



Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.

Annual Report 2011



President of Kazakhstan, Nursultan Nazarbayev and UNDP Administrator, Helen Clark in Ak Orda, Palace of President, Astana, Kazakhstan, 19 May 2011

PARTNERING FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

New strategic partnership and regional integration was a key focus of the three day visit of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Administrator Helen Clark to Kazakhstan in May 2011.

During the visit, the Administrator met with the President of Kazakhstan – Nursultan Nazarbayev, and other senior officials, including Yerzhan Kazykhanov, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Kairat Kelimbetov, Minister of Economic Development and Trade, Gulshara Abdykalikova, the Minister of Labour and Social Protection.

Over the past few years Kazakhstan has reached a status of a middle-income country. Many development challenges have been faced: there is no longer extreme poverty, country is witnessing ongoing social and economic growth, and more prosperity is expected. In this changing context UNDP and the Government have already begun changing from an old model of development assistance, and are viewing Kazakhstan not as an aid recipient but a development partner in its own right. Ms. Clark took this opportunity to discuss with the President Nursultan Nazarbayev the ways of bringing

partnership between Kazakhstan and UNDP to a new strategic level.

Along with this Helen Clark also brought up the issue of regional integration. Kazakhstan as a development champion among other Central Asian countries has a potential for becoming regional hub for many development initiatives, including Central Asian Center for disaster reduction and others. UNDP expressed its willingness to support and drive these efforts.

Ms. Clark commended the President for the real progress made in Kazakhstan in the recent 20 years of independence.

I acknowledge Kazakhstan for tremendous accomplishments of the past 20 years, involving fast economic growth, major policy reforms crucial to a society in transition, and the emergence of Kazakhstan on the world scene. Much of this is attributed to the President's vision and sense of purpose.

HELEN CLARK, UNDP Administrator

She also highlighted that the country has a very strong vision on progressing and diversification of the national economy, witnessing immense GDP/capita increase from \$ 700

to \$ 9000 – 10 000 in less than a twenty year's period.

Clark and Nazarbayev also indicated the importance of trade and investment in the region, the need for economic progress

to reach all members of society, regional co-operation on disaster risk reduction and response, and Kazakhstan's focus on energy efficiency.

Continued on page 2

EDITOR'S SPOTLIGHT

Dear readers!

UNDP is proud to have supported national development processes in Kazakhstan in the country's 20th year of independence in 2011. Kazakhstan's two decades of independence have been marked by outstanding progress in economic growth and social development. UNDP and other agencies in the United Nations Country Team have had many opportunities to contribute to this transformational change.



UNDP Country Office's work is aimed at bringing about practical improvements in people's lives, and at building the human capital of this society. These aims are in keeping with UNDP's global mission to empower people in their lives and strengthen the resilience of nations.

In 2011, UNDP Country-Office staff and project personnel worked hard to deliver on our commitments to the people of Kazakhstan. We were guided by a healthy respect for national ownership of the development process and the complementary belief that international partnership is valuable.

You are about to read, in this newspaper-style Annual Report, about the UNDP Country Office's many achievements in 2011. I would like to spotlight a few.

A number of UNDP activities in Kazakhstan gave practical support to refining and modernizing public administration, civil service and civic participation. For example, UNDP promoted youth participation in elections and in civic affairs. Together with a local NGO and the National Election Commission, we developed an online platform for educating young voters and started virtual communities to encourage youth to become politically active. These were both popular and constructive. Two-thirds of the participants reported becoming involved in election campaigns or observing elections in 2011, and three of the project activists were elected to their local executive councils. Check out the impressions of one of the brightest young candidates by reading his online diary on Page 8.

In an exemplary governance project, UNDP supported the Government's effort to improve the way Kazakhstan assesses the public administration performance. The new approach was used in 2011 in the first nationwide assessment of 26 central ministries and 16 regional – or oblast administrations.

UNDP Kazakhstan was also active in energy and the environment, particularly in promoting energy efficiency, renewable-energy development, water management, biodiversity and environmental protection. In 2011, we completed projects on wind-power development and wetlands conservation.

The top-quality technical information from the wind-power project was embraced by the public-utilities association and attracted the interest of financial institutes and other companies. It was used in the construction of Kazakhstan's first commercial wind-energy station.

The wetlands project, and others on biodiversity, led to Kazakhstan adopting new standards for environmental protection and introducing eco-friendly local-economic-development models. UNDP and its key national partners now share a common language for ecosystem management that allows us to better coordinate efforts to change legislation and attract government funding. Please read the story on Page 12 about how we addressed environmental and local-sustainability issues in implementing a pasture-management project.

UNDP also run important energy-efficiency projects in 2011. They generated ideas that found their way into the new energy-efficiency law that Parliament adopted late in the year. These initiatives are featured on pages 13-15. Our office enjoyed a constructive dialogue with the Government and other partners on sustainable development. And we provided advice and technical support – and facilitated broad dialogue – on sustainability as the Government prepared for the Rio +20 UN summit.

Finally, but far from least important, UNDP helped move the UN Country Team's collective effort closer to the national goal of socio-economic modernization and rapid, balanced human development. A new, five-year joint UN, Government and inter-agency program of local, multi-sectoral development in the Semey area began in 2011. In addition to bringing direct assistance to the people, the effort was important for two other reasons. First, it proved that a strategic partnership can play a key role in future development. The Government and the UN plans to continue partnering to address inequity, poor health and other factors constraining human development in the region. The Semey project's success indicated that the UN and its partners can use strategic partnership to advance socio-economic modernization in other regions of Kazakhstan.

Well into 2012, we remain committed to strategic partnership and transformational change. UNDP in Kazakhstan will continue to use its networks and to employ best practices to serve our national partners and get results.

Stephen Tull
UNDP Resident Representative in Kazakhstan

PROMOTING INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT



With the Government of Kazakhstan UNDP designed and implemented inclusive development policies and programmes. PAGE 5 ▶



IMPROVING GOVERNANCE

Together with national partners UNDP worked to promote democratic governance in Kazakhstan. PAGE 8 ▶

PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT



Supported by national partners UNDP promoted environmental protection at all levels. PAGE 10 ▶



In recent years we note with satisfaction considerable intensification of relations between Kazakhstan and the United Nations on a full range of interaction. Government of Kazakhstan and the United Nations face large and important tasks which we can implement in close cooperation only. I reaffirm our readiness to provide all possible assistance to UN activities and careful consideration of the proposals.

YERZHAN KAZYKHANOV, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan

As part of her programme, Ms. Clark also met with Mr. Yerzhan Kazykhanov, Minister of Foreign Affairs, where she focused on opportunities for wider cooperation between UNDP and Kazakhstan and defining new, forward-looking strategic partnership and cost-sharing initiatives between UNDP and the country.

She highlighted the willingness of UNDP to support Kazakhstan's role as an emerging donor. The knowledge and innovation accumulated in Kazakhstan could be shared with other countries and UNDP could serve as a connecting bridge, concluded Ms. Clark.

Yerzhan Kazykhanov, in turn, expressed appreciation to

the assistance provided by UN agencies in Kazakhstan in the process of forming the state and adaptation of a social and economic system to the market economy.

To gain a better understanding of how UNDP can help promote balanced socio-economic development in Kazakhstan, Ms. Clark met with Mr. Kairat Kelimbetov, Minister of Economic Development and Trade. She expressed appreciation on the strengthened UNDP-Government relationship and shared aspiration on increasing government cost-sharing between the two sides. In the course of the meeting the Administrator witnessed the signing of an agreement between

UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF and the Ministry, giving start to a new joint programme on strengthening Semey region through innovative approaches. Government cost sharing in this programme is 85%.

Ms. Clark exchanged perspectives - including strategies implemented by the state to ensure sustained social development with the Minister of Labour and Social Protection, Gulshara Abdykalikova. They discussed models of growth and special initiatives targeting women, people with disabilities and young people.

Ms. Clark also met with more than a dozen Kazakhstani women leaders to exchange ideas on promoting women's political

empowerment at the panel discussion "Women Leaders in Today's World and in Kazakhstan." Women are active in most arenas of the economy and society in the country, but there is still a room for strengthening women's voice and representation in decision making. She also highlighted President Nazarbayev's call for the adoption of an action plan to

UNDP Administrator travelled to UNESCO World Heritage sites in Kazakhstan: Tamgaly Tang, a UNESCO World Cultural Heritage Site which contains 3000 year old petroglyphs from the Bronze Age carved into natural rock formations, and Korgalzhyn State Nature Reserve, a unique wetlands ecosystem. UNDP has promoted conservation and



Meeting with representatives of rural activists, benefitting from the project activities at Korgalzhyn State Reserve

increase women representation at the decision making level from ten per cent up to thirty per cent by 2016.

preservation in Korgalzhyn for the past 7 years, and has been involved in income-generating projects around environmental protection.

Two of the world's major flight paths for birds, the Central Asian-Indian Flyway and the East African Flyway, converge in Korgalzhyn, making this area extremely important for migratory birds as they pass through on their way north from Africa and India, and south from Europe and arctic Russia.

This was Helen Clark's first visit to Kazakhstan and the region of Central Asia. The Administrator's visit was a step forward to formulate new common agenda with the Government of Kazakhstan to make sustainable changes together.



Gulshara Abdykalikova, Minister of Labour and Social Protection presenting Helen Clark a book on women leadership in Kazakhstan

What I would say about women leaders today is that there are not enough of us! President Nazarbayev has made a commitment to promote gender equality, and leadership from the top is so important to achieving that in any country.

HELEN CLARK, UNDP Administrator

Question: WHAT'S YOUR VIEW OF THE MOST IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENT-RELATED TRENDS OF 2011?



BAURZHAN BAIBEK,
Deputy Chief of Administration
of the President:

During Kazakhstan's 20th year of independence, we made changes in government efficiency, transparency, responsibility and accountability to the public – all under President Nursultan Nazarbayev's 2030 Strategy.

To start with, the President issued decrees that require those at all levels of the national government to become more responsible and accountable for tackling people's urgent problems.

Second, the work of regional and local officials has become more transparent. The Head of State ordered that a 60-point scale be used to rate regional administrations' socioeconomic and industrial-innovative-development efforts. The scale evaluates both the level of a region's development and its ability to expand its capacity. It identifies problems in each district, city and region. Ratings are published in mass media quarterly. This allows the population to assess the efficiency of regional and local administrations.

“ I am sure that cooperation between Kazakhstan and international organizations – UNDP first of all – will lead to further development of the assessment system and improvement in government agencies' performance . ”

Third, we established a system that gives us better control over regions' financial spending. An independent audit commission is now overseeing regional and local budgets.

