



BACKGROUND

The drying up of the Aral Sea, which was the fourth largest lake in the world until the 1960s, is among the greatest human-made global environmental disasters, with negative effects reaching beyond national and regional boundaries. It has affected the livelihoods of millions of people living in the region, with the epicenter in the Republic of Karakalpakstan, in Uzbekistan.

An evolving crisis, the Aral Sea disaster has a number of consequences, including land degradation and desertification, shortage of drinking water, malnutrition, deterioration of the health conditions and livelihoods of the local population. The socio-economic and environmental consequences of the crisis are further complicated by the ongoing vicious circle of negative impacts.

Shrinking Aral Sea



Despite significant efforts to address these challenges over the first two decades since independence, the lack of a unified development strategy with an inter-sectoral, integrated approach, insufficient aid coordination, and weak government ownership of development assistance limited the effectiveness of earlier international and national interventions and affected the sustainability of the results.

WHY THE HUMAN SECURITY APPROACH?

The human security approach is an optimal framework to analyze and plan for interventions adapted to the conditions of vulnerable communities due to the Aral Sea crisis. Using a multi-sectoral lens,

it develops a holistic set of interventions that are 1) people centered; 2) comprehensive; 3) context-specific; and 4) prevention oriented.

OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE OF THE FUND

The Multi-Partner Human Security Trust Fund for the Aral Sea region in Uzbekistan (MPHSTF) aims to be transformative, evidence- and human-rights based, and inclusive in its goal of catalyzing and strengthening a multi-sectoral and people-centered response to address the consequences of one of the world's biggest human-made environmental disasters. The MPHSTF provides a coherent strategy to coordinate aid flows and increase government ownership to enable sustainable results.

The MPHSTF is in line with the Busan development effectiveness principles on local ownership, focus on results, partnership of development partners, and transparency of aid.

The assistance provided through the MPHSTF is based on a single programmatic framework, linked to the Sustainable Development Goals and developed based on the results of an independent socio-economic survey conducted in the communities most affected by the environmental disaster.

THE OBJECTIVE OF THE SIDE EVENT

1. To present to the governments and organizations of the region the purpose and opportunities provided by the MPHSTF;
2. To present the key governance, financial and operational modalities of the Trust Fund;
3. To galvanize new partnerships to address the Aral Sea crisis and its multi-dimensional human consequences.

The event is organized by the Government of Uzbekistan in cooperation with the United Nations Office in Uzbekistan.



Programme

FRIDAY, 22 March 2019

International Conference Centre Geneva (CICG)

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| 13:15 – 13:25 | Opening Remarks <i>Mirjana Spoljaric Egger, Assistant Administrator & Director of the UNDP Regional Bureau for Europe and the CIS</i> |
| 13:25 – 13:45 | Government priorities in the context of the Aral Sea catastrophe <i>Badriddin Abidov, Deputy Minister of Investment and Foreign Trade</i> |
| 13:45 – 14:00 | A Partnership for People: the joint Government & UN response to human security challenges in the Aral Sea region of Uzbekistan <i>Helena Fraser, UN Resident Coordinator in Uzbekistan</i> |
| 14:00 – 14:05 | The power of community engagement: Lessons from local Government's efforts in the Aral Sea region <i>Jusipbek Kazbekov, First Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Karakalpakstan</i> |
| 14:05 – 14:25 | Q&A, Open Discussions |
| 14:25 – 14:30 | Closing |

Speakers



Mirjana Spoljaric Egger

Assistant Administrator
Director of the UNDP Regional
Bureau for Europe and CIS



Badriddin Abidov

Deputy Minister of
Investment and Foreign
Trade



Helena Fraser

UN Resident Coordinator
in Uzbekistan



Jusipbek Kazbekov

First Deputy Chairman of
the Council of Ministers of
the Republic of
Karakalpakstan