

Action Research. Сборник отчётов по исследованию практики в действии. НИИШ ФМН г. Астана. 2015.

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INTERACTION OF THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN WITH UNICEF: ACTIVITIES, PROBLEMS AND PROSPECTS

The United Nations Children's Fund is a worldwide organisation that has set global goals focusing mostly on ensuring equal rights and opportunities for everyone. In 1994, Kazakhstan adopted the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which is known today as the basic document through which the rights of minors to survive, develop and use their personal potential is carried out.

Along with it, the organisation is engaged into working closely with the government and local authorities to implement programmes that are dedicated to provide an equal access to education, health care and social rights for all members of the country regardless of their social strata. Children, who come from vulnerable groups especially those with special developmental needs and/or psychological problems, get special attention.

Kazakhstan's collaborative work with the United Nations Children's Rights Fund plays an important role in ensuring the well-being of children and protecting their rights which are regarded as one direction in Kazakhstan's state social and legal policy. The President of the country, Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, has highlighted the importance of this work and declared 2022 year as the Year of the Child, where the main focus was on safety of younger generation.

Cooperation between Kazakhstan and UNICEF has its own features as well as certain challenges. This article examines Kazakhstan's activities in partnership with UNICEF, analyses the challenges facing this cooperation and discusses the prospects for its development.

To start with, the interaction between the Republic of Kazakhstan and UNICEF is of a paramount importance in making the child's welfare one of priorities and protecting their rights. As UNICEF is known as the leading international authority on the protection and promotion of children's rights, and its partnership allows Kazakhstan to implement effective measures to protect children from violence, exploitation, discrimination and other forms of violation of their rights. In addition, initiatives developed jointly by UNICEF and the Government of Kazakhstan are helping to improve the availability and

quality of education for children. Thus, UNICEF supports the development of innovative educational programmes, teacher training and professional development, inclusive education for children with special needs, and the enhancement of early childhood education. Additionally, Kazakhstan's health collaboration with UNICEF aims to reduce mother and child mortality rates, improve access to and quality of maternal and child health services, and controls the spread of infectious diseases [1].

One of the most significant areas for cooperation between Kazakhstan and UNICEF is education. The key project that has been implemented as part of this partnership is the project on 'Supporting Primary Education Reform in Kazakhstan'. The goal of the project was to improve the quality of primary education in the country through the development of new educational programmes and materials, teacher training where new methodologies were used, and the introduction of innovative approaches in the educational process. As a part of this programme, UNICEF supported the establishment of a national steering committee for GIGA and the connection of 38 rural schools to broadband Internet, reaching 20, 000 children. Following a study where the knowledge gaps of teachers on inclusive education and use of digital tools. Therefore, 14-hour training course on inclusive blended learning for 5,500 primary and secondary school teachers was developed in cooperation with Astana Hub. Additionally, The International University of Information Technology developed a 72-hour training programme on inclusive blended learning for 1,437 primary and secondary school teachers [2].

UNICEF also worked directly with the Ministry of Education and Science and the Ministry of Information and Community Development to expand the scale of the UPSHIFT and Samgau programmes which can improve adolescents' skills for learning, employment and decent work. As a part of this program, 46 youth resource centers and 70 educational organizations, including organizations for the most vulnerable young people, have started conducting trainings on development of skills.

Kazakhstan also cooperates actively with UNICEF to improve child healthcare and social protection. The Improving Maternal and Child Health project was one of the key projects in this area. The project aimed at reducing maternal and child mortality rates and improving the quality of healthcare for mothers and children. The project provided trainings for health workers, supported with medical equipment and gave more opportunity to a wider range of health services. UNICEF provided tremendous support to Kazakhstan during the global pandemic COVID-19 by supervising the vaccination of Kazakhstan's underage population.

The international organization also addresses the issue of bullying in Kazakhstan. According to UNICEF, in 2020 in Kazakhstan 63% of children witnessed violence and discrimination, 44% were victims and 24% committed

acts of violence and discrimination against other children in school [3]. It is almost impossible to establish accurate statistics on bullying in Kazakhstan due to the fact that school officials prefer to hide incidents of bullying. This creates a serious safety risk for children. Taking into consideration the importance of this problem in the country, UNICEF has developed the BeKind volunteer project. This project will be the first step for raising public awareness to prevent bullying in schools and cyberbullying among adolescents [4]. Volunteers will go to schools and conduct interactive sessions for younger pupils, where they will discuss the dangers of bullying and the need to inform adults about it immediately. In addition, there will be a series of live broadcasts on the popular social networks such as TikTok and Instagram, where together with UNICEF and with the support of the Committee for the Protection of Children's Rights of the Ministry of Education of Kazakhstan, the large-scale «Safety Academy» campaign, which was launched in 2022, continues. The second stage of the campaign is dedicated to the problem of bullying in the online environment. The platform will host a series of live broadcasts on cyberbullying with leading experts in psychology, law and child safety.

Another major project was launched in order to give equal opportunities and prevent gender inequality. According to the World Economic Forum, only 14% of Kazakhstani girls graduate in STEM fields, compared to 37% of men. These statistics are observed in the countries of Central Asia as a result of gender stereotypes concerning the division of 'male' and 'female' professions. The UniSat project started in Kazakhstan in March 2020. It invited girls to take part in assembling their own nanosatellite and launch it into the stratosphere after training in 3D modelling, 3D programming and the construction of a circuit board. In the first year, 20 Kazakh women aged 14 to 35 mastered the programme. In 2021, UNICEF expanded the programme to include girls from Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan. A total of 2,000 girls from three countries completed the online course, after selection 238 best participants made it to the second phase of the programme and took part in a 10-day offline marathon. The programme is now being worked out for distribution through learning hubs so that as many girls from rural areas as possible can develop STEM skills [5].

