

# Progress in Kazakhstan country in 2022

Data as of:  
18 May 2024

## 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 the sustainable development of the country (UNSDCF Outcome 1.2.)**

The outcome has not been achieved yet, however, UN Women Kazakhstan made substantial progress on the outcome in 2022. The Voluntary National Review (VNR) on the progress of SDGs implementation in Kazakhstan was visibly gender mainstreamed during development and Kazakhstan's presentation at the High-Level Political Forum in New York in May 2022. International and national communities gained awareness of the progress, achievements, challenges and lessons learned in the implementation of SDGs at the national level through the VNR. <https://hlpf.un.org/countries/kazakhstan/voluntary-national-review-2022> UN Women contributed significantly to the results reflected in VNR by showcasing the outcomes of the joint project with the Government of Kazakhstan on the integration of Gender Responsive Budgeting in the national planning and budgeting system. More specifically, UN Women developed the methodology and conducted gender analysis of planning and budgeting processes with the example of the Akmola region at the local level and the Ministry of Education at the central level, in the area of education, healthcare and social protection. In addition, UN Women ensured the integration of a gender dimension into the entire VNR document. The National Women's Machinery recognised the role of UN Women's significant contribution in supporting the Government of Kazakhstan and national partners in advancing Gender Responsive Budgeting as well as demonstrating it on the global level through highlighting the VNR. UN Women successfully cooperated with the National Women's Machinery, the Ministry of National Economy, the Economic Research Institute, the Applied Economic Research Centre, the Akmola region Local Administration, and the Ministry of Education through this work. Thus, the original strategy and ToC for this outcome is still largely applicable.

## OUTCOME XM-DAC-41146-KAZ\_D\_1.2

**By 2025, all people in Kazakhstan are protected and enjoy full realization of human rights and gender equality and a life free from discrimination, violence and threats, and equally participate in decision-making (UNSDCF Outcome 2.1.)**

The outcome has not been achieved, however, UN Women Kazakhstan made substantial progress on the outcome in 2022. The country office actively promoted the equal participation of women in all spheres of life, with particular attention to strengthening women's leadership and participation in society; involving women in solving a whole range of issues to ensure stability in communities; and empowering women in politics. Twenty-five (25) women leaders across the country increased their capacity through a training of trainers organized by UN Women Kazakhstan utilizing the UN Women Leadership and Campaign Curriculum. This is planned to be followed by "cascade" training across the country that will provide an opportunity for a wide-range of professional development programmes to all women interested in running for public office in the next elections in Kazakhstan in 2023. In addition, UN Women and national partners expanded a network of qualified and certified trainers in women's political participation. The Ministry of Information and Social Development, (the Donor for this programme), recognised the role of UN Women in organising capacity-building initiative and supported the wide media coverage of the training. An added value of this training is a long-term investment in building political knowledge and skills capitalising on

efforts made by UN Women and the Ministry of Information and Social Development in supporting women and youth interested in politics. In 2023, Kazakhstan will hold elections for Members of the Parliament and rural districts mayors in all regions of Kazakhstan. Women increasing their leadership skills as well as being actively involved in political reform, including in elections, is an integral part of national tasks and UN Women's strategic vision. Therefore, the original strategy and ToC for this outcome are still applicable. Country Office will continue Women's leadership and Political Participation interventions during the implementation of the Strategic Note for 2022-2025.

#### OUTCOME XM-DAC-41146-KAZ\_D\_1.3

**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 (UNSDCF Outcome 2.2.)**

The outcome has not been achieved, however, UN Women Kazakhstan made progress on the outcome in 2022. Gender Responsive Budgeting further advanced in the country with country office support. The country had access to evidence of gender sensitivity in current budgeting processes through a deep gender analysis of a local administration in the Akmola region and the Ministry of Education and Science. This analysis was provided by UN Women, in cooperation with the Ministry of National Economy. The findings of the analysis were widely disseminated by UN Women and partners, including its presentation at the High-Level Political Forum during Kazakhstan's Voluntary National Review event in May 2022. The key findings of the gender analysis were published on the website of the High-Level Political Forum <https://hlpf.un.org/countries/kazakhstan/voluntary-national-review-2022>. UN Women contributed to this result through its expert and technical support in revealing areas for further strengthening in the field of education, healthcare and social protection. UN Women provided recommendations based off of these trends in the planning and implementation of strategic and program documents. Almost all of the identified trends are applicable to all regions of the country in different variations and ratios. The development of additional capacity-building efforts will remain one of the priority tasks of state policy. UN Women strengthened partnerships with the Government of Kazakhstan as well as state and private expert institutions for ensuring comprehensive assessment and concrete recommendations for integrating gender aspects into the planning and budgeting processes at the local and national levels. It is expected by partners that Gender-responsive budget analysis, along with legislation, and other practical policy measures will address gender bias and discrimination. In a long run, it will have an impact and contribute to the accountability to women's rights, but also towards greater public transparency and can shift economic policies leading to gains across communities. UN Women in cooperation with the National Women's Machinery plan to continue the further promotion of Gender Responsive Budgeting in 2023, and a new project proposal has been submitted to the Government of Kazakhstan, thus the original strategy and ToC for this outcome is largely still applicable.

