

UZBEKISTAN UNITED NATIONS COUNTRY RESULTS REPORT 2019

United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2016-2020



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The year 2019 saw enhanced cooperation between the Government and the wider United Nations (UN) system in taking forward an ambitious reform agenda and national SDGs based on the Leave No One Behind principle.

We witnessed groundbreaking and transformative developments in justice, human rights, gender equality, the green economy, climate change, and elsewhere. As the UN, we are proud have contributed to these positive changes and development gains.

In close partnership with the Government and development partners, the UN Country Team has continued to seek out and promote innovative, integrated and sustainable solutions to current development challenges with a focus on the most vulnerable groups, communities and regions, through policy advice, capacity-building and technical assistance. The UN family has mobilized and delivered a total of \$26,566,502 to help respond to the most critical and pressing priorities in the country.

An independent evaluation carried out in 2019 acknowledges that the UNDAF is broadly relevant to, and supports the achievement of, Uzbekistan's national development priorities. It confirms that the UN has well-leveraged advantages in normative areas, and as an advocate for the SDGs, is a provider of high-level technical expertise and an honest broker with strong convening power.

FOREWORD

The present report highlights the strong and expanding partnership between the UN and Uzbekistan, and outlines our main achievements in 2019 in support of the Government's overall efforts towards the 2030 Agenda. This report is also a key component of our UN Secretary-General's commitment to a more transparent, accountable, and results-oriented UN system, working in partnership with governments, development partners and civil society to realise the promise of Agenda 2030. That is the promise of a peaceful and prosperous world and a safer and more sustainable planet.



Helena Fraser United Nations Resident Coordinator in Uzbekistan

SECTION 2 2019 HIGHLIGHTS





Concepts and strategies aligned to national SDGs adopted in 2019		
National Strategy on Transition to a Green Economy until 2030	Ţ	
Agriculture Development Strategy (2020–2030)		
Strategy for Preserving Biological Diversity (2019–2028)	0	
Solid Household Waste Management Strategy (2019–2028)	V	00
Strategy for Further Development and Reform of the Electric Power		
Strategy on achievement of targets of the Sedai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction (2019–2030)		
Strategy for Improving Tax Administration		
National Environmental Concept until 2030	00	
Concept on nuclear power development (2019–2029)		
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In 2019, the Government of Uzbekistan continued to implement its wide-ranging reform agenda. At the beginning of the year, the President of Uzbekistan endorsed a Roadmap on Structural Reforms for 2019-2021 which focused on economic reforms, accelerated transition to a competitive market economy, enhanced public assets management, and strengthened social protection systems. As an indication of national priorities, 2019 was declared Year of Active Investment and Social Development.

Following the adoption of the 16 national SDGs and 125 targets in late 2018, the Cabinet of Ministers approved 206 national indicators to monitor the progress of the national SDGs in March 2019. The Government also committed to conducting and presenting its first SDG Voluntary National Review at ECOSOC's High-Level Political Forum in July 2020.

Over the course of the year, the Government has also developed and adopted a range of long and mid-term sector-wide and issue-based strategies and development concepts to promote the attainment of the national SDGs. Many of these documents benefited from close UN review and feedback.

The Government also initiated the development of a national Statistics Development Strategy, and in 2019 the President approved a Decree on Population Census in 2022. This was a significant milestone, given that Uzbekistan's last census was conducted in 1989.

With UN support, the Government has fully operationalized the Multi-Partner Human Security Trust Fund for the Aral Sea and launched a first Call for Proposals to implement human security focused projects in the Aral Sea region. Furthermore, the Government of Uzbekistan has put forward an initiative to transform the Ara Sea Region into a zone for ecological innovation and green technologies.

Ground-breaking steps in the promotion of human rights were also seen in 2019. A major breakthrough was the adoption of two long-awaited national laws - Gender Equality and on Protecting Women from Violence and Harassment. The Government made the decision to close the prison in Jaslyk, in line with a long-standing recommendation of the UN Human Rights Mechanisms (including the 3rd UPR cycle). The Government also ratified three ILO conventions and one Protocol strengthening workers' rights and social dialogue, and revisions to national labour legislation are ongoing with the preparation of a national Employment Strategy. In December 2019, Parliamentary and local elections were held, and for the first time, UN support was sought and accepted for the preparation of and follow-up to the elections. 220 Uzbek citizens , mainly women and children, were repatriated from Syria and Iraq in 2019, and measures were taken to ensure their rehabilitation and smooth reintegration of into society. The Government has also granted the UN immediate access to the women and children and sought and accepted UN advice on their rehabilitation and reintegration.

