



NAZARBAYEV
UNIVERSITY
S O C I A L
DEVELOPMENT FUND

ANNUAL PROGRAMM REPORT

NAZARBAYEV UNIVERSITY SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT FUND
2020



Contents

Opening address by Aslan Sarizhipov, the Head of the Executive Management	2
General information	3
Transformation of the Fund from sponsorship to social innovation	4
Fund Directions	6
NU Staff	
«Talap» scholarship	6
NU Students	
Grants and scholarships	7
Support program	8
Student initiatives	9
NU Community	
NU Alumni	10
Young Researchers Alliance	11
Kazakhstan Educational Research Association	12
Social projects #SDFGRANTS2020	13
Khan Academy Qazaq	14
Women in Engineering	14
Qaces	14
Mental Wellness	15
Hello Aul	15
Өзім-Озім	15
Refillme	15
TopyraQ	15
Ornek	15
COVID Initiatives	16
Program and project funding	17
Innovation and entrepreneurship	18
Development plans and prospects	20



Opening address by the Head of the Executive Management of the Social Development

«Dear friends! Dear teachers, students and partners! Looking back at the path made by the Fund in 2020, we can confidently say that we have achieved excellent results. The Fund continued to implement programs to ensure an enabling environment for promoting high-quality education of youth, the development of academic and scientific activities of employees, and the formation of a social, scientific initiative among students and alumni of Nazarbayev University.

The initial goal of the Fund's activities - the development of society in academic and research areas - remains relevant today. But if all these years we have contributed to the development of the NU Community, nurturing the future leaders of our country, today we are expanding our activities' boundaries to be useful to the entire Kazakhstan society.

During the existence of Nazarbayev University and our Fund, we have seen a vibrant community of people, initiatives, and ideas, ready to spread their influence far beyond the Nazarbayev University community. It gave us the impetus for a new direction – Impact Investments, which will allow us to contribute directly to solving problems of society and the environment through socially transformative entrepreneurial projects.

Thus, the Foundation launched the #SDFGRANTS social initiatives support program, within which employees, students and alumni of Nazarbayev University are implementing nine various projects.

The Fund created financial stability through integration with Jusan Holding. It was a significant structural and organizational step. Indeed, we could not stay away from the University's massive campaign to contain the spread of coronavirus infection in 2020. The Fund allocated resources to purchase laptops for children of medical workers, personal protective equipment, and remuneration of volunteers from among medical students. Also, the Fund supported the organization an in-patient facility with 40 beds.

The past year has become a challenge for our entire society. I want to thank the students, Nazarbayev University staff and faculty, our partners, for their willingness to mobilize and transform in order to succeed despite external circumstances.

The Fund will continue to follow a social orientation in its activities, and the chosen strategy for the development of impact investments in 2021 and subsequent years will allow us, as an integrated link in the structure of Nazarbayev University, to concentrate as effectively as possible on the implementation of its Third Mission».

**Best regards,
Aslan Sarinzhapov**

**Head of the Executive Management
of the Social Development Fund
of Nazarbayev University**



General information about the Fund

The corporate fund «Social Development Fund» (from now on - the Fund) was created to provide gratuitous financial, informational, administrative, and organizational assistance to students and employees of Nazarbayev University and public associations related to society's development in our country.

Founder – autonomous organization of education «Nazarbayev University».

Administration – Founder, Board of Trustees, and the Executive Management.

