



UNESCO
Country Programming Document
KYRGYZ REPUBLIC
2012-2013



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The UNESCO (Almaty Office) Country Programming Document (UCPD) for the Kyrgyz Republic is designed to be linked with and complementary to the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) for the Kyrgyz Republic (2012-2016) the common framework for all UN Agencies operating in the country.

The UNDAF stipulates the following three interlinked priorities for national development challenges to be addressed by the United Nations Country Team:

- Peace and Cohesion, Effective Democratic Governance, and Human Rights
- Social Inclusion and Equity
- Inclusive and Sustainable Job-Rich Growth for Poverty Reduction

The crosscutting themes of gender equality, youth, human rights, environment and disaster risk reduction were selected to strengthen further interventions in all three pillars and are mainstreamed throughout the document.

The UCPD for the Kyrgyz Republic (2012-2013), herein referred to as UCPD KR, is based on an analysis of the current country analysis and priorities of the country in the fields of education, natural sciences, social and human sciences, culture, communication and information, and HIV and AIDS prevention.

Efforts have been made to ensure that the UCPD-KR is aligned with the Government Programme “Stability and Decent Life” (2012-2014), focused on system and institutional changes and creating foundation for long term development. The document was drafted based on the Midterm Development Strategy for the Kyrgyz Republic and in line with the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). It is based on assessments of current social and economic conditions and summarizes the government’s goal to **increase the well-being of its citizens**, to be achieved through rehabilitated investment climate, reduced bureaucratic barriers and improved economic freedom. The UCPD-KR is also in line with the Kyrgyz Republic Country Development Strategy (CDS) 2009-2011, as well as the Kyrgyzstan Medium-Term Development Program, 2012-2014. The latter in particular focuses on post-conflict reconciliation measures, poverty reduction, business development and effective governance.



The Medium-Term Development Program plans for real GDP growth in average by 7.5% annually, increasing revenue and decreasing the deficit. The Program aims to re-establish fiscal and debt stability and fight poverty; enact social sector measures to build human capital; and investments in infrastructure to strengthen the supply base of the economy. The strategy is designed to underpin recovery and reconciliation in the south and lead to a period of sustained growth.

SITUATION ANALYSIS

Country assessment

The Kyrgyz Republic – a landlocked mountainous country in Central Asia with a multi-ethnic population of 5.4 million – is one of the poorest countries in the Europe and Central Asia region, with income per head of \$880 in 2010 (Atlas methodology). Since independence in 1991, the country has made a strong advance towards the creation of a liberal market economy with the aim of promoting sustained economic growth and fighting poverty. It has met with some success in fostering open institutions, but has struggled to embed lasting democracy and civic freedoms. Economic reforms have resulted in an average annual growth of 5.4 percent over the five years to 2009 and a decline in poverty from 40 percent to 32 percent over 2006-2009 and extreme poverty from 9 percent to 3 percent over the same period. Despite these achievements, however, improvements in governance have been elusive: the country was ranked 164 out of 178 in Transparency International's Corruption Perception Index, and OSCE missions characterized elections until 2009 as falling short of international good practice.



The first elected president of the republic was forcibly removed from office in 2005 after nearly 15 years in power following a disputed re-election. In April 2010, anti-government political demonstrations took place against the authoritarian tendencies of his successor who had centralized power within the presidency. Protests were fuelled by a widespread belief that corruption, especially nepotism, and misuse of public assets had risen markedly. There was popular frustration with economic and social policy decisions (such as a sudden and very large rise in energy tariff), as well as of rising inflation and a deterioration in social services and infrastructure. The protests culminated in the removal of the president from office, and formation of an interim government headed by a coalition of opposition political and civic leaders. Since the changes in government and tragic events in South Kyrgyzstan in 2010, peace and reconciliation have been stated as critical priorities in the Kyrgyz Republic. Both interim President Roza Otunbayeva and recently elected President Almazbek Atambayev have placed the unity of the Kyrgyz people at the center of their political platforms.

The April 2010 events left a power vacuum in the south of the country, which forms part of the Fergana Valley with a mosaic of ethnic groups (Kyrgyz, Tajik and Uzbek). Local politicians attempted to mobilize ethnic sentiments to secure their position. In June 2010, political and social tensions culminated in violent inter-ethnic clashes which led to 300 persons killed (according to official statistics), more than 2500 injured and 400,000 internally displaced. Large scale destruction of public and private property, especially housing, occurred. The civil conflict led to a weakening of confidence within the private sector and to economic and fiscal pressures. Conditions in the south of the country remain volatile with continuing low intensity civil conflict, a depressed economy, sporadic security coverage, and deep scars left by the violence.

On 10 October 2011, landmark parliamentary elections were held in the country, with more than 3,000 candidates from 29 political parties competing for 120 seats. OSCE observers characterized voting as mostly peaceful and with a few irregularities, though a clear step in the right direction. In the end, five parties made the 5% voting threshold to take seats in the country's parliament.

With regard to women's participation, prior to 2005 there were no female representatives in the Parliament, only one female member in the Cabinet of Ministers and no female deputy ministers. Legislated quotas were introduced in 2007, increasing the number of women in Parliament from zero percent in 2005 to 25.6 percent. In 2011 the number was 23.3 percent, the highest percentage of female representation in Central Asia.

Compared to the progress of other low income countries towards achieving the MDGs, Kyrgyzstan enjoys high levels of human development in several areas such as health and education. However, improvements in certain aspects of economic and social development in the post-independence era have not been consistent. Progress in securing the necessary gains to achieve the MDGs has been mixed. With the exception of maternal mortality, health indicators have generally improved since the mid-1990s. Statistics vary widely, but Kyrgyzstan registered 63.5 cases per 100,000 life births in 2009, up from 42.3 ten years earlier, according to Ministry of Health statistics, a level considered high by global standards. Other health related goals such as reducing child mortality, improving maternal health, and combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases are unlikely to improve fast enough to meet targets. However, progress related to eradicating extreme poverty and hunger, ensuring environmental sustainability as well as developing a global partnership for development appear to be on track. The concern remains that MDG achievement is vulnerable to the political and social instability in the Kyrgyz Republic and without improvements in governance, continued progress may be difficult.



Education is intended to play a key role in the development of the Kyrgyz Republic and prepare children and adults for life and work conditions of market economy and democracy. The government allocates about 20% of budget expenditures to the sector the challenge is to turn this spending into results that is to improve learning for all. Both national (National Sample Based Assessment – NSBA - 2007, 2009) and international (Program for International Student

Assessment – PISA - 2006, 2009) assessments of student learning achievements showed low levels of student performance. Apart from low per student spending, a low student to teacher ratio (15-1), small school sizes, uneven deployment and underutilization of teachers, and weak sector governance contribute to inefficiency and poor results. Teachers have been demoralized, with salaries were previously at 60 percent of the pay scale for civil servants. However, the Government increased teacher salaries by up to 100 percent in May 2011.

To confront educational challenges, the Government has outlined the key reforms in the Mid-term Development Programme for 2012-2014, an intermediate step towards achieving the goals in the Education Development Strategy 2011-2020. The Education Development Strategy finalized by MoES is committed to implementing the Millennium Development Goals and the principles of Education for All. It attempts to solve key problems of the education system, notably the teaching staff crisis, the poor management of the education system and its funding, the outdated content of education and the limitations on the educational infrastructure.

The country can potentially achieve its targets on universal enrolment in primary education and literacy (enrolment rates in basic education are almost 95%, and the literacy rate is 99 %.), and ensuring environmental sustainability, but is a long way from achieving its targets on response to HIV, especially among rural children and women. In addition, considerable effort will be needed to achieve gender equality at the post-education level. The indicators of gender breakdown of children of different age show the dependence of imbalance on the age of pupils. While the ratio of boys to girls shows little variation in primary school (51.1 percent/48.9

percent), and basic secondary school classes (50.8 percent/49.2 percent), in higher secondary school grades it changes noticeably (46.8 percent/53.2 percent).

A variety of factors adversely affect education in Kyrgyzstan today. The June 2010 crisis increased problems in access, equity, inclusiveness, teacher supply and minority education in the affected territories. The conflict has had acute and pressing humanitarian consequences for 1,140,200 people with clear implications for educational provision and, at the same time, demanding now an educational response both from a policy and classroom perspective.

