The recent political developments in the neighbourhood and security issues, effects of COVID19 pandemic socio-economic situation in Tajikistan, together with challenges that the reform of public institutions could bring, have been in general the main external factors to affect sustainability of results.

Major recommendations made:

- UNCT should remain flexible and responsive to the needs of the citizens and the national priorities in Tajikistan and continue with the activities and the efforts under the ISEF strategic areas.
- UN Agencies in Tajikistan should intensify its normative work as one of UN comparative advantages and further strengthen gender mainstreaming across UNDAF outcomes.
- UN Agencies in Tajikistan should prioritize long-term interventions, clearly linked to SDGs and national priorities, with explicitly set results and focus on sustainability. The inclusion of vulnerable groups should be considered as a programming principle, linking them with comparative advantages of UN Agencies in Tajikistan
- UN Agencies should explore and work on new partnerships and diversification of funding opportunities.
- UN Agencies / UNCT together with GoT should work to strengthen functioning of the UNDAF Joint Steering Committee and ensure its strategic guidance for UNDAF implementation, through regular meetings and involvement of senior level representatives.
- UNCT in partnership with the national stakeholders should prepare clear and practical sustainability strategy under all outcomes and perform regular analysis of risks and assumptions.

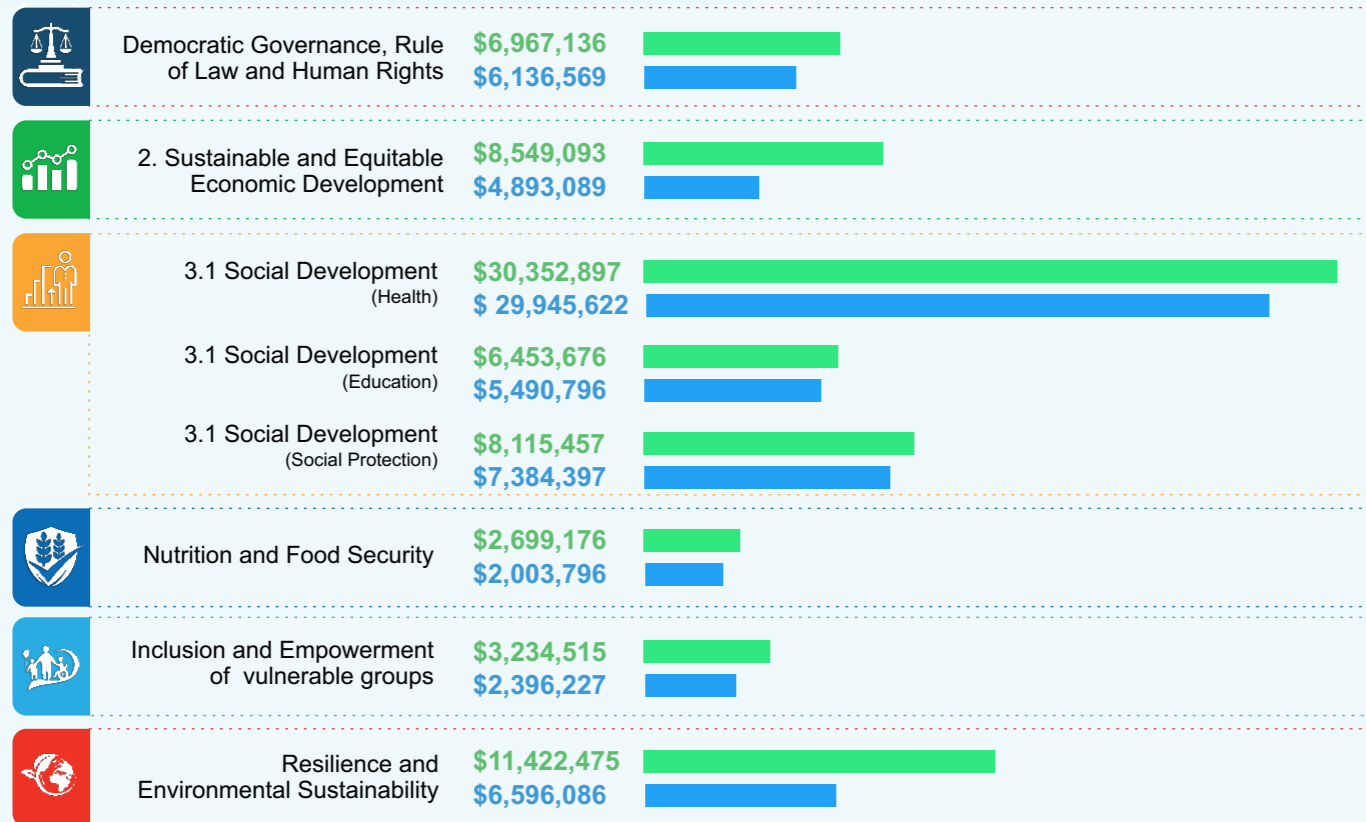
¹ T. Novovic et al., Final Evaluation Report of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2016-2022 for Tajikistan.