Despite the significant achievements and potential for cooperation between UNICEF and the Republic of Kazakhstan, there are some challenges that make it difficult to work effectively. One of the main problems is limited funding. The implementation of large-scale projects and programmes aimed at protecting children's rights requires significant resources. Otherwise, the lack of funding can limit the ability of Kazakhstan and UNICEF to accomplish their plans and initiatives. Another issue is the inconsistency between international standards, UNICEF recommendations and national laws of Kazakhstan. There

are difficulties in coordinating national legislation taking into account international standards and recommendations, which can slow down the implementation of the project. When there is a discrepancy between the laws of the country and the proposals of the Children's Fund, a long, legislative process starts, at the end of which, recommendations may be rejected and the proposed project may even be cancelled.

There are other issues that may impede the realization of projects such as institutional problems and access to remote and vulnerable regions of Kazakhstan. That means limited infrastructure and resources may hinder the delivery of programmes and services to these regions, making it difficult to achieve equal opportunities for all children in the country. In addition, child protection priorities and needs change from time to time, which may require adjustments of programmes and projects.

There are urgent problems such as climate change, geopolitical conflicts, and epidemiological crises that may require a more flexible and swift response from Kazakhstan and UNICEF. One example of this is COVID-19 epidemic, during which many projects have had to be paused or completely shut down. Therefore addressing these challenges and ensuring a more effective partnership between Kazakhstan and UNICEF demands joint efforts, including improved funding, negotiation of standards and policies, and the development of more flexible and adaptive approaches to meeting the needs of children in the country.

The prospects for cooperation of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the international foundation have a vast potential for further development. First of all, this collaborative work should be directed towards the expansion of programmes and projects: The Republic of Kazakhstan and UNICEF can expand their joint programmes and projects in various areas, such as education, health care, protection of children's rights, social protection, etc. This would allow focusing on a broader range of issues related to child welfare and protection. In addition, Kazakhstan can take advantage of the best practices and innovative approaches provided by UNICEF to develop its own programmes and strategies to enhance children's rights protection. This includes the use of new technologies, best methodologies and adopting leading practices from other countries where UNICEF is actively being applied.

Another consideration is that this Cooperation with UNICEF can help the Republic of Kazakhstan to strengthen its position in the field of children's rights protection. This requires developing the skills and competencies of staff, establishing, monitoring and evaluating mechanisms, strengthening the legal framework, and developing policy and strategy documents. The international interaction of UNICEF members is equally important to address common issues relating to children's rights. This can include sharing experiences,

developing joint projects and programmes, and coordinating with other countries in the region to achieve common goals.

Additionally, cooperation between Kazakhstan and UNICEF can be aimed at achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. This includes providing better education, reducing disparities, combating poverty, ensuring children's health and well-being, and achieving gender equality. Overall, cooperation between the Republic of Kazakhstan and UNICEF is promising and further development of this partnership can significantly contribute to the protection of children's rights and enhance their well-being in Kazakhstan.

In conclusion, the cooperation between UNICEF and the Republic of Kazakhstan has greatly improved the well-being of children and the protection of their rights, and it is important to note that this partnership has resulted in a number of successful projects and initiatives in the areas of education, health, protection and prevention of bullying. The partners have successfully implemented various projects and initiatives in recent years.

In the field of education, UNICEF-supported programs have been launched to improve the accessibility and quality of education for all children, including those in remote areas. These innovative teaching methods have focused on professionalizing teachers and expanding pre-primary education opportunities.

Thanks to joint efforts, the health sector has made significant strides in reducing maternal and child mortality rates and improving access to quality medical care. In order to promote a healthy society, a comprehensive strategic plan has been developed that includes vaccination, family planning, and disease prevention programs.

Social initiatives, in collaboration with UNICEF, have been implemented to enhance social welfare and protect vulnerable children. Integral to the overall effort to create a more equitable and inclusive society are programs aimed at assisting children with disabilities and orphans, as well as preventing child labor.

The issue of bullying has received special attention, and UNICEF is actively involved in addressing it.

Joint efforts have helped to develop and implement effective strategies to prevent and combat this phenomenon in educational institutions, creating a safe environment for the development of every child. The prospects for the future are promising, and there is a need to further develop and strengthen cooperation to address new challenges and changing societal dynamics. Areas for future research and development could include the development of digital educational resources, improvement of the healthcare system, and strengthening measures to prevent social problems such as bullying and inequality.

The interaction between UNICEF and Kazakhstan has not only led to improvements in the current situation, but has also laid a solid foundation for a more favourable future. It is widely acknowledged that in order to ensure the sustainability and effectiveness of cooperation in the long term, it is essential to pursue innovation, exchange experiences, and adapt to changing challenges.

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THE ESSENCE OF ABAI'S IDEA OF «TOLYK ADAM» IN MODERN TIMES

There were numerous paradoxes in Kazakh society between the end of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th century. A conflict between the old and the new, as well as the Russian Empire's emergence as a colonial power, characterised this time period. Old ideas gave way to new ones. The national identity, attitude, and religious standing of the Kazakh people changed throughout this hard winter. The Kazakh people currently struggle with issues like how to make a living, land conflicts, and how to defame their people during the era of the renowned Kazakh-Dzungarian war, honour, nation, and land. The valiant Kazakh transformed into a charming, diligent Kazakh who was too indolent to rest. The brilliant Abai identified the sociopsychological