In recognition of "multifaceted cooperation between Uzbekistan and the United Nations Organisation", the UN's "comprehensive support of the ongoing large-scale reforms in the country", the UN's role in establishing the Aral Sea Multi-Partner Human Security Trust Fund and its support in a range of other areas, the President of Uzbekistan issued a decree awarding the UN Resident Coordinator the "Do'stlik" (Friendship) Order on the occasion of the 2019 Independence Day ceremony.

SECTION 3 KEY DEVELOPMENT TRENDS



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INCLUSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The economic outlook remained positive throughout the year. Following last year's wave of reforms to liberalize the economy, reforms in 2019 focused on further decreasing regulatory and tax burdens, reducing the state's footprint in the economy, strengthening human capital, reforming the labour market and enhancing social safety nets.



In 2019, Uzbekistan witnessed a significant increase in investment flows, with FDI amounting to \$4.2 billion; and the share of investment in GDP reaching 37 per cent. For the first time, the country received an international credit rating and successfully placed \$1 billion worth of bonds on the global financial market. With the preparations for WTO accession still ongoing, the Government also announced that it was exploring the prospect of entering the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU).



The Government continued to improve and pursue policies to improve the business climate, develop inclusive business models and publicprivate partnerships. Uzbekistan undertook four key business climate reforms in the past years and earned a spot among the world's top twenty most improved economies for ease of doing business according to the Doing Business 2020 report. In particular, adoption of the Law on Investments and easing the regulatory framework placed the country among the top 20 business climate improvers in 2019. The Law on mediation, alternative dispute resolution and ICT use in courts led to Uzbekistan moving from 41st to 22nd place in Doing Business's 'Enforcement of contracts' ranking.



As part of tax reforms, the tax burden on wages has been reduced by almost 1.5 times. As a result, the number of employees in the formal sector of the economy increased during the year by 500,000. Tax reform has also resulted in a growth of public revenues that substantially exceeded forecasts.



Deep structural transformations began in the energy sector, the oil and gas industry, geology, transport, road construction, agriculture and water management, drinking water supply, heat supply and a number of other industries. As a result, last year the economic growth rate was 5.6 per cent.

The Government established a State Fund for Supporting the Development of Entrepreneurship and continued to implement the programme "Every Family is an Entrepreneur", loaning citizens 5.9 trillion soums towards family start-ups.



Rural development remains on the radar of the Government with large investment channeled to this area. Large-scale construction and improvement works have been carried out in 479 villages as well as 116 city mahallas. Furthermore, 5,000 low-income families and families in need of better housing conditions, including women with disabilities, were financially supported to make down payments on the purchase of housing with mortgages.

Progress was made to promote effective employment policies, including the Government's decision to create a National System for the Development of Professional Qualifications and Competencies in addition to adapting Worldskills standards to the national vocational training system. The Government has also introduced measures to reduce the share of the informal economy by reforming the registration system and the system of social protection for self-employed workers.



As previously mentioned, in addition to ratifying three ILO conventions and one protocol on workers' rights and social dialogue, the national Employment Strategy underwent revision.

SOCIAL PROTECTION

Uzbekistan's expenditure on Social Protection was estimated at 6 per cent of GDP in 2018, placing it in the lower range for countries in Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States.



Workers in the informal economy currently make up about 60 per cent of the workforce. They are included among a growing population of the 'missing middle', which also features workers in agriculture, entrepreneurs, the self-employed and their families, none of whom qualify for social insurance based programmes, such as maternity, sickness and unemployment schemes, because of no or limited contributory capacity.



Thanks to continuous and concerted advocacy efforts the Government has recognized the need for reforming and bolstering the social protection sector to eliminate fragmentation and ensure a holistic vision and comprehensive approach, inter alia, establishing a single state agency on social protection and developing a comprehensive Social Protection Strategy. The 2019 Annual State Programme also confirmed these intentions.



The Government adopted a resolution on the social protection of children deprived of parental care, demonstrated good progress towards de-institutionalization, prevention of family separation and creating alternative family-based care. A follow-up action plan endorsed by the Cabinet of Ministers has committed all concerned ministries and agencies to ensuring that every child has a safe and nourishing family environment.

The Government reconfirmed its commitment to end genderbased violence (GBV) by 2030 at the 2019 Nairobi Summit, which commemorated the 25th anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD). One practical step to implementing the newly adopted law against gender-based violence has been the introduction of a 'protection order' which can be issued by police to protect survivors from abuse.