² UNSDG, Common Approach to Prospect Research and Due Diligence for Business Sector Partnerships, 2020, 7. A shared value partnership produces mutual benefits for the business and for people. It is a way for businesses to be socially responsible with reputational benefits and employee satisfaction. For the UN, this can translate into stronger, more sustainable and scalable solutions to achieve the SDGs.

³ In line with General Assembly resolution, QCPR, A/RES/75/233, Dec 2020, para 53, 55.

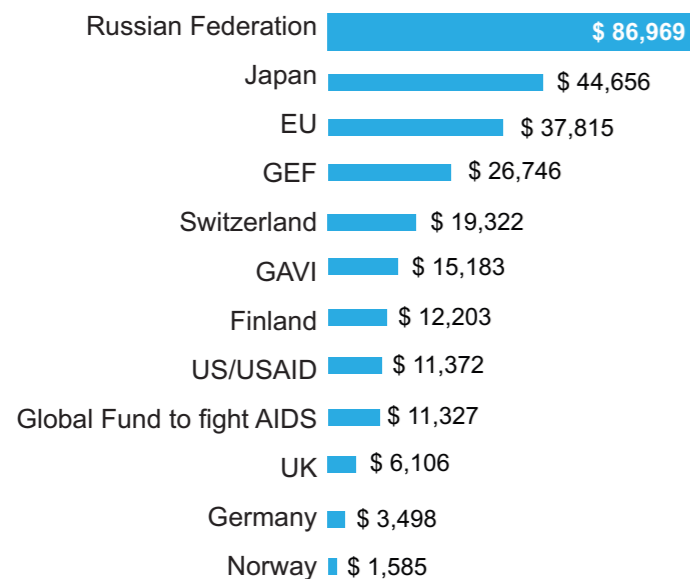
FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