Key principles

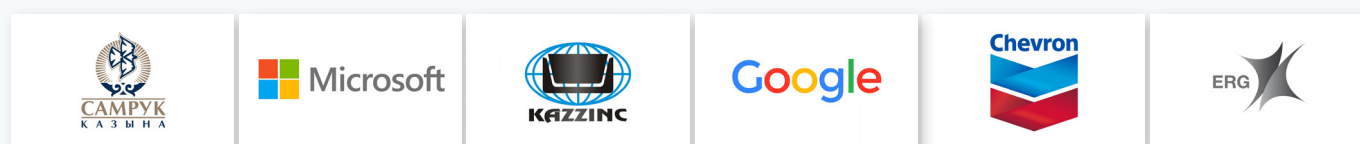


Key beneficiaries



The leading international and Kazakhstani companies supported the Fund with financial resources

Sponsors of Fund



Embassies of foreign states and others

Fund Transformation

From sponsorship to social innovation

Sponsorship of research activities
of the faculty of Nazarbayev
University (up to 2017)

Talap Scholarship for Professional
Development of Nazarbayev
University Employees (to date)

2012

2014

Housing program for
Nazarbayev University and
its organizations employees
(up to 2019)

Administration of the
Nazarbayev University
Student Fund (to date)

2016

2017

Project Office
«Astana Business Campus»

The beginning of the Fund's
institutional changes

Grants, Stipends and
Support Program for
Nazarbayev University
Students

2018

2019

Support for the activities of
public associations of
Nazarbayev University
communities - NU Alumni,
YRA, KERA (to the present)

Launch of the grant
competition for social
projects #SDFGRANTS2020

Measures to prevent
the spread of COVID-19

2020

Project «Science Park
Astana Business Campus»

In 2020, the change of the Fund's activities began. From solely sponsoring the Nazarbayev University community and its organizations' internal needs, the Fund moved to support innovative social and entrepreneurial initiatives to benefit society.

Therefore, the Fund's projects moved beyond the NU Community and intended to help a wide range of people.

Furthermore, the Fund will continue to support social initiatives. In the meantime, we are happy to share our achievements in key projects of the Fund for 2020.





Fund Directions NU Staff

«Talap» scholarship



An opportunity for specialists of the University and its organizations to continue their studies on Master's, Doctoral, PhD programs and undergo internships with further workout at Nazarbayev University



Ability to conduct postdoctoral research



Integrating the knowledge and skills acquired by the scholarship holders into the University community



Recruitment of the ranks of the faculty of Nazarbayev University with domestic specialists

One of Nazarbayev University's main advantages is a strong workforce with advanced knowledge and teaching techniques, the experience of practical research, and the ability to ignite the thirst for knowledge of young students.

The Foundation seeks to support the development of human resources within the organizations of the University. For this purpose, in 2012, the Talap scholarship was initiated as a launching pad for the further

growth of promising personnel from among domestic staff and faculty of Nazarbayev University.

By sending funding for Talap scholarship holders, the Fund is guided primarily by developing high-level professionals who can contribute to the education of Nazarbayev University students. Talap scholarship recipients allow students to show the importance of continuous scientific research that can change our society's life for the better.

2020

2

fellows became assistant professors

Zhanat Kapasov
Pierre and Marie Curie University,
France, PhD in Robotics and
Intelligent Systems

Erlan Amanbek
University of Texas at Austin,
PhD in Computational Science

3

graduates of the Talap scholarship became postdocs at the University

Gulmira Kanaeva
University of Cambridge, UK,
PhD in Education

Aibek Nietkaliev
University of Wollongong, Australia,
PhD in Mechatronics

Ainur Begalinova
University of Manchester, UK,
PhD in Computer Science

Total since 2012

61 employees became scholarship holders

53 graduated

22

PhD

completed studying – 15
continuing studying – 7

20

Master

completed studying – 19
continuing studying – 1

1

Postdoc

18

Internship



NU Students

Grants and Stipends

Sometimes there is only one step left to achieve a goal. For Nazarbayev University candidates with high academic success but who have not received a state educational grant, the Fund provides its grants and stipends. By making a selection based on academic merit, we help take that step, showing Nazarbayev University's interest in promising students to obtain and implement knowledge.