The marriage age was equalized at 18 years for women and men. The Government also committed to increasing the prevalence of contraceptive use among women aged 15-49 from 47.4 per cent in 2017 to 55 per cent in 2025 and to involve men in family planning. This will further ensure the fundamental rights of women to family planning.



In 2019, Uzbekistan conducted humanitarian operations to repatriate 220 of its nationals, mostly women and children, from the Syrian conflict zone and Iraq. It also took measures to ensure their rehabilitation and smooth re-integration into society by providing them with access to medical care and psycho-social support, educational and other social support services, including employment and housing. This has been an important signal to other countries who have been more reluctant to bring back their nationals. The Government has also granted the UN immediate access to the repatriated Uzbek women and children and sought and accepted UN advice on their rehabilitation and reintegration.

HEALTH

The Government of Uzbekistan embarked on structural health system reform to fundamentally improve processes through changes to both policy and institutional arrangements within the health sector.

One of the measures to radically enhance the healthcare system in Uzbekistan includes the phased

introduction of State health insurance (SHI). Preparatory work was conducted at inter-agency level, to develop a normative and policy framework, including a draft Law on SHI, a national health financing strategy, a concept on the establishment of the SHI Fund and a resolution on state benefit package design and selection criteria. A feasibility study was also conducted on different scenarios for payroll taxation in Uzbekistan.



Another focus of these reforms includes the implementation of Near-Miss Case Review (NMCR) and Confidential Enquiry into Maternal Death (CEMD), methodologies which enhance the quality of maternal health services. An e-health management system was also introduced.



Uzbekistan adopted a ground breaking Law "On the protection of the Reproductive Health of citizens" to promote reproductive health rights. Furthermore, a new Presidential Decree on improving the quality and further expanding medical care coverage to women of reproductive age, pregnant women and children promises to improve the quality of obstetric, gynecological, neonatal and pediatric care for mothers, newborns

children. Additionally, the and decree envisioned the development of a national cervical cancer (CxC) prevention and control programme. Cervical cancer ranks as the second most frequent cancer among women in Uzbekistan and the third leading cause of female cancer deaths in Uzbekistan.

Non-communicable disease (NCD) prevention and control actions were given high-priority throughout the government agenda, a fact which was recognized at a global level: the President of Uzbekistan was awarded a Global award by the United Nations Interagency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases (UNIATF) for supporting NCD prevention and control in the country.

The tuberculosis (TB) and HIV prevention agenda also remained relevant at the highest political level in the context of the 2018 Government resolutions on measures to further improve the system of counteracting the spread of the disease caused by HIV and on additional measures on counteracting the spread of the disease caused by HIV and prevention of nosocomial infection. These resolutions promote the expansion of anti-epidemic measures and the increase of public funds for HIV infection in Uzbekistan. In 2019, the

President of Uzbekistan approved a decree «On Measures for the Fundamental Improvement of the Sanitary and Epidemiological Service System of the Republic of Uzbekistan" which also contributed to improving the effectiveness of anti-epidemic measures, including HIV and other infections.



In 2019, the President adopted a Decree "On measures to improve specialized TB and Pulmonology services in Uzbekistan for 2019-2021" that is expected to strengthen TB control measures to achieve End TB targets. This includes simplifying registration and custom clearance of laboratory consumables and UN pregualified TB drugs; the launch of a new financing model for TB case management; the development and introduction of more effective methods to treat TB, and strengthening country capacity to conduct operational research in the TB field.



There were 3,983 new HIV cases in 2019 (4,060 in 2018). The proportion of people who inject drugs (PWID) among people living with HIV (PLHIV) is decreasing in Uzbekistan. In 2019, 42,425 (40,376 in 2018) PLHIV were registered in the country, of whom PWID were 4,842 or 11.41 per cent. In the area of drug use, a number of indicators show decreasing trends - the number of registered (5,857 in 2019 against 6,291 in 2018), and treated drug users, HIV incidence and prevalence among drug users, drug overdoses, or drug seizures, especially related to heroin and other opiates. On the other hand, the number of drug users in contact with low-threshold facilities (TPs), the number of syringes distributed and the number of drug users in private addiction treatment is increasing or at disproportionately high levels. Among the large sample (over 5.5 thousand) of the Sentinel Epidemiological Surveillance survey, a high number of active PWID have been shown to be in contact with TPs and outreach workers in recent years.



