



DSG *central*

I. Major development and political events in Kazakhstan

The macroeconomic situation in the country remained stable over past years. In 2006 the growth of GDP made up 10%; industrial production volume increased by 7% generally, and by 7.3% - in manufacturing industry.

In March 2006 with his annual address to the people of Kazakhstan, the President determined the new national strategy of joining the world's 50 most competitive countries that considers economic diversification, successful integration into the world economy, social policy development and vulnerable groups protection, education reform, modernization of political system, implementation of national security strategy and international cooperation. Some of strategy's directions are closely linked to MDGs.

The Concept of transition of Kazakhstan to sustainable development and the Concept paper on civil society were adopted in 2006. The priorities of the new Cabinet, formed in January 2007, will be "education and healthy nation".

Kazakhstan continues to play an active role in initiating the dialogue between countries and religions; in 2006 it hosted the second summit of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia (CICA) and the second Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions. 15 years after the closure of Semipalatinsk Nuclear Testing Site, Central Asian foreign ministers signed there an Agreement on establishment of Nuclear-free zone.

In 2006 HIV infection outbreak in children's hospitals occurred in South-Kazakhstan oblast (region): according to the data of the Ministry of Healthcare, there are 88 confirmed HIV cases among children, out of whom 8 died. Political leaders of the country expressed serious concern about the situation: operational plan to combat intrahospital outbreak was designed, adopted and is under implementation; the program for fighting HIV epidemic in South-Kazakhstan oblast for 2007-2010 was designed and will be adopted soon; additional resources were allocated. UNCT Kazakhstan expressed to the Government its readiness to provide assistance and cooperation to minimize consequences of the outbreak and avoid occurrence of such accidents in future. UNCT provided support to the Government of Kazakhstan to develop adequate intervention, which was in line with international recommendations and based on country needs, including technical expertise in relevant areas (antiretroviral treatment, medical help and support to children with HIV, HIV counseling for those who are affected and infected, combating stigma and discrimination) and developed the plan of UN joint response/support to combat HIV outbreak in South Kazakhstan.

II. Summary on progress towards UNDAF outcomes

2006 is the second year of the UNDAF cycle in Kazakhstan. The UNDAF covers the period of 2005-2009 and is synchronized and aligned with the national mid-term development strategy "Kazakhstan-2010" and its objectives.

UN Theme Groups have been playing an instrumental role in UNDAF implementation through providing fora for internal information sharing, joint planning, formulation of joint initiatives and joint programs as well coordinated interactions with national and international counterparts.



The UNDAF review with the Government planned for 2006 was not held due to lack of staff availability and resources from the side of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In the light of expected resignation of the cabinet, there was a decision of UNCT to re-schedule UNDAF review for 2007 and to conduct it as a mid-term review with newly formed Government.

UNDAF Outcome I - Reduced (income and human) poverty at national and sub-national levels

In 2006 the UN-supported evaluation of the National Poverty Reduction Programme for 2003-2005 helped to understand the existing gaps in the government's programme development and implementation processes. The recommendations of the evaluation will be used for future national and sectoral programs on poverty related issues.

Another achievement of joint UN efforts is the programme in Semipalatinsk developed collectively by UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA and UNV, and approved by the UN Human Security Trust Fund funded by the Government of Japan in December 2006.

In 2006, building on the experience of a successful implementation of a Joint Programme that aims at attainment of health-related MDGs in South Kazakhstan oblast, a project on "Localizing MDGs in SKO" was started targeting MDGs 1, 7 and 8 with particular focus on governance as a cross cutting issue. Discussions are underway to coordinate activities of the UN agencies under one Joint Programme in SKO.

In 2006 independent international and national evaluators assessed progress toward the outcome of "A comprehensive approach to sustainable development integrated into national development planning and linked to poverty", which falls into the UNDAF Outcome I. The recommendations of the evaluation helped in shaping the next phase of assistance to the Government of Kazakhstan on integrating principles of sustainable development into national policies and programs.

