



# ENHANCEMENT OF LIVING STANDARDS KARAKALPAKSTAN



This project  
is funded by the Europe Union



This project  
is implemented by UNDP

Financed by the European Union and implemented by the United Nations Development Programme, the project Enhancement of Living Standards in Karakalpakstan offers concrete opportunities to local communities to play an active part in their own development and improve their lives.

The autonomous Republic of Karakalpakstan in Uzbekistan lies in an area hit by one of the worst ecological disasters ever caused in human history by the drying up of the Aral Sea. These photographs are a window into the activities of the project in support to local people's efforts to repair and reconstruct essential community infrastructures. These images were taken by the photographer to celebrate the efforts of men and women of Karakalpakstan in ensuring a better life for themselves and their children.

Photos: **Matteo Modé**  
**Jalgas Shamuratov** (Karakol)  
**Sergey Sultanov** (Karabuga Kirik)  
Text: **Laura Rio**  
Design: **Kakhramon Abidjanov**

The project would like to thank the men, women and children from Karauzyak, Kegeliy and Shumanay districts who are portrayed in this booklet.







## THE STORY OF MADENIYAT MAHALLA OF KARAUZYAK DISTRICT

Madeniyat is a community in the southern part of Karauzyak district in the north-east Karakalpakstan, approximately a 120 km drive from the district centre. The district located at the end of the irrigated area, is close to what once was the shore of Aral Sea. It also borders with the Kyzylkum desert which in the local language means the desert of the red sands. Madeniyat School is the pride and joy of the community. As every parent knows sports bring children closer, keep them healthy and out of trouble. A sport hall is also a good place to celebrate and entertain. It was obvious that, when asked by the local authorities and the ELS project, the 415 families of Madeniyat were unanimous in their priority: the school must be renovated. The community resolved to contribute their skills and equipment free of charge in support of this initiative. By the end of 2005, with the support of the EU and UNDP, 600 children, their teachers and parents in Madeniyat will have a new sport hall to be proud of.

**Large photo: First we have come together to think of what we can do**

**Small photo: we look after our school here in Madeniyat**



## THE STORY OF KARAKOL OF KARAUYAK DISTRICT

Karakol is a small community of 376 people in the eastern part of Karauzyak district in the north-east of Karakalpakstan, approximately a 15 km drive from the district centre. The small community lives 3 and half km from the nearest water improved source, the pipeline of Tuemoin-Nukus which brings drinking water to the capital of Karakalpakstan and the district centre. The community and the au-

thorities of Karakol have installed a pumping station which feeds an overhead tank. Unfortunately, the pump is out of order and the 58 families are now using the water from a nearby irrigation canal. In June 2005 Karakol approached the ELS project and proposed to share the costs for the repair of the pump and the installation of 5 km. of water pipes to connect Tuemoin-Nukus pipeline with the vil-

lage. The community is ready to work side by side with the district rural water board to install the much needed pipes. Works will last one month. The end result is that every house in Karakol will drink clean water from the tap. By the end of 2005, the 58 families in Karakol will have contributed their share in improving their own living standards and those of their children.



**Our electric pumping station will be up and running thanks to the EU and UNDP**



**It will take a lot of work to get the water up to that tank, but it will be worth it**



**Soon, there will be water for all in Karakol**



**It's along way to Karakol...**

# THE STORY OF BIRDEM

## OF KARAUZYAK DISTRICT



The village of Birdem is located in the district of Karauzyak, 25 km away from the district centre. There is no running water for the 2285 inhabitants and people have to spend most of their time queuing up at the village pump and carrying the water home. This is hard work and time taken from other tasks, school and play. *"Water is life and without water Birdem cannot survive. This is a problem that concerns us all"*, say people in Birdem. After animated discussions of what can be done, the community has resolved to come together and sort their problem out with the help of the ELS project. The project will help the community to lay down pipes and purchase a water pump. The community will contribute labour, skills and private assets such as the tool and machinery needed to do the job. The community's matching contribution to the EU funds will go a long way to ensure that everyone's living standards are improved in the small community of Birdem.