The Government has issued a Decree "On measures to improve the system of providing narcological assistance to the population of the Republic of Uzbekistan" which aims to create an effective vertically integrated organizational structure for managing the narcological service, improve the regulatory framework of drug treatment services, (re)construct new buildings and premises, retrofit medical equipment, train personnel, and advance scientific research in this area.



EDUCATION

With UN support for its development, a new Education Sector Plan (ESP) for 2019-2023 for Uzbekistan, based on sector-wide analysis and evidencebased planning, was finally adopted and launched. By continuing to guide the Government to promote quality education and learning, the ESP has helped the country to mobilize additional resources for the preschool education section through a World Bank project and a GPE multiplier grant of US\$10 million.



The Government has set longterm policy priorities and targets in the education area through the adoption of national concepts on the development of Preschool Education, Public Education and Higher Education towards 2030. These policy documents will guide the development agenda to achieve the national SDGs in the area of education.



The Government of Uzbekistan also made a big step towards transforming the teacher qualification and skills development architecture. The Presidential Decree on measures to improve skills development system in Uzbekistan has defined a roadmap for the development of the National Qualifications Framework in vocational education.



Uzbekistan has adopted a new "Law on Preschool Education" that defines the rights of young children (3-6 years of age) to Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE). The law advocates for equal rights for boys and girls to and in preschool education, and guarantees the right of every child to receive compulsory one-year preprimary education (for six-year old children) in state-run preschools before entering school.

Preschool enrollment rates increased significantly in the country in 2019 with the Gross Enrollment Ration (GER) in preschools reaching 47 per cent in December 2019¹. Currently, 1,226,215 children attend preschools, of which 12 per cent attend Public Private Partnership based preschools and another 9 per cent attend familybased programmes. The Education Management Information System (EMIS) introduced into preschool education facilitates tracking and monitoring progress of preschool enrollment, disaggregated bv gender, location and pre-school types used. The revised Early Learning Development Standards (ELDS) and the new preschool education curriculum are expected to contribute to enhancing the quality of preschool education.

In the area of secondary education, a focus was made on measuring educational quality with the development of an Education Quality Assurance Framework, new Teacher Frameworks Qualification and Teacher Professional Standards. The Government has embarked on the development of a National Curriculum Framework and begun revising the curriculum for grades 1-11 using a competency-based approach. Informed by the results of a study on learning outcomes in reading comprehension, mathematics and

science in grade IV, the Government has decided to conduct an Early Grade Reading Assessment (EGRA) and Early Grade Mathematics Assessment (EGMA).



The Government has also demonstrated increased interest in implementing the Education for Justice (E4J) initiative, which seeks to prevent crime and promote a culture of lawfulness through educational activities designed for primary, secondary and tertiary levels.

1 Source: MOPSE EMIS; http://old.mdo.uz/ru/directory? (retrieved on 16 December 2019)



ENVIRONMENT

Promising trends and changes in Environmental protection and Climate Change mitigation were seen in 2019, including the adoption of the Strategy for the Transition of the Country to the Green Economy for the period 2019-2030. This strategy reinforces the commitment to implement the Paris Agreement on Climate and aims to increase energy efficiency and the sustainable use of natural resources.



In July 2019, a European/CIS Regional Ministerial Conference on the Green Economy was organized in Tashkent by the World Green Economy Organization. The forum promoted successful, evidence-based solutions for a green economy that recognise the need of countries in the region to implement the SDG Agenda.

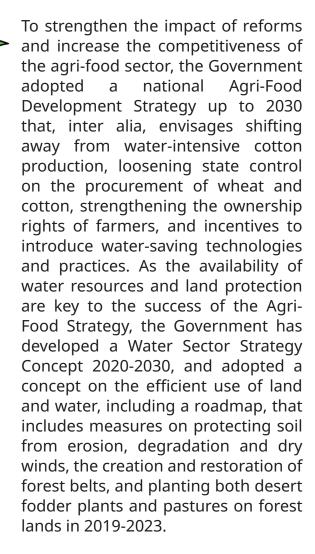
The Government has committed to increasing the share of renewables in electricity generation to 25 per cent by 2030 in its Strategy for Transition to a Green Economy. A new Law on Renewable Energy was adopted; and a State Programme on increasing energy efficiency in the economic and social sectors, and the introduction of energy-saving technologies and development of renewable energy sourcesfor 2019-2023, with targets and roadmap, were endorsed. Significant progress towards energy efficiency was observed in the construction sector, which accounts for half of greenhouse gas emissions; all new residential buildings must be energy efficient as of 2020 according to the Presidential resolution. Institutional changes included the establishment of a new Ministry of Energy that is entrusted with developing a Concept

on the Development of Renewable Energy Sources for the period 2019-2023.