A UN Flash Appeal was put together in 2010 to meet the increased needs of affected populations. Crucial in the flash appeal was the restoration of health and early childhood services, due to the damage to schools, healthcare centers, and the large number of displaced young children and women, especially ethnic Uzbeks. UNICEF data show more than 250,000 children under the age of 5 were directly or indirectly affected by the crisis in Jalal-abad and Osh regions alone, through destruction of daycare centers, schools and health facilities. UNESCO's contribution to the appeal focused on preventing school absenteeism and the integration of children, teachers and parents into school and community life.

On 2 June 2011 Kyrgyzstan signed a memorandum with the International Monetary Fund on the Economic and Finance Policy Development for 2011-2014. As a result the first tranche at the amount of \$15, 2 million was provided to support the state budget. Despite the fact that the share of GDP rose from 6.5% in 2007 to 8, 7% in 2011 with over 20% of total public expenditure reserved for education throughout that period, the country fails to achieve proportionate results in terms of student outcomes.

Rendering of quality educational services is hampered at present by a number of factors, which are risks that need to be taken into account in any education planning process. These problems as defined in the Education Development Strategy can be summarized as follows: poor learning conditions and outdated approaches to issues of education management and planning, a lack of reliable mechanisms of quality assurance, reduced educational institution funding, reductions in the number of pre-school institutions, excessive curriculum overloading of students, a considerable decrease in quality of student preparation in primary and secondary professional education, a growing gap between rural and urban school environment. Secondary education still lacks sufficient funding for learning materials, construction and rehabilitation of schools, and training and upgrading teacher qualifications. Graduates of professional and higher education have difficulty finding employment due to a mismatch between the training provided and job market needs.

The negative impact of these factors has led to a deterioration of basic education indicators (access, quality, and relevance), resulting in a decline in gross and net enrollment ratios, low attendance and high dropouts. 7.6% of school age children did not attend school in 2010. Analysis of test results shows a significant gap between pupils of urban and rural schools. According to recent GRT results, pupils in rural schools scored 107 while pupils of urban schools scored about 121.5. The low percentage of the total coverage, especially in rural areas is lack of a link between completing basic education and future competitiveness in the job market, therefore families have to choose between the high cost of educating/keeping their children at school and using them as agricultural labour. In Kyrgyzstan, levels of dropouts and non-attendance are higher for boys than for girls; this is true at all levels, according to MICS data, due to the high pressure on males to migrate for work.

It is assumed that a programme for adults focused on accelerated education to obtain a basic education certificate will be of great importance in future. In recent years coverage of the formal adult education sub-sector has steadily declined. The majority of educational programmes for adults financed by the state budget, including education for unemployed adults are programmes

awarding degrees: 48% of people take primary vocational education programmes, 52% take vocational education or higher education courses.

Public awareness of the importance of training or re-training unemployed young people and adults is increasing; however there is no funding to develop attractive adult training programmes focused on training the unemployed, enabling them to obtain the knowledge and skills making them competitive in the labour market.

The majority of government educational initiatives have remained unrealized in many respects due to a lack of financial planning and overall shortage of funds. Despite certain achievements, the existing management of the education system has thus far failed to promote the successful implementation of public policy. This has been focused on the development of human resources in order to meet the current and prospective demands for the labor force. It has also failed to improve the level of education among the population. There is a need to design more effective methods of management and create more efficient incentive mechanisms for participants in the educational process.

When the Government of Kyrgyzstan became eligible for the Fast Track Initiative, the country was presented with an excellent opportunity for accelerating achievement of EFA goals and for strengthening coordination and effectiveness of donor support. The Grant aimed to accelerate achievement of EFA goals; this was to be done first of all, to improve attendance and quality of education at pre-school and primary levels through expanding and advancing preschool development programs; to improve the national curriculum, educators' qualifications, school facilities, and to rehabilitate the institutions' infrastructure.

The Joint Country Support Strategy (JCSS) and Sector Wide Approach (SWAp) approach for Kyrgyzstan focuses on support for capacity building, institutional strengthening and community-driven initiatives to address education development needs. The Ministry of Education and Science (MoES) is expected to take a major role in these endeavors and coordinate implementation of the new Education Development Strategy, other assessments and reviews necessary for preparing the SWAp. Transition to a sector-wide approach starting from 2013 will allow consolidating donor funds and direct them into the education system directly through the budget that will eliminate duplication in the direction of funds and will allow using external assistance to solve major problems of the education system, in the first place, of school and basic vocational education.

Accessibility and improving the quality of basic secondary education are the highest priority objectives, in line with constitutional guarantees of universal basic secondary education, the country's need for a labor force with sufficient general education, the ability to further learning/retraining, as well as the need to achieve MDGs and EFA. The implementation of relative educational goals and strategic priorities requires effective interventions and improved capacity development policy with focus on results-oriented education planning, management, budgeting, monitoring and evaluation.

The Kyrgyz Republic has a low prevalence of HIV infection, with 3887 officially reported HIV infections as of January 1, 2012. However, in recent years the rapid growth of new HIV cases has been noted. According to WHO/UNAIDS reports, Kyrgyzstan is one of seven countries with the highest growth rates of HIV epidemic in the world. The estimated number of HIV infections in Kyrgyzstan in 2011 is 12,040 according to an assessment based on WHO program SPECTRUM. The unsafe practice of intravenous drug use remains the leading cause of HIV transmission. But in recent years, the growth of sexual transmission from 25.3% of cases in 2009 to 30.3% in 2011 has been noted. In 2011, 181 cases of sexual transmission of HIV were documented: 136 women (about 75%) and 45 men (about 25%). Nosocomial HIV infections continued to be registered in 2010-2011 and the cumulative number was 207 as of 01.01.2012.

The HIV epidemic response is one of the main priorities for the Kyrgyz Republic government. Kyrgyzstan, following its international commitments (Millennium Development Goals, 2000, the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS, 2001 and Political Declaration, 2006) is taking decisive steps to control HIV infection. The new national programme for stabilizing the HIV epidemic in the Kyrgyz Republic in 2012-2016 was developed based on the WHO and UNAIDS strategy taking into account country specifics.

The Kyrgyz Republic has a number of very important issues and challenges in the area of **natural sciences**; these have a significant impact on the country's economic development.

The country enjoys a strong comparative advantage in hydro-power generation and is potentially a significant exporter to its neighbors as well as to south Asia. Unfortunately, the energy sector has been micro-managed by the government, with companies enjoying little autonomy. Governance standards are very weak, maintenance has been neglected to a dangerous degree and large projects need to be scrutinized and brought into line with modern standards.

Water management is becoming a more and more pressing issue in the country. The main river system of Central Asia (including Kyrgyzstan) and the drainages of the Aral Sea are heavily dependent on snow and glacier melt in their mountain headwaters. These river systems sustain the lives and livelihoods of the people and the economic development in the region. Changes in glaciers in the mountains will significantly affect the large populations of the region. It is clear that adaptation strategies should be implemented without delay in order to mitigate these



effects, yet, scientific knowledge is not sufficiently advanced to adequately guide such implementation. Therefore, it is crucial to assess and monitor all water resources in the highly important river headwaters of Central Asia and, in particular, to monitor the changes and impact on river regimes of melting of snow, glacier ice and permafrost. Irrigation has been practiced in the Kyrgyz Republic for centuries. Since independence, because of managerial, technical and financial constraints, deterioration of the irrigation and drainage system has led to an unreliable supply of irrigation water. Prior to independence, rural water supplies were managed by a state service provider (KAS). Water was supplied almost free-of-charge and systems were designed to a high standard. However, with independence came the end of centralized budgetary support, and KAS was unable to sustain previous levels of operation and maintenance of the systems, which in turn started to deteriorate. KAS was eventually dismantled and the responsibility for rural drinking water management and supply has since migrated to several ministries and agencies. However in 2009, responsibility moved again to the agency in charge of irrigation services.

Mining constitutes about 10 percent of GDP, and 40 percent of export earnings for the Kyrgyz Republic. Therefore, the mining sector is highlighted in the Mid-Term Development Program of the Kyrgyz Republic as a development priority, and social and environmental concerns are required to meet the identified objectives.

The Kyrgyz Republic is a mountainous country where the risks associated with natural disasters (landslides, earthquakes, floods, etc.) are high. With independence in 1991, the country inherited a legacy of environmental damage caused by many years of mining development with little regard to environmental impact.