2022 Budget vs Delivery per UNDAF Outcomes

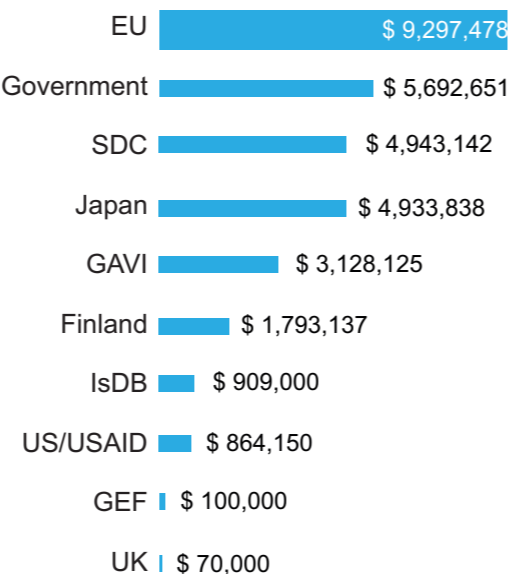


TOTAL 2022 UNDAF DELIVERY Budgeted **\$77,807,485** Delivered **\$64,846,582**

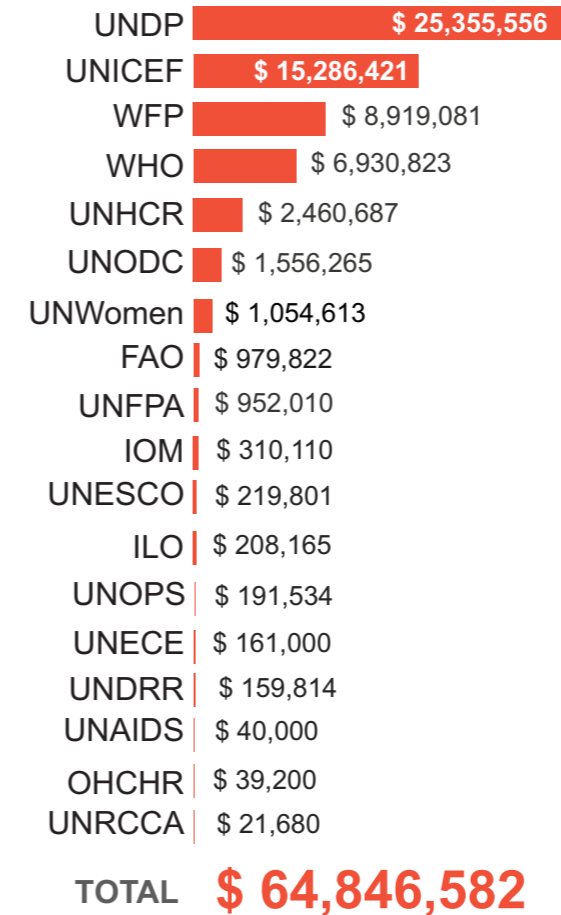
Largest Donors to UN 2016-2022



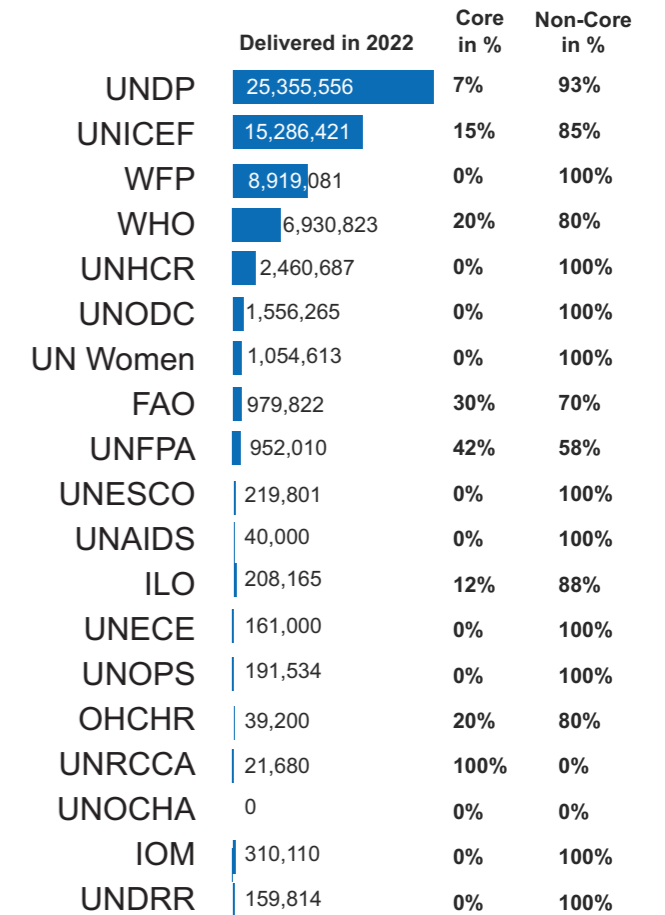
UNDAF JWPs 2021-2022



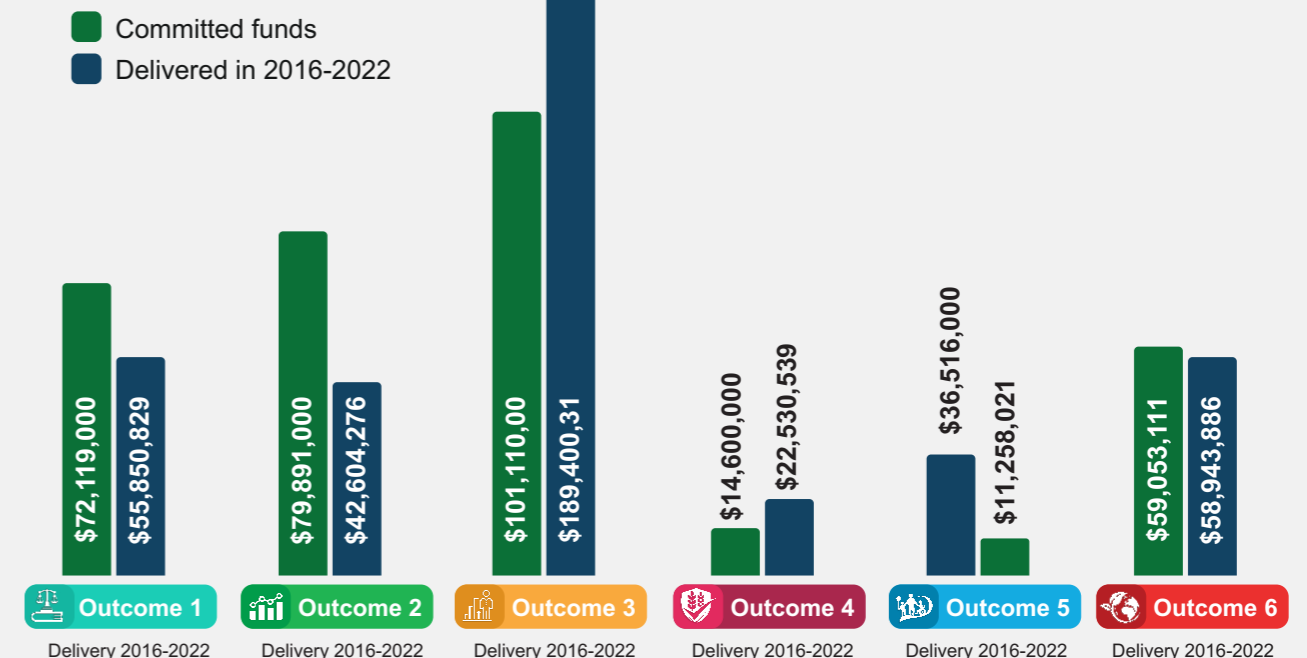
Delivery by UN Agencies in 2022



2022 Delivery Core vs Non-Core



Delivered vs Committed by Outcomes in 2016-2022



FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

UNCT joint resource mobilization, 2016-2022

\$ 862,267

Financing SDGs in Tajikistan (2020-2022)

Source: The Joint SDG Fund (Call 2020)

\$ 2,200,000

Empowerment of Abandoned Families for improved Migration Outcomes in Khatlon (2021-2023)

Source: Migration Multi-Partner Trust Fund

\$ 1,000,000

Strengthening health system in Tajikistan to prepare and respond to COVID-19 (2020)

Source: COVID-19 Response and Recovery MPTF

\$ 200,000

Promoting the rights of persons with disabilities (II phase) (2018-2019)

Source: UN Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (PRPD)

\$ 2,000,000

Empowering youth for a peaceful Tajikistan (2020-2021)

Source: UN Peacebuilding Fund (PBF)

\$ 1,000,000

Cross-border Cooperation for Sustainable Peace and Development (Phase 2) (2018-2019)

Source: UN Peacebuilding Fund (PBF)

\$ 653,425

UBRAF Joint Programme on HIV/AIDS (2018-2021)

