

United Nations
Development Programme
in Kazakhstan



**ANNUAL
REPORT
2022**



Over the past year, the world has faced a set of tall challenges caused by a complex geopolitical landscape. 2022 was also a year of rapid socioeconomic and political transformations, exacerbated by the impact of the COVID -19 pandemic. But throughout UNDP remained steadfast in its long-term support for Kazakhstan's pursuit of sustainable development, successfully adapting to changes and demonstrating flexibility.

In 2022, UNDP Kazakhstan used its global expertise and partnerships to implement transformative initiatives aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). A focus on digitalization led to the development of cutting-edge tools that helped to identify risks and vulnerabilities facing people, particularly the most disadvantaged.

By harnessing the power of data and analytics, UNDP designed more effective social protection programmes and improved outreach for those furthest behind. The outcomes – greater inclusivity and social equity so that no one is left behind on the road to sustainable development.

The CO's partnership with the government in launching the innovative Digital Family Card platform was a key achievement. This groundbreaking platform played a pivotal role in the new Social Code by empowering local decision-makers, preventing poverty and targeting support to the most vulnerable groups.

The CO also focused on improving access to quality basic services for marginalized populations. In concrete terms, individuals living with HIV received person-centred treatment, health professionals on HIV and TB treatment were trained and a joint response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic was made possible.

Gender equality is at the core of UNDP's mission. In 2022, this translated into supporting entrepreneurship opportunities for Kazakh women. UNDP Kazakhstan also continued its flagship initiative to empower Afghan women through education programmes in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan.

One of our goals is to strengthen institutions and promote the rule of law. To that end, we contributed to the adoption of the Constitutional Law on the Human Rights Ombudsman and provided training to newly appointed ombudspersons. We also supported the introduction of special course on community policing in Police Academies of Ministry of Internal Affairs of Kazakhstan. Through the Spotlight Initiative we sought to address gender-based violence. We also built the capacity of private sector and quasi-public companies on responsible business practices.

Our ongoing commitment to environmental sustainability includes technical assistance, capacity-building and policy advice. UNDP supported Kazakhstan, a signatory to the Paris Agreement, in finalizing an ambitious Carbon Neutrality Strategy, the first in Central Asia.

UNDP has partnered with the Government of Kazakhstan to bolster the conservation and sustainable management of crucial biodiversity hotspots, protected areas and ecosystems and to preserve endangered species, such as the iconic snow leopard.

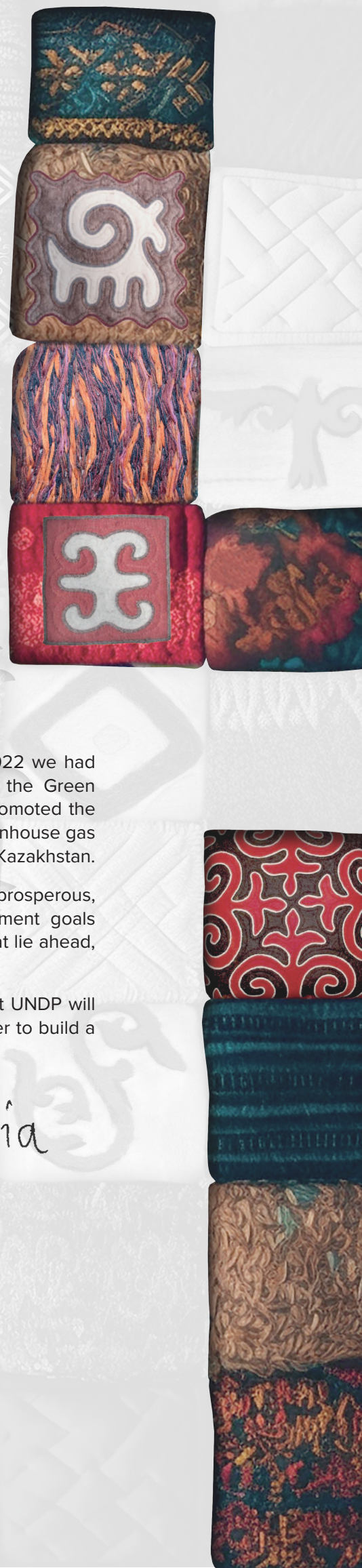
The transition to a green economy is one of our top priorities. In 2022 we had a roll-call of achievements: we helped the government to update the Green Economy Concept; revitalized the system of sustainable financing; promoted the use of renewable energy sources; contributed to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions; and created opportunities for sustainable livelihoods across Kazakhstan.