UNESCO's natural sciences expertise in the areas listed below definitely can and will support the following Government of Kyrgyzstan and UNDAF priorities:

- Strengthen institutional potential with a view to promoting environmental sustainability;
- Address problems associated with natural disasters through their prevention and the effective management of natural resources;
- Reform the water system as a whole through the improvement of policy and make effective use of existing potential (irrigation/potable water and hydropower);
- Expansion of the country's energy potential;
- Expanding international scientific and technical cooperation and participation of the science sector in the globalization processes.

Links and cooperation in the natural sciences with Central Asian countries are progressing, notably in integrated water resource management (surface and ground), glacier monitoring, renewable energy sources and disaster preparedness. Water resources management, including glaciers and disaster preparedness issues can play a significant role in fostering regional cooperation. Neighboring countries could help greatly mitigate geopolitical risks by greater cooperation on energy and water related issues, fostering community livelihoods, promoting social stability reducing risks. In light of this, UNESCO will focus efforts on strengthening cooperation with Central Asian countries in these areas and involving Kyrgyzstan in global programmes and networks supported by UNESCO, initiatives such as IHP (PCCP, G-WADI) and MAB.



In the **social and human sciences**, most discussion has focused on the human rights investigations and legal trials in the aftermath of the 2010 ethnic violence in south of the country. Local and international organizations have reported that investigations into the causes of the 2010 events were not conducted fairly and that justice was not being done. Calls for independent review of the events have been made by international bodies, with protection given for those who uncover violations in procedures by state authorities.

The June 2011 report of the United Nations Human Rights Council reported cooperation with the Kyrgyz government on improving human rights issues. At the same session, the Human Rights Council passed a resolution calling on Kyrgyzstan to improve its human rights record in the areas of administration of justice, torture, arbitrary detention, and press freedom.

The Kyrgyz government has accepted 152 of 168 key recommendations of the 2010 UPR and is working with the UN and other international organizations to strengthen its national human rights record. On March 4 2011, Kyrgyzstan acceded to the International Convention against Doping in Sport. On September 21, 2011, Kyrgyzstan signed the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Labour migration remittances continue to be a primary form of income for the country. Russian Federal Migration Service statistics report up to one million Kyrgyz migrants are working in the Russian Federation alone. Unofficial statistics estimate another half million are working in neighboring Kazakhstan. In 2010, migrant remittances accounted for an estimated 27% of the country's GDP. Many Kyrgyz abroad are in irregular labor situations and face difficulties with access to services, documentation and face human rights violations. In addition, family members left behind, primarily children and the elderly, increasingly struggle to make ends meet. Women make up a growing percentage of labor migrants in the country. While statistics are unreliable due to porous borders and a non-visa regime, recent data show that the numbers of

women migrating for work from Kyrgyzstan to neighboring Kazakhstan have surpassed those of men. The majority of these women work in service industries, in markets or in private homes as domestic help, where they are hidden from the public and are therefore more vulnerable to abuses by employers. Similarly, Kyrgyzstan is experiencing increasing flows of internal migrants from rural areas of the country to cities, especially to the capital, Bishkek. Internal migrants face many of the same challenges as do international migrants with regard to discrimination, employer abuse, access to documentation and basic services.

In terms of corruption and bureaucratic obstacles to business development, Kyrgyzstan remains a challenging place to do business. Ranking 70th of 183 countries measured in the 2012 World Bank's *Ease of Doing Business* index, Kyrgyzstan is second among Central Asia countries (behind Kazakhstan, which ranks 47th) in the index. Political volatility, a formidable tax structure, cross border trade obstacles and unstable electricity are all cited as barriers to business development in the country.



Gender equality. The Kyrgyz Republic performs well in several gender equality dimensions, especially in comparison to other low income countries but also to the rest of the ECA region. The country has a strong track record in human development and high female labor force participation as well as a non-discriminatory legal framework. For example, the gender gap in primary and secondary school enrollments is negligible; in higher education the female to male ratio is 1.3 to 1. The women's labor force participation rate of 56 percent is higher than the average for the ECA region; women also

comprise 43 percent of the labor force.

The process of socio-economic and cultural transformation in modern Kyrgyzstan after achieving independence in 1991 has affected the state of **culture**, particularly shortage in funding, expertise and management. However, modern socio-economic growth, needs for cultural identity and a sense of history plays an important role in the lives of people of Kyrgyzstan. The effective management of cultural heritage properties, safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage including traditional handicrafts, promoting of cultural and eco-tourism plays a viable role in the long-term socio-economic and cultural development of Kyrgyzstan.



Kyrgyzstan is State Party to a number of conventions and has stated its commitment to UNESCO's normative action. However, despite regular updates to the legislative base (amendments to the 1992 Law on Culture in 1995, 2002, 2009, amendments to the 1999 Law on the Protection and Use of Cultural Heritage in 2002, 2012), the Government recognizes that there remain weaknesses in the normative base with regard to UNESCO Conventions, as well as low levels of infrastructure development; unequal access to cultural services, and an insufficient level of preservation and promotion of cultural heritage. In addition, there is a shortage of specialists and institutions in the cultural sphere (draft State Programme "Culture of Kyrgyzstan" for 2011-2013).

However, Kyrgyzstan has made a major step in safeguarding intangible cultural heritage by becoming a member of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage in June 2012 and by acceptance of the Law on safeguarding ICH in June

2012. Moreover, the Concept of Culture Development in Kyrgyzstan should provide strategic vision on the whole sphere of culture until 2020 and is being developed by the Government.

The April 2010 political unrest also had cultural ramifications and stressed the significance of continuous dialogue among different cultures in Kyrgyzstan. Intercultural dialogue in this sense is the key strategy for peace building and crisis prevention. It is important to strengthen the protection and safeguarding of tangible and intangible cultural heritage that is common to multiethnic communities of Southern Kyrgyzstan. The crafts sector remains the most vital cultural industry in Kyrgyzstan. By offering job opportunities to vulnerable populations, such as rural communities, the craft sector already is contribution significantly to the fight against poverty. The development of the country's tourism sector positively affects demand for crafts. However, the absence of State regulation and legislation governing craftspeople remains a challenge.



In the field of **communication and information**, the Kyrgyzstani press has exhibited a very positive trend in media pluralism and professionalism. However, problems remain, including media legislation and practices, as well as the safety of journalists. The establishment of the first public service broadcasting organization and the first community radio in Kyrgyzstan are evidence of sustainable progress. Contentious issues regarding media legislation include provisions concerning registration and licensing of the community media. There is a lack of clear state strategy for media development. Because of the need to enhance conditions for the free flow of and universal access to information, the government has ratified a law on access to information in 2006. Because the law is currently not being applied, several *freedom of information* principles, including the right to information is not fully implemented. There is a need to reform the curricula used to educate journalists and to upgrade journalist skills in crisis reporting and on sustainable development issues.

The UNESCO Communication and Information strategy in Kyrgyzstan targets governmental institutions, media outlets, and NGOs to build an inclusive knowledge society based on two principal priorities:

- Fostering free, independent and pluralistic communication and universal access to information,
- Promoting innovative applications of ICTs for sustainable development.

Also, as a member of the CCA/UNDAF strategic prioritization process, UNESCO promotes communication for development as a joint UN approach to advocate internationally-agreed development goals.

PAST AND PRESENT COOPERATION

UNESCO's achievements and lessons learned in previous and current biennia through both regular programmed and extra-budgetary activities provide a strong foundation for its work in Kyrgyzstan.

In **education** linked to economic development UNESCO Almaty provides assistance to Government and local administrators to improve the quality and relevance of education service delivery. Activities include technical assistance, teacher retraining, analysis and support for revision of educational norms and standards.

During 2010-2011, UNESCO Almaty provided support in education policy formulation and sector wide planning. UNESCO assisted stakeholders to formulate inclusive education policies and supported them in implementing education reform. The workshops were organized to review education reform experiences, consider policy options and improve capacities for results-based policy implementation and effective use of resources. As a result, ministerial capacities were enhanced in strategic education planning with a focus on education management and financing. Recommendations have been developed and provided to the Ministry of Education for improved planning, management, monitoring and evaluation. There is still a need for building long-term capacities, on education policy implementation, monitoring, policy revision and updating.



