

UNICEF PROJECT

“ENHANCING CLIMATE-RESILIENT AND
SAFE WATER, SANITATION, HYGIENE,
AND HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE MOST
AFFECTED COMMUNITIES IN FOUR
DISTRICTS OF KARAKALPAKSTAN”

ANNUAL PROGRAMME NARRATIVE PROGRESS REPORT

Reporting period: 8 July 2024 – 31 December 2024



This Joint Programme is funded by the UN Multi-Partner Human Security Trust Fund for the Aral Sea region in Uzbekistan, which is generously supported by the Governments of Uzbekistan, Norway, the Republic of Finland, the Republic of Korea, the European Union, Alwaleed Philanthropies, and the Federal Republic of Germany



The Government
of the Republic
of Uzbekistan



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of Korea



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of Germany

ANNUAL PROGRAMME NARRATIVE PROGRESS REPORT

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Programme Title & Project Number	Country, Locality(s), Priority Area(s) / Strategic Results
<p>Programme Title: Enhancing Climate-Resilient and Safe Water, Sanitation, Hygiene, and Health Services for the Most Affected Communities in Four Districts of Karakalpakstan</p> <p>Programme Number</p> <p>MPTF Office Project Reference Number: 00140725</p>	<p>Country/Region: Uzbekistan/Karakalpakstan</p> <p>Priority area/ strategic results: UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) (2021-2025)</p> <p>Outcome 4. By 2025, the most vulnerable benefit from enhanced access to gender sensitive quality health, education and social services (National SDGs: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 10, 11 and 16).</p> <p>Outcome 5. By 2025, the most at-risk regions and communities of Uzbekistan are more resilient to climate change and disasters, and benefit from increasingly sustainable and gender-sensitive efficient management of natural resources and infrastructure, robust climate action, inclusive environmental governance and protection (National SDGs: 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 15)</p>
Participating Organizations	Implementing Partners
<p>Organizations that have received direct funding from the MPTF Office under this programme: UNICEF</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Health of Uzbekistan • Ministry of Health of Karakalpakstan • Ministry of Pre-school and School Education of Uzbekistan • Ministry of Pre-school and School Education of Karakalpakstan
Programme/Project Cost (US \$)	Programme Duration
<p>Total approved budget as per project document: US\$ 1,045,000</p> <p>MPTF /JP Contribution by Agency: US\$ 900,000</p> <p>Agency Contribution: UNICEF – US\$ 145,000</p> <p>Government Contribution (if applicable): US\$ 0</p> <p>Other Contributions (donors) (if applicable): US\$ 0</p> <p>TOTAL: US\$ 1,045,000</p>	<p>Overall Duration (months): 13 months</p> <p>Start Date (dd.mm.yyyy): 08/07/2024</p> <p>Original End Date (dd.mm.yyyy): 31/12/2024</p> <p>Current End Date (dd.mm.yyyy): 30/06/2025</p>
Programme Assessment/Review/ Mid-Term Evaluation	
<p>Assessment/Review – if applicable please attach</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Date: dd.mm.yyyy</p> <p>Mid-Term Evaluation – if applicable please attach</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Date: dd.mm.yyyy</p>	
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CONTENTS

LIST OF ACRONYMS	4
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	5
I. Purpose	9
II. Results	10
i. NARRATIVE REPORTING ON RESULTS	10
ii. Indicator Based Performance Assessment	20
III. Delays in implementation	28
IV. Challenges and Mitigation Measures	29
V. Best Practices	30
VI. Lessons learned	31
VII. Programmatic Revisions	32
VIII. Human Interest Stories	33
Umid's story: My first baby and the helping hand from Bebbo	33

LIST OF ACRONYMS

GoU	Government of Uzbekistan
HCF	Health Care Facilities
IOGT	Internet of Good Things (UNICEF Online Platform)
IPC	Infection Prevention and Control
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MCH	Maternal and child health
MEECC	Ministry of Ecology, Environment Protection and Climate Change
MOH	Ministry of Health
MOPSE	Ministry of Pre-school and School Education
MPHSTF	UN Multi-Partner Human Security Trust Fund for the Aral Sea region in Uzbekistan
OB/GYN	Obstetrics and Gynecology
PD	Presidential Decree
PHC	Primary Health Care
RoK	Republic of Karakalpakstan
RoU	Republic of Uzbekistan
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SWASH	School water, sanitation and hygiene
TOT	Training of Trainers
UNSDCF	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
WASH	Water, sanitation and hygiene

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report summarizes key achievements of the UNICEF Project “Enhancing Climate-Resilient and Safe Water, Sanitation, Hygiene, and Health Services for the Most Affected Communities in Four Districts of Karakalpakstan” throughout 2024. The project started its implementation in July 2024 by covering the target districts of Muynak, Kungrad, Bozataw and Takhtakopir districts. This project aims to achieve gender-responsive, inclusive, and climate-resilient WASH services for most vulnerable communities in four districts of the Republic of Karakalpakstan through systems strengthening, social and behaviour change (SBC) and participation, cross-sectoral linkages, partnerships, and evidence generation. The project also envisions to support capacity development, quality assurance interventions, and water quality monitoring system, which includes procurement of laboratory equipment aimed at improving provision of WASH and nutrition services, and address climate change and adaptation impact.

The project has been successfully implemented in collaboration with the Ministry of Health (MOH) and the Ministry of Pre-school and School Education (MOPSE) of both the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Republic of Karakalpakstan. UNICEF extended its collaboration with the District Khokimiyats of four target districts, district branches of “Uzsuv-aminot” in the Republic of Karakalpakstan, the Karakalpakstan Board of the Committee for Sanitary and Epidemiological Well-Being and Public Health of the Republic of

Uzbekistan, and International Public Fund “Zamin”, all contributing to the Project’s success. This report details the significant positive impact achieved in 2024, while also addressing challenges encountered, effective practices implemented, and valuable lessons learned throughout the reporting period. **The Project’s current major achievements include the following:**

- Situational analysis and assessment of clean drinking water facilities in 10 mahallas conducted, project design and estimation documents prepared, as per bidding results, contracts have been signed with 3 construction companies. Out of 10 community infrastructure projects, 4 projects have been completed in Muynak and Kungrad districts providing access to safe drinking water for 17,233 community people, applying solar panels, lighting, and pumps in drinking water supply interventions.
- 24 facilitators (16 women, 8 men) were trained to conduct Climate Resilient WASH Assessments and Community Vulnerability/Risk Analysis in schools and communities.
- List and technical specifications of laboratory equipment prepared, bidding announced for procurement, delivery and installation of 7 types of laboratory equipment and consumables on water quality monitoring for Beruni and Kungrad district laboratories.