As we reflect on the past year and look ahead, our vision is to create a prosperous, inclusive and sustainable future for all. By achieving our development goals together, we can tackle the challenges and seize the opportunities that lie ahead, guided by the SDG principles.

With our strong partnership and dedicated staff we are confident that UNDP will transform the lives of the people of Kazakhstan as we partner together to build a more resilient, equitable, and sustainable world.

Katarzyna Wawiernia
UNDP Resident Representative
in Kazakhstan

K. Wawiernia





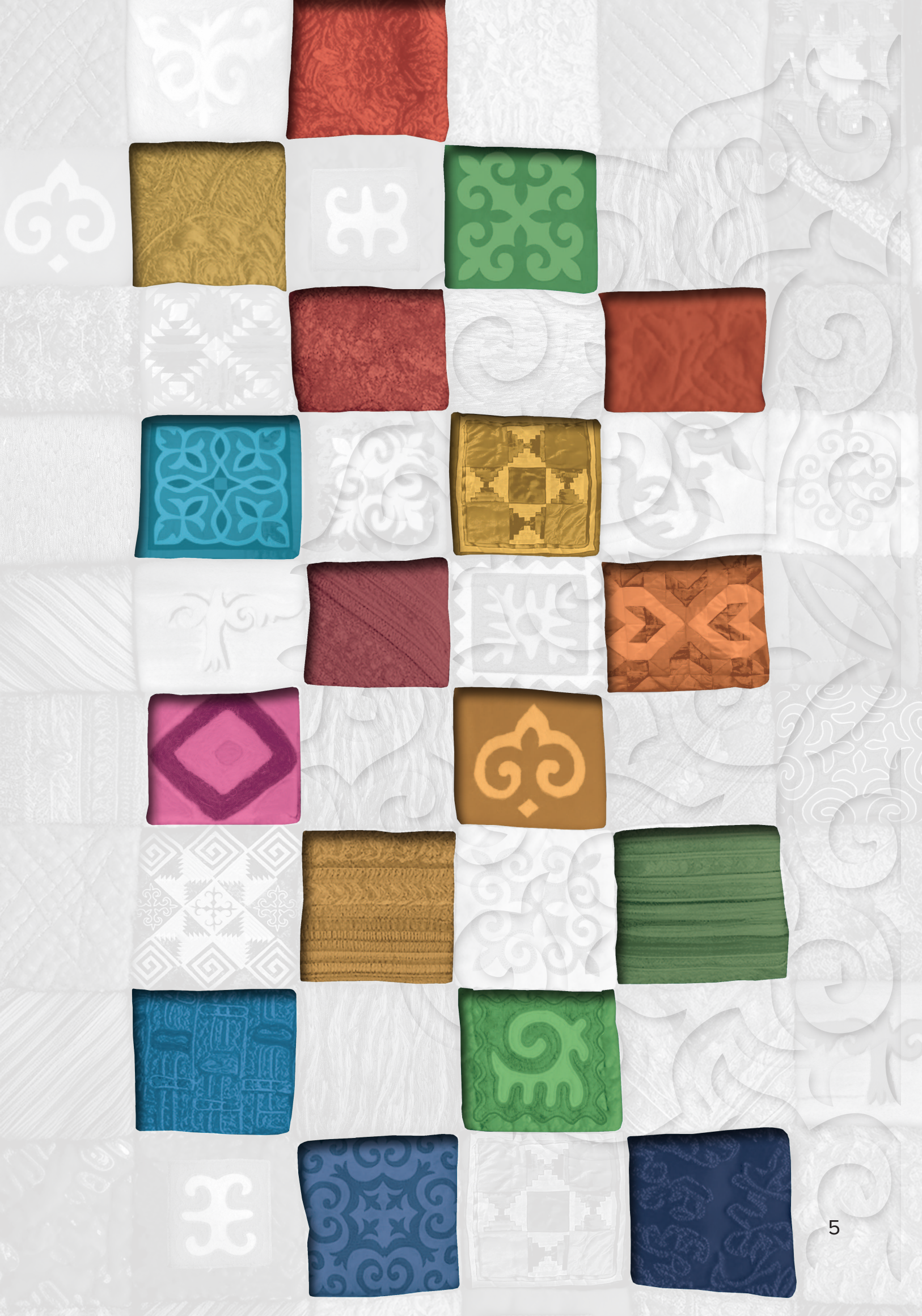
STEPS TOWARDS THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