UNESCO Almaty's interventions were enhanced by the provision of policy tools and analytical reports on global trends in education.

UNESCO uses multisectoral and cross-cutting themes to impact gender equality, poverty alleviation, sustainable development and the promotion of universal values, establishing working groups and focal points to network on specific priority areas identified in the national education strategy (literacy, life skills, HIV and AIDS, ECCE, non-formal education).

Within the framework of **improving educational system management**, the Government is planning to develop regulations, aimed raising quality of the system for decision making system and strategic planning in the sector of education on the basis of monitoring and evaluation of results for all levels of education. UNESCO's involvement takes on many different forms, including: improving institutional and human competencies, enhancing evaluation processes in the sphere of education, and improving the quality of education through ongoing dialogue and exchanging best practices among Central Asia countries.

UNESCO's initiative within the UN 'Decade of Education for Sustainable Development' (ESD) aims to re-orient existing education at all levels to reflect the principles of sustainable development and incorporate ESD and environmental education into national education strategies and action plans.

UNESCO's lifelong learning strategy for Kyrgyzstan focuses on expanding educational opportunities for both young people and adults, promoting functional literacy and non-formal education through community learning centers, supporting improvements in secondary education and the quality of education at all levels. Taking into account the goals and priorities

of the 2012-2014 Country Medium Term Development Strategy UNESCO Almaty, jointly with the Ministry of Education, relevant stakeholders and the NGO “Forum of Education Initiatives,” provided support **to expand opportunities for adult education**, particularly for women, and sustainable development for rural areas, to be integrated into national legislation, National Education strategy and the Law on Education. Meetings and workshops have been conducted with policy makers to summarize adult education priorities, develop recommendations and promote collaboration among key ministers in charge of adult education. A comprehensive analysis of legislation and regulations on adult education was prepared for the Law on Adult Education, to update and improve policy options for adult learning.

During her visit to UNESCO Headquarters In March of 2011, the Kyrgyz President stressed the following priorities in the field of education: support to the educational system with a focus to post-conflict areas (rehabilitation, conflict management, post conflict education programs and projects) and investment in education policy review.



In view of all these issues and challenges, UNESCO offered a comprehensive policy review to help education authorities in Kyrgyzstan to strengthen their education system and contribute to the development of its capacities. In doing this, UNESCO will use existing resources and tap into its network of international experts to develop fruitful cooperation with International organizations and donors operating in the country.

In view of the growing importance of providing education to prevent, prepare and respond to emergencies posed, the UNESCO Almaty Cluster Office launched **the International Forum on post conflict education “Learning to Live Together”** held in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, 27-29 June, 2012. The Forum provided an opportunity for policymakers, experts and practitioners to identify debate and discuss priority issues in different areas of post conflict education, establish a platform for networking, collaboration and seeking common solutions to problems arising in post conflict situations. The Forum developed and adopted recommendations on response strategies and for education policy, focusing on promotion of human rights, peace building, gender mainstreaming and social inclusion for vulnerable groups.

The participation of EURASEC Member State Education Ministers underlined the importance of the Forum theme and contributed to the implementation of joint initiatives and events for the achievement of quality education for all.

Considering that low awareness and understanding of HIV and AIDS related issues generate myths and rumors which are the main obstacles for effective HIV prevention and elimination of stigmatization and discrimination, the Education Sector can play a key role in providing accurate information and developing life skills to form tolerant attitudes towards people living with HIV among youth. Moreover, EFA goals cannot be achieved without prevention (health) education. Therefore UNESCO Almaty continued support to the Ministry of Education and Science in strengthening response to the HIV epidemic during the last biennium. An interactive course, "Building knowledge about HIV and AIDS" was adapted and approved by MoE and distributed around the country through Ministry networks, UN Agencies, International organizations and local NGOs; education system specialists enhanced their knowledge and skills on the participatory approach in Preventive Education; representatives from MoE shared experiences and identified strategies to improve effectiveness and expand coverage of comprehensive

prevention education programmes during an International Preventive Education Conference in Almaty, 2011; young photographers improved their understanding of HIV and AIDS related issues and held a photo exhibition “We are with you! We are together!”, in Almaty.

The character of the UNESCO Almaty **natural sciences** sector strategy in Kyrgyzstan is based on national and sub-regional priorities committed to assisting relevant ministries and authorities to achieve national priority goals. A number of activities were organized during 2010-2011 with the participation of decision makers, experts and specialists from the country.

UNESCO received a request to update the status of water education in Central Asian countries and provide recommendations for future cooperation in the area of IWRM capacity building. The sub-regional workshop "Capacity Building for IWRM in Central Asia" was organized by UNESCO Almaty and UNDP. The workshop presented a review of the "Status of water education in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan" conducted by country experts with UNESCO financial support. The activity analyzed the teaching of issues water-related resources at of Central Asian universities to identify problems in the educational process and make recommendations for improvement. A status review and recommendations were provided to ministries and stakeholders.

Four Kyrgyzstan experts participated in discussions on the current status of glacier study and prospects for joint activities during the workshop, "Modern Problems of Glaciology in Central Asia and Prospects of Scientific Cooperation on the Basis of Central-Asian Regional Glaciological Center category II under the auspice of UNESCO." The workshop was held in cooperation with the Institute of Geography and UNDP (2010).

Young scientists from Kyrgyzstan participated in a sub-regional "Glaciers' mass balance training" workshop. National experts on transboundary aquifers and the Committee of Geology of Kyrgyzstan participated in the sub-regional workshop “Transboundary Aquifers in Central Asia: An Integrated Approach for Multidisciplinary Study and Governance,” organized in Almaty in cooperation with the OSCE. The workshop discussed the needs and role of groundwater resources, reviewed adaptation measures to climate change and the expected increased consumption of water, addressed issues and challenges of transboundary aquifer management and confirmed the interest and the expectations for current and future ground water transboundary projects.

In 2011 a representative from Kyrgyzstan provided a country report to the Regional G-WADI Workshop on Climate Change Impact on Water Resources Management in Arid and Semi-Arid Zones G-WADI (participation in the meeting was planned but did not materialize). The report was published in the meeting proceedings.

In 2011 a representative from Kyrgyzstan participated in the 4th South and Central Asian MAB Network (SACAM) Meeting conducted in Iran, presenting a country report.



In 2011 UNESCO Almaty supported the international Conference “Mountain Hazards 2011”. Three experts from Kyrgyzstan participated in the conference and made presentations. Participants in the conference investigated hazardous natural processes and shared experience in monitoring and risk mitigation. Presentation materials were published in the conference proceedings. Research on relations between current climate changes and hazardous processes in mountain environments was the special topic of the conference. The conference thematically was linked with the 1st

International Expedition for glaciers study and the environmental situation in upstream regions of the Vakhsh and Pyanj in August 2011 (specialists from Kyrgyzstan participated in the work of expedition).

In light of growing interest in renewable energy in Central Asia countries, in 2009-2010 UNESCO Almaty in cooperation with experts from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan conducted research, prepared and issued an e-publication "Use of Renewable Energy Sources in Central Asia: Perspectives and Capacity Building Needs". The UNESCO strategy on renewable energy and priorities was presented at a UNDP workshop "Climate change – Development of a Proposal from Science Institutions" (April 2010). A specialist and experts from Kyrgyzstan participated in a workshop on "Legal, Scientific, Technical and Economic Aspects of Use of Renewable Energy" (Astana 2010) organized with UNDP Kazakhstan. UNESCO invited an international expert to share experience in development of RES. Two experts from Kyrgyzstan participated in a meeting on renewable energy in Central Asia held in November 2010. The event was organized by UNESCO Almaty in cooperation with ISESCO and was attended by 20 experts representing universities, research institutions, and business companies from the sub-region, as well as independent international experts. In February 2011 UNESCO initiated the new contract for developing a detailed modern RES comprehensive course for decision makers (including lectures and test-questions). A final version of the course has been placed on the UNESCO Almaty website. One expert from Kyrgyzstan received a 1-month RES training fellowship (in Moscow).