- Supplier contracted for the development of a data management information system on water quality monitoring.
 - 300 health workers enhanced capacity to promote WASH in Healthcare Facilities.
 - 458 health workers enhanced capacity including Interpersonal Communication skills to promote health-seeking behaviour among population in Micro-Nutrient Program/Iron and Folic Acid Supplementation (MNP/IFAS) areas.
 - 200 teachers, 100 parents and 400 school children improved their capacity on climate change and adaptation, climate-resilient WASH by implementing the WASH Three Star Approach.
 - 400 adolescent girls from 20 schools in the Muynak, Kungrad, Bozataw, and Takhtakopir districts of the Republic of Karakalpakstan were trained as peer educators on adolescent health topics, including the Menstrual Health Management (MHM) enabling them to reach 10,000 adolescent girls with vital health information.
 - 434 patronage nurses and health workers enhanced capacity to rollout of Bebbi, parenting app., which contributes to provision of improved child health services in targeted districts.
- Despite the significant results achieved during the reporting period, the Project experienced several constraints, which led to considerable delays and resulted in an appeal to the Steering Committee of the Multi-Partner Human Security Trust Fund (MPHSTF) for a six-month non-cost extension.



sion of the project until June 30, 2025. The MPHSTF Steering Committee reviewed the request and approved the non-cost extension of the project for another six months. Below are the key challenges the project faced during implementation, resulting in the extension:

- As per UNICEF's previous work experience on WASH construction projects, UNICEF identified that the given project time frame of 6 months would create risk for the timely completion of construction works and handing over to the beneficiary party.
- The process for identification of project sites and scope of work, the bidding process for selection of engineering companies for development of project design and estimation documents and bidding for construction works took 5 months as per UNICEF policies and procedures. Also, considering the complexity of construction works and adverse weather conditions, the project team needs more time to ensure quality construction works in selected project sites, therefore the Project requested non-cost extension, which has been approved by MPHSTF Steering Committee.
- Staff turnover of implementing partners and inclusion of new partners into the project under the Direct Cash Transfer modality caused delays in organizing capacity building activities in selected districts.
- Capacity building trainings for community people on WASH technical maintenance should be conducted after the completion of infrastructure projects, which require additional time for effective implementation.

- Selection of laboratories in Kungrad and Beruni districts and conducting a thorough needs assessment of those laboratories, as well as the reannouncement of bidding for procurement of laboratory equipment due to insufficient number of suppliers delayed the implementation of the activities on procurement and delivery of laboratory equipment.

The Project team will effectively address these challenges and achieve all the indicated targets by extended project timeframes by implementing the following mitigation measures:

- The Project team developed a concrete implementation plan for timely completion of construction works with periodic monitoring visits to project sites and weekly results review meetings. UNICEF already completed 4 projects sites in Kungrad and Muynak districts during the reporting period and ensure the completion of construction and reconstruction works in the remaining 6 project sites in Bozataw and Takhtakopir districts during the extended project cycle.
- UNICEF Project Team jointly with the Ministry of Pre-school and School Education of the Republic of Karakalpakstan identified new implementing partner, Nukus city Education Department and established a new team of master trainers and conducted a series of training of trainers to enhance their capacity on the implementation of Climate-resilient WASH in Schools Program.
- UNICEF Project team is currently working on the training manual on WASH technical maintenance for

capacity building trainings to community people. As the latest construction project expected to be completed by end of April 2025, UNICEF Project team plans to complete all the trainings on WASH Operation and Technical Maintenance, WASH Facilities Planning and Budgeting by end of May 2025.

- As mitigation action regarding the procurement of laboratory equipment,

UNICEF Project team conducted market research and identified extended pool of potential suppliers. The potential suppliers have been communicated and informed about UNICEF bidding case, as well as policies and procedures, it will impact for receipt of sufficient bids and accelerate the contracting enough suppliers and timely delivery of required laboratory equipment.



I. PURPOSE

The Government of Uzbekistan (GoU) is making significant progress in addressing the health, education and climate change concerns of the population and children in the Republic of Karakalpakstan.

The primary goal of the Project is that by the end of the project, the most vulnerable people in four districts of Karakalpakstan will benefit from gender-responsive, inclusive, and climate-resilient WASH services. The programme will expand community-level climate change and adaptation and climate-resilient WASH/health services in most affected communities in four districts of Karakalpakstan (Muynak, Kungrad, Bozataw and Takhtakopir).

The Programme interventions contribute to the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) (2021-2025) Outcome 4 and 5, and to the SDGs 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), SDG 3 (Good Health and Wellbeing), SDG 5 (Gender Equality), SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy) and SDG 13 (Climate Action). This is being achieved by providing access to safe and inclusive water and sanitation in selected communities, strengthening the system of monitoring the quality of drinking water, improving the capacity of healthcare workers on climate-resilient WASH, nutrition and infection control and prevention interventions, making a special focus on Menstrual Health and Hygiene (MHH) to empower women and girls in the communities, health care facilities and schools, applying solar panels, lighting,

and pumps in drinking water supply interventions and conducting capacity building and awareness raising activities on climate change and its health impact to people in targeted communities, healthcare facilities and schools.

The Project's overall vision is to improve the most vulnerable population's access to climate-resilient WASH and health services in four districts of RoK by providing safe, clean drinking water, health and nutrition services and contributing towards improved community-level climate change adaptation and resilience, promotion of climate-resilient, gender sensitive and inclusive WASH, nutrition, climate change adaptation and health practices and skills to attain better human security of the population in the Aral Sea region, focusing on children and adolescents. These outcomes align with the **MPHSTF Results Framework Outcome 1: The stress on local communities due to the deteriorating environmental situation reduced, Outcome 3: Local community access to affordable and healthy food and clean drinking water secured and Outcome 4: Overall health of the local population is improved, and healthy lifestyle is promoted.**

II. RESULTS

i. NARRATIVE REPORTING ON RESULTS

OUTCOME 1. By the end of the project, the most vulnerable people, including women and children, in four districts of Karakalpakstan will benefit from gender-responsive, inclusive, and climate-resilient WASH/health services and climate-resilient communities

The progress under Outcome 1 followed the concept of safely managed drinking water as per the SDG 6.1 which defines “improved water sources within premises, that are available and functional throughout the year, and which are free from any bacteriological and chemical contamination”¹.

According to the project outcome, UNICEF team successfully completed reconstruction of water supply systems and water treatment facilities in 4 project sites in Muynak and Kungrad districts providing access to safe drinking water for 17,233 community people in 9 communities. UNICEF initiated the process of creating an evidence-based water quality monitoring system combined

with procurement and delivery of laboratory equipment for water quality monitoring for Reference Hygiene Laboratories in Kungrad and Beruni districts.

UNICEF strengthened the capacity of 300 health care workers from target districts to equip them with necessary knowledge on WASH policies and procedures at health facility level which enables better infection prevention and control conditions in healthcare settings. These capacity building activities improved WASH services at healthcare facilities. In addition, a team of 25 healthcare professionals enhanced the capacity of 434 health workers to promote Micro-Nutrient Program/Iron and Folic Acid Supplementation (MNP/IFAS) and Interpersonal Communication skills. As a result, healthcare workers and teams of medical brigades providing improved health services to communities by implementing state programs on micro-nutrient supplementation and deworming of children and adolescent girls.