A key part of our work involves leveraging partnerships to achieve the SDGs. We offer platforms for the government, businesses, civil society, academics and individuals to take an active part in achieving the SDGs in Kazakhstan.

In 2022, Kazakhstan expanded its capacities in assessing, monitoring and analysing financial and budgetary data pertaining to the SDGs. The country began implementing a Comprehensive National Financing Mechanism. Evaluations of development financing and comprehensive assessments of national budgets showed that insufficient funding was allocated to specific SDGs, including climate change, access to clean energy, responsible consumption and production, ecosystem preservation and gender equality (SDGs 13, 7, 12, 15, 5).

The ability to monitor the state budget through the lens of the SDGs enhances budget transparency and enables more effective decision-making in public resource allocation, in line with the principle of «leaving no one behind.»

The newly developed climate budget-flagging methodology can help the government to identify and monitor the public budget share allocated to climate change adaptation and mitigation. This tool allows the government to better align climate change policies and actions with available funding and to make long-term projections of funding needs, helping Kazakhstan achieve its carbon neutrality by 2060.



ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE FOUR KEY AREAS OF UNDP KAZAKHSTAN'S WORK

ADDRESSING SOCIAL VULNERABILITIES AND INEQUALITIES

In 2022, we supported the testing and promotion of new social protection programme models and digital solutions to deliver services to persons with disabilities, the elderly and large families.

Our integrated gender-sensitive solutions for the most disadvantaged groups impacted millions of lives in Kazakhstan. The Digital Family Card platform was central to this effort as it provided proactive social assistance to those in need.

In 2022, UNDP in Kazakhstan streamlined the procurement of medicines and strengthened health services for crisis response. We contributed to making HIV and tuberculosis treatment more accessible to a greater number of people. By the end of 2022, 30,558 individuals living with HIV (approximately 79 percent of the total) were aware of their status. With the support of the Country Coordinating Mechanism, measures were taken to enhance testing among marginalized population groups, to increase their access to antiretroviral therapy and to provide them with professional medical services. We joined with 30 national and international partners to address the COVID-19 pandemic's harmful impact on people living with or affected by HIV.

Youth remains a primary focus. With the new initiative, launched in December 2022, we continue to prevent violent extremism among at-risk youth. We plan to expand our geographical coverage to reach a wider age group and to experiment with models that enhance the resilience of communities.

Our flagship Afghan Women Empowerment Programme gave educational opportunities to a new cohort of 155 Afghan students, with more than 30 women successfully completing academic programmes.

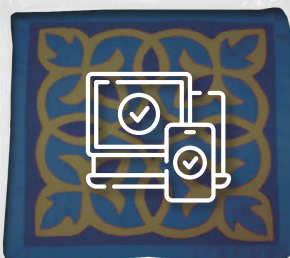
A new area of focus in the field of rule of law in 2022 was the promotion of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and assistance to the government in developing a National Action Plan on Human Rights in Business.



51,000 persons with special needs citizens received proactive service requests due to the Digital Family Card



5,206 government users at the central and local levels adopted the Digital Family Card platform



80 indicators were used to develop a methodology that gauges the well-being of families, enabling policymakers to target social interventions more effectively



105 Afghan women studied at universities in three Central Asia countries and more than **30** Afghan women successfully completed academic programmes



27,126 people benefited from free condoms and lubricants provided by UNDP Kazakhstan, promoting better HIV infection prevention



4,582 ampoules of cancer drugs procured, ensuring access to life-saving treatment for patients and promoting a competitive market in Kazakhstan



134 health professionals trained on HIV and TB treatment



908 people got access to pre-exposure prophylaxis of HIV infection and **383** people – to post contact prevention

ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE FOUR KEY AREAS OF UNDP KAZAKHSTAN'S WORK

REBUILDING PUBLIC TRUST THROUGH MORE ACCOUNTABLE INSTITUTIONS, ONES FREE OF CORRUPTION

UNDP Kazakhstan continued to support the “Listening State” concept: by improving public administration through a more people-centred civil service, by a faster pace of digitalization and through initiatives helping government organizations to withstand and recover quickly from difficult conditions.