The Fund initiated the program's launch for the providing of educational grants and monthly stipends in 2018. During this time, 61 students, including 28 non-residents from 15 countries, received the financial support from the Fund. In considering such students as future leaders, the Fund is guided by the conviction that this support is more than just an incentive to move forward; it is a challenge for the student to himself. Future students of Nazarbayev University undergo a competitive

selection based on the results of the entrance examinations. Receiving a grant from the country's leading university inspires young people, motivating them to justify their credibility.

We are glad to contribute to the progressive generation's support, patriots, who, having high-performance indicators, have decided to get an education in Kazakhstan.

Besides, the Fund pays attention to motivating international students to gain knowledge within Nazarbayev University. An increase in the number of international students allows the development of an international student environment necessary to form a global view of the world. Also, it strengthens the position of Nazarbayev University in the international educational space.



2020

5

undergraduate students

17

graduate students

Total since 2018

36

undergraduate students

25

graduate students



Support Program

It is necessary to fully concentrate on the educational process if a person wants to receive all the benefits of a quality higher education.

For Nazarbayev University students who have faced some difficulties but continue to show a thirst for knowledge, the Fund helps solve the problems that have arisen for the smooth continuation of their studies.

With the Fund's support, not only students from low-income families can focus on getting an education, but talented young people also get the opportunity to take part in developing educational activities.

The support program provides



Meals for students from socially vulnerable families experiencing financial difficulties



Help for treatment



Participation in international olympiads, competitions, internships

2020

159

listeners of the Fund program received meals

1

student received treatment abroad

128

students from socially vulnerable families received financial assistance to pay for Internet connection for education

Total since 2018

700+

listeners of the Fund program received meals

20+

students - treatment abroad, travel, Olympiads, internships

Student initiatives

To create opportunities for comprehensive development for Nazarbayev University students, the Fund supports various student initiatives. The Fund positions this support as a successful investment of students' time in their future. Holding an international conference, a charity event, or creating a student club - all this is an experience that, one way or another, will be useful not only in future professional activities but also in life.

The main advantages of participating in student initiatives are developing organizational and managerial skills and organizing a good network of contacts, learning how to work in a team, and building self-confidence and success.

Therefore, the support of student initiatives is no less important than the actual learning

process, a link in future professionals and leaders' formation. Working for the good of a common cause within the framework of one initiative brings together completely different people driven by a common goal, strengthens a small community in the moment, and contributes to individuals' socialization from a global perspective.

More than 100 student clubs function at Nazarbayev University, whose activities are carried out at the Student Fund's expense up to the end of 2020. The Student Fund accumulates student contributions, as well as sponsorship funds for the implementation of their projects. The Social Development Fund is the Student Fund's financial administrator, ensuring accounting and transparency of its activities.



2020

42

projects -
implemented by
student fund

T 53
mln

(or 20% of student
fund expenses)
sponsored by the
Fund

Total since 2016

100+

Student Clubs
Received Grant
Funding

40+

events per year



NU Community

A community of people united by a socially significant cause acts on the synergy of efforts and directing them into a single channel to achieve the goal. The Fund supports the activities of such public partnerships, expressing its commitment to mutual trust, unity of people, their ideas and initiatives, which, when united, are capable of making the most outstanding contribution to the development of society.

Thus, by promoting some public associations within the NU Community, the Fund manages to get the maximum effect from social initiatives. Through this approach, the Fund creates an enabling environment for large-scale results that can be extrapolated outside the NU Community and serve the entire country's benefit.

NU Alumni

NU Alumni is a public association of Nazarbayev University alumni. The mission is to unite Nazarbayev University alumni into an interested proactive community to create mutually beneficial relationships between members of the Association, the Nazarbayev University community, and the society of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

The Fund's support for NU Alumni's activities contributes to implementing the stated mission in life. The strengthening of ties between alumni working in different parts of our planet popularizes the University's activities in Kazakhstan and abroad.