Fourth, and most important, we set up a system for assessing the efficiency of government agencies. For the first time ever, Kazakhstan assessed the performance of 40 ministries, agencies and provincial governors and mayors' offices, using six factors. Those factors are the ability to carry out assignments from the Head of State, achievement of strategic goals, management of human resources, management of funds, application of information technologies, and delivery of public services. Using the assessments, government agencies created road maps to further improve their efficiency.

The assessment system has already helped government agencies do a better job of providing services. In 2011 the number of services provided tripled. To ensure a high level of citizen satisfaction with government services, a Law on Public Services is being drafted. And a Program on

E-Government Development was developed for 2012.

Thus, Government efforts to improve efficiency and transparency of public work generated practical results in 2011. I would like to thank the United Nations Development Programme for its active assistance in improving our country's public-administration system. After a Presidential-Administration team visited Canada, we adopted a five-year plan to create an assessment system, using the Canadian model and support from UNDP. An International Conference on Efficiency of Government Agencies, which UNDP organized, encouraged NGO engagement in the assessment process, raised awareness among government agencies, and ensured that international experience would play a role in finalizing our assessment methodology.

I am sure that cooperation between Kazakhstan and international organizations – UNDP first of all – will lead to further development of the assessment system and improvement in government agencies' performance and efficiency.



NURLAN KAPPAROV
Minister of
Environmental Protection:

The key environmental trend in Kazakhstan was the country's embarking on a course toward sustainable development.

Some time back, the United Nations World Commission on Environment and Development suggested sustainability as a model for world development. Embracing the model will allow us to meet our own needs without compromising future generations' ability to meet their needs.

The majority of the countries at the UN Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 pledged efforts to attain sustainable development. Twenty years later, in 2012, the participating countries met again. This time they discussed progress toward sustainable development, identified new challenges discussed ways to create a green economy in the context of achieving sustainable development and alleviating poverty.

“ For Kazakhstan, sustainable development and the green economy are not just theoretical concepts, but vitally important issues. ”

For Kazakhstan, sustainable development and the green economy are not just theoretical concepts, but vitally important issues. The Aral Sea disaster, contamination at the Semipalatinsk nuclear-testing site, and other regional and national problems require new approaches and practical solutions.

Today Kazakhstan is discussing the implications of Rio+20, with assistance from UNDP and other international partners. The discussions include perspectives on the green economy and possibilities for mankind ending environmental degradation.

President Nursultan Nazarbayev has suggested adopting both a Global Energy and Environmental Strategy and a Green Bridge interregional partnership program.

These sustainable-development efforts will help us overcome the technological gap between developed and developing countries and protect the environment in a way that is cost-effective.



IRINA ARONOVA,
Member of Parliament:

“ Women no longer are categorized only as homemakers, thanks to our work. Now they are politicians, public figures and business leaders. ”

We will remember 2011 as the year when Kazakhstan strengthened its model of gender policy.

Our country strives to promote gender equality with international best practices while keeping in mind our national context. We've learned of those best practices partly through our partnership with UNDP.

Women no longer are categorized only as homemakers, thanks to our

work. Now they are politicians, public figures and business leaders.

The Government's assurance of equal rights among the sexes is giving both men and women opportunities for self-realization. In this year's Parliamentary elections, women filled 18 percent of the seats in the Mazhilis, or Lower House. Thirty-one percent of the members of local councils in the Kostanay region are

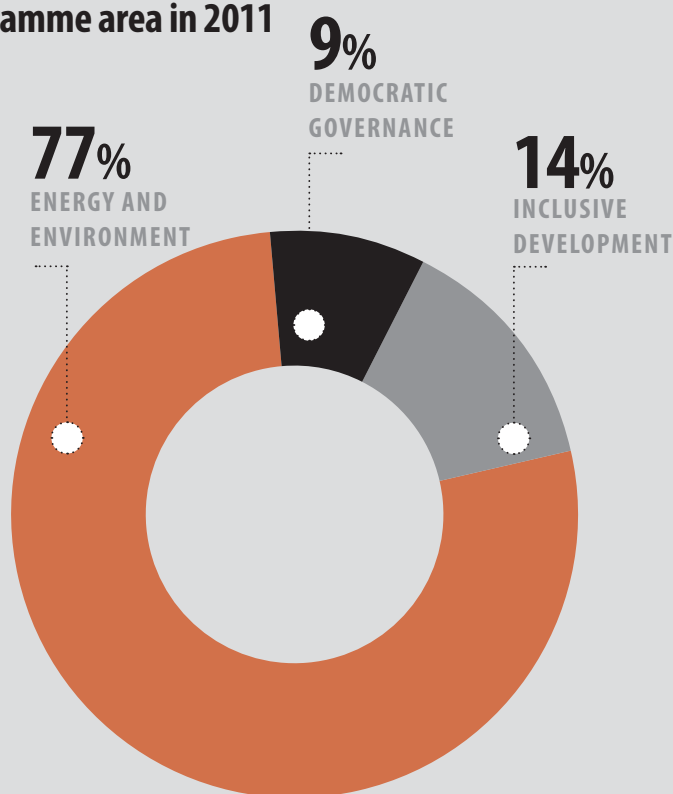
women. I am sure that in the future these percentages will grow. And the country will see more women politicians and entrepreneurs and more men engaged in child raising.

We are moving toward our own model of social partnership and toward a social contract based on the principle that men and women should work together and complement and enrich each other, taking advantage of their differences.

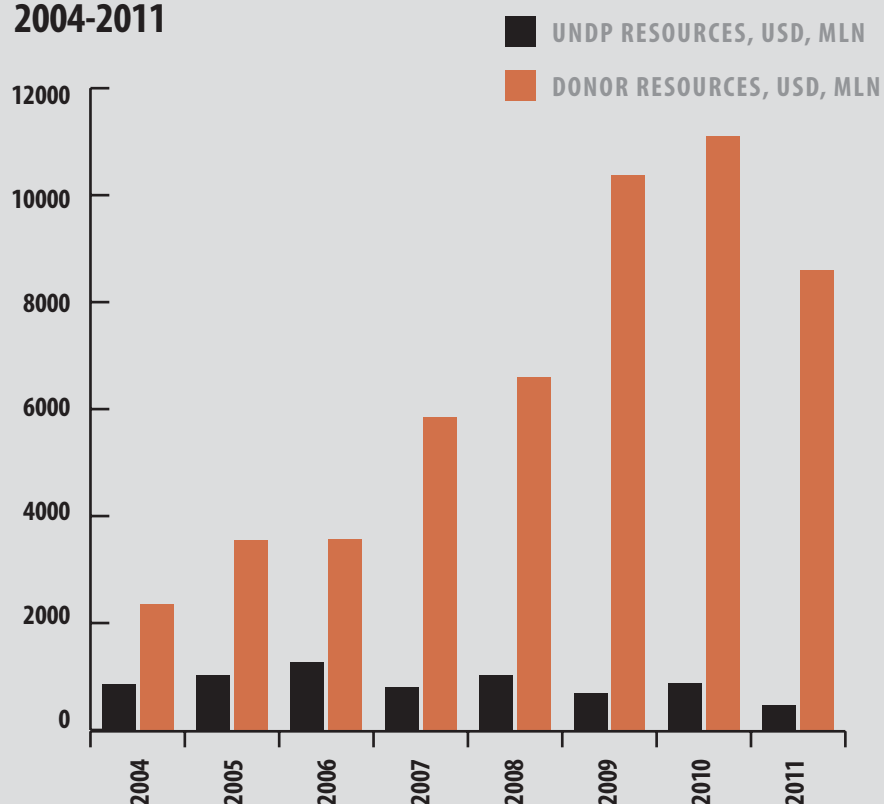
Major sources of funding in 2011

DONOR	AMOUNT
GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL FACILITY	\$ 5 190 480,00
GOVERNMENT OF KAZAKHSTAN	\$ 921 741,00
EUROPEAN COMMISSION	\$ 553 230,00
DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE THEMATIC TRUST FUND	\$ 315 647,00
GOVERNMENT OF FINLAND	\$ 259 124,00
COCA COLA COMPANY	\$ 107 334,00
UN VOLUNTEERS	\$ 106 247,00
PUBLIC FUND "CENTER RAZVITIYA PRAVA"	\$ 78 644,00
UN DEMOCRACY FUND	\$ 67 445,00
OSLO GOVERNANCE CENTER	\$ 50 000,00
GOVERNMENT OF NETHERLANDS	\$ 43 750,00
GRAND TOTAL	\$ 7 693 842,00

UNDP in Kazakhstan programme expenditure distribution by programme area in 2011



Programme Expenditures 2004-2011



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Inclusive Development

Participant of the Paralympic games. Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of population developed a National Action Plan, opening opportunities for people with disabilities



BUILDING STRONG INSTITUTIONS FOR INCLUSIVE GROWTH

1 STRENGTHENED NATIONAL POLICY

In 2011 the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection, together with UNDP, developed a National Action Plan to protect the rights and improve the lives of persons with disabilities. The plan covers the years 2012-2018, including more than 260 measures in 12 categories for areas of improvement of national policy and programmes. The Ministry and UNDP encouraged NGOs serving those with disabilities to take part in developing the action plan. The idea was to ensure that the disabled would have a voice in policy-making. In consultation with the Government, UNDP will support drafting amendments to current laws, to harmonize national legislation with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.



The UNDP's work on inclusive development in Kazakhstan in 2011 helped those most in need.

We worked to strengthen social-protection measures for people with disabilities and foster policies, legislation and action plans on their behalf. These efforts helped increase public awareness of their situation.

In 2011 we also helped improve social services, created new funding mechanisms and generated inclusive business models for vulnerable groups in the Semey area. As part of that, the UNDP championed an innovative system for

providing special services to the elderly. We also worked with homeless centers. And we helped provide services and entrepreneurial-skills training to ethnic Kazakhs from other countries who repatriated here.

The year 2011 also marked the beginning of a five-year joint UN, Government and inter-agency project on local development in the Semey area. It was the first programme in the UNDP portfolio in which the Government put up 85 percent of the funding. The programme not only addresses ways to foster the area's recovery, but also creates a blueprint to

address the area's long-term economic-development, social-welfare and environmental-protection needs.

This UNDP initiative is in line with the country's priorities and supports the Government's development path.

Development can be inclusive – and reduce poverty – only if all groups help create opportunities, share the benefits of development and participate in decision-making. The UNDP Country Office in Kazakhstan is striving to create a shared understanding of inclusive development, to produce results and to aspire for more.