We provided expert support to develop new laws; helped introduce citizen-centred policing, strengthened government’s effective handling of peaceful assemblies and public protests and promoted a multisectoral approach to working with survivors of gender-based violence.

Through the flagship Astana Civil Service Hub platform, we helped build more effective and accountable institutions. We harnessed innovation and digital tools to combat corruption and to promote transparent recruitment in the judicial sector.



17 newly appointed
ombudspersons and **12** staff of the
National Human Rights Centre were
trained, thereby buttressing human
rights protection



Over **100** police inspectors and
academy staff trained, enhancing
their skills in community policing



The CO developed digital solutions jointly
with the government, such as the AI-based
«Legal Expert Service» and a transparent
judge selection process via machine
learning



100 man-hours per month saved and
30 percent more corruption risks detected
with the AI-based «Legal Expert Service»

ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE FOUR KEY AREAS OF UNDP KAZAKHSTAN'S WORK

FOSTERING HIGH PRODUCTIVITY, DIVERSIFIED AND KNOWLEDGE-BASED ECONOMIC GROWTH

We support Kazakhstan's goal of diversifying its economy as the engine of development, thereby placing the country in the top 30 most advanced nations by 2050. A top priority in that regard is upgrading skills for greater productivity.

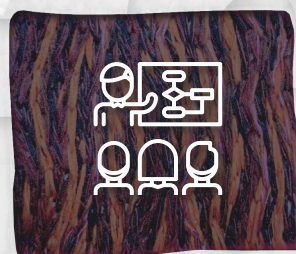
In 2022 our work to modernize the labour force and the economy went hand-in-hand with broader efforts to improve private sector development and market competitiveness. Our initial focus was on agriculture and ecotourism. In 2022, UNDP Kazakhstan took part in research to identify in-demand occupational skills in the post-COVID labour market. We also started the pilot project, «One Village – One Product» (OVOP). The idea is that the economic development of a given region is achieved through the production and promotion of products from exclusively local resources.

We also continued to develop a network of centres to support women's entrepreneurship, opening new centres in 14 regions and cities and providing non-financial support to over 8,705 women.





260 people took part in trainings for the unemployed and vulnerable, including persons with disabilities



25 trainings were delivered under the OVOP project



4 exhibitions organized in the pilot regions within OVOP

Regional exhibitions attracted

288 local producers, enhancing their selling opportunities



14 new centres for women's entrepreneurship were opened helping

8,705 women to obtain non-financial support



ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE FOUR KEY AREAS OF UNDP KAZAKHSTAN'S WORK

SUPPORTING CLIMATE AND DISASTER RESILIENCE AND NATURE-BASED, LOW-CARBON GROWTH


We helped Kazakhstan formulate its long-term vision of carbon-neutrality, develop a legislative framework and honour its Paris Agreement commitments by supporting the green economy's expansion, a measure that will bring new jobs and business opportunities.

We supported the government in green growth, updating the NDCs and launching the adaptation chapter. UNDP Kazakhstan contributed to the development and implementation of secondary legislation on climate change and supported testing of the Strategic Environmental Assessment tool.

We piloted best technologies and practices in agro-meteorological forecasting, climate smart agrotechnologies, sustainable ecosystem management of pastures, forests and other ecosystems within protected areas thereby helping Kazakhstan in climate resilience.

Our work on energy efficiency and energy savings included reducing investment risks in large-scale renewable energy and testing financing mechanisms for small-scale energy efficiency and renewable energy with the Damu Entrepreneurship Development Fund.

Our ongoing work on biodiversity and ecosystem protection helped achieve sustainable development through our support to protected areas and to the empowerment of local communities in protected areas to build their resilience.