Over the two years of cooperation between the Fund and the public Association, more than 3.5 thousand alumni attended events aimed at developing networking, increasing competencies, and strengthening relations between alumni and the University.

Members of the public Association take active citizenship, participating in the country's social and public life. This year, NU Alumni members took part in the #bizbirgemiz movement to contain the spread of COVID-19. Besides, several Association representatives are effectively working in the Academic Council of Nazarbayev University as observers.

NU Alumni projects and events supported by the Fund in 2020



IdeaTHON

Contest of ideas to solve the problems caused by the COVID-19

Disability Talks

on disability and inclusion in society

Winning the Minds

is a graduate mentoring program for disadvantaged children

Mind games aim

to develop networking between alumni and develop an interest in various fields of science, creativity, and art

E-Tutor.kz

is a social, educational project to improve secondary school students' competence in the school curriculum's main subjects

NU Way Podcast

Success stories of Nazarbayev University Alumni

2020

260+

YRA members constitute a community of progressive young scientists today

1700+

people took part in events aimed at creating a collaboration of young scientists, academicians, and specialists from industry

16

16 Nazarbayev University students received grants for research under the FRIP (Fostering Research and Innovation Potential) program. For young scientists, this served as an impetus to continue scientific research

YRA representatives took part in the working groups of the Science Committee of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan and also became members of the club of young experts under the Senate of the Republic of Kazakhstan



IYRA Forum:
Time for science,
stop infodemic.

Young Researchers Alliance

Young Researchers Alliance (YRA) is an association of young scientists in various disciplines who graduated from leading universities in Kazakhstan and abroad. It was founded in 2018 by young scientists from Nazarbayev University.

It unites young scientists from 12 Kazakhstani and seven foreign universities and 260 members from STEM, humanitarian and social sciences.

The association contributes to the popularization of science by introducing society to Kazakhstani young scientists who have achieved significant research and innovation results in various fields. Their activities arouse the interest in the development of science in the country, translating the principles of academic integrity, the experience of Nazarbayev University, and leading foreign universities into Kazakhstan's academic and scientific environment.



KERA
KAZAKHSTAN EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH ASSOCIATION

KERA – research in education

Kazakhstan Educational Research Association (KERA) is a platform that brings together practitioners, experts, managers and researchers to promote educational research in Kazakhstan and Central Asia.

Member of the European Educational Research Association (EERA).



240

active members of KERA

420

education professionals involved in activities aimed at developing and stimulating research in education

7

pedagogical universities of the Republic of Kazakhstan created a consortium of researchers

Online sessions on research ethics for teacher training universities

Development of a Code of Ethics for Educational Researchers to create preconditions for the formation of a Kazakhstani system to ensure research integrity

Social projects of the Fund

#SDFGRANTS2020



NU Community members implement various initiatives with the support of the Fund from year to year. They have increasingly become more social, reflecting the Nazarbayev University communities 'commitment to give and create' culture. By mobilizing communities around this model, the Fund decided to monitor social areas of interest to students, alumni, faculty, staff of the University and its organizations, initiating in 2020 the grant competition for social projects # SDFGRANTS2020.

The competition aimed to promote the ideas and values of Nazarbayev University in society, which can positively impact various aspects of the life of target audiences not only of NU Community but also beyond.

The competition participants were students, alumni, employees of Nazarbayev University and its organizations, and non-profit organizations created by them.

In total, 150 applications were received for the competition, which demonstrated a high interest and commitment to socially useful ideas in the Nazarbayev University community.

All applications were scored on a point basis by 24 independent experts in education, health, environment, IT, finance, and support for vulnerable groups. Based on the competitive selection results, grants were awarded to 9 promising projects, the implementation of which is ongoing in the period 2020-2021.

Providing financial and expert support to these projects, the Fund began a systematic transition from a focus on sponsorship of charitable and educational initiatives to impact investing (social impact investments). The result of such projects' impact goes beyond the boundaries of Nazarbayev University communities, extending its influence to the external environment.