In September 2019, Uzbekistan ratified the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) and its provisions have become mandatory. The production and use of twelve POP chemicals have been banned to limit the use of dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane (DDT); to curb the unintentional formation of dioxins and furans, monitoring of their production, import and export, and disposal has been decreed.

Uzbekistan has been selected to host the 32nd Meeting of Parties to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, to be held in November 2020.

In the area of natural resource management and environment protection, the Environment Protection Strategy 2030 and National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) for 2019-2028 were adopted, setting national priorities to meet the UN Convention on Biodiversity Conservation targets globally by integrating biodiversity conservation into all sectors of the economy. A new Law on Pastures was also adopted to regulate pasture management.





The Government of Uzbekistan became a member for the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) in December 2019. The Government has put forward the President of Uzbekistan's initiative to transform the Aral Sea Region into a Zone for ecological innovation and technology; and held a highlevel international conference in order to inform potential investment plans, particularly around the green economy, innovative water-saving technologies and food security, desertification, environment-based migration and tourism.



In line with the Government's commitment to contribute to the global Sendai Disaster Reduction Framework and ensure its implementation at national, regional and community levels, the Government has endorsed a National Strategy and Action Plan on the implementation of the Sendai Framework for 2019-2030.



In the Culture Sector, remarkable transformations have been observed. The Government has been paying close attention to safeguarding intangible cultural heritage, including within the film industries. In October 2019, Uzbekistan ratified the UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions. IIII

GOVERNANCE, RULE OF LAW AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Judicial and governance reform continued to drive the entire reform process with a significant focus on anti-corruption measures and achieving greater integrity and transparency in public service. 'The Economist' named Uzbekistan its "country of the year".

Efforts by the Government to prevent corruption received a new impetus with the adoption of a dedicated national programme, focusing on high-risk sectors such as education, healthcare and construction. For the first time since 2010, none of the recommendations of the OECD ACN Istanbul Plan 2018-2019 were assigned a «not implemented» rating.

Significant progress was made to promote gender equality, women's empowerment and address Gender Based Violence. Two landmark laws were adopted: the law "On guarantees of equal rights and opportunities for women and men" and the law "On protection of women from harassment and violence." These represent a major breakthrough in the implementation of international legal obligations and the recommendations of CEDAW and other UN human rights mechanisms, including the UPR. After the adoption of these gender laws, a new Committee on Women and Gender Equality was established by the Senate.

Legal improvements brought Uzbekistan's 2019 parliamentary elections 'closer to international standards and 'unprecedented' numbers of women ran for office according to the OSCE/ODIHR report. However, it was also noted that

'democratic development requires increased competition and respect for basic rights.

- In parliamentary and local legislative elections, the share of women almost doubled, reaching 32 per cent in the Legislative Chamber, 24 per cent among Senate members of the Oliy Majlis and 31 per cent on local Councils. In August 2019, for the first time in Uzbekistan's history, a woman has led the Senate, showing progress in women's participation in political life.
- 2019 also marked another groundbreaking step forward in the promotion of human rights. The Government made the decision to close the prison in Jaslyk, in line with a long-standing recommendation by the UN Human Rights Mechanisms, including at the 3rd UPR cycle.
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In November 2019 Uzbekistan took part in a constructive dialogue with the UN Committee against Torture to review Uzbekistan's fifth periodic report on implementation of the UNCAT. Uzbekistan submitted its Fifth State Periodic Report to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child in April 2019. The country submitted its sixth national periodic report to CEDAW and the annex to the State report on 22 November 2019.



In September 2019, the UN Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers visited Uzbekistan. The ombudsperson of Uzbekistan has applied to be accredited by the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions.



In line with the recommendations of UN CRC Committee to Uzbekistan of 2013, the Government initiated the reform of closed specialized educational correctional institutions for children in conflict with the law. This implied the closure of two out of four institutions and an increase in admission age from 11 years to 14 years, as well as strengthening prevention mechanisms against the placement of children into the remaining institutions.



The newly adopted law "On introducing changes and additions to some legislative acts concerning provision of additional safeguards of child rights" introduced landmark changes access to justice for children. It removed the age limit for children for applying to state entities for the protection of their rights and legal interests and gave the right to any child to be heard in any judicial and administrative proceeding.