Project: "Strengthening the Social Protection of Persons with Disabilities within the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and Development of the Special Social Services Provision System."

2 DEVELOPED CAPACITY OF SOCIAL WORKERS

More than 200 Government officials and 100 social workers from across Kazakhstan participated in workshops organized by the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection and UNDP. Covering recent trends in social programs, the events provided participants with a platform to share their experiences, reflect on existing legislation and offer ideas for changing national policy.

At the Ministry's request, UNDP organized a study tour to Russia. The idea was to get a first-hand look at Russia's social-protection system. Participants included members from the key Ministries, NGOs and rehabilitation centers for the disabled. Participants said the tour helped inspire their future work.



3 OPENED UP ACCESS TO DISTANCE LEARNING FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

UNDP supported a Ministry of Labor and Social Protection initiative on inclusive education for disabled persons under 23. People with disabilities have limited access to higher education in Kazakhstan, so a pilot project was started under which people with disabilities could obtain access to distance learning. By accessing the online system, people with disabilities were able to prepare for the entrance examinations of Turan University in Almaty. As a result, seven students were admitted to universities whereas other eleven entered vocational schools. With the hearts full of hope, students admit that this project opened them a window of opportunities.



Participants of the ballroom dance competition for people with disabilities



Inclusive Development

Askhan Seilbek – oralman. She received grant funds within UNDP/UNV project on “Promoting Economic and Social Integration of Oralman” and opened a social club in a local school to teach children basics of ancient Kazakh art traditions.



EMPOWERING ORALMAN COMMUNITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT

1 PROVIDED KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERTISE TO INFORM PLANNING AND DECISION-MAKING

With the help of pilot Center for Adaptation and Social Integration, established in 2009 with the support of Semey officials and UNDP, more ethnic Kazakhs received advice and trainings in 2011.

It has included information about social services, national legislation that covers their situation, language and computer skills, and other subjects.

The center’s most urgent task was to help oralman fill out documents for citizenship and to comply

with legal requirements. The help they received under the pilot programme helped them untangle the legal knots.

A series of workshops on entrepreneurship and micro-lending helped more than 200 oralman learn about business start-ups, tax assessment, registering a business, the business of farming, and obtaining credit under a special oralman programme. The workshops led to 17 business start-ups in the region covering an array of services – from crop production and other agricultural pursuits to hairdressing and electronics repair.

3 BROUGHT THE ISSUE OF ORALMAN SETTLEMENT TO NATIONAL OFFICIALS AND THE LEGISLATIVE SYSTEM

Semey officials and UNDP arranged a meeting to promote dialogue with oralman communities. It gave the oralman a chance to explain their challenges firsthand.

This dialogue helped generate recommendations for amending legislation on oralman integration. Officials used ideas from oralman, NGOs and local governments to draft recommendations for national ministries.

Parliament’s Social Committee also held hearings on oralman issues, with key government officials appearing. The hearings allowed oralman to reach national officials firsthand. Important issues addressed were problems that oralman face with Kazakhstan’s immigration policy, improving oralman-related legislation, and making oralman issues part of the nation’s strategic-planning portfolio. In addition to Parliamentarians, the hearings attracted representatives of the Nur Otan political party and journalists.

2 MOBILIZED COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL NGOS

A series of workshops gave local communities information on how to form nongovernmental organizations. The information included the legal underpinnings of NGOs. The result was the formation of more than 10 oralman NGOs that have fostered citizen

Project: “Promoting Economic and Social Integration of Oralman.”

participation in community-development activities in the Semey region.

A major success story was Sagyr village. The village had a long problem of obtaining

drinking water. Inspired by a workshop, residents formed an NGO and obtained international funds to reconstruct a well system. Today the village has fresh water.



Members of volunteer coordination committees, oralman-activists and national volunteers at the workshop “Mobilizing communities” in Semey city.



SUPPORTING DEVELOPMENT OF TRADE CORRIDORS TO BOOST ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES IN EASTERN KAZAKHSTAN

Project: "Aid for trade: Support to Economic Development Through the Trade Corridors Linking the Countries of Central Asia, South Caucasus and the Western CIS for Trading at External Markets."

1 IDENTIFIED OPPORTUNITIES FOR ECONOMIC SECTORS IN THE SEMEY REGION TO ENHANCE THEIR TRADE AND EXPORT POTENTIAL

The Ministry of Economic Development and Trade, with the help of UNDP, conducted an extensive survey of social and economic-development opportunities in Eastern Kazakhstan region. The research provided insights into business funding as well as development opportunities. The report based on the research included training recommendations and ways to foster entrepreneurship. The report, made available to the Governor of Eastern Kazakhstan, will help officials generate new trade initiatives in the region.

2 PROVIDED KNOWLEDGE ABOUT ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Comprehensive training for entrepreneurs, managers of small, medium-sized and large enterprises, civil servants and public officials was organized by the regional government and UNDP. Those chosen for the training included key locals who could pass on what they learned to residents of their areas. The workshops covered entrepreneurship and marketing skills, attracting investment, the tax system and the legal framework for businesses.

3 SUPPORTED THE MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TRADE'S EFFORT TO DESIGN A COMMODITY EXCHANGE POLICY

At the request of the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade, UNDP produced a report on developing a commodity exchange in Eastern Kazakhstan. The analysis focused on the infrastructure of a commodity exchange system for the Semey region. It placed special emphasis on modern information technologies and use of the Internet to organize a system.

Report on social and economic opportunities in Eastern Kazakhstan can be found here: <http://www.undp.kz/projects/files/219-22617.pdf>



The region of Eastern Kazakhstan where Aid for trade initiative is implemented has been blessed with rich natural resources and is considered one of the most beautiful places of the country. Situated on the border between Russia and China it has a lot of potential to boost its economic activities, and local authorities with UNDP support creating environment for this to happen.

11 entrepreneurs from the rural areas of the Eastern Kazakhstan were supported by the Aid for Trade initiative. The project has allocated more than 130 000 USD for the credit programme. You can never predict your lifeline, but you can always build it on, like some of our heroes did:

SHAIZA MIRTINA,

74 years old. Hit by the death of her husband back in 1992, she sold her cattle and endeavored for her own family business. It was running smoothly, but needed some improvements. With the support from the project she managed to broaden it, bringing new equipment and making it more efficient. She now runs small grocery store and a bakery, returned to a cattle breeding, and making plans to open a new product line.



“

The financial support under the project inspired us and helped to develop business. We have bought the breeding bull and this will allow us to start a new line with pasta production. So now we can think about our future and what we can do next.

”

RYAZHAN ZHUMAZHANOVA,

professional cook, started her business 15 years ago from opening a bakery. She managed it with a certain success, until floods hit the region in 2010, destroying the cattle – the source of dairy products for her business, and the facilities.

Ryazhan had to start it all over again, and this time with the support from the project. She received microcredit funds – around \$ 15 000 and with this money reconstructed bakery, enlarged business facilities and improved general working conditions. Today she made her place a popular bakery stop-shop, honored by every villager.



“

The loan received with the support of UNDP project was spent for increasing the assortment of the confectionary. Today, we are producing 12 types of cakes and patisseries and sell our cakes for the whole region. Even the remote villages know about us, and every day we have clients from different villages of the region. Today, we receive orders to make wedding cakes, as no wedding ceremony in the village is held without our cake.

”

Young leaders from rural communities participate in interactive workshop "I am a voter" around the country. Two-thirds of the participants reported becoming involved in election campaigns or observing elections in 2011, and three of the project activists were elected to their local executive councils.



PROMOTING YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN ELECTIONS THROUGH INNOVATIVE APPROACHES

The Central Election Commission, along with UNDP, developed the Umitker web portal (www.umitker.kz) to inspire young people to become active in Kazakhstan's political and civic life.

Two interactive games, "The Candidate" and "Voter KZ," were developed for the Web platform. They convey the basics of the electoral process. A player learns how to apply as a candidate with the election commission, develop an election strategy, manage a campaign budget and run an election campaign that ends in victory. The games have sparked election interest among youth, with more than 2,000 playing

across Kazakhstan.

The project also allows young people to participate in virtual elections to a local

the real Pavlodar-area executive council – an unmistakable indication that they are now active participants in their region's

than 500 young leaders and activists, women and members of remote communities participated.

Project: "Enhancement of Electoral Awareness and Inclusive Democratic Development in Kazakhstan Society."

executive council. More than 4,000 have taken part. The winners of the virtual elections become members of the Virtual Pavlodar Youth Maslikhat. Three of the games' players ran for, and won, seats on

political and civic life.

In collaboration with the Pavlodar Regional School of Governance, the project conducted workshops about the electoral process across the country. More

The project also provided hands-on training to election commission managers in six cities. It was aimed at ensuring smooth Parliamentary elections in their cities in 2012.

We used to participate in elections only as election workers – putting up posters or distributing brochures. I never thought I would be a candidate. It turned out to be daunting, and now I understand why young people don't participate in elections – they just don't know how to do it. After I played the (online) games, I decided to familiarize myself with the legislation, form a team and run in the next election.

VLADIMIR LEVCHENKO, project participant, Karagandy region

“

I've realized that elections are a real opportunity to realize myself and bring solutions to the problems.

”

I always thought that an election involved showing up, voting and that was that. This morning, before the workshop, I thought we'd be given some lectures and go home. But this workshop changed my vision. I've realized that elections are a real opportunity to fulfill myself and come up with solutions to problems. It's actual participation in our country's governance. The things that we learned today are a very important asset in our lives.

DANIYAR TOKTARBAYEV, participant from Ust-Kamenogorsk



THE PATH OF A YOUNG MEMBER OF LOCAL CITY COUNCIL

ONLINE DAIRY OF A YOUNG DEPUTY, ORAZBEK NURSAITOV

Let me tell you a little about myself. I was born into a large family in the Pavlodar region. There are seven of us. I've always lived in a village. I am 30 years old now and have a wife and son.

I know very well what it's like to live in a remote area

without the opportunity for the full, active social life that my contemporaries in the city have.

I got lucky by participating in a workshop dedicated to convincing young people to play an active role in elections and civic life. This was done under the auspices of the National Election Commission

and the UNDP project "Enhancement of Electoral Awareness and Inclusive Democratic Development of Kazakhstan Society." During this workshop I became inspired by the idea of becoming a local member of the city council. I was told about the array of opportunities I had as a citizen of Kazakhstan. Only then did

I realize how many things I could do.

We were taught how to conduct election campaigns, develop a successful election platform, recruit voters and hold an election rally. It was an exhilarating exercise, but it turned out to be a much more breathtaking experience in real life.