In 2006, UNICEF, UNFPA, ILO in collaboration with the National Statistical Office completed a Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (15,000 households with data representative for the sub-national level).

Some of the Local Risk Management activities comprise a joint component of the program implemented in partnership between UNDP and UNESCO at the national level, broader cooperation with UN ISDR at the regional level, including joint coordination and planning with the ADRC and UN-OCHA for the up-coming pan-Asian conference in June 2007.

A special component on risk reduction and mitigation for women and children in rural areas was developed and co-financed by UNDP/ UNIFEM, directly integrating gender concerns into the programme work on disaster preparedness.

UNDAF Outcome II – Improved access to quality basic social services

The Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey produced diversified data concerning the status of women and children in Kazakhstan, which is instrumental for monitoring progress of the country towards MDGs, strengthening/adjusting programmes and projects implemented by UN and the

Government. Also, a Comprehensive Analysis of Maternal, Infant and Child Mortality conducted in the country in 2006 provided analysis on the causes of mortality and current MCH practices and provided recommendations for the improvement of quality MCH services to ensure mother and child survival. To ensure standardization of MCH, WHO and UNFPA took a leading role in providing assistance to the Ministry of Health in the development of Clinical Practices Guidelines and Protocols. This work will be completed in 2007.

The multi-year Joint Programme continued to provide technical assistance to the Ministry of Health and the South Kazakhstan Oblast Health Department in capacity building of health professionals on introduction and implementation of such programmes, as Making Pregnancy Safer, Essential Obstetric Care and Essential Newborn Care, Integrated Management of Childhood Illnesses and Better Parenting, revision of relevant regulations.

Piloting of five Youth Friendly Services supported by UNICEF and UNFPA resulted in developing a basic model of PHC and community based services for young people. In 2006, the Prime Minister and MOH issued an order on the propagation of YFS in Kazakhstan.

Support to scaling up harm reduction, ensuring universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support was provided by WHO and UNAIDS, targets of universal access were incorporated into the National Programme on AIDS for 2006 – 2010, technical support to health professionals in improved monitoring the HIV/AIDS response was provided through making available CRIS to all regional AIDS Centres of the country. Capacities of media were strengthened through training workshops on ethical coverage of HIV issues conducted by UNAIDS, UNDP, UNESCO and UNICEF.

To improve quality of education a set of Child Friendly Schools indicators were tried out and finalized, and a methodology for school assessment was drafted and will be validated with the Ministry of Education next year. Capacity of education policy-makers was enhanced in Education for All through the Central Asian Education Forum and consultative meetings aimed to promote country level support and coordination in EFA implementation. A full package of Life Skills Based Education (LSBE) for 9 – 11 grades was developed, piloted and evaluated. National ECCE policies were reviewed and best ECCT policy and practices were disseminated among Central Asian Countries.

UNDAF Outcome III – Professional capacity, effectiveness and accountability of the Governance structure and participation of civil society in decision making enhanced

In 2006 significant progress was made in building professional capacity both in the governance structure and in the participation of civil society. A highlight was the creation and implementation of the Public Experts Chamber set up under the Kazakhstani Parliament to review and make recommendations regarding relevant draft laws and contribute expert reports. This body, comprised of nongovernmental organizations, trade unions and academics has already made major contributions to the development of social and economic policy.

Development of The Human Rights National Action Plan for Kazakhstan was another key area of success for UNCT in 2006; advisory services to national stakeholders involved in creating the baseline study and assessment for the Plan, strategic research and publications have strengthened the platform for human rights in the country. The first Human Rights Digital Library for

Kazakhstan was launched, bringing current, easily accessible human rights information directly to all citizens. It is especially noteworthy that the state has assumed ownership of the project, thereby ensuring its sustainability.