UNICEF enhanced the capacity of 200 teachers, 100 parents and 400 school children through the implementation of the WASH Three Star Approach, with a specific focus on climate change, adaptation, and climate-resilient Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) practices. In addition, 400 adolescent girls from 20 schools in the Muynak, Kungrad, Bozataw, and Takhtakopir districts of the Republic of Karakalpakstan were trained as peer educa-

¹ Goal 6: Clean water and sanitation - The Global Goals

tors, enabling them to reach 10,000 adolescent girls with vital health information.

OUTPUT 1.1. *By the end of the project, at least 15,824 people in four districts of Karakalpakstan have improved access to safe drinking water and climate-adapted health services*

The Project team conducted a thorough situational analysis and assessment of clean drinking water access in 10 mahallas in Muynak, Kungrad, Bozataw and Takhtakopir districts. Jointly with the District Deputy Khakims on Construction Issues, District Departments of “Tuyemoyin” Water Supply Institutions, UNICEF technical team conducted on-site assessments with a detailed inspection of water infrastructure, including sources, distribution networks, and storage facilities.

The Project team also conducted meetings with community people to identify the situation on the ground and understand specific needs and challenges related to access to clean drinking water. Based on the results of on-site assessments and community engagement meetings, the project team identified the following project sites and formulated preliminary scope of work.

In Muynak district, 2 project sites have been selected: Reconstruction of the II-Lift Pump Station at Water Intake Facility “Muynak” of Muynak town by replacing the pumps and pipeline system of the Pump Station. This water collection point will collect and supply the water treatment point in Muynak town and provides access to safe drinking water for 15,824 people in 5 mahallas in the center of Muynak town and Ushsay Village Council of Citizens (VCC). The second project in Muynak district improves the functionality of the Kazakhdarya Water Treatment Facility by replacing the water

pump and installation of 1,5 km water supply network in Kazakhdarya settlement, which enables access to 200 households, or 1,000 community people in Kazakhdarya settlement. In Kungrad district, it was decided to conduct installation of 2 km of water pipeline network for 60 households, 283 people in Shamra community and





1,2 km of water pipeline network for 30 households, 126 people in Doshan (Sholan) community aimed at improving access to safe drinking water for community people in those communities. In Bozataw district, 4 project sites have been identified on reconstruction of Water Treatment Station with 1 m³/h capacity in Otkorm community for 24 households, Asplantay 1 for 60 households, Asplantay 2 for 60 households, Asplantay 3 for 60 households, which enables access to safe drinking water for 1,000 population

in those four communities. In Takhtakopir district, 2 project sites selected on reconstruction of Water Treatment Facility with 24 m³/h capacity in Atakol community for 300 households, and reconstruction of Water Treatment Facility with 8 m³/h capacity in Orkendi community for 65 households, aimed at covering 1,800 population with access to safe drinking water in these 2 communities.

Based on the preliminary scope of work, UNICEF technical team developed TOR for project design, estimation documents and quality assurance of reconstruction process. As per bidding results, local project design institute “Taza Suv” LLC has been contracted and project design and estimation documents have been prepared. UNICEF conducted bids for construction works and contracted 3 local construction companies to implement infrastructure improvement works for providing access to safe drinking water. During the reporting period, the following 4 water supply projects have been completed:

- the reconstruction of the II-Lift Pump Station at Water Intake Facility “Muynak” of Muynak town by replacing the pumps and pipeline system of the Pump Station;
- the rehabilitation of the functionality of the Kazakhdarya Water Treatment Facility by replacing the water pump and installation of 1,5 km water supply network in Kazakhdarya settlement;
- installation of 2 km of water pipeline network in Shamra community in Kungrad district;
- installation of 1,2 km of water pipeline network in Doshan (Sholan) community in Kungrad district.

These reconstruction projects provided access to safe drinking water for 17,233 community people in Muynak and Kungrad districts. The reconstruction works in Bozataw and Takhtakopir districts are in progress.

UNICEF team is currently developing a training manual on sustainable operation, maintenance, and management of water supply systems. Once the training manual will be developed and reconstruction of water supply systems in all communities will be completed, UNICEF will conduct tailored and hands-on trainings for the representatives of district khakimiyats, water treatment facilities and community people on dealing with and maintaining water systems.

OUTPUT 1.2. *By the end of the project, the Ministry of Health of Karakalpakstan and ten mahallas will have strengthened monitoring systems for data-driven climate-resilient WASH interventions through community-driven programming, community action plans and water quality testing*

A UNICEF developed a comprehensive toolkit on community vulnerability and risk analysis to climate change. Based on the developed assessment toolkit, UNICEF conducted a 5-day training for a team of 24 local facilitators with practical sessions on application of community vulnerability assessment tools. The field testing of the toolkit in 10 communities is planned for the next reporting period.

UNICEF is currently developing a tailored training manual on WASH Planning and Budgeting for local government administration (khakimiyat) and mahalla representatives to improve their skills on planning, budgeting and allocation of funds for data-

driven climate-resilient WASH interventions through community-driven programming, including evidence-based action plans. The trainings will be conducted upon completion of reconstruction projects on water supply systems in the next reporting period.

UNICEF conducted a series of meetings and a needs assessment with the Karakalpakstan Board of the Committee for Sanitary and Epidemiological Wellbeing and Public Health of the Republic of Uzbekistan (SanEpidCom) to gather information on the need for water quality testing. As the meetings' outcome, it was identified that the Hygiene Laboratory of the Karakalpakstan Board of the SanEpidCom has recently received necessary equipment and consumables from the UNDP Project and Islamic Development Bank for drinking water quality monitoring. The Karakalpakstan Board of SanEpidCom has requested UNICEF to provide the Reference Hygiene Laboratories of Kungrad and Beruni districts with necessary water quality monitoring equipment, as these laboratories have higher demand and they serve not only their district, but also neighbouring districts like Muynak, Shomanay, Kanlikol, Ellikkala, Amudarya and Turtul districts of the Republic of Karakalpakstan.

Accordingly, UNICEF conducted a needs assessment of Reference Hygiene Laboratories in Kungrad and Beruni districts regarding the drinking water quality monitoring and prepared a well-documented list and technical specifications of 7 laboratory equipment. Bidding for procurement and delivery of laboratory equipment to Kungrad and Beruni district laboratories has been announced and currently the technical evaluation of offers is in progress. Selection and contracting the supplier, as well as delivery and installation of laboratory equipment is planned for the next reporting period.

UNICEF enhanced the capacities of 30 laboratory technicians from Nukus city and all 16 districts of the Republic of Karakalpakstan on monitoring the quality of drinking water by conducting 2-day training. The specialized training program focused on practical hands-on laboratory-based sessions covering sampling techniques, analytical methods and result interpretation. During the training, maintaining high standards of accuracy and precision through a robust quality assurance measure has been emphasized. The laboratory technicians enhanced their proficiency to maintain the reliable and accurate drinking water quality tests and assessments.