#### OUTCOME XM-DAC-41146-KAZ\_O\_1

**Assuring an accountable organization through the principled performance**

During the reporting period, UN Women worked on a regular risk management framework's update and actualisation by conducting thorough analysis and assigning tangible indicators to measure associated events, consequences and mitigation measures. The Country office also strategically focused on existing effective partnerships with the Government of Kazakhstan, as well as expanded cooperation with the Private Sector (13 new private and quasi-state companies became WEPs signatories in 2022), Diplomatic community joined UN Women in amplifying messages and advocacy for GEWE through a newly established

Extended Gender Theme Group. Also, Country Office supported UN Women Regional Office in the development of the UN Women Strategic Road map for Central Asia which informed the Senior management about the organisation's positioning, opportunities, and areas of cooperation with national and international counterparts in Central Asia. <https://www.weps.org/companies> UN Women strengthened leadership and team capacity to enable and promote an environment of collaboration, transparency, creativity and reflection. The team was regularly invited to participatory decision-making processes, for instance on the design of new initiatives, negotiations with Donors, and discussions of Resource mobilisation strategy. In 2022 UN Women was actively engaged in four joint programmes aimed at achieving systemic and transformative change. Through the programme-related grant-making and partner-selection modalities, the Office contributed to the collaborative environment and co-creative transformative change.

#### OUTCOME XM-DAC-41146-KAZ\_O\_2

##### **Advancing Partnerships & Resourcing**

The Country office strategically focused on existing effective partnerships with the Government of Kazakhstan. In 2022, the new project was funded by a new donor the Ministry of Information and Social Protection (\$1.2 mln) for achieving results in the implementation of the National Concept on Gender and Family Policy, WEE, Gender sensitive education and strategic level plans and policies. Also, the Office expanded its cooperation with the Private Sector (13 new private and quasi-state companies became WEPS signatories in 2022). <https://www.weps.org/companies> The largest bank in Kazakhstan Halyk Bank expressed interest in the implementation of a joint WEE initiative announcing a 2 million funds allocation for the development of women's entrepreneurship in Kazakhstan. The diplomatic community in Kazakhstan joined UN Women in amplifying messages and advocacy for GEWE through a newly established Extended Gender Theme Group (10 embassies, 3 International Financial Institutions). In addition, UN Women engaged the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the work of the Spotlight Initiative Regional Programme to ensure financial investments and potential contributions to the Regional SGBV Alliance. The Office encountered challenges in resource mobilisation due to the upper middle-income status of the country where international donors are not present, however, the strategic partnership was strengthened in the course of the implementation of joint programmes (for example, European Union and MPTF) and close cooperation with the Government of Kazakhstan.

#### OUTCOME XM-DAC-41146-KAZ\_O\_4

##### **Nurturing an empowered Workforce and advancing an inclusive UN Women culture**

UN Women strengthened leadership and team capacity to enable and promote an environment of collaboration, transparency, creativity and reflection. The team was regularly invited to participatory decision-making processes, for instance on the design of new initiatives, negotiations with Donors, and discussions of Resource mobilisation strategy. After the tragic events in January 2022, the office strengthened the capacity of female staff members through a two-days Women Security Awareness Training. Also, the Country Office was regularly involved in the work of the PSEA working group for advancing transparent monitoring and response.

#### OUTCOME XM-DAC-41146-KAZ\_O\_5

##### **Effective normative, programmatic and coordination Products, Services and Processes**

During the reporting period, UN Women invested time and efforts in standardised knowledge products (for example, the Gender analysis of Gender Responsive Budgeting integration in the national planning and budgeting system). In the field of coordination and collaboration with the UN Country Team for strengthening gender mainstreaming of UNCT programming and gender-sensitive monitoring and reporting, UN Women was focused on joint programmes aimed at achieving systemic and transformative change and moving away from small standalone projects. UN Women also strengthened its grant-making and partner-selection modalities to support collaboration and transformative change. The office works constantly on internal business processes' improvement to use scarce resources efficiently.