I decided to participate in an election for the local executive council. I was represented the leading political party, Nur Otan. I figured out quickly what to do and how to promote myself. When I won the election, I could hardly believe it. My parents and my family were in tears. Nobody in our family

had ever gone into politics – I was the first one. And I knew it wouldn't be easy.

As the villagers congratulated me, I realized the level of responsibility that

“
Standing on the threshold of something new. I felt ready to make positive and transformational changes.
”

I was taking on. Every person was looking at me with hope. I decided I would go all out to solve all the problems I had promised to address.

At our first meeting with the mayor, I was given a certificate signifying I was a member of the city council.

Standing on the threshold of something new. I felt ready to make positive and transformational changes.

For more dairy notes, please look at the UNDPKZ Facebook page.

Democratic Governance

International conference on public administration assessment in Astana. More than 100 participants, experts from Canada and Russia, government decision makers, NGO communities share their views and best practices on how to strengthen national system of public administration assessment.



DEVELOPING RESPONSIVE PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

Project “Strengthening Responsive Governance to Accelerate the Achievement of Millennium Development Goals in Kazakhstan.”

“Let me congratulate Kazakhstan on its achievements. You are only 20 years old, and you’re already working on a system of public administration efficiency, and doing it well. It took Canada 30 years to reach this point.”

DORIN WILLSON,
public-administration assessment expert from Canada.

As a young, progressive state, Kazakhstan is determined to build an efficient, modern public administration system.

While a number of complex public-administration reforms have been implemented, regional and local governments

still have difficulty delivering on their commitments. With the support of a presidential decree, in 2011 the President’s Administration, together with the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade, developed a national system for public-administration assessment. It covers national and regional – or oblast – executive bodies, capital cities, and cities of national status.

Realizing the scale of the reforms, the President’s Administration invited UNDP to join the initiative, bringing international expertise to the task. It did so with assistance from UNDP Global Programme on Governance Assessments and the Democratic Governance Thematic Trust Fund.

Goals of the reform project were to create a government-efficiency assessment system, promote government accountability, raise public awareness of government efficiency, attract multiple stakeholders to the efficiency effort and build civil-society capability.

The project started in June 2011. It has achieved the following results:

- Twenty-one civil society organizations from various regions of the country agreed to offer their thoughts about the assessment system. The pledge came after roundtable discussions and training sessions with state bodies. Similar seminars are planned nationwide in the next year, both for state and non-state stakeholders.

- Kazakhstan’s government-efficiency assessment methodology is being reviewed to align it with international standards and practices. Options for improvement will be identified with the help of national stakeholders.
- Two training sessions for national and regional governing bodies were carried out and gave civil servants the ability to conduct assessments and apply the results.
- Kazakhstan’s key decision-makers obtained hands-on experience and exchanged information on assessment practices during a study tour to Toronto, Canada and an international conference in Astana, Kazakhstan.



Baurzhan Baibek, Deputy Chief of Administration of the President gives comments to the media on the results of the first assessment of national public administration system that took place in 2010.

One of the main pillars for building efficient public administration system – is rendering rating system for regional administrations and government agencies.

This system assesses in particular, the progress on the achievement of the strategic goals, the fulfillment of the President’s decrees and acts of Parliament, the budget implementation, the quality of the government services, human resources management and the use of informational technologies in all of these. Pilot project on public administration assessment in 2010 measured the work of 16 regional

and 24 central agencies. Among regional administrations the lead was taken by Aktobe region, and among central agencies – by the Ministry of Communication and Information. There are no limits for improvement of the public administration service, and we are going to take our work forward in this direction.

BAURZHAN BAIBEK,
Deputy Chief of Administration of the President

In frames of the project "Save drinking water together" UNDP together with rural and NGO communities, local governors and Coca Cola company introduced water efficient drip irrigation system in the villages of Akmola oblast. These young activists from the local school took an active part in this initiative by installing the drip irrigation system in their school, and then introducing it further to their parents and peers.



PROMOTING ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AT ALL LEVELS

UNDP in Kazakhstan's portfolio of energy and environmental projects is aimed at helping the Government promote energy efficiency, develop renewable energy, manage water resources, engage in biodiversity and protect the environment at all levels.

The year 2011 was a milestone because it marked the culmination of longstanding environmental and biodiversity projects. We have successfully closed major projects, with new ones to be launched.

Natural-resource management projects that UNDP concluded in 2011 included: wetlands management, pasture management, mountain agrobiodiversity and Altai-Sayan eco-region conservation.

The wetlands project, and other initiatives on biodiversity, institutionalized new standards for environmental protection and introduced eco-friendly local economic development. A key step was UNDP and the Government agreeing on a common set of ecosystem-management

frameworks for all stakeholders to use.

Through the Small Grants Programme (SGP), which is supported by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), we provided funding to civil society for the projects to protect environment.

In 2011 SGP in Kazakhstan was implementing 38 projects related to biodiversity, climate change mitigation and adaptation, land degradation through civil society and community based organizations, totaling \$ 1 445 748.

IN THE AREA OF DISASTER REDUCTION THERE WERE NUMBER OF INITIATIVES THAT WERE SCALED UP IN 2011.

One of the key achievements was a Central Asia-wide agreement to establish a Regional Center for Disaster Response and Risk Reduction. Two Central Asian countries' Ministers of Emergency Situations signed the pact on World Humanitarian Day, 19 August 2012.

The aim of the project is to build inter-agency and regional cooperation to reduce the risk of disasters.

THE GOVERNMENT OF KAZAKHSTAN, WITH UNDP SUPPORT IN 2011 CONTINUED A PROJECT TO COMBAT THE PERSISTENT POLLUTANTS KNOWN AS POLYCHLORINATED BIPHENYLS (PCB).

PCBs were long used as coolants in electrical equipment such as transformers, capacitors and electric motors. These and other persistent organic pollutants (POPs) are a major problem not only in the global environment but also in Kazakhstan. According to a survey of Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, Kazakhstan is second only to Russia in level of PCB pollution.

The lack of specific regulations on PCBs constrains the systematic management of the dangerous waste. To improve this, the Ministry of Environmental Protection in collaboration with the UNDP/GEF project addressed the issue in a strategic manner. In 2011 the project updated the Environmental code of Kazakhstan with 11 sub points relating to POPs and PCB management. Recommendations covering the entire life-cycle of PCB management have been developed and the project has started pilot disposal of country PCB waste.



Participants of the workshop on PCB management at the practical demonstration of proper handling of PCB capacitors, Temirtau.

Energy and Environment

Wind capacity assessment study at Korday, Jambyl oblast



THE WIND WILL TURN INTO KILOWATTS

A seven-year-long wind-power initiative was one of the projects UNDP wrapped up in 2011. The government-supported effort was a step toward

Kazakhstan developing renewable energy. The technical information from the wind-power project was embraced by the public utilities association and

attracted the interest of banks and other companies. Kazakhstan built its first commercial wind-energy facility under the project.

Two wind-power stations with a combined capacity of 760 kilowatt hours have risen in Kazakhstan's Korday Crossing

The Izen-Su company built the stations under a joint project between the Government of Kazakhstan and the United Nations Development Programme. The project is named the Kazakhstan Wind Market Development Initiative.

The Korday Mountain area was chosen as the site because wind there blows at an average speed of 9 kilometers an hour during the year.

The number of wind generators is expected to triple, providing energy to the Korday region and beyond. The generators, which will help the ecosystem, are expected to ease an electricity shortage during peak hours.

VYACHESLAV LEBEDEV
Kazpravda.kz

"Finally! It's time to redirect the wind of the steppes in some useful direction. Otherwise it only messes up my hairdo."

NURGUL SMAGULOVA,
Facebook friend

"This is a very good start! Use of wind structures along the Djungar Gates should be introduced elsewhere. Regional authorities should take note of this initiative to keep from falling behind the changing world of technology."

BAKYTZHAN BAZARBEK,
Facebook friend

"Well done! Kazakhstan is full of wind, and it would be insane not to take advantage out of it."

ZHANNA KULUMBETOVA,
Facebook friend

Also in 2011, UNDP's Energy and Environment Unit has broadened its portfolio starting a pilot project on energy-efficiency in construction.

The effort involves erecting Kazakhstan's first energy-efficient apartment complex. The cornerstone of the structure was laid in 2011.

There is huge business potential in helping Kazakhstan become more energy-efficient. The Government's commitment to the effort means the sector is likely to

be a major growth industry.

An indication of the business potential is that the Government started in 2011 a \$7.5 billion program for reforming the communal sector, which includes measures retrofit multi-family housing for energy efficiency. One of the inspirations for the program was a UNDP pilot project that renovated five multi-family buildings for efficiency. The project also introduced the concept of an Energy Service Company.

The project initiative was highly appreciated by the Government, with the President of the country and the Vice-Prime Minister having visited pilot sites.

In 2011 new project on sustainable transport in Almaty City was approved by the Global Environmental Facility and started its work. Taking steps to create a sustainable public-transportation system, the project will not only reduce pollution but give Almaty residents better lives.

KAZAKHSTAN TAKES THE LEAD IN THE INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROCESS

In 2011, 21-23 September Kazakhstan held the Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference in Astana.

Key items on the agenda were water management and the green economy. Special attention was devoted to President Nursultan Nazarbayev's Green Bridge initiative, a proposal to build an environmentally friendly links between Europe and Asia.

UNDP helped the Government prepare for the conference and was an active participant in it.

The United Nations Development Programme delegation was headed

by Jens Wandel, Deputy Director of the UNDP's Regional Centre for Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States.

UNDP held many side events on energy and environment at the conference. The sessions covered such issues as climate-risk management, low-carbon development, green buildings, transboundary water management and waste management. Side-event participants included members of Government ministries and agencies, NGOs, rural communities, businesses and international experts.

Key objectives of the side events were to raise stakeholder awareness of actual issues, find ways to collaborate and seize funding opportunities.

UNDP representatives took part in plenary

sessions and roundtables as well as the side events.

In his statement on behalf of UNDP, Jens Wandel told participants:

"UNDP will work with partners in providing practical advice, tools and project proposals to support a transition toward a low-emissions development path and to safeguard environmental resources and eco-system services that are critical for livelihoods today and development prospects tomorrow."

The Ministry of Environmental Protection and UNDP also held an environmental movie festival during the conference. The event, aimed at raising public awareness of environmental issues—particularly among youth—attracted more than 500 people.

NEWCOMER 2011

UNDP STARTED A CLIMATE-RISK MANAGEMENT PROJECT FOR KAZAKHSTAN AND THE REST OF CENTRAL ASIA IN 2011

Supported by the Administration of Almaty Province, the project is developing strategies to help those who are most at risk from climate change.