**Photo above: Back to the school desks for a discussion and a decision on what to do**

**Photo left below #1: The way back home is always harder**

**Photo left below #2: It's a hard job to bring water home and everyone needs a break from time to time**

**Photo right: The water can be easily contaminated**





Temirkhan village is located in the western part of Karauzyak district, 20 km away from the district centre. About 1320 people, approximately 240 families live in this community. The district borders with the Kyzylkum desert and temperature in winter can drop below 20 degrees Celsius. Parents are worried that their children will be too cold to attend school this year. The school gas heating system is old and needs replacing. However, this is an expensive thing to do. The community of Temirkhan is one of the 100 communities who have presented a proposal to the ELS project in support to community initiatives for the rehabilitation of social infrastructures. *"Why, we used to study in this school, we can contribute our labour, we have some very skilled people in the community and they can help too",* said the school director when he participated to the first mobilization workshop organized by the ELS project and the community in July 2015. By using the Millennium Development Goals as a starting point for discussion, the ELS project and the community have joined hands to make things happen. Soon, they will replace the school gas pipes and give their children a warmer place this winter and a better start in life.

## THE STORY OF TEMIRKHA VILLAGE OF KARAUZYAK DISTRICT



**Large photo:** Thanks to the EU we are going to have a nice warm school this winter...


**Small photo left:** ...and we will make sure that this happens

**Small photo right:** The gas pipe is old and need replacing









# THE STORY OF COMMUNITIES NUMBER 1 AND 3 OF KARAUZYAK DISTRICT

Community number 1 and number 3 are located in the centre of Karauzyak district, approximately 80 km from Nukus, the capital of Karakalpakstan. The 503 families of the two communities know that lack of water is a problem to each and every one. For example, the little children of Mahalla № 3 may not go to kindergarten this year. *Naushe* Kindergarten has no running water. It's a hard job to prepare the food. Simple things such as washing little faces and hands everyday are a problem. Also, walking all the way to bring water home is long and tiring. What to do? Keep the little ones at home? Send the older children to collect the water from the pump? The ELS project has brought the two communities together to find an answer to these questions. As result, a few important decisions have been taken. The ELS project will pay for the water pipes and the community will help install them. With the support of the EU and UNDP and by offering their skills and assets, the communities plan to have improved access to education for their children and a decent water supply by the end of 2005.



**Photo left: Carrying water takes time. When the pipes are there, there will be more time for playing**

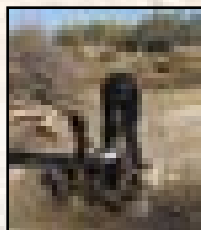
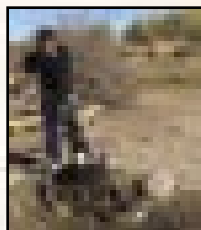
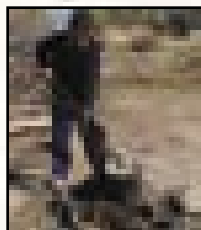
**Photo above: There will be a pipe here, and it will bring water to our kindergarten**

# THE STORY OF KARABUGA KIRIK COMMUNITY OF KARAUZYAK DISTRICT



Karabuga Kirik Village is located in Karauzyak district, approximately a 25 km drive from Karauzyak city. The closest source of drinking water for the 353 people of this community is about 2 km away. Without pipes connecting the community, this is too long a distance for the 66 families of Karabuga Kirik. So, they have no choice, but drink the water from a

shallow well. This means long walks to the pump and a lot of waiting for one's turn. To carry the water home in buckets or heavy containers is also tiring and time consuming and... water is always running short. The community of Karabuga Kirik and the ELS project have reached an agreement. The project will purchase the necessary length of pipe to connect the community to the improved water source. The community on their part will contribute time, labour, skills and equipment. The ELS and the community together will see that the support generously given by the EU goes a long way to improve the living standards of this community. Thank to the EU and UNDP everyone in Karabuga will have access to good drinking water by the end of 2006.





**Things are going to change for the better soon**

# THE STORY OF KUSKANTAU MAHALLA OF KEGELIY DISTRICT



Kuskantau community is located in the northern part of Kegeliy city, 45 km from Nukus, the capital of Karakalpakstan. There is only one water pump for the 26 families of this community. In summer 2005, when the ELS project, local authorities and community representatives met, everyone was unanimous in deciding that they needed at least 5 water pumps. Thanks to a matching community contribution in kind, the ELS project will help the 246 people in Kuskantau to have their 5 water pumps installed by the end of 2005. By joining hands and working together, the local authorities, the community and the ELS will have made the EU and UNDP contribution will go a long way in helping improve the living standards of this small community in Kegeliy.