The inclusion of a program of socially transformative initiatives, coupled with ongoing key projects, will allow the Fund to make a tangible contribution to developing the Third Mission of Nazarbayev University.

In the future, we see that a significant part of #SDFGRANTS2020 projects has the potential to scale, and one of our tasks is to contribute to their sustainable development.

All #SDFGRANTS2020 projects are socially oriented and aimed at educating socially responsible leaders and future entrepreneurs. Among the winning projects' leaders were students - seven people, two projects were led by alumni, and one project - by an employee of Nazarbayev University.



«Khan Academy Qazaq»

Amount of the grant - ₸ 5 mln

Aim: to translate 140 video lessons on high school biology and algebra to Kazakh based on materials from the renowned international platform "KhanAcademy".

The finished content will be uploaded to the KhanAcademyQazaq platform and will allow students to receive high-quality knowledge in the state language that meets world education standards.



Women in Engineering

Amount of the grant - ₸ 0.7 mln

Aim: to conduct educational courses for young girls about specialties in engineering taught at Nazarbayev University. It helps students learn what it is like to be an engineering student, the duties and requirements for engineers based on practical and theoretical knowledge.



Qaces

Amount of the grant - ₸ 1.6 mln

Aim: to create and adopt the most effective instructions and training materials to prepare for international tests to assess English. Free access to text and video materials will be provided to educational institutions, including rural areas and regional, city, and oblast akimats.



Mental Wellness

Amount of the grant - ₸ 1 mln

Aim: to develop an emotional support model for Nazarbayev University students who are in a stressful or potentially stressful situation (large study loads, changing the format of study in quarantine, etc.).



Hello Aul

Amount of the grant - ₸ 9.5 mln

Aim: to conduct online English courses for rural students through the helloaul.kz platform. The duration of the course is two months. It is planned to attract up to 80 volunteers as teachers.



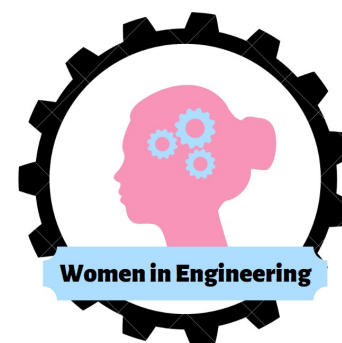
Өзім-Өзім

Amount of the grant - ₸ 10 mln

Aim: to create an application/site containing more than 100 useful materials to help in individual study for parents of young children with disabilities.

refillme

topyraQ



Women in Engineering



Refillme

Amount of the grant - ₸ 1.9 mln

Aim: to manufacture devices for the bottling of cosmetic products and the organization of their sale on the sites of eco-shops. Thus, the consumer does not expend money on purchase of packaging, and after using cosmetics, there is no considerable amount of plastic that ends up in the waste.



TopyraQ

Amount of the grant - ₸ 1.3 mln

Aim: to produce 150 vermicomposters for processing food waste and training in their use for up to 300 people. A vermicomposter is a closed installation in which soil and compost worms are placed, eating food waste and converting them into fertilizer - bio humus.



Ornek

Amount of the grant - ₸ 0.2 mln

Aim: to organize art sessions for children with disabilities to socialize them and promote an inclusive society. The project's primary goal is to involve children with disabilities in creative activities that have a therapeutic effect.



COVID Initiatives

As an integrated part of Nazarbayev University, which actively participated in implementing measures to contain the spread of COVID-19 in Kazakhstan, the Fund did not stand aside from solving the most acute problem of 2020. We have carried out several initiatives to

support the health care system in the fight against coronavirus by assisting families of medical workers in partnership with the University Medical Center (UMC), the Nazarbayev University Graduate School of Business Alumni Association, the National Volunteer Network and Astana Medical University.