Agencies collaborated to enhance the skills of parliament members, judges, media, teachers and librarians on diverse subjects such as self-governance and corporate fiscal responsibility, anti-corruption, trafficking and drugs, ethics and human rights education, freedom of expression, gender sensitivity and civil society. Building capacity with regard to gender sensitivity issues was facilitated through the completion and dissemination of the Gender Supplement to the MDGs as well as trainings and the publications on CEDAW principles.

Cross-cutting outcome - Legislative base and policy for promotion of gender equality and the advancement of women strengthened

In 2006 UN agencies continued to work with the National Commission on family affairs and gender policy to support developing a National Gender Equality Action Plan (NAP) which was approved by the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan in June 2006. The NAP sets specific tasks and allocates responsibilities to state bodies in executing these tasks which signifies an important achievement in providing the National Commission with real authority to implement the Gender Equality Strategy adopted in 2005. Supported by UN Agencies both technically and financially, participatory discussion of the draft NAP supported putting a number of gender priorities on the Government's agenda:

- Commitment to finalize preparation and submit for adopting in Parliament of RK two important pieces of legislation: law on equal rights and equal opportunities of men and women and Law on Domestic Violence;
- Incorporation of gender-disaggregated statistical approach in state programming and monitoring;
- Commitment to study, adapt and ultimately apply gender responsive budgeting;

UNIFEM took the lead in coordinating UN agencies' flow of information to ensure that no duplication of activities to assist National Commission in implementing NAP will be made due to information gaps.

In accordance to the NAP, UNIFEM launched in August 2006 a joint project to draft a Law on Equal rights and Equal Opportunities. The Draft was discussed during several round-tables with active participation of civil society, state officials, and parliamentarians. Having incorporated valuable suggestions made to the drafters making bouncing of potential criticisms possible, and the Draft Law was submitted in November 2006 to the Parliament for adoption. According to the Parliamentary schedule of law-making activities, it is anticipated that the Draft law should be agreed upon and adopted in early 2007.

III. Summary on progress in UN Reform:

3.1. Efforts to align with the national development processes

Meetings and discussions were continued with the Ministry of Economy and Budget Planning on issues of UN annual project proposal submission and cost sharing possibilities, to streamline procedures which are now divided between the Ministry of Economy and Budget Planning, which

authorizes the state budgets and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which is the main counterpart of the UN. Negotiations are still in progress; further discussions will be a key to strengthen aid coordination and effectiveness in 2007. Together with the UNDAF review, a discussion will be held with the government on the Paris Declaration as well as on the on-going UN Reform.

3.2. Support to the national government in the preparation, implementation, and/or revision of comprehensive MDG-based national development strategies

In 2006 UNCT continued to present the main findings of the MDG report in the regions of Kazakhstan. The report was presented in Semipalatinsk (East-Kazakhstan oblast), where the launch was combined with the follow-up meeting to UN GA Resolution on International cooperation and coordination for human and ecological rehabilitation and economic development of Semipalatinsk region. Government representatives, local authorities, donors and CSO took part in discussions. In 2006 the UN Trust Fund for Human Security funded by the Government of Japan approved the Joint programme “Enhancing Human Development in the Former Nuclear Test Site of Semipalatinsk”, and its implementation will be started in 2007. The meeting on MDGs progress in Atyrau oblast was held by UNCT in October 2006, envisioning private-public partnership in the discussion of MDG. This first meeting helped determine priority directions of cooperation between government, local authorities, business sector and civil society for MDGs achievement in Atyrau oblast.

The South-Kazakhstan oblast is a pilot region where the local administration is supported in elaboration of MDG-based Territorial Development Strategy (2007-2015). Here the MDGs 1,7,8 needs assessment was conducted and recommendations on how to achieve MDGs are being worked out. Following an agreement of the UN agencies and endorsed by UNCT, a Joint Programme based on MDGs will be developed in SKO, with sub-programmes on health services, HIV/AIDS, and territorial (regional) development.