Experience has shown that sub-regional level activities in the area of water resources, climate change, and natural disasters are mutually vital for Kyrgyzstan and other cluster countries. These projects will facilitate better understanding of the subjects, deepen regional cooperation, establishing networks and improve capacities. Lack of English language proficiency remains an obstacle for participation of Kyrgyz specialists in international conferences, trainings and workshops; as such they should be more involved in similar activities at

the regional and sub-regional levels. Relations with National authorities through the National Commission for UNESCO in KR should be strengthened to avoid duplication in activities and for achieving multiplication effect.

The UNESCO Almaty **Social and Human Sciences** unit in 2010-2011 focused on building inclusive, tolerant societies through dialogue as well as the dissemination of accurate information on labour migration in Central Asia. During 2010-2011, UNESCO's Social and Human Sciences Sector began a reorganization process to focus more clearly its priorities on UNESCO's mandate and to allow for more effective cross-cutting work with other UNESCO sectors. UNESCO Almaty's campaign "For Tolerance" in Central Asia featured a multimedia campaign to promote reconciliation and dialogue efforts in Kyrgyzstan in 2010. Activities featured a short video piece on tolerance shown at several high level human rights fora in the country; tolerance was a featured theme on the country's best known social issues blog for the International Day for Tolerance. To mark the visit of Kyrgyzstan President Roza Otunbayeva to UNESCO Paris in March of 2011, UNESCO Almaty cooperated with UN Women on the photo exhibit "Women of Kyrgyzstan for Tolerance and Peace." The exhibit was opened by the President with UNESCO Director General Irina Bokova. Finally, a children's art contest on the theme of peace and tolerance was launched in Kyrgyzstan to mark the International Day for Tolerance in November 2011, with more than 1200 entries received from around the country and an album of works created from submissions. An exhibit of these art works will travel to the south of the country in 2012, and plans are underway to make the successful contest a regular event.

UNESCO Almaty continued its partnership with American University of Central Asia (Bishkek) in the area of labour migration, supporting their Central Asian Migration Research Network and newsfeed that boasts more than 400 subscribers in more than 40 countries. UNESCO also supported faculty-student research projects on contemporary migration issues, bringing together students and faculty from Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan to discuss the impact of labour migration on these two migrant “sending” countries.

UNESCO Almaty also partnered with the UN Women Sub-regional Office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia to support creation of a Migration Media Network (MMN) to promote fair and accurate reporting and protect the rights of labour migrants and members of their families. A workshop to promote awareness on HIV risk among labour migrants was held in Bishkek in December of 2011. The international workshop brought together about 30 journalists and students of journalism, civil servants and NGO specialists who work with labour migrant populations to strengthen their communications skills, including how to write using non-stigmatizing language on migration and HIV, how to prepare press releases on to attract media coverage of migrants’ rights issues, and how to conduct outreach campaigns among migrants themselves.

As a non-resident country in Kyrgyzstan, strong partnerships are essential to successful implementation of activities. Regular missions to the country and networking with partners, especially donors and UN agencies, are essential to effective activity management in the country. As evidenced in the 2010 Kyrgyzstan conflict, UNESCO’s particular mandate, project cycle and resource limitations do not lend themselves well to emergency response. Taking into consideration these issues, UNESCO needs to position itself accordingly within the international community and focus on medium and long term post-conflict interventions, as well as conflict prevention.



In the area of **culture**, UNESCO has concentrated efforts on heritage preservation and safeguarding (intangible and tangible, museums) while providing assistance to the development of handicrafts, ecotourism and promoting dialogue, both through Regular Programme and extra-budgetary activities. One domain of culture where UNESCO has taken the lead is the area of normative action which includes seven conventions and two declarations. These form the basis for the protection of cultural diversity. Kyrgyzstan remains committed to these provisions and is making efforts to

implement ratified UNESCO Conventions; however the country is not yet State Party to key instruments such as the 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions and the two Protocols (1954 and 1999) to the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict.

In this area UNESCO assists Kyrgyzstan to implement the 1972 World Heritage Convention by continuing to provide support to the Central Asian Silk Roads Serial Nomination, the Central Asian Rock Art Serial Nomination, and natural heritage nominations. A major step in preservation and promotion of rich and diverse tangible cultural heritage of the country was the inscription of Sulaiman-Too Sacred Mountain on the UNESCO’s World Heritage List. The decision was made during the 33rd session of the World Heritage Committee in Seville, Spain, 26 June 2009.

In 2003-2007 the UNESCO/Japan FIT project for Preservation of Silk Road Sites in the Upper Chuy Valley in Kyrgyzstan: Navikat (Krasnaya Rechka), Suyab (Ak Beshim) And Balasagyn (Burana), with a budget of \$742,749 was implemented. Project activities were mainly related to

documentation and conservation activities, as well as the backfilling of emergency conservation areas. Detailed research on climatic factors, geological and hydro-geological conditions of the Second Buddhist Temple's site provided the additional data necessary for making decisions on conservation activities and technical solutions necessary for conserving the site. An important part of the project was the improvement of site management and the establishing long-term preservation and maintenance systems in close collaboration with related local authorities and institutions.

Kyrgyzstan also benefited from \$29,932 received under the World Heritage International Preparatory Assistance for organizing a workshop to advance the Central Asian Rock Art Serial Nomination in 2008. The workshop resulted in a common understanding on the need to mobilize national and regional efforts, and to continue fostering regional cooperation between experts and site managers.



In the field of intangible cultural heritage, \$148,493 had been allocated to the safeguarding of the Art of Akyns, Kyrgyz Epic Tellers under a UNESCO/Japan FIT project. The project that ended in 2008 provided the basis for research, documentation and training aiming to revive and safeguard Kyrgyz epic heritage. UNESCO supported trainings in musical and vocal performing skills of Manas and other epic tellers. Apart from this extrabudgetary project, a sub-regional training workshop on inventory making of intangible cultural heritage was held 2009 to develop standard guidelines and formats for inventorying. It was also an occasion to identify and share good practices in intangible cultural heritage safeguarding. As a follow-up, some efforts have been made to inventory ICH elements of the Manas Ordo National Complex.

In the field of museums, a \$264,000 project financed under the US contribution to the Regular Programme was implemented in 2006-2007 to strengthen preventive conservation and documentation of endangered ethnographic collections, particularly to improve the textile, cloth, carpets and felt storage units and to create complex storage for museum collections. It also provided basic equipment for the conservation laboratory. A training program, hands-on consultation and instruction in preventive conservation, documentation, management and use of museum collections, information and legislation literacy as a tool for security and safety of museum collections were also organized.



For six years (2002-2007) UNESCO was actively involved in the development, support and promotion of cultural and ecotourism in the mountainous regions of Kyrgyzstan through the UNESCO Poverty-Alleviation CCT project (\$125,500 from Norway FIT and regular programme). UNESCO in cooperation with the NoviNomad Tourism Development Company promoted community-based cultural and ecotourism in the Issyk-Kul area with a specific focus on poverty eradication, reducing rural-urban migration, and to develop and support school eco-tourism clubs and ecotourism service provider associations to understand cultural and natural heritage and demonstrate the ecotourism potential of the region.

In the field of crafts, UNESCO promotes Kyrgyz handicraft through the sub-regional Award of Excellence programme, focusing on promoting and training in quality, authenticity and marketability. The programme used as a quality control mechanism and marketing tool for enhancing the full potential of Central Asian craftsmanship, ensuring the continuation of traditional knowledge and the preservation of cultural diversity in the region, including Kyrgyzstan. The programme started in 2004 and implemented in partnership with the Central Asian Crafts Support Association (CACSA) and its Resource Centre located in Bishkek.



Communication and Information activities in 2010-2011 enhanced universal access to information and knowledge, fostering pluralist and independent media and infostructure to enhance the free flow of information.

Access to public information. The CI unit promotes universal access to information in Kyrgyzstan in the following ways:

Developing a conducive environment. Kyrgyzstan ratified the Law on Access to Information held by public bodies and local self-government of the Kyrgyz Republic in November 2006. However, the absence of several freedom of information principles has hindered its implementation. In 2011, UNESCO Almaty sought to generate political will to consider and implement the “right-of-access”; to enhance a culture of access in government and civil society; and to improve the right-of-access management skills within Academy of Management under the President of the Kyrgyz Republic.

Promoting ICT and FOSS for access to information. Complementary to a conducive regulatory environment, access to information through new communication and information technologies (ICT) is a powerful tool in social development. In this field UNESCO has harnessed free and open source software (FOSS) to create, store, disseminate and utilize educational and cultural information and knowledge.