Health care system

100

infrared thermometers

97 351

personal protective equipment

40

beds - were organised of an in-patient facility

Society

100

laptops for children of junior medical personnel in 7 regions of Kazakhstan

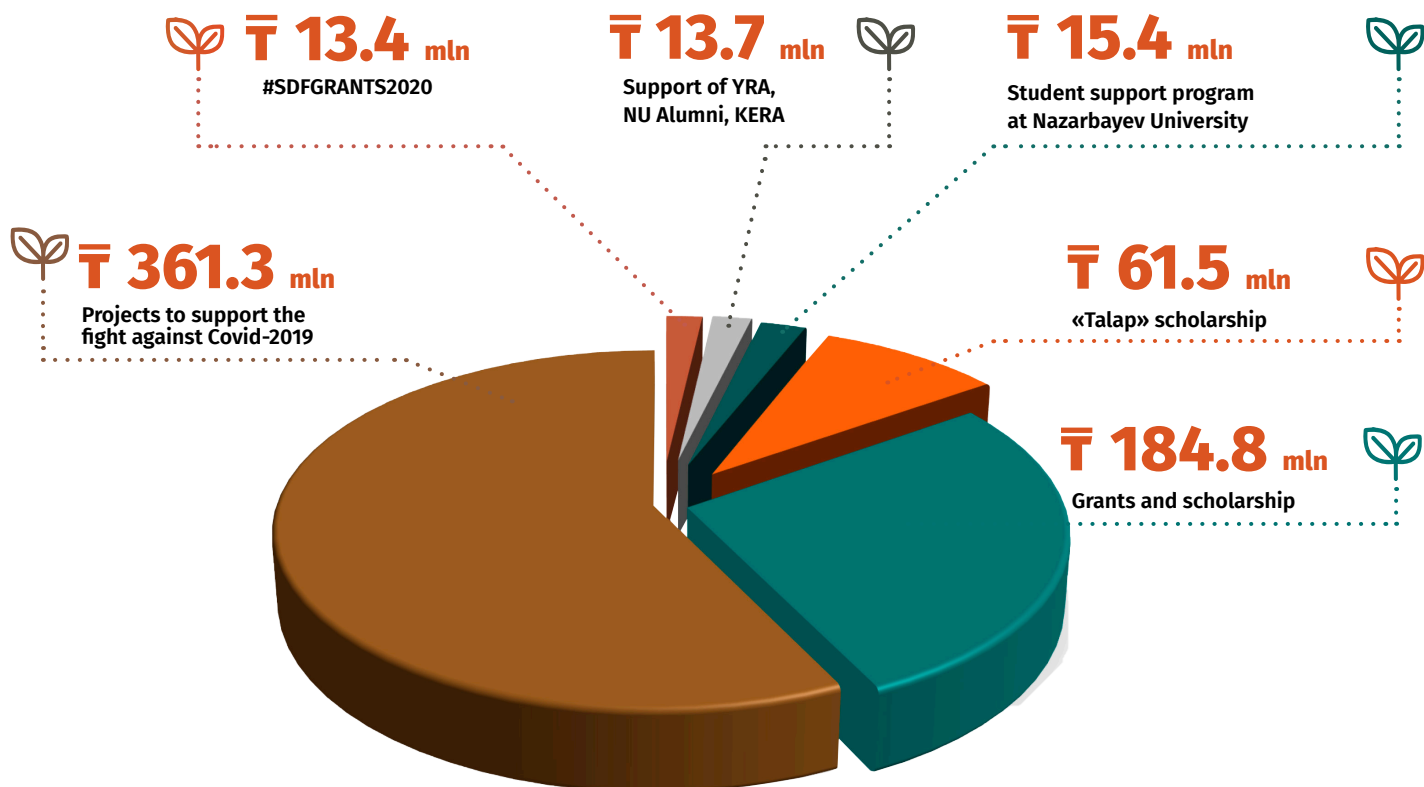


70

medical students volunteers received financial support



FINANCING OF PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS IN 2020



TOTAL : ₸ 650.1 mln



Innovation and entrepreneurship

In the nearest future, the Fund plans to focus on socially oriented activities, including impact investing - investments in socially transformative innovations and social entrepreneurship. Commercial and business tasks, in turn, are transferred to the management area of the subsidiary Astana Business Campus