Source: UBRAF

\$ 9,659,748

Health System Strengthening

Source: UN Peacebuilding Fund (PBF)

\$ 4,900,000

Spotlight Initiative in Tajikistan – A Joint EU-UN Initiative to Eliminate Violence Against Women and Girls (2020-2022)

Source: EU through MPTF

2022 Budget and Delivery of UN Joint Programmes

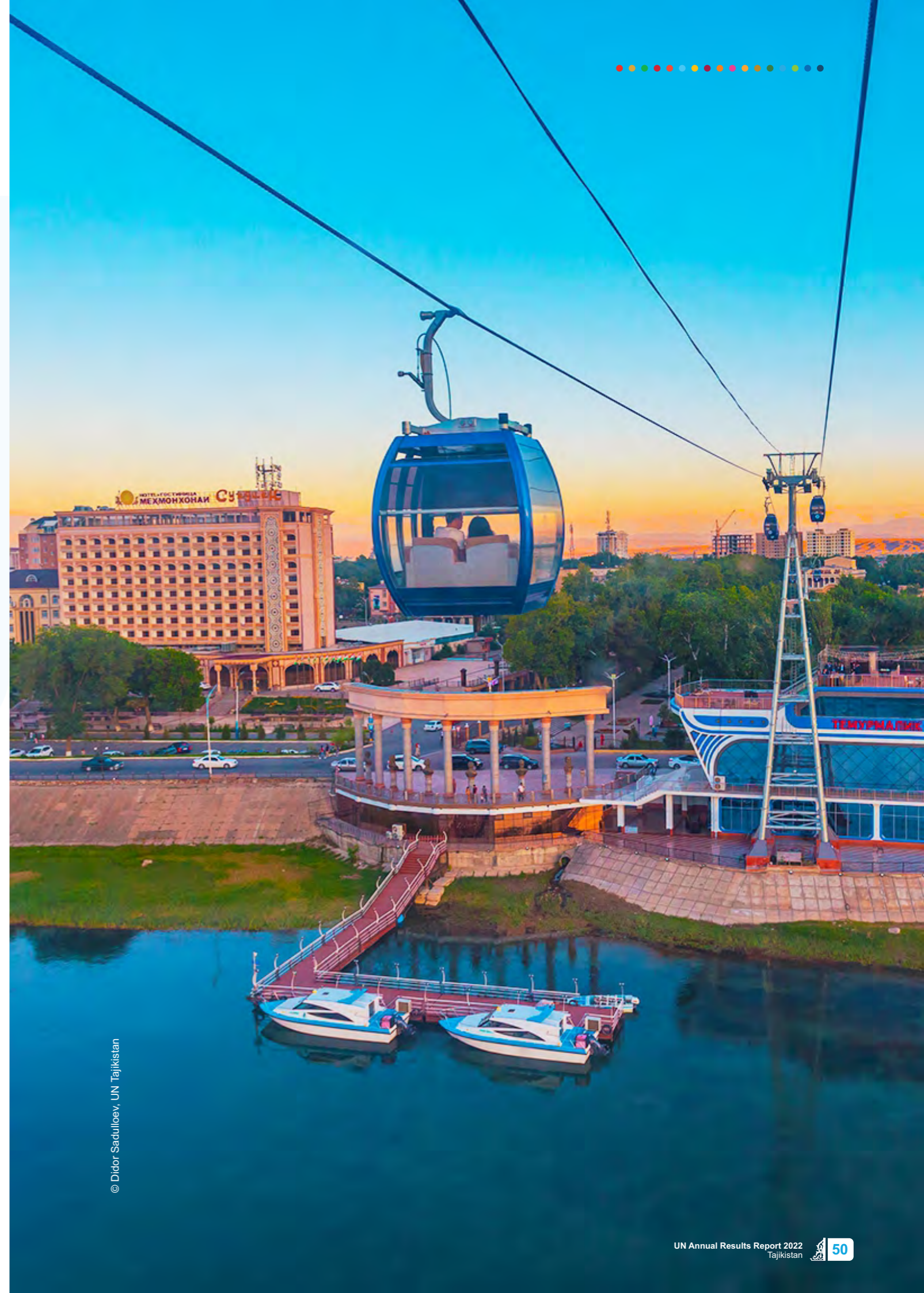
\$6,402,168.3

Budgeted

\$5,965,622

Delivered

93.18%



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CHAPTER 3 FOCUS FOR 2023

Implementation of the new UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (CF) begins in 2023. Cooperation between the Government and UN system aims to achieve a set of inter-connected and measurable changes that will support Tajikistan to secure improved living standards based upon sustainable economic development and equal opportunities for each person to realize his or her potential based on equality, justice and respect for human dignity¹.

¹ Tajikistan NDS, Tajikistan in 2030, 8.



Today in Tajikistan, there are five main drivers of vulnerability and exclusion:

- 1 **Few decent, formal sector jobs:** Unemployment, low wages and informality are major determinants of vulnerability especially for women and young people.
- 2 **Under-investment in social services and social protection for the poorest and excluded:** Remittances cannot serve as the primary stop-gap for poor families and other vulnerable groups. Major new fiscal investments are needed in quality, inclusive, and affordable health, education, and social protection services.
- 3 **Weaknesses in governance and rule of law:** Governing institutions must be re-oriented toward stronger horizontal coordination and service delivery with a focus on the poorest.
- 4 **Degradation of natural resources, disasters, and pandemics:** These are aggravated by fragmented responses and cross-boundary tensions, with the prospect of worsening poverty and vulnerability.
- 5 **Gender-based discrimination and exclusion** These are still too widespread and can be seen in the existence of child marriage, low women's labour force participation, unequal access to land and assets, unpaid care work, and violence.

To address these concerns, the UN system will focus on:

- Adequately financed and high quality, inclusive services in the areas of education, health care, social protection, water supply and sanitation
- A stronger policy and regulatory environment and increased collaboration with the private sector to spur green, low-carbon development and the creation of decent jobs