As an integral part of creating an evidence-based water quality monitoring system, UNICEF team conducted a data landscape analysis of the current data management status related to drinking water quality monitoring. Based on findings, a Term of Reference (TOR) has been developed to design a tailored information system, incorporating database architecture, user interfaces, and advanced technologies to optimize data collection, storage, retrieval, and analysis. Bidding conducted among IT service providers and local IT company "BEPRO-DEVHUB" LLC has been contracted. Actual development of the information system, testing and launching with consultative process with the Karakalpakstan Board of SanEpidCom will be implemented during the next reporting period.

OUTPUT 1.3. *By the end of the project, at least 5,116 children and adolescents in four districts of Karakalpakstan are equipped with relevant knowledge and information to demand quality and inclusive climate-resilient WASH and health services*

UNICEF strengthened the capacity of 300 health care workers from target districts to equip them with necessary knowledge on WASH policies and procedures at health facility level which enables better infection prevention and control conditions in healthcare settings. In addition, a team of 25 healthcare professionals established by organizing 4-day TOT on the implementation of the Micronutrient supplements /Iron and Folic Acid Supplementation (MNP /IFAS) and deworming initiatives. The approach involved tailored training programs, the provision of practical job aids and Interpersonal Communication (IPC) tools, and the distribution of educational materials. Team of master trainers enhanced the capacity of 434 health workers including Interpersonal Communication skills to promote health-seeking behaviour among the population in Micro-Nutrient Program /Iron and Folic Acid Supplementation (MNP /IFAS) areas.

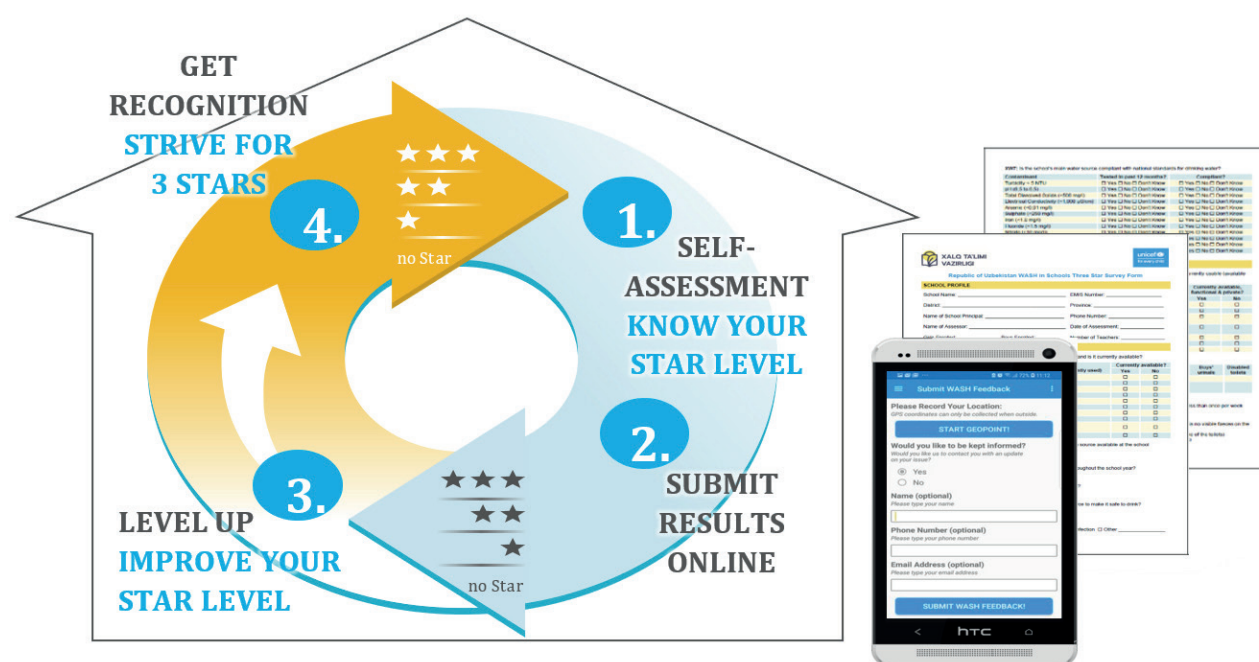
UNICEF is currently developing a comprehensive training manual on WASH in Communities to enhance the understanding of community people on climate change, adaptation interventions, and climate-resilient Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) practices. The well-designed training program will feature participatory methods and practical applications towards achieving sustainable WASH services in the communities, which prioritizes community engagement by fostering a sense of ownership and empowerment. The actual implementation of the capacity building trainings on WASH in communities

is planned for the next reporting period upon completion of reconstruction projects on improving access to safe drinking water in all communities.

UNICEF established a team of 24 local facilitators by improving their knowledge and skills on WASH in Schools promoting the Climate-resilient WASH in Schools 3 Star

Approach n 20 selected schools from target districts.

The **WASH in Schools Three Star Approach** is a framework to improve water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) conditions in schools. It is designed to help schools progress step by step toward achieving sustainable and high-quality WASH services as follows.



The key steps in implementing the approach are:

- 1. Assess the Schools Current Star Level.** Use the self-assessment form or mobile application to conduct a baseline assessment of the school's WASH facilities and practices. The assessment helps the school identify gaps based on a mandatory list of indicators for school WASH. Engage teachers, students, and the community in the assessment process.
- 2. Submit the Results Online.** Submit the results online so MOPSE and Regional Education Departments know the situation.

- 3-stars means the school meets the "advanced service" requirements.
 - 2-stars means the school meets the "basic service" requirements.
 - 1-star means the school meets the "limited service" requirements.
 - A zero-star rating means there is "no service".
- 3. Improve Facilities and Practices and Level Up.** Create a costed WASH in Schools action plan based on the assessed WASH gaps that includes steps that can be taken to increase the school's star level. Start small with

basic and low-cost improvements to like daily handwashing with soap; providing access to safe drinking water, even if sourced externally; maintaining clean, functional sanitation facilities; involving students in WASH monitoring; or ensuring separate toilets for boys and girls.

- 4. Get Recognition / Strive for Three-Stars.** Stay motivated during the academic year and strive for improvements. MOPSE and the Regional Education Department will award certificates for recognition at the end of every academic year in recognition for your work.



5. Monitor, Evaluate, and Scale Up.

Conduct regular assessments to track progress. Adjust strategies based on feedback from students, teachers, and community members. Share best practices with other schools.

UNICEF enhanced the capacity of 200 teachers, 100 parents and 400 school children through the implementation of the WASH Three Star Approach, with a specific focus on climate change, adaptation, and climate-resilient Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) practices. Through practical demonstrations and exercises within the school environment, both teachers and students gained hands-on experience in climate-resilient WASH practices. Under this initiative, the schoolteachers are integrating these crucial topics into the school facultative classes, fostering long-term awareness and behavioural change. They will promote sustainable WASH practices and climate resilience within the school and beyond, ultimately reaching 27,535 children through trained teachers and students.

UNICEF Project team developed posters and brochures on hand hygiene practices for the implementation of a Behavior Change Communication (BCC) campaign to address climate change, adaptation, and climate-resilient Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) practices. The campaign will be implemented in the next reporting period.