Another crucial policy document was the Presidential Resolution "On additional measures for further strengthening of the guarantees of the rights of the child" that, inter alia, established the position of the Children's Ombudsperson as the Deputy of the Authorized Person

of the Oliy Majlis on Human Rights (Ombudsman).



The Government of Uzbekistan has demonstrated increased willingness strengthen cross-border to cooperation to counter drug trafficking and organized crime. However, softening state border control regimes has led to increased cross-border movement of people and goods. This in turn increases the potential risks that the new infrastructure will be exploited by transnational organized groups for drug and human trafficking and other nefarious purposes. The country continues to face security challenges that include record opium cultivation and production in Afghanistan as well as precursor trafficking, organized crime, people trafficking, illicit financial flows and the spread of violent extremism and terrorism.



Acknowledging the vital role of data quality and reliability for effective policy-making, the Government initiated the development of the national Statistics Development Strategy. In 2019, the President approved a Decree on the Population Census due to be held in 2022. Given that Uzbekistan's last census was conducted in 1989, this was a significant milestone. Additionally, the Presidential Resolution on additional measures to strengthen statistical capacity highlighted the commitment of the Government of Uzbekistan to conducting a Multi-Indicator Cluster Survey.

SECTION 4 UN PROGRESS: 2019 HIGHLIGHTS







Accelerated UN support for the implementation of the national Sustainable Development Goals:

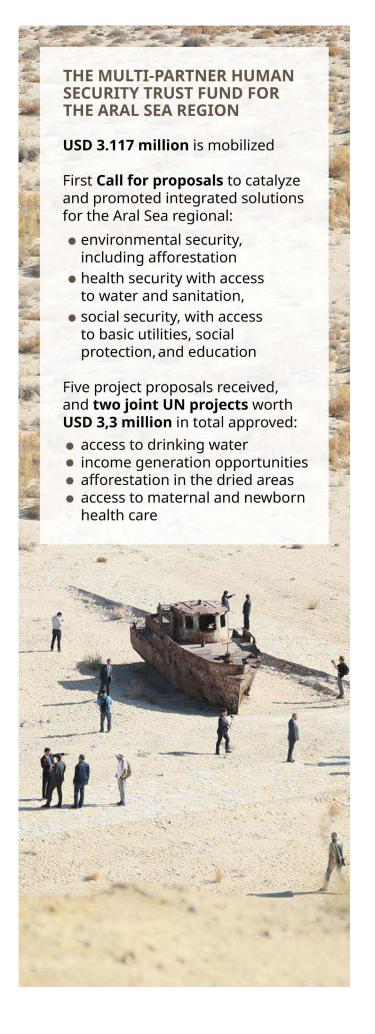
In March, with UN support, the national SDG monitoring framework established:

- 206 national SDG indicators aligned with global SDG indicators
- 98 national indicators, with sex/ age-disaggregated data, made public on a National SDG web-portal

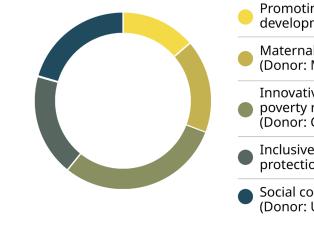


First SDG Voluntary National Review launched with awareness raising and capacity building, to be presented in July 2020 at a High-Level Political Forum

Rapid Integrated Assessment (RIA) introduced to promote alignment of the national development plans with the national SDGs



In total, **five new joint UN project** worth **USD 10,704,040** have been initiated to focus on:



INNOVATION

UNDP Accelerator Lab established as a new service to identify new approaches and innovative solutions to addressing complex development challenges.

The aim of the Acceleration Lab is to bring together grassroots ideas with new sources of real-time data and experimentation in the search for solutions to complex development issues, and thus ultimately accelerate the attainment of the SDGs.

Supported by the Federal Republic of Germany and the State of Qatar, the Lab in Uzbekistan is working with national and global partners to find new approaches and solutions to development challenges based on an accelerated learning process, which relies on sense-making, collective intelligence, solutions mapping and experimentation.

ing sustainable rural oment (Donor: MPTF)	\$ 1,463,900
al and newborn health care MPTF)	\$ 1,829,155
ive solutions to healthcare and reduction in the Aral Sea region Government of Japan)	\$ 3,211,618
e transformation of the social ion system (Donor: UN SDG Fund)	\$ 2,000,000
ohesion and youth empowerment UN Peacebuilding Fund)	\$ 2,199,367