We supported the implementation of the Eco-Damu loan programme, which boosts small and medium enterprises development in rural areas and contributed to ecotourism development through digital tools and new approaches.

We combated desertification and restored degraded lands by promoting sustainable land management for better climate resilience.

Over **657,000** hectares of unique steppe ecosystems and saiga habitats protected in 5 districts of Western Kazakhstan through the creation of the «Bokeyorda» and Ashiozek Reserves, benefiting

84,400 people

33 low-carbon projects have been funded, with the potential to reduce CO₂ emissions by over **500,000** metric tons throughout their lifespan. These projects have also generated

215 temporary and permanent employment opportunities

ACCELERATOR LAB: INNOVATING FOR DEVELOPMENT

In December 2020, UNDP Kazakhstan became part of the global network of 115 Accelerator Labs that seek new ways of addressing complex development challenges. The team applies an experimental and learning approach to uncover local solutions and inject an «innovation virus» throughout UNDP Kazakhstan's programmatic and operational activities. The Accelerator Lab serves as the CO's research and development arm, exploring unconventional ideas for change in three key areas:





EMBEDDING DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES FOR GREATER IMPACT: the team works closely with UNDP's Chief Digital Office to provide practical recommendations on how to create and maintain digital solutions for development.



PARTNERING WITH THE START-UP COMMUNITY AND YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS: the team drives new strategic initiatives, such as the National Knowledge Week and Skills Up hackathons, that involve youth across towns and rural areas in Kazakhstan.



EXPERIMENTING WITH INNOVATIVE APPROACHES WITH THEIR POTENTIAL RIPPLE EFFECT, AVOIDING SILOED WORK: the team leads the regional City Experiment Fund project with its goal of using a portfolio approach to urban transformation.

DIGITAL FAMILY CARD —

AN INNOVATIVE SOLUTION FOR SOCIO-ECONOMIC SUPPORT



It provides a digital platform to offer prompt and effective state support to the most vulnerable families.

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The Digital Family Card identifies families from vulnerable groups, assessing their needs to provide support.

E-government creates a single interaction point among government agencies to support the population in education, finance, justice and the medical and social realms.

Use of the Digital Family Card promotes the transformation of social services' provision, assisted by digital technologies.



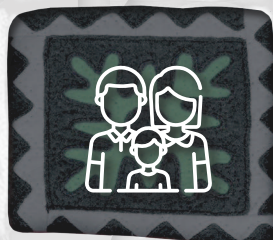


The Digital Family Card

is a crucial step in ensuring equal access to social protection for families



51,000 special needs individuals received proactive service requests due to the Digital Family Card



6,000,000 families in Kazakhstan were digitized to assess their well-being, and an in-depth analysis of various socio-economic indicators was carried out



5,206 government users at central and local levels adopted the Digital Family Card platform




80 indicators were used to develop a methodology that determines families' level of well-being enabling policymakers to better target social interventions

GENDER EQUALITY FOR A SUSTAINABLE TOMORROW

A key element of UNDP's mission is its firm commitment to deal with the root causes of gender inequality, challenging existing paradigms and weaving gender considerations into the fabric of every programme area. UNDP's pledge to gender equality permeates every aspect of its operations, as it recognizes the vital importance of dismantling systemic barriers that inhibit progress toward a more equitable society. By embedding gender considerations into the very DNA of its programmatic work, UNDP aspires to make the world a more just and inclusive place for all.

A rigorous gender audit was made to develop our Gender Equality Strategy 2022-2025 that is a guide for implementing gender equality and women's empowerment core principles.



Programmes spearheaded transformative actions to tackle the root causes of gender inequalities in rule of law, local governance and climate change.

Support to women in leadership positions at all levels, focusing on women's empowerment in non-traditional areas.

Ongoing nurturing of partnerships with civil society, the private sector, academia and international organizations for more gender advocacy. One of the stellar initiatives, started in 2022, is the Gender Seal for Public Institutions.