The IOGT platform underwent significant updates to enhance content, user experience, and visibility. These improvements included adding approximately 100 new articles on topics such as mental health, bullying, reproductive health, leadership, and professional orientation. In addition, 5 videos on mental health, Universal access to HIV services, HIV prevention among



Figure 1. IOGT poster

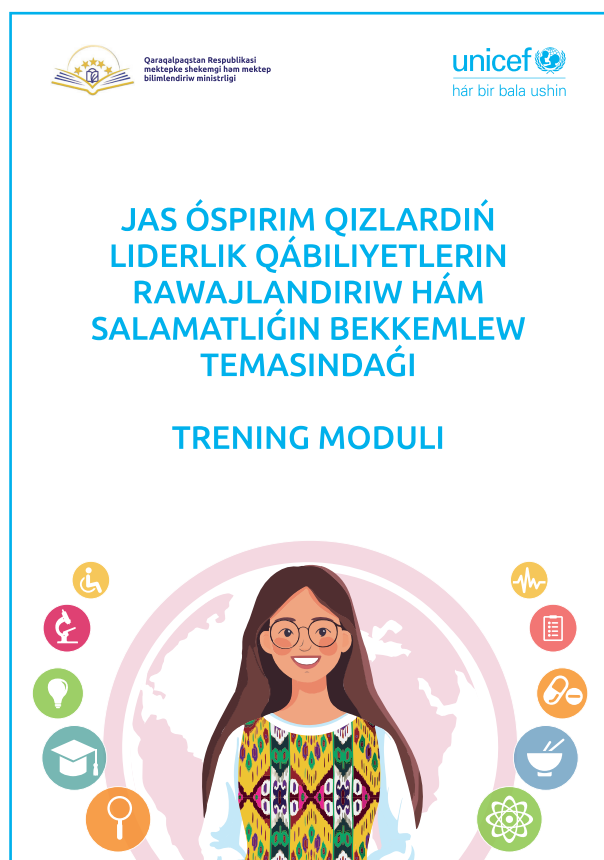


Figure 2. Training module, Leadership Development and Health Promotion for Adolescent Girls.

labour migrants, handwashing and climate change were produced.

Search Engine Optimization improved search engine rankings, and a redesigned user interface increase d accessibility and engagement. These updates resulted in a substantial increase in users, from 264,000 to 648,000 (2.4 times), demonstrating their effectiveness in attracting and retaining users.

To further promote the IOGT platform, a poster featuring key information from the platform's main sections was developed in Uzbek, Russian, and Karakalpak languages. 12,000 copies were printed and distributed to secondary schools across the country.

UNICEF prioritized adolescent participation by promoting initiatives led by adolescent girls in schools. These initiatives empowered girls to address critical aspects of adolescent health, including mental health, HIV, gender-based violence risk reduction, climate change awareness, and menstrual health and hygiene. To support this, a training module and leaflet on leadership development and health promotion for adolescent girls were developed and printed. As a result, 400 adolescent girls from 20 schools in the Muynak, Kungrad, Bozataw, and Takhtakopir districts of the Republic of Karakalpakstan were trained as peer educators, enabling them to reach 10,000 adolescent girls with vital health information.

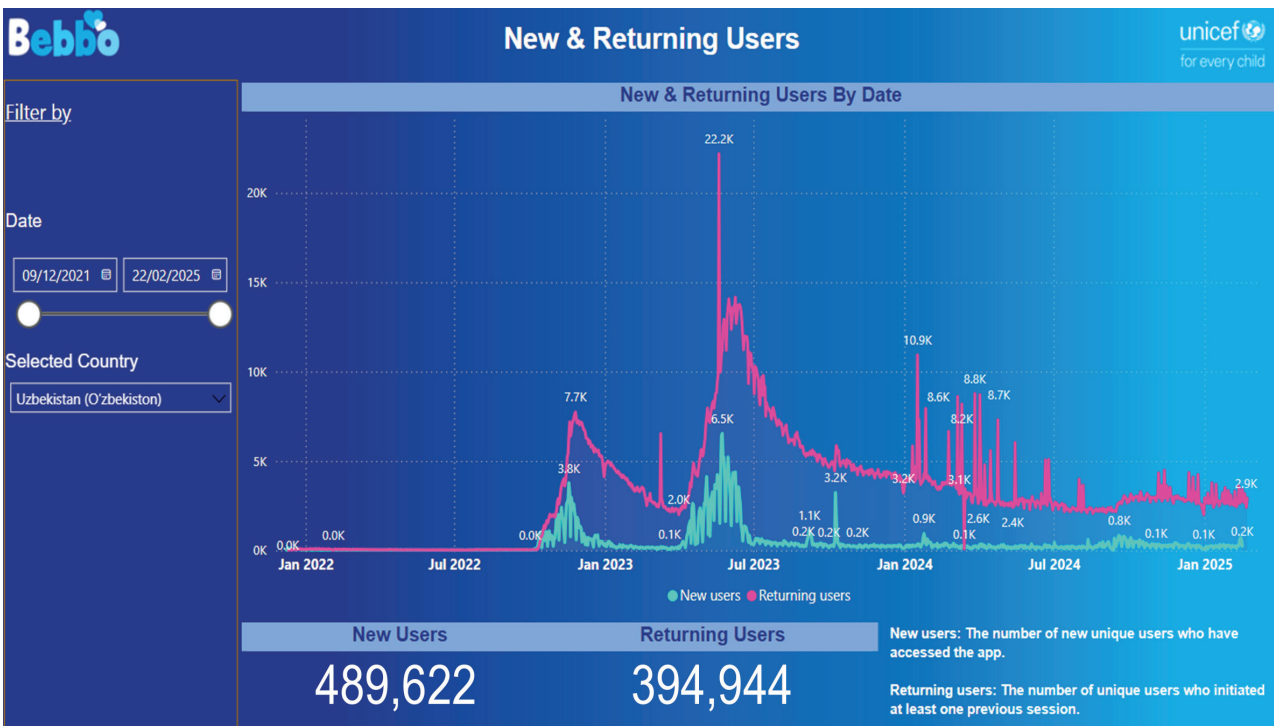


Figure 3. Trainings for adolescent girls.

As part of comprehensive training programme on Micro-Nutrients Supplementation and Interpersonal Communication Skills development, in Muynak, Kungrad, Bozataw, and Takhtakopir districts of the Republic of Karakalpakstan 434 patronage nurses and healthcare workers enhanced capacity to rollout of Bebbo, parenting app to empower them in effectively utilizing the app as a tool for promoting and supporting the best parenting practices. The trained healthcare professionals are contributing to

raise awareness and encourage the adoption of the Bebbo app among parents and caregivers, fostering a supportive environment for responsive parenting practices in the targeted districts.

More than 500 evidence-based parenting articles in the Bebbo app were translated into Karakalpak language and are in progress to be uploaded and tested in the Republic of Karakalpakstan. The human-interest story on using Bebbo app as a



guide of parenting among fathers were published (<https://www.unicef.org/uzbekistan/en/stories/umids-story-my-first-baby-and-helping-hand-bebbo>) and exceeded more than 90,000 reviews. Bebbo app reached 489, 622 unique users who had accessed the app and initiated at least one previous session by the February 2025. It's also planned to add pregnancy content as 138 new articles by the end of 1st quarter of 2025 in Karakalpak language.