Climate change poses considerable danger to the economy, the people and the environment of Kazakhstan.

The south—particularly Almaty—is the area most vulnerable to climate change, experts say. In fact, climate shifts are already affecting the area. Consequences include degradation of glaciers and water resources, reduced flows of mountain streams, and increases in extreme weather, including heat waves,

droughts and dust storms.

The region is also vulnerable to water-related calamities such as floods, avalanches and mudslides.

The combined effects of climate change pose risks to the region's safety and economy. Because southern Kazakhstan is a bastion of the country's economy, climate change threatens not only regional development but also national.

It is necessary to develop climate-risk management strategies to deal with the challenges.

The focus of UNDP's climate-risk-management project in Kazakhstan is helping Almaty-area communities reduce the threat through improving water resource management in agriculture and thereby decreasing the risks communities face from natural disasters.

NEWCOMER 2011

SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT IN ALMATY

Almaty is one of Kazakhstan's most unique cities. To start with, it is the largest city in the country, with a population of more than 1.6 million. It has a lot of beautiful nature and a dynamic and developing infrastructure and is considered the cultural and financial hub of the region.

Unfortunately, Almaty also has the distinction of being the world's ninth worst city when it comes to air pollution.

Cars and trucks produce 170,000 tonnes or 92 percent of Almaty's annual air pollutants, according to the City's Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Management.

More than half a million cars are registered in Almaty. The emissions from 80 percent of the

vehicles in the city—those older than seven years—far exceed the permissible limit. Emissions problems at parking lots and bus stops are obvious.

To address these issues, the Government of Kazakhstan and UNDP/GEF came up with a sustainable public transport initiative for Almaty.

The objective is to stop growth in transportation-related greenhouse gas emissions in the city. The project will accomplish this by improving public transportation and air quality management in Almaty, build efficient public transport infrastructure, and increase awareness of, and start pilot projects aimed at creating sustainable transport.

The project is implemented jointly with the Almaty City Administration with the financial support of the Global Environment Facility.



FUTURE INITIATIVES

UNDP BUILT ON THE SUCCESS OF ITS ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL EFFORTS BY STARTING SEVERAL NEW PROJECTS IN 2012-2013 IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE GOVERNMENT. THEY INCLUDE:

- ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN LIGHTING.
- SUSTAINABLE CITIES.
- DESERT ECOSYSTEM CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT.
- HEALTH-CARE WASTE MANAGEMENT.
- NATIONAL STRATEGY ON BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION.
- COMPREHENSIVE URAL RIVER MANAGEMENT.
- DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF INFORMATION SYSTEM ON THE MONITORING OF BIODIVERSITY IN PILOT SPECIALLY PROTECTED AREAS (SPAS) IN THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN.

Closer View

The wind was carrying the fragrance of wormwood, and the vastness of the steppes generated content in the hearts of a young boy and his grandfather.

The two were standing on a hill, contemplating the endless horizon and the freedom at their feet.

On this morning, Alteke, the leader of the southeastern-Kazakhstan settlement of Matybulak, got up earlier than usual to take his grandson for a walk in the summer pastureland, or zhailau.

"Grandpa, you know, it's so wonderful here! Why haven't you brought me before?" the boy asked.

"Yes, balam (son), it's nice here now," Grandpa replied. "But in the past this steppe had almost dried up."

The story goes back to the 1930s, when the nomads were forced to adopt a settled way of life, and the traditional lifestyle, in harmony with nature, was destroyed.

In late Soviet times there were attempts to restore the nomad lifestyle. Cattle and land were transferred to community-settlement ownership and pastures were regulated.

But the Soviet Union collapsed, and the number of cattle decreased, while land degradation accelerated. Nomad grazing settlements could no longer be established because most land became private and the only water reservoirs were near villages.

As a result, people started grazing cattle no further than 10 kilometers from a village. This led to quick deterioration of the land around the villages. Meanwhile, millions of hectares that were distant from the villages were unused to the point that they became overgrown with weeds.

I tried to persuade the villagers to graze their cattle further out, but the road to the zhailau was bad and wells had fallen into disrepair. There was nobody to repair the wells and no funds for it.

In addition, to pitch a summer grazing camp, the villagers needed yurts (tents) and kerosene lamps, since the pastureland was far away. And, of course, these things were not available. Our lands were slowly deteriorating,



Pasture lands of Kazakhstan occupy around 70% of the country's territory. For a long time these lands were a subject of overexploitation and irrational use, causing massive degradation. UNDP together with partners and the Government of Kazakhstan launched project on sustainable pasture management. With the use of small investments this project managed to improve pasture infrastructure and set up pasture management system, taking into account needs and interests of people living in these territories.

SUMMER ON THE PASTURELAND

and we couldn't do anything about it

When the situation became acute throughout Kazakhstan, the Government and UNDP came up with an idea. In 2009 they started a program on sustainable management of pastureland – a way to improve rural peoples' lives and protect the environment. The UNDP/GEF funded it.

The project focused on the cultural side of rural life rather than the financial side. That meant that the prime aim was to restore the old traditions of community pasture management.

The program set up Zhaylym Committees for local self-governance. The committees were tasked with fostering cooperation between the rural population and other stakeholders. This single-voice approach helped villagers

identify the most urgent issues in their area and, with the help of the project organizers, come up with solutions.

For example, four villages in South Kazakhstan had water-supply problems and lacked places for herders to live in the pastureland, especially in remote pastures. The project purchased yurts so the herders had shelter in far-away pastures. It also provided the pasture settlements with satellite communication and solar batteries. And it restored dried-up grassland wells.

In the project's first summer, the Zhaylym Committee agreed to relocate all of the community's livestock to the zhailau. Even those with only 10 to 15 sheep could take part, allowing the land around the village to recover.

The Government and UNDP also

collaborated on pasture-management laws. These efforts will ensure that the pasture-management practices we use are legal. The Ministry of Agriculture helped create the laws to ensure they would be in line with Kazakhstan's animal-husbandry development programmes.

The UNDP project is also looking for sources of revenue to pay for the dwellings and wells that herders need when they live on far-away grassland. The project is also seeking funds to introduce climate-resilient forage to pastures – plants that will withstand hot weather, dry wind and drought.

These efforts have revived our traditional pasture-management system. The work has been successful because it was rooted in the land and our

traditions. Because of this approach, all stakeholders have embraced the project – whether members of Government, rural communities or NGOs.

This project has not only contributed to Kazakhstan's rural development. It has also provided the entire world with a model for pasture management.

Horses' manes waved in the wind as the old man fell silent. The boy sat next to his Grandpa, happy. He was thinking about the exciting things he'd done that day – his first horse ride, drinking fresh kumys – a beverage made of mare's milk – fishing and cutting hay.

In many ways, this wonderful day wouldn't have taken place without the Government and UNDP work.

Highlights



Highlights of the pasture-management project impact since 2009 to 2012:

- Soil erosion in the area around piloted sites has reduced by 23.35%
- New infrastructures allowed receive a better quality of agricultural products, better quality of meat allowed people to get more benefits from their meat production. Within the project more than 520 families increased their incomes by 32.3%
- Rangeland area with unwanted plants has reduced by 8.6%
- Project approach has been replicated by other 6 projects within Central Asian Network on land management
- Distant pastures increased by 20% with an area of 45,000 ha.
- 4 Pasture Committees established by project are overseeing sustainable pasture practices around their areas
- Project has mobilized local communities to come up with initiatives on improving grazing in remote pastures, providing them with investments. Some of the results of this work: seven grasslands wells have been restored, allowing more than 35 000 head of cattle to graze in these lands. More than 900 hectares of land have been planted with forage crops, preventing land degradation in these lands. Villagers have been given equipment important for their remote-pasturing needs such as yurts, satellite phones, solar batteries, first-aid kits and living trailer.

These important results were achieved with minimal but appropriate investments which proved the efficiency and effectiveness of the project intervention. The project also indicated that support is needed for promoting the practices of sustainable rangeland management among local population for achieving positive and sustainable results.



ENERGY EFFICIENT KAZAKHSTAN

In 2011 one of the important programme pillars of UNDP was focused on promoting energy efficiency policy and implementing pilot projects to introduce energy efficient technologies in municipal district heating and in housing construction.

The issues of energy efficiency and energy saving are quite relevant for Kazakhstan as the energy intensity of the economy is quite high. The specific energy intensity of GDP in Kazakhstan is several times higher than the global average. Kazakhstan is the biggest source of greenhouse gas emissions in Central Asia and a global leader in the amount of emissions per unit of gross domestic product.

The key consumer of fuels and the key source of greenhouse gas emissions is the energy sector. The country, with its sharp continental climate and harsh winters along most of its area, has to use a lot of fuel for heating: heating costs are estimated to be about US\$ 600 million per annum. At the same time, the energy efficiency of heating remains low, resulting in over-consumption of fuel and increased costs of heating, causing major greenhouse gas emissions. Given this the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan supported by the UN Development Programme and the Global Environmental Facility are implementing a number of energy efficiency projects in Kazakhstan.

The expert of UNDP/GEF energy efficiency projects, Doctor of Science Gennady Doroshin, explained why the topic of energy efficiency is so important for Kazakhstan and what is being done in the country in this area:

- Mr. Doroshin, why the energy efficiency has become so topical for Kazakhstan?

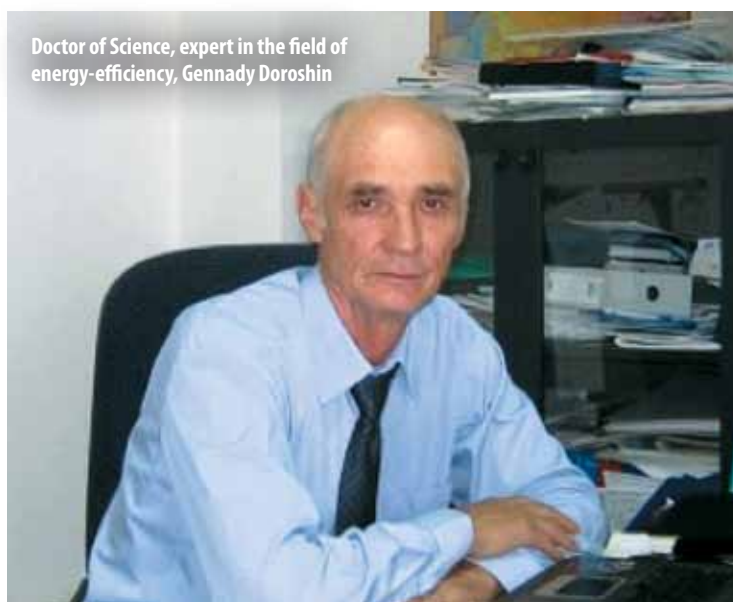
- In fact the need for improving the energy efficiency in municipal district

heating and in housing has been long overdue. The climatic conditions of Kazakhstan require significant consumption of fuel for heating (about 30% of total fuel consumed). At the same time the energy efficiency of central heating is very low. Heat losses can represent up to 50% of the initial heat produced by the fuel. The high level of heat losses is due to depreciated equipment at heat and power generating stations and boilers, and in heat supply networks (the

is around 120 – 140 kWt/h per 1 m² per year. This means that the specific consumption of heating for residential buildings is twice as much as in Western countries and the reason for that is not only climatic conditions but primarily the low energy efficiency of the residential buildings.