BUILDING PARTNERSHIP PLATFORMS FOR MAXIMUM IMPACT

The success of the various initiatives and projects undertaken in 2022 can be attributed to the solid collaboration fostered by UNDP with various partners. The diverse and robust partnerships with the Government of Kazakhstan in 2022 helped enhance the capacity of national institutions, promote human rights, address post-pandemic vocational skill demands and create innovative digital solutions.



Private sector engagement is a critical element in UNDP Kazakhstan's efforts to foster sustainable development. UNDP collaborates with the private sector to stimulate investment in sustainable energy technologies, businesses that preserve biodiversity, mitigate climate change and generate job opportunities for vulnerable communities. This partnership is based on the development and implementation of financial instruments designed to support companies in transitioning to sustainable technologies and nature-based solutions.

Collaboration with NGOs has allowed us to create platforms for experience sharing and training in various areas, including issues of rule of law, social protection, biodiversity conservation, and so on.

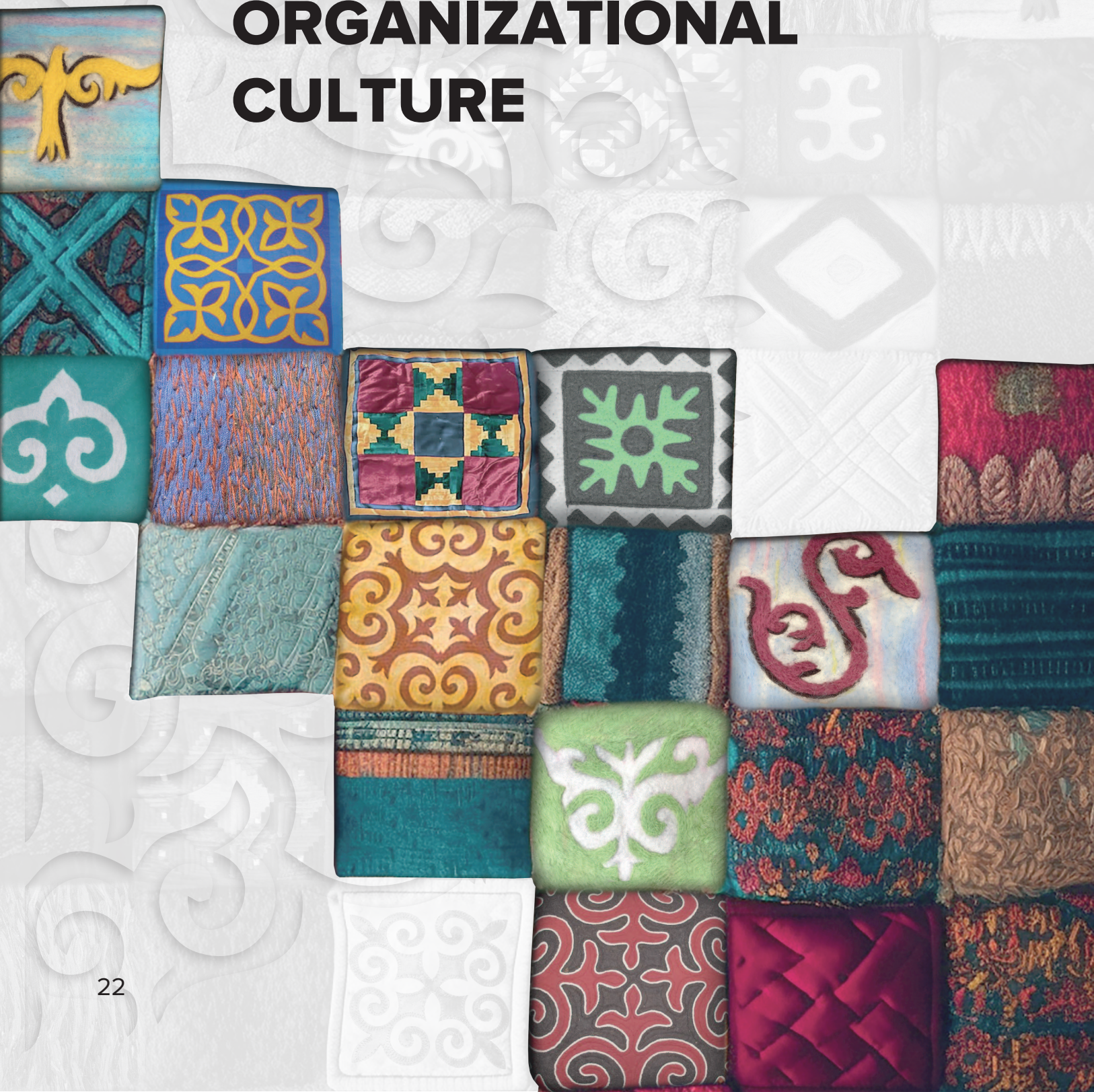
In cooperation with international donors, financial institutions, and national partners, we have also established a network of entrepreneurship centers aimed at supporting women across the country in launching or developing their own businesses.