UNESCO provided training to a number of stakeholders on the basics of records management to improve access to and storage of on-line public domain information. Several FOSS tools for government instructions were popularized, including the Museolog Software for museum professionals and Moodle for educators.

Simultaneously UNESCO strengthened professional networks among partner institutions in the efficient use of these tools. The “How to Do” guidelines on FOSS for education, culture and improved access to information were published.

In addition to regular programme funds, assistance for the other CI programme pillar, *media development*, was mobilized primarily through media development projects funded by the International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC). Four mechanisms were used in these projects.

Developing media development indicators. In this context, UNESCO (globally) facilitated the definition of media development indicators; these have now been translated into Russian for use by anyone wishing to contribute to independent and pluralist media.

Supporting journalism education. Capacity-building for media professionals was supported by translating and adapting resource references of the UNESCO model journalism curriculum into Russian and introducing it to several media NGOs and universities in Kyrgyzstan. The curriculum was developed and translated as a contribution

to the long-term and continuous need to revise and modernize journalism education programmes.

Community media. Jointly with Radiomost community Radio, Talas, the National commission for UNESCO in the KR, community leaders from mountain valleys of Kyrgyzstan and Media Development NGOs, the first Central Asia conference on community radio was held 20 - 21 January 2010 in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. The role of community media was highlighted in promoting social development. The World Association of Community Radio (AMARC) and CIM (GIZ) assisted in management of the only genuine community radio operating in the CIS. Social sustainability of community media, challenging legal environment, transition from community multimedia centers using narrowcasting technology to broadcasting community radios remain obstacles for the community media movement. A series of trainings held in the framework of IPDC project *Building Community Radio Capacity in Kyrgyzstan*. The project helped upgrade members' skills in facilitating informed discussions on community development concerns; expressions of artistic talent; non-formal education, and information that improve the quality of people's lives. Mediamost Community Radio currently participates in two global internet radios: RadioJoJo and Radio1812, devoted to children and migrants. Its staff travelled to Nepal to visit community radio stations there and to share best practices with Asian colleagues.

Training of trainers. Parallel to the journalism education programme, UNESCO has continued training a *pool* of Kyrgyz trainers, equipping them with interactive and other modern training skills to train adult groups. These trainers have gone on to train community radio volunteers and journalists on reporting HIV and AIDS in a culturally sensitive, accurate and non-biased manner.

Reporting development issues. Another key document translated and adapted for Central Asia in 2009 was "Media as Partners for Sustainable Development – A training and resource kit". The kit served as a resource material both for university education and in several journalism training courses; it also contributed to the capacity of Kyrgyz media to report accurately and in a well-informed manner on sustainable development issues. Practical exercises tested during IPDC training in Central Asia in Reporting Environmental News implemented by CARnet.

The free flow of information and its corollary, the freedom of expression, has been UNESCO's constitutional mandate since the Organization's creation. The visible symbol for 'free flow' is the annual celebration of 3 May as United Nations World Press Freedom Day, which UNESCO has been marking in Kyrgyzstan since the Alma-Ata Declaration was adopted in 1992, placing independent and pluralist media on the Kyrgyzstan media development agenda. In 2011, World Press Freedom Day supported monitoring of freedom of speech violations and media capacity building.

During the next biennium 2012-2013 UNESCO Almaty will focus **education** activities on further strengthening education planning, management and curriculum for secondary education in cluster countries. Capacity development and training needs will be analyzed with regard to education policy implication challenges.

Enhancement of national capacities and improvement of professional competencies in sector-wide policy-making will be provided through consultative meetings, sub-regional workshops and training programmes based on the needs of member-states and the budget available under UNESCO Almaty regular resources. Technical support will be provided to strengthen the education management information system (EMIS) for formulating evidence-based education policy. Policy dialogue will be organized with key partners on implementing education reform. Technical support will be provided in revision of sector-wide teacher training policy planning and management. National capacities will be built to improve the legislative framework and quality assurance in promoting EFA goals.

In 2012-2013, UNESCO's Almaty will focus on sector-wide policy formulation and capacity building for education planning and management in post conflict situations. It will aim to enhance content knowledge, risk reduction and preparedness, as well as conflict management and critical thinking skills to equip learners with the requisite skills, knowledge and attitudes to face future uncertainties and challenges.

Violent conflict is a very present risk in border regions of Kyrgyzstan, and this conflict is often connected to land and water access issues. For the 36 C/5, in view of the growing consensus on the importance of providing education in humanitarian crises to prevent, prepare and respond to emergencies, UNESCO Almaty proposed to conduct in Kyrgyzstan, as a post conflict country in, a UNESCO International Forum on Post Conflict Education "Learning to Live Together" in June, 2012. The Forum proposal to establish a Central Asian Resource Center as a platform for networking, collaboration and post-conflict education issues will be further discussed for consideration by the Eurasian Economic Integration Community Education Committee of the EURASEC Member States. The CA Resource Center will facilitate knowledge exchange and enhance competencies on effective teaching, focusing on education for conflict prevention. As a follow-up, UNESCO Almaty in cooperation with the CA Ministries of Education will promote development policies and normative frameworks emphasizing education for conflict prevention, peace building and non-violence, The workshops, interactive theme group work as well as case studies on learning to live together will be organized for networking and peer-learning opportunities across countries under the Risk Management thematic area in cooperation with the Kyrgyzstan Multi-Partner One Trust Fund.

Further technical support for post conflict education will be provided through evaluation of best practices in relevant cross-cutting themes (social inclusion, gender equality education, HIV prevention).

In 2012-2013, taking into account the HIV epidemiological situation and needs of the education system in Kyrgyzstan, UNESCO will support development of information materials related to HIV infection policy in educational institutions and handbook for parents on promoting healthy lifestyles. The distribution of developed materials will be accompanied by training on how to use it.

In the area of Natural Sciences, Clean Water, Disaster Risk Reduction, Sustainable Environment and Energy are mostly covered under Pillar C of the UNDAF for the Kyrgyz Republic, 2012-2016, Outcome 2: *By end of 2016, sustainable management of energy, environment and natural resources practices is operationalized and Outcome 3: By 2016, Disaster Risk Management framework in compliance with international standards established and effectively operationalized at national and local levels.*

In line with the UNDAF commitments, UNESCO will further focus on areas of UNESCO expertise in the following: integrated water resources management, environmental sustainability, conservation and proper management of biodiversity and ecosystems; natural disasters through their prevention and management of natural resources; expansion of the country's energy potential. These will be achieved through training and assistance on glaciers, water conflicts ("from potential conflict to cooperation potential") based on existing training materials, IWRM, transboundary water management, disaster preparedness, promotion of RES application (at the level of universities and decision makers), development of biosphere reserve nominations for inclusion into the World Network of Biosphere Reserves under the UNESCO "Man and Biosphere" Programme. The magnitude of UNESCO's activities and assistance will depend on the amounts of funding obtained from all sources.

All activities will be carried out in a close cooperation with other UN agencies (primarily UNDP), EU, OSCE as well as national authorities (Ministry of Water Management and Irrigation, Ministry for Emergency Situations, UNESCO National Commission, State Agency on Environment Protection and Forestry, Ministry of Energy, National Committee on Climate Change including State Agency for Protection of Environment and Forestry), the UNESCO Category 2 Center and Universities.

The UNDAF in Kyrgyzstan for the period 2012-2016 was drafted in the immediate post-conflict period and focuses on conflict mitigation and protection of human rights and access to justice for all people of the Kyrgyz Republic. Complementary to the UNDAF document, the UN in Kyrgyzstan launched in late 2011 a joint UN-EU project "Operationalizing Good Governance for Social Justice in Kyrgyzstan." The three year 5 million euros project focuses on improved social inclusion and equity in the country, with a focus on women, youth and children, especially in remote areas.

The UNESCO **Social Sciences** strategy in Kyrgyzstan, as in the other cluster countries, focuses on two primary areas which are in line with the country's UNDAF and national priorities:

- Social inclusion of labour migrants
- Promoting tolerance and reconciliation

In carrying out this strategy in Kyrgyzstan, UNESCO cooperates closely with UN agencies and local partners to implement activities using a human rights-based approach that focuses on empowering individuals to overcome development challenges.