Moreover the expected growth of housing construction in Kazakhstan means further growth of energy consumption and therefore increased fuel consumption and greenhouse gas

Kazakhstan is the biggest source of greenhouse gas emissions in Central Asia and a global leader in the amount of emissions per unit of gross domestic product.



Doctor of Science, expert in the field of energy-efficiency, Gennady Doroshin

equipment is 25 – 40 years old) and lack of maintenance. The situation with consumers is no better. For example the average specific heat consumption by a multi-storey residential building in Kazakhstan is about 270 kWt/h per 1 m² per year, whilst this indicator in Western countries with similar climate

emissions. In this respect the increased energy efficiency of new construction is of high significance for reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

The objective of the UNDP/GEF projects is to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions through improved energy efficiency of the buildings

and heating systems. Reduction of heat consumption by buildings would reduce the use of fuel to produce heat thus resulting in a reduction of emissions of hazardous substances and greenhouse gases into the air of the cities and a reduction in the costs of municipal services to people.

Since 1998 UNDP, together with the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan, is implementing projects on energy efficiency. The project “Removing barriers to energy efficiency in municipal heat and hot water supply” is aimed at improving energy efficiency of district heating. The other project “Energy efficient design and construction in Kazakhstan” is focused on introduction of new practices in design and construction of buildings to improve the energy efficiency of housing.

- What are the strategic goals of Kazakhstan related to energy saving and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and how can UNDP help in achieving those goals?

- The Republic of Kazakhstan, being a member of the international community and a participant of the Framework UN Convention on climate change and Kyoto Protocol, has undertaken to voluntarily reduce GG emissions by 15% by 2020 and by 25% by 2050 compared to the base indicator of 2010. The 2020 Strategic Development Plan of the RK considers the reduction in greenhouse gas emissions as a strategic objective for the country. The target indicator in energy efficiency includes the reduction of specific energy intensity of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by at least 10% by 2015 and at least 25% by 2020. To achieve the above objective the economy of Kazakhstan needs to be modernized along the energy saving and improved energy efficiency path.

District heating is a key fuel consumer in Kazakhstan and therefore it is a key source of GG emission, which produces 25 – 30% of the total volume of GG in the country. The expected reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by the district heating sector as a result of implementation of the UNDP/GEF Project “Removing barriers to energy efficiency in municipal heat and hot water supply” would be about 5 million equivalent CO₂ tonnes per year, and for “Energy efficient design and construction in Kazakhstan” project – about 3 million equivalent CO₂ tonnes by the end of the project.

- What is the current status?

- At the moment the UNDP/GEF Project “Removing barriers to energy efficiency in municipal heat and hot water supply” is at the completion stage, and the implementation of the second project “Energy efficient design and construction in Kazakhstan” has just started.

A barrier in improving energy efficiency in the housing sector and in achieving energy efficiency in other sectors of economy is the underdeveloped legal and regulatory framework for energy efficiency and the tariff policy. To this end the UNDP projects actively participated in drafting the RK “Energy Saving and Improving Energy Efficiency Law”, which was adopted by the Government of Kazakhstan in January 2012. The law has a number of important provisions and requirements for the energy efficiency of buildings, structures and facilities supporting the promotion of energy efficiency in housing.

The project “Removing barriers to energy efficiency in municipal heat and hot water supply” is facilitating changes in tariff policy for district heating aimed at ensuring sustainability of municipal heating companies and attracting investments for energy efficiency. Some improvements have been noted. The transition to the investment tariffs in municipal heating would allow municipal companies to attract investments for modernization of equipment and reduction of energy losses during heat generation and transportation.

In 2011 the experts of “Energy efficient design and construction in Kazakhstan” project worked to improve the existing construction standards regulating the requirements for energy efficiency of buildings. The improvement of such requirements would allow enhancing quality control of construction projects and in the future would increase the number of buildings consuming 15% less energy on average for heating and ventilation compared to today.

- Are there any examples in housing, any pilot projects?

- Indeed, a number of pilot projects have been implemented in some residential and public buildings in some cities of Kazakhstan to demonstrate the capacity for energy efficiency improvement. These pilot projects demonstrated that a 20 – 30% reduction in heat consumption is achievable resulting in the reduction of heat bills. In particular some AAO (Association of apartment owners) of Astana City showed the effect of pilot

Breaking the ground for first energy-efficient building in Karaganda, September 2011



projects of above KZT 300,000 during one heating season. The pilot projects also demonstrate that improvement of energy efficiency of one multi-storey residential building would save up to 100 tonnes of greenhouse gases per year, and achieving this figure is worth the effort.

One pilot residential building in Karaganda even has flower pots on the staircase landing. It was warm on the stairs all the winter, and this was achieved by replacement of windows, construction of portals and double doors. Now residents can go down to the dry and clean basement in their slippers. The automated heating point and local boiling system are installed in the basement by the project. The residents are now paying only for the heat they really consume to maintain a comfortable temperature in their apartments.

The new pilot project for energy efficient construction should also be noted. Under the UNDP/GEF "Energy efficient design and construction in Kazakhstan" project the foundation was laid for the first energy efficient

residential building in Karaganda. This will be a 10-storey building comprising 170 apartments. The proposed designs and structural solutions for the new pilot house are supposed to be as energy efficient as possible. Thus the designs for energy consumption by the building would take into account the climate and comfort level in the apartments. Ventilation and heating systems would be capable of adjusting the ventilation regime and air temperature to the desires of the residents which would eventually result in a reduction of energy consumption by the building (by more than 30%) and will improve the comfort level and make it environment-friendly. For the future residents it would mean first of all a reduction in operational costs and comfortable living conditions. The introduction of energy efficient technologies would increase the cost of construction by 9.5%, and this will be financed by UNDP/GEF project. Construction will be done jointly with Karaganda City Akimat under the National Employment Programme 2020. Upon the completion of

construction in 2013 the UNDP/GEF project would monitor the reduction of energy consumption by the building and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

The pilot UNDP/GEF projects in multi-storey residential buildings and their results were demonstrated to the governmental delegation, including first Deputy Prime-Minister and the President of Kazakhstan. During his visit to Karaganda the President of the RK visited the first energy servicing company (ESCO) in Kazakhstan where he saw a demonstration of the advanced energy efficient technologies in heating.

- Can we say that energy efficiency is being introduced in Kazakhstan smoothly?

- Together with the success stories the pilot projects have also demonstrated a number of barriers to attracting investments in the energy efficiency of buildings. The key barriers to promoting energy efficiency in municipal heating include low heat tariffs which do not fully cover the costs of municipal heating companies

(consider the cost of heat in East Europe is \$50-100/Gcal, in Kazakhstan - \$10-30/GCal), the lack of metering devices for heat and billing based on average consumption norms for the housing sector. This hinders the transition of municipal heating companies to market based conditions, which could stimulate the operations of the companies related to energy saving. The residents are also not motivated to save heat as they pay for it based on average consumption rates. Due to low tariffs and billing based on consumption norms the government has to subsidise the municipal heating every year.

an energy-rich country and don't care much about energy and heat saving. I would like to note that this mentality is dictated by their living conditions. The same is true about energy saving.

“
Improvement of energy efficiency of one multi-storey residential building would save up to 100 tonnes of greenhouse gases per year.
”

A caring attitude to the natural resources of the country and environment should become the rule for all people of Kazakhstan. The right policy related to the cost of energy would give the required economic signal to save energy, improve energy efficiency, and to ensure a caring attitude to natural resources and environment. To conclude it should be noted that the adoption of the RK Energy Saving and

- What should be done to ensure the ownership of every citizen of Kazakhstan of the energy efficiency projects, to make consumers more caring both for their own benefit and for the benefit of the country?

- As it was mentioned earlier the energy efficiency development should be based on the economics of energy saving. A lot is yet to be done here to make energy efficiency economically viable in Kazakhstan.

As for the mentality of Kazakhstani people, one can say that they live in

Energy Efficiency Law has established the legal framework for improving the energy efficiency of the economy of Kazakhstan and to changing the attitude to energy saving amongst energy consumers. This law will support the strategic goals of Kazakhstan of improving the energy efficiency of economy and reducing the greenhouse gas emissions as well as the implementation of UNDP/GEF projects aimed at improving energy efficiency of buildings and district heating in the country.