We have actively involved academic community and research institutions in our analytical work. We shared our results in the articles and stories in national and regional media outlets.

Together, all these efforts have had a tremendous impact primarily on vulnerable and marginalized groups, providing them with opportunities for growth and development.



PROMOTING AN INCLUSIVE AND ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE ORGANIZATIONAL CULTURE

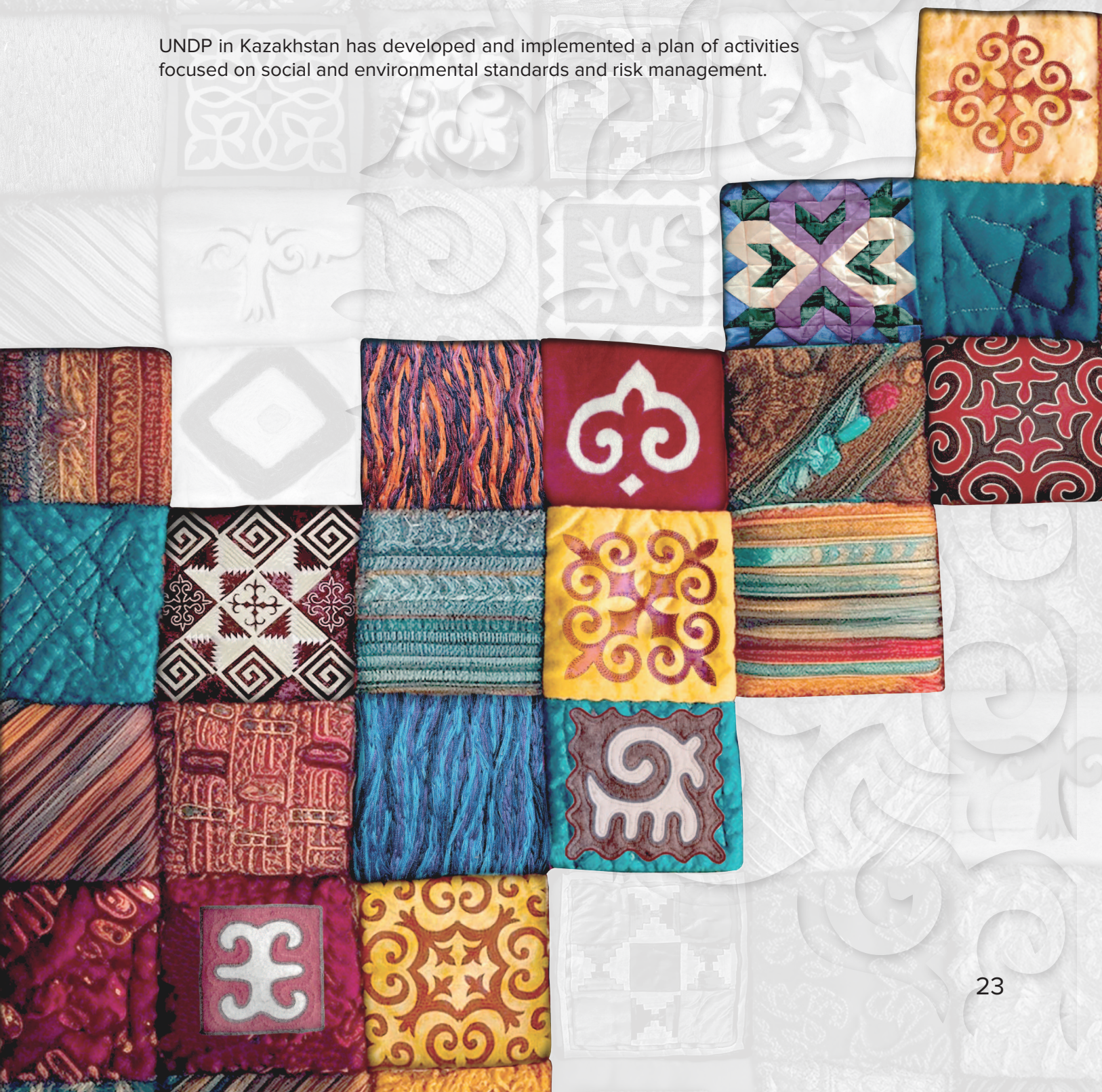


UNDP country office in Kazakhstan organized a series of training events for staff and national partners on creating an inclusive work culture free from any form of discrimination.