In the area of **Social and Human Sciences** for the 36 C/5, the Almaty office will continue to work on social inclusion issues, particularly labour migration, youth and gender. In Kyrgyzstan, UNESCO's tolerance, reconciliation and social inclusion activities will be implemented primarily through coordination within the joint UN-EU project, "Operationalizing Good Governance for Social Justice in Kyrgyzstan," as described above and formally launched at the end of 2011. SHS will also continue to provide technical expertise to the UN Women Sub-Regional Office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia in Almaty to expand their Migration Media Network, as well as continued support for labour migration, including the rights of migrant domestic workers and migrant reproductive health rights. SHS also plans to support the new Central Asian Bioethics Association (CABA) in its efforts to hold its next meeting in Kyrgyzstan in 2013.

UNESCO Almaty will address the complex linkages between **culture** and development through the following: support for the inclusion of vulnerable groups in social, political and cultural life; promotion and enhancement of the standard-setting basis, notably the set of UNESCO Conventions, for cultural diversity in all its forms; assistance in implementation of Conventions; promotion of the potential of the crafts sector for job creation. UNESCO will further focus on the promotion and protection of cultural diversity through implementation of integrated operational and normative projects for preservation of tangible and intangible cultural heritage, development and promotion of traditional handicraft, sustaining museums, supporting arts education and creativity and promotion of intercultural dialogue. Greater attention will be paid to promotion of the 2005 Cultural Diversity on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions.



As a follow-up to the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting for Asia and serial nomination initiatives launched in 2005, UNESCO will continue supporting the serial nomination process for two cultural heritage sites: Silk Roads and Central Asian Rock Art. In connection with this it is planned to conduct the 3rd meeting of the Coordinating Committee on the Serial World Heritage Nomination of the Silk Roads in Bishkek in September 2012.

Greater attention is needed to promote regional cooperation on identification and safeguarding of shared heritage, to support exchange between countries of the cluster as well as joint implementation joint Silk Roads project in cluster countries. In 2012-2013, UNESCO with the generous support of the Government of Norway is implementing a project for effective safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage in Kyrgyzstan. The activity includes a series of trainings on implementing the Convention, community-based inventorying and preparing nominations for inscription of ICH elements onto the Urgent Safeguarding List. Greater attention is needed to raise sub-regional capacities for cooperation on identification and safeguarding of shared heritage, to support synergies and exchange in the implementation of components of the project organized within cluster countries.

Past and current experience has shown that UNESCO should continue to create shared responsibilities between Kyrgyzstan and other Central Asian countries to develop synergic cooperation. Activities of the World Heritage Silk Roads and Rock Art Nominations and some of the initiatives in shared ICH can be considered good practices and examples of how culture can foster regional cooperation and dialogue while achieving UNESCO cultural strategic objectives.



The **Communication and Information** programme in 2012-2013 will continue 'enhancing universal access to information and knowledge' and 'fostering information and communication capacities for universal access to knowledge', primarily to promote an enabling environment for freedom of expression and freedom of information. UNESCO Almaty is organizing a conference to celebrate of 20th anniversary of Alma-Ata declaration on promoting independent and Pluralistic Asian Media. In the field of development of free, independent and pluralistic

media, reflecting the diversity of society and social sustainability, UNESCO Almaty will support greater involvement of men and women in community dialogue. This will be done especially through the joint EU-UN project, "Operationalizing Good Governance for Social Justice in

Kyrgyzstan,” launched at the end of 2011 with activities beginning in 2012. Five new community radio stations in Batken, Jalalabad, Osh, Naryn, Talas oblasts will be established. Two community multimedia centers will be opened in Chui oblast. The community radio stations and media centers will provide much needed access to local information and services in these villages, which were selected in part because of their isolated locations and poor access to local information. For those villages to receive community radio stations, UNESCO will assist with obtaining the appropriate broadcast licenses as well as the “Radio-in-the-Box” community radio kit. Village volunteers will be provided with equipment, training as well as internet access points (where possible) to produce their own programs on social issues including access to water, education, land rights, public services, etc. In the villages selected for community media centers in Chui Oblast, close to the capital, Bishkek, volunteers will be trained to produce programs that will then be aired through existing public radio channels in Bishkek, as well as through the internet and offline channels.

A third activity will support Member States to strengthen the impact of activities in the fields of education, sciences and culture enhanced through innovative ICTs.

PARTNERSHIP STRATEGY

Activities will be implemented through partnerships involving the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic, UN Agencies, civil society and, where appropriate, the private sector. Partnership with the United Nations Country Team in Kyrgyzstan ensures a cohesive approach to activities and the effective achievement of UNDAF outcomes to ensure their sustainability.

UNESCO Almaty's partnership strategy will complement implementation of the UCPD and ensure sustainability of its outcomes. The partnership strategy includes analysis of the relevant UNDAF outcomes in relation to UNESCO programming documents (C/4 and C/5 documents), identification of potential partners, negotiations regarding funding and implementation of activities, as well as the actual implementation of projects, monitoring and evaluation of results achieved.

The UNESCO Almaty Office will work in close collaboration with Government agencies (including the National Commission for UNESCO in the Kyrgyz Republic, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, the State Agency on Environment Protection and Forestry, Ministry for Emergency Situations, Ministry of Culture and Tourism, Ministry of Social Protection), governing bodies of intergovernmental and international programmes, UNESCO centers and chairs, NGOs and CBOs, media outlets, central and rural libraries. It will also pursue recently initiated cooperation with non-governmental entities having specific expertise in key areas and that can support UNESCO as a non-resident agency in the country.

UNESCO Almaty established close cooperation with UNICEF Kyrgyzstan and other UN agencies to map the extent to which policy and practice support EFA, MDGs, UNDAF. Agencies are collaborating on analysis of national achievements and the progress of educational policies and strategies. Partnership building with UN agencies and other donors within the framework of EFA Global Plan of Action, UN Decades on ESD and Literacy, advocacy and raising awareness campaigns will be promoted for coordination of joint country case studies, research, analytical reports, education and communication materials. Cooperation with civil society, NGOs and youth organizations will be extended to enhance lifelong learning through literacy and non-formal education. UNDP, UNICEF and UN Women and the European Union are UNESCO's key partners in the three years joint UN-EU Programme "Operationalizing Good Governance for Social Justice in Kyrgyzstan."

In field of community media development local NGO Mediamost will serve as main partner to assist in licensing, certification and programming for the newly established community radio stations. Access to Information and communications for social justice will be assisted by PBC (OTRK), ABU, AIBD, Kloop, Journalist.kg, Deutsche Welle Akademie, FES, BBC, and RFE/RL.

Partnering with international organizations and NGOs is important for UNESCO to leverage the expertise and capacities of national and international stakeholders and maximize the overall impact of UNESCO's activities. These partnerships will serve as a catalyst for leveraging extra-budgetary funds and cost sharing to implement the UCPD beyond the UNESCO regular budget as well as in facilitating policy/legal/institutional actions. Partnership with other UN agencies will ensure effective achievement of the UNDAF Outcomes. UNESCO will also seek collaboration with bilateral and multilateral donors to attract additional resources necessary to attain UNDAF results and ensure their sustainability.

During the course of the 2012-2013 biennium, UNESCO Almaty will explore development of new partnerships, for example Restaurateurs Without Borders (in the field of museums) and the

Swiss Development Cooperation in the area of culture. UNESCO will investigate possibilities for partnerships to sustain local women's handicraft cooperatives within the CCT ecotourism project, notably with ACTED and UN Women.