UN Multi-Partner Human Security Trust Fund for the Aral Sea Region in Uzbekistan



UNICEF Project “Enhancing Climate-Resilient and Safe Water, Sanitation, Hygiene, and Health Services for the Most Affected Communities in Four Districts of Karakalpakstan”

Project Duration: July 8, 2024 – June 30, 2025.

Budget: US\$ 1,045,000



The main goal of the project is to achieve gender-responsive, inclusive, and climate-resilient WASH services for most vulnerable communities in Muynak, Kungrad, Bozataw and Takhtakopir districts of the Republic of Karakalpakstan through systems strengthening, social and behaviour change (SBC) and participation, cross-sectoral linkages, partnerships, and evidence generation.



The project will benefit 20,033 (10,123 men, 9,907 women) population from 15 communities in four target districts by providing access to clean drinking water.



The project will ensure procurement and delivering 7 types of laboratory equipment for water quality monitoring for Reference Hygiene Laboratories in Kungrad and Beruni districts. In addition, the Karakalpakstan Board of SanEpidCom will be equipped with modern Water Quality Monitoring Information System.



The project will enhance knowledge and skills of 500 community people on Climate Change and Adaptation, Climate Resilient WASH in Communities, WASH Facilities Operation and Maintenance, Planning and Budgeting.



The project strengthened the capacity of 300 healthcare workers on improving WASH in Healthcare Facilities. In addition, a team of 25 healthcare professionals enhanced the capacity of 434 health workers to promote Micro-Nutrient Program / Iron and Folic Acid Supplementation (MNP / IFAS) and Interpersonal Communication skills. More than 500 evidence-based parenting articles in the Bebbo app were translated into Karakalpak language.



The project enhanced the capacity of 200 teachers, 100 parents and 400 school children through the implementation of the WASH Three Star Approach, with a specific focus on climate change, adaptation, and WASH practices. In addition, 400 adolescent girls from 20 schools in target districts were trained as peer educators, enabling them to reach 10,000 adolescent girls with vital health information.



The IOGT platform underwent significant updates to enhance content, user experience, and visibility. These improvements included adding approximately 100 new articles on topics such as mental health, bullying, reproductive health, leadership, and professional orientation.

ii. INDICATOR BASED PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

The Results Framework describes the list of indicators, baseline and targets set under the given project. The progress on indicators is provided under the column S2.

Title of the programme:	Enhancing Climate-Resilient and Safe Water, Sanitation, Hygiene, and Health Services for the Most Affected Communities in Four Districts of Karakalpakstan								
UNSDCF Priority Area	Outcome 4. By 2025, the most vulnerable benefit from enhanced access to gender sensitive quality health, education and social services (national SDGs: 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 10, and 11).								
	Outcome 5: By 2025, the most at-risk regions and communities of Uzbekistan are more resilient to climate change and disasters, and benefit from increasingly sustainable and gender-sensitive efficient management of natural resources and infrastructure, robust climate action, inclusive environmental governance and protection (national SDGs: 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13,15)								
Relevant National SDG(s)	National SDG 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 16								
Expected Results (outcomes & outputs)	Indicators					Means of verification/ Frequency	Responsibilities (PUNOs and national partners)	Reasons for Variance with Planned Target (if any)	
	Indicator Description	Baseline		Target					
		Value	Year	2024					2025
				S1	S2				S1
PROGRAMME OUTCOME	Contribution to the MPHSTF Outcomes Outcome 1: the stress on local communities due to the deteriorating environmental situation reduced Outcome 3: local community access to affordable and healthy food and clean drinking water secured Outcome 4: the overall health of the local population improved and healthy lifestyle promoted								

Expected Results (outcomes & outputs)	Indicators						Means of verification/ Frequency	Responsibilities (PUNOs and national partners)	Reasons for Variance with Planned Target (if any)
	Indicator Description	Baseline		Target					
		Value	Year	2024		2025			
				S1	S2	S1			
OUTCOME: by the end of the project, the most vulnerable people, including women and children, in four districts of Karakalpakstan will benefit from gender-responsive, inclusive, and climate-resilient WASH/health services and climate-resilient communities.	% of the population with access to clean water	70.1%	2022	70.1%	72%	72%	State Statistics	UNICEF, District Khakimiyats, Mahalla Committees	
	Child mortality rate (1-5 year)	16.3%	2023	16.3%	15%	15%	State Statistics	MOH, UNICEF	

Expected Results (outcomes & outputs)	Indicators						Means of verification/ Frequency	Responsibilities (PUNOs and national partners)	Reasons for Variance with Planned Target (if any)
	Indicator Description	Baseline		Target					
		Value	Year	2024		2025			
				S1	S2	S1			
PROGRAMME OUTPUTS	Contribution to the MPHSTF Outputs: Output 1. Local management practices and knowledge of ecosystem services are improved. Output 2. New technologies in the area of water purification, agroforestry, afforestation, and soil stabilisation are piloted. Output 3. The quality of water, air and soil pollution is monitored and addressed through local regulatory practices. Output 7. Local infrastructure investments for access and distribution of clean water are increased. Output 9. The quality of nutrition is increased through standardization, regulation, monitoring, information, and education. Output 12. The quality of health care is improved through increased professional education. Output 13. Healthy lifestyles and practices, drug and alcohol use prevention, as well as, mental health are promoted, including sanitation, vaccination, waste disposal, and local medicinal plants.								
OUTPUT 1.1. By the end of the project, at least 15,824 people in four districts of Karakalpakstan have improved access to safe drinking water and climate-adapted health services.	# of people reached with at least basic water that is safe and available when needed	320,289	2023	320,289	336,289 (n=15,824)	340,495 (n=20,030)	Programme records and reports	UNICEF, District Khakimiyats, Mahalla Committees	Actual number of beneficiaries will increase from 15,824 to 20,030 people based on calculation of community people in project sites.

Expected Results (outcomes & outputs)	Indicators						Means of verification/ Frequency	Responsibilities (PUNOs and national partners)	Reasons for Variance with Planned Target (if any)
	Indicator Description	Baseline		Target					
		Value	Year	2024		2025			
				S1	S2	S1			
Output 1.1.	amount of investments in water access and distribution infrastructure with the support of the MPHSTF, mln. USD	1.291	2022	1.291	1.621 (n=0.330)	1.621 (n=0.330)	Programme records and reports	UNICEF	The expected target of 1.621 for 2025 will be reached upon completion of 6 project sites by June 2025.
	# of community representatives with improved knowledge on sustainable operation, maintenance, and management of water supply systems	0	2023	0	0	50	Programme records and reports, Training Reports	UNICEF, District Khakimiyats, Mahalla Committees	