(ABC) LLP that is reorganized from the Project Management Office and Residential Complex Nauchnyi LLP. This distribution contributes to achieving the Fund's goal - to support and implement socially significant projects to improve the quality of life for the NU Community members and the entire country.

Today, Astana Business Campus LLP forms an ecosystem for supporting technology projects and startups around Nazarbayev University.



Grant distribution



Venture investments in Kazakhstani and foreign startups, investment activities



Real estate management of the University facilities

2020 «Astana Business Campus»

400

projects – participants of accelerators in Nur-Sultan

39

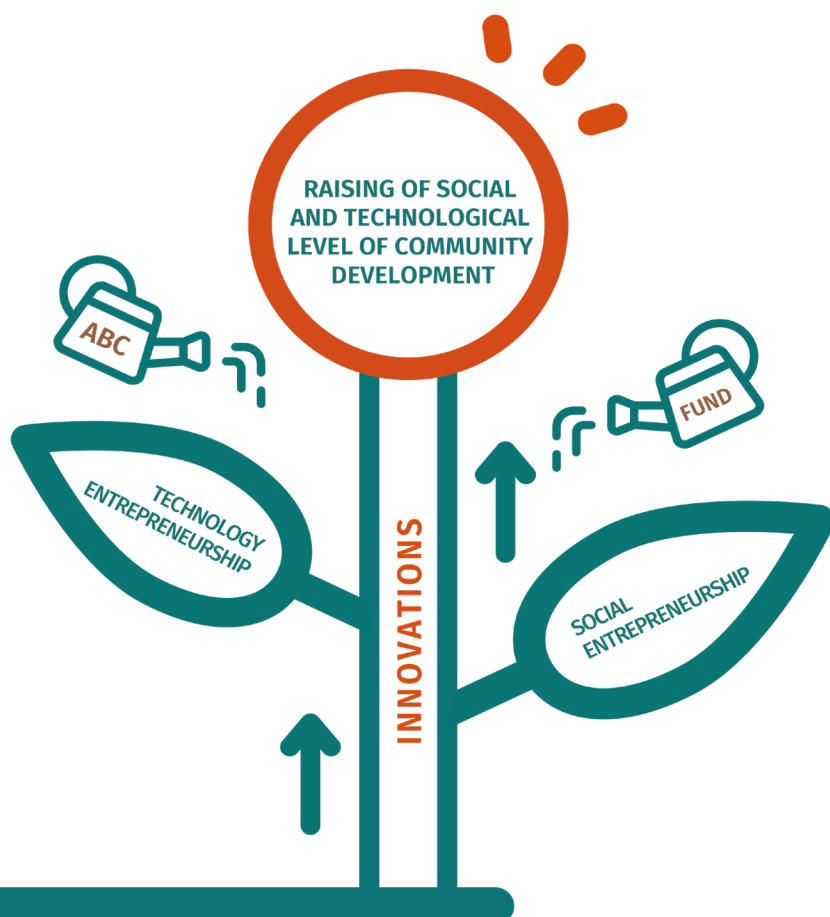
finalists

8

startups (7 finalists + 1 from outside) received funding

4

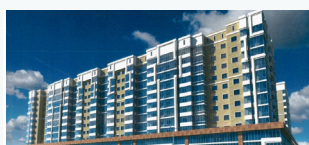
of them were initiated by NU Community members



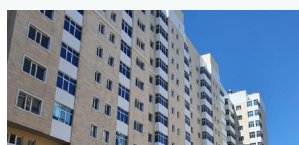
The direction of innovation in ABC's activities is closely intertwined with investing in startups, primarily in technology entrepreneurship. A subsidiary of the Fund will lead the management of venture financing - investments in high-risk technology projects. The received dividends will be directed to developing the Fund's social initiatives.

