

# Progress in Kazakhstan country in 2021

Data as of:  
23 April 2024

## OUTCOME XM-DAC-41146-KAZ\_D\_3.1

**By 2025, effective, inclusive and accountable institutions ensure equal access for all people living in Kazakhstan, especially most vulnerable, to quality and gender sensitive social services according to the principle of leaving no one behind (Outcome 1.1. UNSDCF 2021–2025)**

Significant progress has been made towards the elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls in the country. In 2021 under the auspice of the Generation Equality Forum Kazakhstan made official commitments and became an Action Coalitions Commitment Maker to address Gender-Based Violence. UN Women contributed to this by providing a full-fledged expert, financial and technical support to the implementation of Kazakhstan's Action Coalitions' commitments such as conducting the Second National Study on Prevalence of VAWG, establishing a Regional Virtual Community of Practice and Virtual Repository of materials for Central Asia on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment and contributing to the implementation of the Spotlight Initiative Regional Programme for Central Asia and Afghanistan aimed at eliminating SGBV and HP in the region. Moreover, in the light of the President of Kazakhstan Mr. Tokayev address at the 5th convening of the National Council of Public Trust state bodies, including the General Prosecutor Office and the Ministry of Interior started work on strengthening DV legislation and coordination mechanism, systematic social, psychological and educational work with perpetrators, optimizing the entire criminal legislation and studying the possibility to criminalize again these offences, tightening responsibility for domestic violence offences. The President noted that the restrictions imposed on perpetrators must be implemented in practice. Therefore, the police began to improve the institution of protective orders. In particular, the problems of combating crimes against the person, including in the family and household sphere, will be comprehensively studied for the development of further actions in prevention and addressing SGBV in Kazakhstan. The key partners, the National Commission for Women and Family Affairs and Demographic Policy under the President of Kazakhstan, the Ministries of Labour, Foreign Affairs and Information with support of UN Women contributed to this by advocating on advancing the ERAW agenda on the level of the government and across partners, including CSOs, initiating the new DV legislative amendments and engaging in global, regional and sub-regional levels activities. Gender Equality was also announced as one of key priorities for Kazakhstan's membership in the UN Human Rights Council (2022–2024). Based on the progress made, the outcome remains strongly relevant to the national context and the New Strategic Note 2022–2025 of UN Women Kazakhstan and its Theory of Change assessment.

## OUTCOME XM-DAC-41146-KAZ\_D\_3.2

**By 2025, effective, inclusive and accountable institutions ensure equal access for all people living in Kazakhstan, especially most vulnerable, to quality and gender sensitive social services according to the principle of leaving no one behind (Outcome 1.1. UNSDCF 2021–2025)**

Notable progress has been made towards achieving The Spotlight Initiative Outcome . Regional efforts were mobilised to work on ending all forms of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) in Central Asia, transform national legislation so that implementation comprehensively and meaningfully prevents and protect against SGBV and harmful practices, change the root causes of SGBV and harmful practices in Central Asia, empower advocates, survivors and communities for change, foster partnerships and create

platforms for voice and agency. Progress towards the outcome was made for the creation of the first Central Asia-wide mechanism (“the Alliance”) on SGBV, strengthening national and regional institutions, including law enforcement bodies, closing the gender data gap and empowering the Civil Society Organisations to address SGBV and HP. UN Women contributed to this through a very important coherence role to ensure comprehensive and consistent participation of all stakeholders and programmatic implementation of all five pillars of the Programme. More than 35 regional partners contributed to the initiative by mobilising task forces across the region, including UN entities, governmental partners, civil society organisations, activists and women's movements. The Spotlight Initiative gave an impetus to active work on SGBV and HP in the region, including new initiatives to advance gender equality and women's empowerment. Based on the progress made, the strategy remained relevant and was reflected in the new UN Women CO Strategic Note 2022–2025.

#### OUTCOME XM-DAC-41146-KAZ\_D\_1.1

**By 2025 all people in Kazakhstan especially the most vulnerable are empowered with knowledge and skills to equally contribute to sustainable development of the country ( Outcome 1.2. UNSDCF 2021–2025).**

Important progress towards achieving the outcome has been seen. The capacity of Kazakhstani civil servants in the integration of gender-responsive budgeting in the national planning and budgeting systems was strengthened to improve the governance systems so women are able to benefit and actively participate in social life. As a result of UN Women's interventions 21 public servants (72% women, 28% men), members of the intergovernmental working group on GRB integration in Kazakhstan and 7 Deputies of the Mazhilis of the Parliament of Kazakhstan (100% women) improved their knowledge of gender equality and gender-responsive budgeting during the intensive online training “Implementation of gender approaches in the national planning and budgeting system”. According to the analysis of the pre- and post-training diagnostics, the civil servants significantly improved their knowledge of gender budgeting and skills to integrate a gender dimension into strategic and budget planning. In addition, the participants learned about the positive Ukrainian GRB experience in the creation of a GRB interagency group known as inter-fractional association “Equal Opportunities”, which worked towards strengthening gender equality and gender-sensitive approaches in all areas. Kazakhstani civil servants reaffirmed GRB's practical benefits for the population and the importance of the Parliament's role in the integration of gender-responsive budgeting. The Ministry of National Economy and National Women's Machinery significantly contributed to this progress through advocating in the Parliament of Kazakhstan and ensuring the active participation of civil servants in the UN Women's initiative.

#### OUTCOME XM-DAC-41146-KAZ\_D\_2.1

**By 2025, state institutions at all levels effectively design and implement gender-sensitive, human rights and evidence-based public policies and provide quality services in an inclusive, transparent and accountable manner (Outcome 2.2. UNSDCF 2021–2025).**

Significant progress was made towards achieving the outcome. In October, Kazakhstan repealed the List of 191 prohibited occupations for women which was considered a discriminative norm according to CEDAW. 41 Afghanistan women–students pursuing academic studies in Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan improved their knowledge and skills in gender equality and women's empowerment, entrepreneurship and leadership during summer schools conducted in Tashkent, Uzbekistan and Almaty, Kazakhstan by UN Women. Afghanistan women acquired the set of important skills and knowledge that were designed to help secure better employment opportunities, promote gender balance in accessing professional and employment

opportunities, and generally share the knowledge among other female networks in Afghanistan. According to the post-intervention interviews, the participants demonstrated improved personal skills in public speaking, teamwork, pitching, self-branding and emotional intelligence through the presentation of their own projects and start-ups proposals, speeches, and group work. In addition, Afghanistan women acquired practical knowledge on how to start and run an NGO for GEWE promotion, how to operate GEWE-related startups or community projects, how to advocate for a GEWE related program addressing the acute issues of the women's agenda. UN Women implemented this initiative in cooperation with UNDP under the EU funded project "Afghanistan Women's Economic Empowerment through education" and significantly contributed to building a strong partnership with Afghanistan, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan in the area of Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment through education of Afghanistan women. Based on the successful implementation of the project EU confirmed the second phase and study of a larger cohort of Afghanistan women in 2022. The initiative was implemented by partners in the Central Asian region and Afghanistan, including UNDP Kazakhstan, Afghanistan and Uzbekistan in close cooperation with the EU delegations in these countries. Special attention was paid to the sustainability of the project considering the political and human rights crisis in Afghanistan in 2021. As a result, the challenges were overcome and the project was agreed to be continued in 2022-2023. Based on the progress made, the outcome remains relevant for strengthening regional cooperation and ensuring women's income security, decent work and economic autonomy. The outcome was integrated into the New Strategic Note 2022-2025 and its Theory of Change of UN Women Kazakhstan.