Expected Results (outcomes & outputs)	Indicators						Means of verification/ Frequency	Responsibilities (PUNOs and national partners)	Reasons for Variance with Planned Target (if any)
	Indicator Description	Baseline		Target					
		Value	Year	2024		2025			
				S1	S2	S1			
OUTPUT 1.2. By the end of the project, the Ministry of Health of Karakalpakstan and ten mahallas will have strengthened monitoring systems for data-driven climate-resilient WASH interventions through community-driven programming, community action plans and water quality testing.	# of communities with child-friendly frameworks (Community Action Plans) for emergency/ climate change preparedness and/or early/ anticipatory action	0	2023	0	10	10	Sector project/ programme reports	UNICEF, District Khakimiyats, Mahalla Committees, Ministry of Ecology, Environmental Protection and Climate Change (MEEPCC)	
	# of representatives from district khakimiyats and mahalla committees equipped with the skills to plan, budget, and allocate for data-driven climate-resilient WASH interventions	0	2023	0	50	50	Programme records and reports, Training Reports	UNICEF, District Khakimiyats, Mahalla Committees	

Expected Results (outcomes & outputs)	Indicators						Means of verification/ Frequency	Responsibilities (PUNOs and national partners)	Reasons for Variance with Planned Target (if any)
	Indicator Description	Baseline		Target					
		Value	Year	2024		2025			
				S1	S2	S1			
OUTPUT 1.2.	# of newly established or improved water quality monitoring laboratories	0	2023	0	1	2	Programme records and reports, Transfer acts	MOH, UNICEF	
OUTPUT 1.3. By the end of the project, at least 5,116 children and adolescents in four districts of Karakalpakstan are equipped with relevant knowledge and information to demand quality and inclusive climate-resilient WASH and health services	# of health workers receiving the skills and support for delivering essential maternal, newborn and child health services	1,448	2023	1,448	1,748 (n=300)	1,906 (n=458)	Programme records and reports, Training Reports	UNICEF, MOH	UNICEF allocated additional funds from own resource to cover all 458 members of medical brigades from 4 target districts
	Number of women and adolescent girls reached whose menstrual health and hygiene needs are addressed	2,303	2023	2,303	3,768 (n=1,465)	3,768 (n=1,465)	Programme records and reports, School reports	UNICEF, MOPSE	The expected target of 3,768 (1,465) will be reached upon completion of water supply projects and WASH in Communities trainings will be conducted.

Expected Results (outcomes & outputs)	Indicators						Means of verification/ Frequency	Responsibilities (PUNOs and national partners)	Reasons for Variance with Planned Target (if any)
	Indicator Description	Baseline		Target					
		Value	Year	2024		2025			
				S1	S2	S1			
OUTPUT 1.3.	Number of children, adolescents and young people engaged in action and advocacy to address climate change, unsustainable energy use and/or environmental degradation	300	2023	300	700 (n=400)	700 (n=400)	Programme records and reports	UNICEF, MOPSE, District Khakimiyats, Mahalla Committees, MEEPCC	The expected target will be reached by end of project upon completion of SBC activities.
	# of teachers trained on healthy life-styles	1585	2022	1585	1885 (n=300)	1885 (n=300)	Programme records and reports, School reports	UNICEF, MOPSE	The target reached by end of 2024.

Expected Results (outcomes & outputs)	Indicators						Means of verification/ Frequency	Responsibilities (PUNOs and national partners)	Reasons for Variance with Planned Target (if any)
	Indicator Description	Baseline		Target					
		Value	Year	2024		2025			
				S1	S2	S1			
OUTPUT 1.3.	Number of schools that practice daily group handwashing through WASH 3 Star Approach	0	2023	0	15	20	Programme records and reports, School reports	UNICEF, MOPSE	

III. DELAYS IN IMPLEMENTATION

Considering the short implementation period, the Project had delays in the implementation of several activities planned under the project. Below circumstances caused the Project team to approach the Multi-Partner Human Security Trust Fund for the Aral Sea region (MPHSTF) with proposal for a six-month no-cost extension, which has been approved by the Project Board and Steering Committee of the MPHSTF:

- The process for identification of project sites and scope of work, the bidding process for selection of engineering companies for development of project design and estimation documents and bidding for construction works took 5 months as per UNICEF policies and procedures. Also, considering the complexity of construction works and adverse weather conditions, the project team needs more time to ensure quality construction works in selected project sites, therefore the Project requested non-cost extension, which has been approved by MPHSTF Steering Committee.
- Staff turnover of implementing partners and inclusion of new partners into the project under the Direct Cash Transfer modality caused delays in organizing capacity building activities in selected districts.
- Capacity building trainings for community people on WASH technical maintenance should be conducted after the completion of infrastructure projects, which require additional time for effective implementation.

The project is currently at the critical point of the implementation. While a large part of the “soft component” has been accomplished and could be further expedited, the “hard” component, notably the construction works should be completed during the extended project period. In addition, implementing partners need to raise the capacity of local government, mahalla and community people on technical maintenance, planning and budgeting of WASH infrastructure in project sites, as well the healthcare providers and schoolteachers should integrate all newly acquired skills and knowledge into everyday practice.

IV. CHALLENGES AND MITIGATION MEASURES

The project had the following challenges with mitigation measures on addressing them:

- Considering the complexity with launching the construction works, including the bidding for selection of engineering companies for development of project design and estimation documents and bidding for construction works, as well as adverse weather conditions, the Project team had come across to some delays and requested more time to ensure completion of quality construction works in selected project sites. The Project team developed a concrete implementation plan for timely completion of construction works with periodic monitoring visits to project sites and weekly results review meetings.
- Staff turnover in the Center for Advanced Teacher Training of the Republic of Karakalpakstan caused delays in the implementation of WASH in Schools trainings. UNICEF Project Team jointly with the Ministry of Pre-school and School Education of the Republic of Karakalpakstan identified new implementing partner, Nukus city Education Department and established a new team of master trainers and conducted a series of training of trainers to enhance their capacity on the implementation of Climate-resilient WASH in Schools Program.
- Selection of laboratories in Kungrad and Beruni districts and conducting a thorough needs assessment of those laboratories, as well as the reannouncement of bidding for procurement of laboratory equipment due to insufficient number of suppliers delayed the implementation of the activities on procurement and delivery of laboratory equipment. As mitigation action regarding the procurement of laboratory equipment, UNICEF Project team conducted market research and identified extended pool of potential suppliers. The potential suppliers have been communicated and informed about UNICEF bidding case, as well as policies and procedures, it will impact for receipt of sufficient bids and accelerate the contracting enough suppliers and timely delivery of required laboratory equipment.