Thus, the two key areas of the Fund - the development of innovation and entrepreneurship - will be reflected in our activities through progressive solutions to social problems with entrepreneurial tools, and through venture financing of startups by a subsidiary organization - Astana Business Campus LLP.

Property Management



**"Nauchniy"
Residential Complex**
is built and populated



**"Nauchniy-2"
Residential Complex is**
completed, commissioning
is underway

RC «Scientific»

207
apartments

Members of
the Nazarbayev
University
community have
become the owners
of **130** apartments
with car parking:

AOE «Nazarbayev University»
AOE «Nazarbayev Intellectual School»
CF «University Medical Center»
«USM Astana» LLP
«Astana Business Campus» LLP
«NURIS» PI
«National Laboratory Astana» PI
«NAC Analytica» CF
«Social Development Fund» CF
«Directorate of enterprise under construction» PI
«Nazarbayev Fund» PF

256
car parking

26 apartments and
111 car parks
were sold to the external
market at the average
market price

Plans for the Development Fund and the future prospects



Nowadays, to achieve significant success in the development of Nazarbayev University communities, the Fund sees a need to expand its activities. We have gained valuable experience that can be reflected on a more global scale.

The Fund sets the task of participating in solving society's problems using a business approach for further work. We are planning to follow global trends to become on par with innovative companies developing domestic impact investments.

Social Impact Investments support projects aimed at positive change in socially significant areas using entrepreneurial tools and an innovative approach and achieving financial results. Their priority goal is the measurable social impact on society.

The object of impact investments is social entrepreneurship projects, which are now gaining popularity in Kazakhstan. Social entrepreneurship refers to activities carried out to solve a specific social problem or

create benefits for society. Forms of social entrepreneurship can be diverse, but they all share a desire to create high social added value through business methods.

The Fund possesses an extensive resource base, consisting of financial resources, methodological developments of Nazarbayev University, its infrastructural capabilities, and ten years of experience. But our principal capital is people: young scientists, youth leaders, faculty, students, and alumni - a massive community of like-minded people who share the values of Nazarbayev University, ready to broadcast their innovative ideas outside.

We intend to invest and provide expert support to social projects with NU Community members' participation, creating a socio-economic system that guarantees overall development and high quality of life. Priority will be given to projects with long-term prospects for their existence. For them, the Fund is ready to become the base for further sustainable growth.

Social innovations of the Fund's projects will meet the following impact investment goals



Continuing the implementation of past social programs, the Fund will also focus on impact investing. The subsidiary Astana Business Campus LLP will focus on managing venture financing and technology projects. At the same time, projects that receive support from the Fund and have a high entrepreneurial potential in the future have the chance of receiving investments from ABC. In the selection, priority will be given to projects that comply with high ESG indicators - contribution to the preservation of the environment, favorable relations with all stakeholders, and adherence to best corporate governance practices.

We support the initiatives of those who are already achieving success in the impact investment sector and are ready for mutually beneficial partnership, supporting social

entrepreneurship in Kazakhstan by taking a new vector. We believe that working together in this vein will help build a harmonious ecosystem, where each of its participants complements each other, achieving both their own and global goals for society's benefit.

We strongly urge foundations, businesses, and private investors to pay their attention to the social impact investment trend, which, along with classic commercial and charitable projects on an international scale, has already proven its promise while having a long-term impact on the environment.

Therefore, the Fund will continue the journey that began in 2020, aiming to benefit a wide range of the population by contributing to social innovation that can have a long-term impact on society.

Contacts

fund.nu.edu.kz
 +7 (7172) 72 56 22
sdf@nu.edu.kz