ANNEX I: UCPD RESULTS MATRIX (outcomes/ results not included in the UNDAF)

UNESCO Sector	Name of Activity	Expected Result of Activity	Performance Indicators and Benchmarks	Available Resources (USD)	Mobilization Target (USD)	Implementing Partners
Education	Teacher training	Specialists from educational institutions in Kyrgyzstan improved capacity to deliver good quality skills-based comprehensive HIV, STIs and drug use prevention and sexuality education to adolescents and young people	47 educational institutions equipped with resource materials 8 trainings conducted 116 educators trained.	6800		MoE, Project Unit "Healthy Generation"
	Development of health promotion information book for parents.	Parents have access to evidence-informed, user friendly and culturally appropriate information which increases their understanding of and support to HIV and sexuality education for adolescents and young people.	Number of book for parents printed in Russian languages in Kyrgyzstan.	Scheduled on 2013		MoE, Project Unit "Healthy Generation"
	Adaptation of recommendation on HIV	Education sector institutions and services in Kyrgyzstan and	HIV and AIDS policy document	2450	Agreement concluded with	MoE, Project Unit "Healthy Generation"

	Policy in Education	Tajikistan have a framework to support and protect HIV-positive and affected learners and workers from discrimination and deliver rights based comprehensive HIV and sexuality education to learners.	developed. Recommendations on the National Policy on HIV in Education has been developed in Russian language and approved by the Ministry of education in Kyrgyzstan.		GIZ Kyrgyzstan for translation of recommendations into Kyrgyz, training of education administrators on how to introduce recommendations. Agreement concluded with UNICEF Kyrgyzstan for printing national recommendations in Kyrgyz and Russian languages. UNICEF printed final version of recommendations for training supported by GIZ.	
Social and Human Sciences	Operationalizing Good Governance for Social Justice in Kyrgyzstan (Joint with Communication and Information Unit)	Kyrgyz in 30 rural villages have improved access to seven basic services, including administrative services, to improve the quality of their lives.	Residents of rural villages have improved access to information and ability to participate in decisions that affect their communities. Benchmark 0 community media	EUR 342,369.72 (2011-2014)	EUR 291,648.00 (2011-2014)	EU, UNDP, UNICEF, UN Women, RadioMost, Kloop Media, local community NGOs

			<p>centers/radio stations in pilot villages, Target: at least 7 community media centers/radio stations in pilot villages within project</p> <p>Platform for dialogue on social issues creates information exchange and allows media to report accurately on issues affecting vulnerable groups, using a C4D approach. Target: Platform created and operational? y/n</p>			
	Social Inclusion of Young Migrants in Kyrgyzstan	Dialogue enhanced between local administrations, community leaders and youth on migration and youth in selected communities, in particular the needs of young women as an increasingly active migration cohort.	Workshop proceedings disseminated, community media materials produced and broadcast, action plan produced and published in local	20,000		EU, UNDP, UNICEF, UN Women, local community NGOs

			communities - 60 participants trained in three workshops.			
Culture	Capacity-building in heritage management and advancing ongoing serial and transboundary nominations in Central Asia	Capacity of Central Asian experts and institutions in management of monuments and sites increased; Silk Roads Serial Nomination, Central Asian Rock Art Serial Nomination, and Western Tien-Shan Transboundary Serial Nomination advanced.	7 specialists and site managers trained who intend to use the acquired knowledge; two (out of three) Tentative Lists that include properties for the Silk Roads, Rock Art, and Western Tien-Shan, submitted by the States Parties; one (out of three) draft nomination files submitted by the State Parties.	7,000		National Commission of Kyrgyzstan for UNESCO, Ministry of Culture and Information, Institute of History and Cultural Heritage of the National Academy of Sciences
	Strengthening national capacities for effective safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage in Central Asia	Capacities of concerned countries strengthened to meet their national obligations under the Convention and to benefit from the mechanisms of international cooperation established by the Convention, including International Assistance from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund.; Critical mass of national capacity established, both in	Three capacity-building activities (workshops) organized in the beneficiary countries; Safeguarding initiatives undertaken at the national level, including inventorying and	65,000		National Commission of Kyrgyzstan for UNESCO, Ministry of Culture and Information

		government institutions and in civil society, so that beneficiary countries will have a sustainable framework for safeguarding intangible heritage and implementing the Convention	other safeguarding measures; at least one nomination submitted to the Urgent Safeguarding List or Representative List, proposals submitted to the register of good practices, or requests submitted for international assistance; 15 cultural officers, community representatives, practitioners and NGO members trained.			
	Promoting of the 2005 Convention in Central Asia	Raised awareness of the Governments and local stakeholders on the 2005 Convention; Stakeholders in the cluster countries collaborate for a more efficient understanding, promotion, ratification and implementation of the Convention	Study conducted in order to contribute to the APA regional strategy; one consultation and promotional meeting organized with various stakeholders on the national level	5,000		National Commission of Kyrgyzstan for UNESCO, Ministry of Culture and Information
	Support for documentation standards and	To establish documentation and research standard valid	Documentation and research standard agreed by all	110,000		National Commission of Kyrgyzstan for UNESCO, Institute of

	<p>procedures of the Silk Roads World Heritage Serial and Transnational Nomination</p>	<p>for all the component sites of the serial and trans-boundary nomination of Silk Roads; To train the national and regional experts to prepare nomination dossier(s) of Silk Roads; To strengthen institutional capacity through improvement of the knowledge and skills of personnel in geophysical and metric survey methods; To improve partnerships and develop networks between institutions and experts on the sub-regional and international level.</p>	<p>participating institutions and experts and used in processing of information. Nomination dossiers of selected priority Silk Roads sites are reinforced with produced documents and information. At least 10 of national experts trained and the received skills are used and duly applied. Partnerships established and regular contact and sharing information is ensured.</p>			<p>History and Cultural Heritage of the National Academy of Sciences; Japan Center for International Cooperation in Conservation, National Research Institute for Cultural Properties (NRICP)</p>
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ANNEX II: UCPD results matrix (outcomes/ results included in the UNDAF/ One Plan)

UNDAF/ One Plan expected outcome/ result	Expected result of UNESCO activity	Partnerships	Available resources in US\$
UNDAF pillar A: Peace and Cohesion, Effective Democratic Governance and Human Rights			
Outcome 1. A national infrastructure for peace (at local, regional and national levels) involving government, civil society, communities and individuals effectively prevents violent conflict and engages in peace building	Children, youth understanding of intercultural dialogue and tolerance enhanced.	National Commission for UNESCO in KR, UN Agencies, youth organizations, human rights NGOs.	TBD
Outcome 3: By 2016, national and local authorities apply rule of law and civic engagement principles in provision of services with active participation of civil society	New community media institutions created and trained and capacities of existing media outlets increased in monitoring rule of law implementation	Public Broadcasting Corporation (OTRK), ABU, AIBD, National Commission for UNESCO in KR, UN Agencies, EU, Mediamost NGO	210,000.00
UNDAF pillar B: Social Inclusion and Equity			
Outcome 1: By 2016, vulnerable groups benefit from improved social protection,	Labour migrants social inclusion enhanced , especially among young and female migrants as a vulnerable and rapidly growing group, through production and dissemination of quality, non-stigmatizing information on migration	Ministry of Labor, Employment and Migration, migration NGOs, IOM, UN Women, EU.	20,000
	National capacities of key education players enhanced in setting up legislative framework and education reform with focus on education for conflict prevention and EFA goals achievement.	Ministry of Education, NGOs, National Agency for Statistics, regional departments of education, Kyrgyz Academy of Education	TBD

UNDAF Pillar C: Inclusive and Sustainable Job-Rich Growth for Poverty Reduction			
Outcome 2: By end of 2016 sustainable management of energy, environment and natural resources practices operationalized	Capacity and understanding of sustainable management among decision makers, experts, specialists and students enhanced.	National Commission for UNESCO, UN Agencies, Agency on Environment Protection and Forestry (SAEPF), National Committee on Climate Change, State Agency for Protection of Environment and Forestry, Academy of Sciences, Universities	TBD
Outcome 3: By 2016, Disaster Risk Management (DRM) framework in compliance with international standards, especially the Hyogo Framework of Action	Capacity and understanding of Disaster risk reduction (DRR) legal, institutional and policy frameworks that feature coherence and mechanisms of coordination enhanced among specialists and experts	National Commission for UNESCO, Other UN Agencies, Ministry for Emergency Situations, Ministry of Agriculture and Melioration, Universities	TBD

Program areas in SWAp with Leading Implementing Partners and Donors

UNICEF	AKDN	USAID	GIZ	AKDN	GIZ	UNESCO	USAID
WB	UNICEF	UNESCO WB	ADB	GIZ	WB		WB
EU	WB	EU USAID	EU/ETF	EU	EU (TEMPUS, EM))	EU (ETF)	EU UNESCO
Programme 7 Management and Administration	Programme 1 ECD and Pre- School Education	Programme 2 School education (grade 1-11)	Programme 3 Primary VET	Programme 4 Secondary Professional Education	Programme 4 Higher Education	Programme 6 Adult Education	Cross cutting themes (ICT, inclusive education,...)