3.3. Progress UNCTs are making collectively in support of the national partners' endeavors towards capacity development and aid effectiveness

The Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) was completed in 2006. The Survey was initiated in 2005 to collect data relating the situation of children and women to contribute to tracking progress towards MDGs and World Fit for Children goals. Technical support to the implementation of MICS strengthened national statistical capacity in designing and implementing internationally recognized population survey-based systems and provided a wealth of information for decision makers.

3.4. Experiences with joint programmes and HACT, as well as other highlights in coordination

- Joint Program with Ministry of Health on improved management and quality of health care system /Continued joint program “Improvement of PHC/MCH quality services in South Kazakhstan Oblast”(UNICEF/UNFPA/WHO);
- Continuation and finalization of joint initiative on MICS (UNICEF/UNFPA/ILO);
- UNCT-MoFA led donor meeting held in Semipalatinsk as a follow up to 10/28/2005 UNGA Resolution on International cooperation and coordination for the human and ecological rehabilitations and economic development of the Semipalatinsk region of Kazakhstan combined with MDG Report presentation;

- MDGR launch in Atyrau oblast held/UNCT discussions with local authorities and business sector on cooperation for MDGs achievement in Atyrau region;
- Operationalization of the Inter-Agency Working Group on roll-out of Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfer; development and implementation of common Work Plan (*HACT IAWG Chair: UNFPA*);
- UN Joint response on HIV outbreak in South Kazakhstan (*UN TG on HIV/AIDS*);
- TF on Statistics established, national partners' participation in DevInfo trainings;
- Joint program in Semipalatinsk "Enhancing Human Development in the Former Nuclear Test Site of Semipalatinsk", approved by UN Trust Fund for Human Security (*UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNV*);
- Digital library on Human Rights launched (*UNDP/UNESCO*);
- UN TG on Governance and Human Rights operationalized (*Chair: UNESCO*);
- Joint Program on Disaster preparedness theater-forum for women and children in most hazardous rural areas of Kazakhstan, under joint AWP with pooled funding (*UNDP, UNIFEM*) finalized;
- Joint UN Team on AIDS operationalized;
- Joint initiative on Capacity building support for the implementation of the Gender Equality strategy;
- Continued Breast Cancer joint initiative (*UNFPA/UNDP*);
- UNCT brochure produced in Kazakh and Russian languages (*UN Communications TF*);
- Reuters media training held for UNCT (*with support of UN Communications TF*);
- MDGs trainings for students (*UNV, UNDP*)

IV. Key aspects of the proposed 2007 workplan

- UNDAF mid-term review with the Government/ strategy setting meeting with the new Cabinet (*RC Office*);
- Joining of sub-programmes in South-Kazakhstan oblast into one JP based on MDGs (*almost all UN Agencies involved*); relevant UNCT visits and negotiations with local administration;
- Joint program in Semipalatinsk "Enhancing Human Development in the Former Nuclear Test Site of Semipalatinsk" (*UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNV*);
- UN Outreach Joint Program initiation/implementation; UN Communications strategy development (*Communications TF*);
- Continued negotiations with the Government on allocation of new and expanded office space for UN Common Premises in Astana (*RC, OMT*);
- Follow-up meeting with Atyrau oblast administration upon further cooperation; UN Joint advocacy visit to Central Kazakhstan (*RC office*);
- HACT: conduction of macro, micro assessment (*HACT IAWG*);
- Joint UNDP/UNFPA project "consolidated response to breast cancer" scaling-up due to additionally raised funds;
- Elaboration of UN Contingency Plans on Avian Influenza and Natural/Man-made disasters (*UN DMT*);
- Joint initiative on Capacity building support for the implementation of the Gender Equality strategy: continuation under AWP. (*UNIFEM, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNDP*)

V. Recommendations

The work effectiveness of the UN Theme Groups as coordination mechanisms should be improved, as duplication and overlap still exist. In this respect the planning procedures need revision in the light of joint UNDAF outcomes/outputs to be achieved.