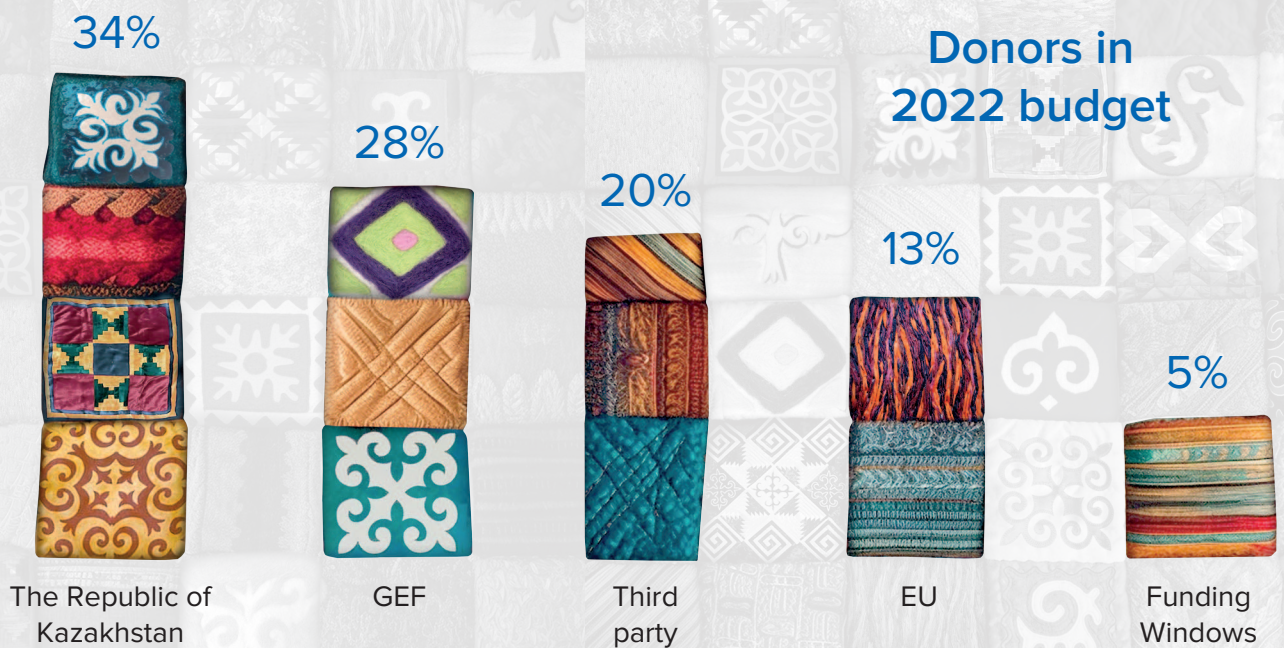
UNDP in Kazakhstan conducted an assessment of buildings in Astana and Almaty to improve their accessibility for people with disabilities.

In order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, UNDP in Kazakhstan has minimized air travel, achieving a reduction of 47 percent compared to pre-pandemic levels.

UNDP in Kazakhstan has developed and implemented a plan of activities focused on social and environmental standards and risk management.



PROJECTS AND DONORS



In 2022, UNDP Kazakhstan implemented **45** projects, including global and regional projects.

2022's new project launches:





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