	In	2019, the SDG Acceleration Lab:	
les	•	generated policy recommendations in the area of public administration to inform 11 decrees and resolutions adopted by Government;	
	•	implemented 7 digital transformation projects to improve access to services in public and preschool education, notary and road safety;	
/	•	supported the development of a JobCafe mobile application for temporary workers to address unemployment issue;	
ACC UNE	•	experimented with blockchain technology to fight corruption and bring transparency in land registration and public education;	
	•	experimented with applying nudge theory to address the issue of sorting solid waste by citizens and to reduce electricity consumption in secondary schools;	
nar	•	capacitated 490 civil servants (48 per cent women) in design thinking, evidence-based policy-making, data- driven governance and behavioral insights in public policy.	
	-		

SDG Consultations

In the fall of 2019, with the with national movement "Yuksalish" and the Disabled People's Association, multi-stakeholder consultations were conducted in six regions and in the capital of Uzbekistan. In these, approximately 1500 people, including youth and children, local communities, civil society organizations, mass media, academics, local and central Government authorities and Parliamentarians, were consulted on challenges and opportunities to achieving national development priorities and Agenda 2030. The consultations contributed to the UN Common Country Analysis carried out in 2019 and helped identify strategic priority areas of the next UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework².

2 Visit the Section 7 for more information



SECTION 5 RESULTS

THEMATIC AREA 1: INCLUSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, WITH A FOCUS ON EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL PROTECTION



OUTCOME 1:

Equitable and sustainable economic growth through productive employment, improvement of environment for business, entrepreneurship and innovations expanded for all

Improving business climate

Expert support and policy advice was provided to enhance the normative framework on promoting exports/foreign direct investment (FDI), including the "Strategy on investment policy of the Republic of Uzbekistan until 2025", the law "On Investments and Investment Activities", the law "On Public-Private Partnership", and the law "On Special Economic Zones");

Support to introduce risk-based inspections to simplify customs procedures in customs administration and among authorized economic operators has contributed to improvement of the country's position in the World Bank's Doing Business Report 2019 "Trading across Borders" indicator, moving Uzbekistan from 169th to 152nd place respectively.

A start-up initiative launched to promote youth employment and entrepreneurship has been scaled up to cover 388 young people in five regions. Trainings and mentorship support were provided to young project founders; 179 projects out of 655 applications were selected to participate in the programme and the five best projects were awarded \$25,000 each.

Sustainable employment

The National Association for the Development and Popularization of Working Professions was established with UN support. Moreover, the first Open Skills Championship in Uzbekistan was piloted in line with international WorldSkills standards in order to popularize skills and competence development, with a view to improving the competitiveness of the labour force, including that of labour migrants, in local and international labour markets.





Youth employment and entrepreneurship promoting start-up initiative (in numbers)



388 young people



5 regions



655 applications



179 projects



5 best projects with \$25 000 award for each

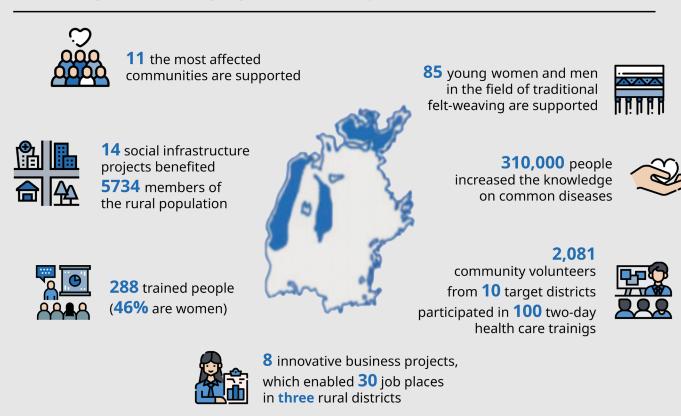
Addressing regional income disparities, with a focus on the Aral Sea region

In the final year of the Joint Programme on building the resilience of communities affected by the Aral Sea disaster, the UN agencies focused on promoting local sustainable development solutions to mitigating the consequences of the disaster and ensuring the sustainability and impact of these solutions. The UN facilitated the development of a comprehensive Regional Development Strategy for Karakalpakstan and supported 11 of the most affected communities across the region to develop local Community Development Plans.

14 social infrastructure projects have been implemented to benefit 5,734 members of the rural population and improve access to drinking water, electrification, educational and WASH facilities for rural school children. To enable communities to develop, implement and sustain community-based projects, the UN has trained 288 people, of whom 46 per cent are female, on a Human Security approach, problem identification, project formulation, resource management, monitoring and evaluation.