Opening of the school after energy-efficient modernization and reconstruction, Astana, 2011



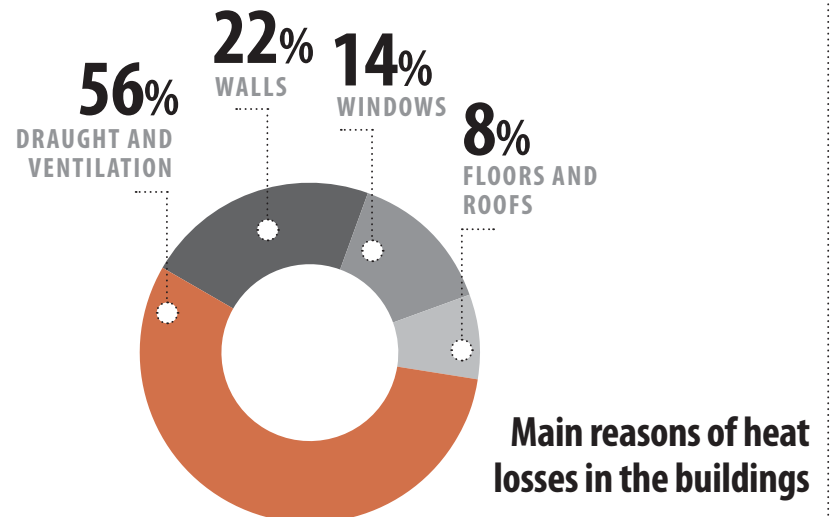
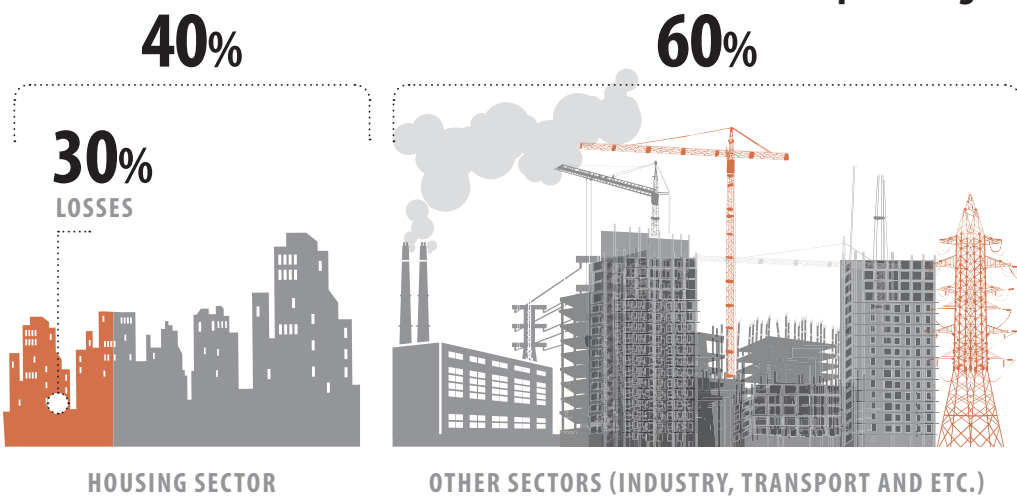
First Vice Prime Minister, Umirzak Shukeev visiting one of the pilot projects on energy efficiency in Almaty, 2011

ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN FIGURES:

- SEVEN RESIDENTIAL AND PUBLIC BUILDINGS IN ASTANA, ALMATY AND KARAGANDA WERE PROVIDED WITH \$5.9 MILLION WORTH OF INVESTMENTS TO IMPROVE THE ENERGY EFFICIENCY OF HEATING SYSTEMS.
- HEATING COSTS WERE REDUCED BY 25% IN EACH PILOT PROJECT.
- ABOVE \$7.4 BILLION WILL BE ALLOCATED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF KAZAKHSTAN UNDER THE NATIONAL PLAN OF MODERNIZATION OF HOUSING AND UTILITIES IN 2011 – 2020.
- DUE TO THE USE OF PROPOSED ENERGY EFFICIENT TECHNOLOGIES THE ENERGY CONSUMPTION BY THE PILOT HOUSE IN KARAGANDA WILL BE REDUCED BY 35% WITH THE OVERALL COST OF THE PROJECT INCREASING BY ONLY 9.5% (KZT188,649 MILLION).

ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN MUNICIPAL HEAT SUPPLY IN KAZAKHSTAN

Consumption of generated heat

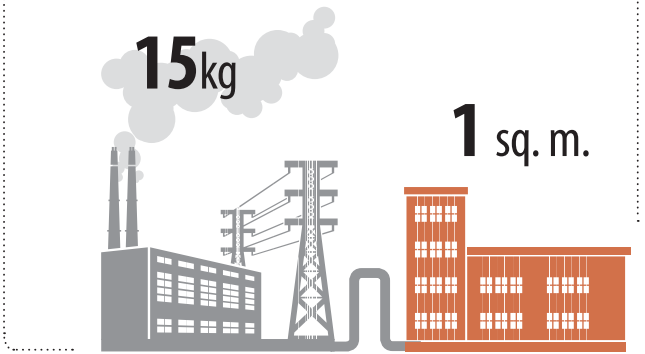
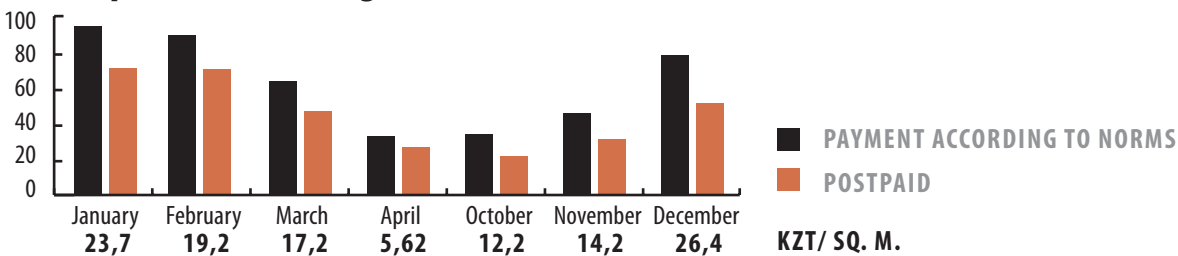


Methods to reduce heat losses



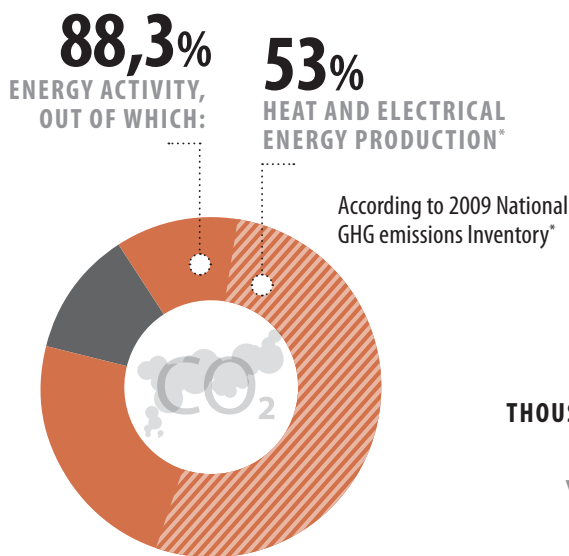
To warm 1 sq.m of apartment in Astana 15 kg of GHG are emitted into atmosphere

Funds saved from reducing the heat losses on the example of pilot multi-apartment building in Astana

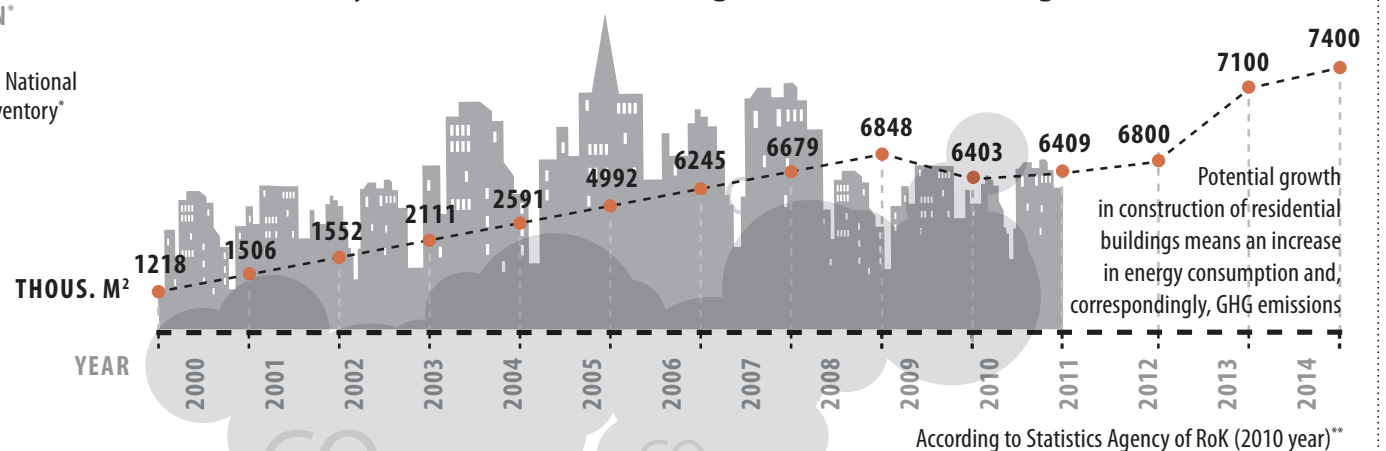


INFLUENCE OF RESIDENTIAL SECTOR ON THE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IN KAZAKHSTAN

Kazakhstan occupies the first place in the world in terms of specific indicator of GHG emissions per GDP unit (3.38kg/US dollar)



Dynamics of commissioning of residential buildings in Kazakhstan**



Kazakhstan announced its decision to reduce GHG emissions by

15% BY 2020
25% BY 2050 FROM THE BASELINE OF 1992

Residential sector is the third major consumer of the heat and electrical energy

271,7 mln. m² out of which: **65%** RESIDENTIAL SECTOR OF KAZAKHSTAN**

BUILDINGS OF THE SOVIET ERA, THE ENERGY CONSUMPTION OF WHICH IS 2-3 TIMES HIGHER THAN THOSE IN NORTHERN COUNTRIES OF WESTERN EUROPE AND EQUALS TO 226-270 KW/H ON M² PER YEAR***

According to IEA***



United Nations Volunteers helping elderly people living alone to store firewood for the wintertime in the village of Eastern Kazakhstan.



UNV in Kazakhstan marked the 10th anniversary of the International Year of Volunteers with activities in Astana aimed at promoting volunteerism. One event was a competition for journalists, with recognition accorded those doing the best job of telling the volunteerism story. UNV gathered volunteers from across the country in Astana on December 5 – International Volunteer Day. The event recognized their achievements and promoted volunteerism. The Civil Alliance, the largest NGO umbrella organization in Kazakhstan, partnered with UNV in the effort. Also in 2011, the United Nations issued its first State of the State of the World's Volunteerism Report. It focuses on the universal values that motivate people to work for the common good. It also examines the impact of volunteerism on individuals and societies.

The report is expected to generate a better appreciation of volunteerism's potential. It's also expected to encourage officials to incorporate volunteerism into their strategic thinking. Volunteerism could play a key role in national planning and development, for example. In the year 2012, UNV in Kazakhstan is focusing on such important objectives as sustainable development, youth empowerment and civil engagement.

INSPIRATION IN ACTION

The year 2011 was important for the United Nations Volunteers programme because it marked the tenth anniversary of the International Year of Volunteers.

The goal of UNV, whose efforts in Kazakhstan are overseen by UNDP, is to use volunteerism to foster global peace and development.

UNV spreads the word about

the benefits of volunteerism, mobilizes volunteers in Kazakhstan and elsewhere, and works with partners to integrate volunteerism into development programming.