**Photo right: I have come to join my community to solve our problems with water**

**Photo left: It's hard work to bring water home... and it hurts one's back...**

**Photo below: ...and one has to keep the house clean**







## **THE STORY OF KAZANKETKEN MAHALLA OF KEGELIY DISTRICT**



The mahalla of Kazanketken is located in the northern part of Kegeliy district, approximately 45 km from the district centre. Sanitation is something that has been worrying the 64 families living in Kazanketken for a long time. There are only four public conveniences in the 16 apartment houses where the community lives and two of them are in a state of disrepair. The community is particularly worried for the health of their children and has resolved to do all what they can to improve things. They have attracted the attention of the local authorities and together have asked the help of the ELS project. The ELS project has brought the community together to contribute their share in the construction of improved hygienic facilities. Thanks to the joint support of the EU and UNDP and the work of the community, a major step has been taken to protect the health and improve the lives of the 364 people living in Kazanketken.

**Photo on right side: This thing has got to go, we owe our children something better**

**Photo left: It is a difficult job, but together with the EU and UNDP we will succeed**

**Photo center: It requires efforts and good will to do things properly. Kazanketken is ready to contribute both**

**Photo right: Once a few set the good example, others will follow**



# THE STORY OF THE FIVE HOUSES

## IN MAKHANKANES № 3 OF SHUMANAY DISTRICT

Shumanay district is located in the north west of Karakalpakstan. It borders with the Usturt Plateau, a desert area home to the historical city of Kungrad. Makhankanes № 3 in Shumanay city is a five house community home to approximately 430 people. The water pipes that have been serving the five houses and 80 families of Makhankanes № 3 were installed back in 1987 and need replacing. There is only one tap and water is available only one hour a day. Because of the low pressure, pipes go only 4 meters deep and water is easily contaminated. It is clear that water is a major problem for this community who has decided to join hands with the EU/UNDP funded ELS project to solve their problem. After some discussion, it was decided that the project will support the community efforts and install new pipes and 5 taps. By joining hands and working together, this community is showing that to achieve higher living standards, the most important thing is to help communities to help themselves.



**Large photo: Water can be easily contaminated and this is bad for our health**

**Small photo: We are the children who will grow up healthier thanks to our parents' efforts**





# THE STORY OF MAKHANKANES № OF SHUMANAY DISTRICT

# 4

Community № 4 is located in Shumanay, the capital city of Shumanay district in the north-west of Karakalpakstan. This district that borders Turkmenistan is about 70 km from Nukus, the capital of Karakalpakstan. The waters of the famous Amu Darya river are just 30 km away, but water is actually the main problem for this community. The 520 families of Makhankanes № 4 get water only

one hour a day. The main pipe that used to bring water to 3050 people has been decaying and needs replacing. Together with the EU/UNDP supported ELS project Makhankanes № 4 has decided to take things in their hands. By the end of 2005 the community and the ELS project will replace the old pipe and bring water to the two community streets. Families with children are especially

happy about the way things are going to change in the community. Together with the EU/UNDP supported projects, Makhankanes During one of the community meetings with the ELS project a woman said: *"It will be easier for us and for our children to keep healthy and strong. Water is the most important thing in life and with better quality water, our lives will surely change for the better"*.



**Large photo:** In Makhankanes № 4 we will lay a new water pipe for our children

**Small photo #1:** It is important to agree with one another and then...

**Small photo #2:** Just do it

**Small photo #3:** It takes good water to make good bread



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The project Enhancement of Living Standards in Karakalpakstan is a project funded by the European Union and implemented by the United Nations Development Programme. It supports and encourages 50 local communities in three districts of Karakalpakstan to play an active part in their own development. The duration of the project is two years (2005–2006). The Enhancement of Living Standards in Karakalpakstan project works together with communities and local authorities on the preparation of a regional development strategy and the rehabilitation of social infrastructures. It also facilitates access by poor and small farmers to micro finance.