V. BEST PRACTICES

- An integrated approach has been applied in selecting the most vulnerable communities for providing access to safe drinking water by engaging the local district administration (khakimi-yats), mahalla committees and district departments of Joint Stock Company “Qaraqalpaq Suw Tamiynati”. At the same time, UNICEF conducted consultation sessions with the Water Supply Institution regarding the planned water supply projects of Asian Development Bank aimed at avoiding the duplication of efforts on reconstruction of water supply systems.
- UNICEF has presented the project’s best practices and gained experience on climate-resilient WASH infrastructure solutions with national and international agencies, including the Ministry of Pre-school and School Education, Zamin Foundation, Delivery Unit of the Agency for Strategic Development under the President’s Office, Asian Development Bank, Suez International and Civil Society organizations under the UN Vision 2030 Fund. These initiatives on disseminating best practices enabled Zamin Foundation to implement a project on providing access to safe drinking water by ensuring installation of water treatment plants with reverse osmosis systems in 180 schools in the Republic of Karakalpakstan.
- UNICEF capacity trainings on MNP/IPC and nutrition practices for 458 healthcare workers contributed to provision of better health services to communities by patronage doctors and nurses on the implementation of state micro-nutrient supplementation and deworming programs.
- Under this project, UNICEF was able to enrich the content of IOGT platform with health information on WASH and adolescent health in the local Karakalpak language, contributing to health awareness of adolescent children in the Republic of Karakalpakstan.
- In partnership with International Innovation Center for Aral Sea Region (IICAS), UNICEF developed a project proposal “AralSolar” with USD 150,000 budget, aimed at promoting crowd-sourcing mechanism under the existing “Aralforest” initiative for fundraising the school solarization projects in Karakalpakstan and development of online training platform to train community people on installation and maintenance of solar panels. The proposal was submitted to UNICEF’s SPARK Innovation Accelerator Program, which is currently under evaluation process.

VI. LESSONS LEARNED

- The project lifecycle for 6 months would be insufficient to implement infrastructure projects considering the existing operational policies and procedures on bidding and contracting modalities, as well as considering adverse weather conditions. To mitigate risks and challenges related to possible delays in timely implementation of construction works, at least 12 months project life-cycle should be allocated for projects with infrastructure projects to complete the construction and reconstruction process and transfer of completed project sites to beneficiaries.
- Series of consultations and analysis of documents at the level of the Ministry of Pre-school and School Education and Water Supply Institution showed that the government institutions do not have appropriate technical policy documents on the implementation of Climate-resilient WASH Operations and Maintenance, Planning and Budgeting tools for schools, healthcare facilities and community water supply structures. UNICEF Project studied the global best practices and is currently working on development of specific tailor-made training manuals on Operation and Maintenance, Planning and Budgeting of WASH at institutional and household settings by adapting the global guidelines into local context.
- Uncertainty about the extension of the MPHSTF and late convening of MPTSHF Steering Committee meeting took considerable time for Project staff to prepare no-cost extension documents, which affected delays in the actual implementation of the project activities on the ground.

VII. PROGRAMMATIC REVISIONS

The Project made the following budget adjustments in the Project Document through conducting the Project Board meeting. Further the Amendment to the Project document was endorsed by the MPHSTF’s Steering Committee (12 Dec 2024) and the project was extended until June 30, 2025. UNICEF was able to mobilize additional resources in the amount of US\$ 25,000 to cover staff costs for the non-cost extension period. Following transfers between the budget categories has been made:

- Considering the proposal of the Republic of Karakalpakstan Board of the Committee for Sanitary-Epidemiological Wellbeing and Public Health of the Republic of Uzbekistan, it was agreed to procure laboratory equipment for district branches in Kungrad and Beruni districts. Therefore, the costs for procurement of laboratory equipment were decreased from US\$ 70,000 to US\$ 40,000 from “Supplies, Commodities, Materials” and the released US\$ 30,000 was moved to “Contractual Services” for the development of an information system on monitoring the quality of drinking water, as the preliminary market research showed that the actual

costs for information system development will be higher than the planned US\$ 35,000.

- As the project will have 6 months of extension, the staff costs for Programme Officer (WASH) requires additional US 40,000, out of which US\$ 15,000 will be covered from the secured funds under “Supplies, commodities, materials” (US\$ 7,000), “Contractual Services” (US\$ 3,000) and “Transfers and grants to counterparts” (US\$ 5,000), which will cover 2 months of extension period. UNICEF will mobilize an additional US\$ 25,000 to cover the remaining staff costs of the Programme Officer (WASH) to cover another four months of an extension period. Other staff costs for the Programme Associate and Supply Officer for six months of non-cost extension will be covered by UNICEF other funds. So, the Project “Staff costs” will be changed from US\$ 99,275 to US\$ 114,275.

As a result, the Project’s total budget increased from US\$ 1,020,000 to US\$ 1,045,000 with UNICEF’s additional contribution for staff costs.

VIII. HUMAN INTEREST STORIES

UMID'S STORY: MY FIRST BABY AND THE HELPING HAND FROM BEBBO

When Umid welcomed his first child into the world, he experienced a mix of joy and uncertainty. *"He is now one year old,"* he shares. *"I guess the first baby always leaves you feeling like you're not ready for it."*

Like many parents, Umid faced the challenge of balancing work and family life while navigating the anxieties that come with raising a child.

Most likely, it's balancing work and family life on one hand, and dealing with anxiety on the other — especially when any deviation from the norm seems like a sign of a serious illness.

Seeking guidance, he turned to trusted friends and reliable online sources. It was during a conversation with a friend last spring that Umid first heard about Bebbo, a parenting app developed by UNICEF to support caregivers. *"I was interested in the app because it allows you to track your child's development,"* he recalls.

With over 480,000 downloads in Uzbekistan, Bebbo quickly became an essential tool in his parenting journey. The app was launched in Uzbekistan in 2021 in partnership with the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education, ensuring that caregivers have access to reliable, science-backed parenting support.

One moment of concern came when Umid noticed a slowdown in his son's weight gain. *"Starting from the third month, our child started gaining weight more slowly than in the first two months. Thanks to the app's clear visual representation of our child's growth and weight in comparison to the standard norms, I was able to reassure my wife."* Having access to reliable, science-based informa-


Umid's story: My first baby and the helping hand from Bebbo

Bebbo is more than an app – it is a companion on parenting journey

UNICEF



tion gave him confidence and helped ease their concerns. Beyond tracking milestones, Bebbo helped Umid engage with his boy.




The advice to talk to your child as much as possible and actively imitate the sounds they make really resonated with me. Before this, I had heard from other parents that copying a child's sounds could slow down their speech development. Learning that this was a myth and that imitating a baby's sounds is recommended made our interactions with our son much more fun.

For Umid, Bebbo is more than an app — it is a companion on his parenting journey. *“The ability to see a clear list of skills that my child gradually masters, mark each of his achievements in the app, and get helpful suggestions on what to pay attention to — all of this helps me keep better track of my child's development.”*

Since November 2024, Umid has been a member of the Bebbo Parents' Council, a group of caregivers from 11 countries that regularly meets to discuss parents' feedback so that their insights can be incorporated into the ongoing development of the app.

His message to other parents is simple yet powerful:



Don't panic without reason and check Bebbo more often for useful advice.

Parenthood comes with uncertainties, but with the right tools and support, fathers like Umid are playing an active and informed role in their children's early development—one milestone at a time.

The Bebbo parenting app is free and available in Russian and Uzbek. It can be downloaded from Google Play and the App Store, ensuring accessibility for a broad range of parents seeking reliable guidance on young child development and parenting.



The Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan



The Government of Norway



European Union



Suomi Finland



The Government of the Republic of Korea



Alwaleed Philanthropies



The Government of Germany