UNV spearheaded several projects in Kazakhstan in 2011. The work was aimed at promoting the values of volunteerism, raising awareness of volunteers'

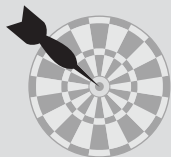
contributions to national and community development, building and reinforcing volunteering networks, and promoting peace and development through volunteering.

A key event was a roundtable and civic forum on the legal underpinning of volunteering. Participants included members of Parliament,

ministry representatives and NGOs.

UNV also held a workshop on managing volunteers for Government officials and NGOs. And it sponsored a training-the-trainers workshop for those who were to recruit and supervise volunteers for the Seventh Asian Winter Games in Astana and Almaty.

UNDP's 2012 resolutions



Focus

IN 2012 UNDP IS FOCUSING ON IMPROVING HUMAN CAPITAL AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT IN KAZAKHSTAN.

People are at the center of our efforts. We want them to both participate in and benefit from our projects. The goal is to give people the knowledge and tools to build communities and create change.



Create something that betters the lives of others

IN 2012 UNDP IN KAZAKHSTAN IS WORKING WITH THE GOVERNMENT TOWARD THE GOAL OF ACHIEVING ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL WELLBEING FOR ALL.

We are broadening our efforts to help the Semipalatinsk area recover and develop, and reaching out for Kyzylorda region. As we carry out our work, we keep in mind the twin goals of facilitating socio-economic modernization and using approaches that help all of those in need.



Mind the future

IN 2012 UNDP IS CONTINUING TO HELP KAZAKHSTAN MOVE TOWARD SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.

We are working with the Government on a post-Rio 20+ action plan based on the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals. Two of our objectives are to help the Government adopt sustainable-energy and environmental-protection policies and to integrate those policies with economic and social policies.



Work smarter

IN 2012 UNDP IN KAZAKHSTAN IS WORKING WITH THE GOVERNMENT ON WAYS TO DELIVER PUBLIC SERVICES MORE EFFICIENTLY.











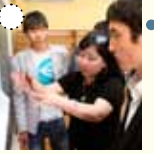









We are offering advice and support on modernizing public administration and the civil service, and on fostering civic participation. Our objectives are to improve delivery of services to help improve people's lives, to make government service providers more accountable, and to strengthen human capital.

UNDP IN KAZAKHSTAN 2011 TIMELINE



Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.



January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
<p>1 JANUARY Climate Risk Management initiative launched.</p> 	<p>1 FEBRUARY Aid for Trade enters second phase.</p> <p>8 FEBRUARY Ministry of Environmental Protection prioritizes low-carbon development, with UNDP support.</p>  <p>16 FEBRUARY Project on energy-efficient construction launched.</p>	<p>11 MARCH The Buiratau National Preserve is established in partnership with the Forestry and Hunting Committee of the Ministry of Agriculture.</p>  <p>24 MARCH The Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, with UNDP support, creates an action plan for improving the lives of the disabled.</p>  <p>28 MARCH More than 100 Kazakhstan journalists take a UNDP training programme on governance and public administration.</p> <p>30 MARCH The Ministry of Environmental Protection and UNDP/GEF team up to begin preparations for the Third National Convention on climate change in Astana.</p>	<p>5 APRIL Kazhydromet receives equipment to improve climate-change modeling and to forecast such dangerous weather events as floods and mudslides.</p>  <p>6 MAY Deputy Prime Minister of Kazakhstan Umirzak Shukeev visits an energy-efficiency demonstration project in Almaty.</p>  <p>12-13 MAY A regional conference on developing renewable energy sources is organized, following in the footsteps of a wind-power initiative.</p>	<p>4 JULY Wild apple tree genetic reserves gain protected status under a joint Kazakhstan Government and UNDP/GEF agrobiodiversity project.</p>  <p>15 JUNE First regional meeting on managing Caspian bio-resources focuses on a new fisheries agreement.</p> 	<p>5 AUGUST A major project on wetlands preservation is completed.</p>  <p>13 AUGUST A Tehran convention protocol on regional cooperation in combating oil pollution is signed in Atyrau at the third conference of the parties.</p> <p>19 AUGUST Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan agree to establish a Central Asian Center for Disaster Response and Risk Reduction.</p> 	<p>15 SEPTEMBER National Election Commission and UNDP unveil the Web portal www.umat.kz to encourage youths to participate in the election process and public affairs.</p> 	<p>1 SEPTEMBER Programmes for combating HIV/AIDS in five Kazakhstan regions are developed.</p> <p>15 SEPTEMBER Construction begins on first energy-efficient residential building in Karaganda.</p>  <p>27-28 SEPTEMBER A network of journalists interested in promoting gender equality is established under the UNDP Gender Project.</p> 	<p>11 OCTOBER Parliament holds a hearing on issues related to the immigration of ethnic Kazakhs who have long lived overseas.</p>  <p>18 OCTOBER An alliance of high-tech energy-efficient and innovation companies is established under the UNDP/GEF Energy-Efficiency Project.</p> <p>24 OCTOBER The Web site www.bagalau.kz is launched as a one-stop shopping place for information on public-administration assessment.</p>  <p>26 OCTOBER International conference on public-administration assessment is held in Astana.</p>  <p>2 NOVEMBER An energy-efficient school is unveiled in Astana with support from the Mayor's Office and UNDP.</p>  <p>15 NOVEMBER Kazakhstan officials and international partners visit the Regional Stockholm Monitoring Center as a step toward establishing a country pollution monitoring system.</p> 	<p>20 DECEMBER Kazakhstan adds greenhouse-gas-reduction amendments to its pollution laws under a joint Government and UNDP climate-change initiative.</p>  <p>21 DECEMBER Kazakhstan uses UNDP recommendations in adopting an energy-savings and energy-efficiency law.</p> 		

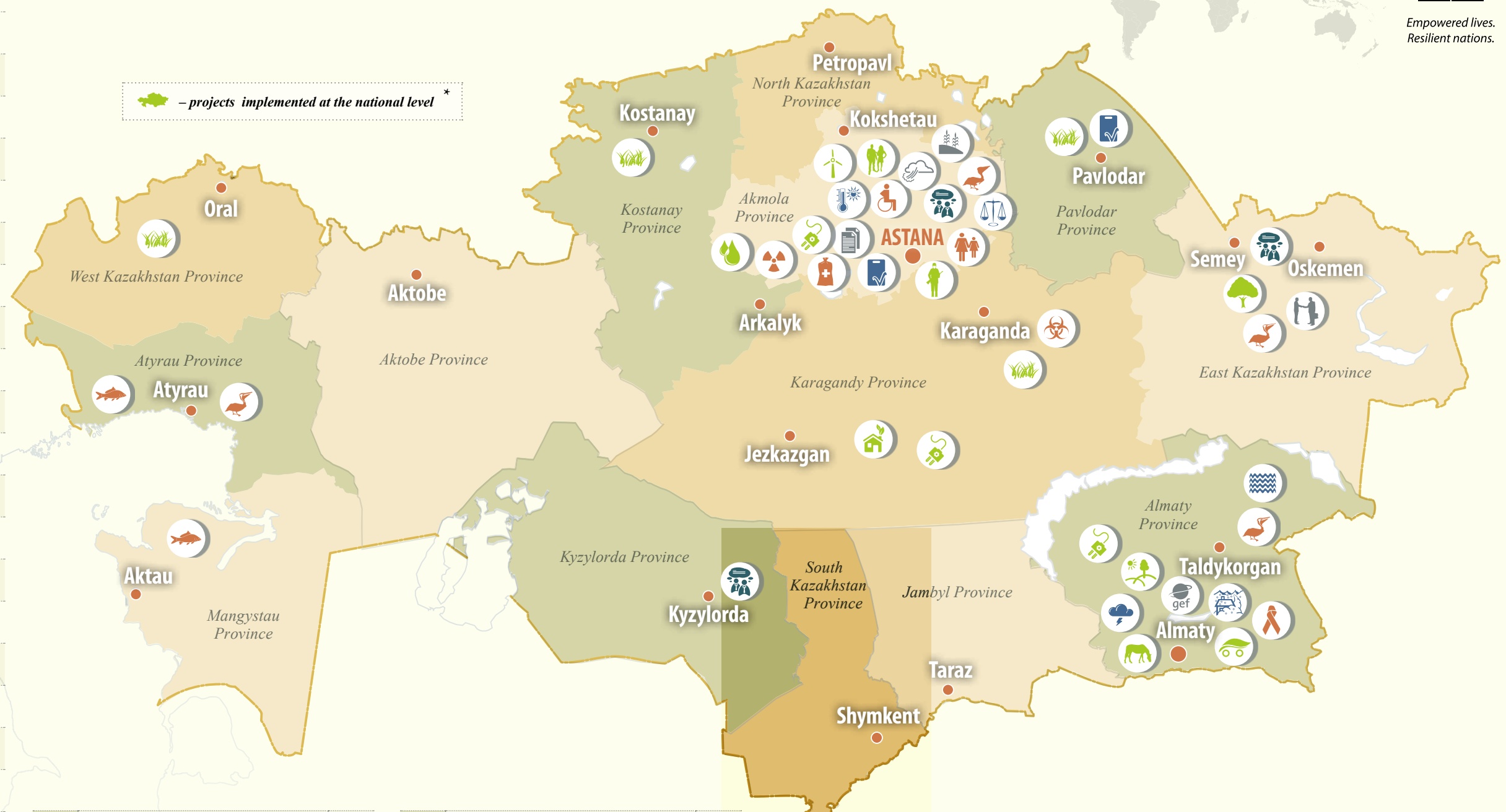
UNDP PROJECTS IN KAZAKHSTAN



Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.

	HIV/AIDS programme	
	Project on enhancing human security in Semey region	
	Rendering mediation institute	
	Strengthening responsive governance	
	Gender equality	
	Promoting participation in elections	
	Social protection of persons with disabilities	
	Border management in Central Asia	
	Strengthening judicial system	
	Promoting the rights of civil society	
	Mountain agro-biodiversity conservation	
	Wetlands conservation	
	Steppe ecosystems management	
	Biodiversity conservation	
	Sustainable land management	
	Rangelands management	
	Caspian sea conservation	
	Third National Communication on climate change preparation	
	Promoting energy-efficiency	
	Promoting energy-efficient in construction buildings	
	Integrating climate change issues to the national agenda	
	Sustainable transport management	
	Persistent organic pollutants management	

– projects implemented at the national level *



	Disaster risk reduction	
	Medical waste management	
	Introducing drip irrigation	
	Water resource management	
	Wind power management	
	Small Grants Programme, Global Environmental Facility	
	Climate risk management	
	Sustainable radioactive waste management	