- Robust policy frameworks and actions to build resilience in environmental management, reduce disaster risks and advance the country's adaptation and mitigation targets
- Pragmatic governance reforms to strengthen public administration and enable the government to engage more effectively with people to shape and deliver essential public services; this includes a whole of government approach to embed gender analysis and child rights considerations into decision-making and implementation with social and behavioural changes to end violence.

Risks

There are significant risks that could slow or reverse Tajikistan's path toward the realization of the SDGs. Climate change is expected to increase the magnitude and frequency of climate-related hazards and disasters such as flooding and drought.

¹ World Bank, *ECA Economic Update, Fall 2021*, 21, 127-128. See also: World Bank, *Vaccination, Jobs, and Social Assistance are All Key to Reducing Poverty in Central Asia* October 2021.

This threatens agricultural productivity and food security with the prospect of worsening poverty and vulnerability.

The war in Ukraine and sanctions against Russia may have major economic and social impacts for Tajikistan, including recession, unemployment and a decrease in remittances.

While the Tajikistan economy demonstrated great resilience to the COVID-19 pandemic, it aggravated structural vulnerabilities and inequalities.

Ongoing negative effects include poor health and higher food prices and scarcity that will continue to threaten the poor and other vulnerable groups.

Ongoing security challenges in Tajik-Afghan and Kyrgyz-Tajik border areas continue to impede cross-border cooperation and have a detrimental effect on economic development, trade and the daily lives of people in the region

Risk mitigation and management will involve:

- Stronger, more sustained cross-sectoral policy and programme coordination, informed by stronger data and evidence about what works
- Greater focus on implementation of existing policies, strategies and service delivery frameworks with a stronger culture of measurement, monitoring, evaluation, and learning
- Consistent, impartial advocacy and policy dialogue, based on the SDGs, to develop cost-effective models and options to enhance the quality and coverage of essential services, within programmatic and budgetary constraints.
- Ongoing review and updating of contingency plans of the Government and the UN system to respond to natural disasters and emergencies.



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