The UN facilitated the establishment of eight innovative business projects (three of which were initiated by women), which enabled the creation of 30 job places (out of which 11 were taken by women) in three rural districts (including a mini-laundry shop, a cold room for fruit and vegetables, expanding the capacity of a fish farm, food processing workshops such as halva production, the production of chips and dried fruits).

Aral Sea region: addressing regional income disparities (in numbers)





To address regional health implications, the UN conducted 100 two-day trainings on the prevention of respiratory, cardiovascular and gastrointestinal diseases as well as the promotion of mother and child health care. These covered 2,081 community volunteers in 10 target districts. Awareness raising campaigns run by trained community volunteers reached over 310,000 people and increased the knowledge about prevention measures for common diseases.



To promote sustainable tourism and sustain the livelihoods of local communities, the UN supported traditional Karakalpak craftsmanship by building the capacities of about 85 young women and men from local communities in the field of traditional feltweaving. This will safeguard and support this skill as a unique intangible heritage as well as provide income-generating opportunities for local communities. The UN also supported the launch of a website on the unique historical, cultural and natural heritage of Karakalpakstan.

UNDP AccLab has developed an Aral Sea Greening concept, to support the Government's efforts to transform the region into a Zone of ecological and technological innovations, inter alia, by testing an alternative financing mechanism in the region – crowdfunding for greening activities.



OUTCOME 2:

Vulnerable groups benefit more from an inclusive financially sustainable and efficient social protection system

A comprehensive social protection system assessment was jointly completed with the Government, World Bank, academia and think tanks, to identify the key strengths and weaknesses of the system with a view to informing policy and the institutional reform agenda

A two-year UN joint programme on strengthening the social protection system in Uzbekistan was jointly launched with the Government to support the Government's efforts to build and deliver a high-quality social protection system that offers all citizens – in particular, those at risk of being left behind – income security and social support throughout their lives.

A pilot project of a 'single registry for social protection' with an integrated management informationsystemwassuccessfullylaunched in Syrdarya region. The single registry has resulted in the digitization of the end-toend processes of applying, assigning and paying social allowances. This increases the accountability, transparency and efficiency of social allowance delivery mechanisms. The system will be rolled out nationwide in 2020.

The UN through UNICEF supported the reintegration of children repatriated from conflict zones into extended families and communities of origin. As a result of joint actions and effective cooperation between the UN and the Government, 80 percent of children have been successfully reunified with their families and/or relatives.

To promote the rights of persons with disabilities, consultative and technical support was extended with regard to ratification of the UNCRPD, in particular, to develop appropriate measures to support

informed decision making in the process of ratifying the UNCRPD.

The UN promoted a digital transformation of public services to make them disability sensitive through Business Process Reengineering (BPR), in consultation with the Government and people with disabilities.

To promote youth engagement and participation in decision making process, a National study on the aspirations, needs and risks of youth was completed and youth consultations were organized in eight regions to engage 802 young people in discussion about their most critical emerging development challenges and to enable them come up with local solutions that can impact their lives.

Following the successful launch and rapid growth of U-Report in 2018, and thanks to the joint efforts of the UN with the Youth Union, media and youth, by the end of 2019 the number of U-Reporters exceeded 35,000. Eight regional outreach campaigns took place to engage youth from the most remote areas into dialogue with decisionmakers at the national level, including on gender roles and norms.





OUTCOME 3:

Children and women in need of protection are covered with comprehensive support in line with human rights standards



A policy dialogue on the need for child benefit reform has been established at national level, based on analytical work and a microsimulation tool; reforms options for child benefits, if implemented, will lead to a sizeable increase in their effectiveness and efficiency.

Continued advocacy resulted in the Government's decision to shift from residential institutions to family based alternative care. A long-term action plan on De-institutionalization was developed as a follow up to the 2019 Presidential Resolution addressing welfare measures for children deprived of parental care.

To support the Government's efforts on de-institutionalization, the situation of 528 children in four closed institutions and their families was assessed and individual reintegration plans were developed to assist the reintegration of these children into their families and communities. 900 service providers were trained to provide and monitor reintegration services to children returning from closed institutions.

The UN Country Team consulted and contributed substantively to the promotion,

development and adoption of two groundbreaking Laws "On guarantees of equal rights and opportunities for women and men» and "On protection of women from harassment and violence" to ensure their compliance with applicable human rights standards.

UN agencies supported the development of GBV by-laws and the rollout of 197 shelters which offer multi-sectoral assistance, including free legal aid, psychological and social support to GBV survivors across the country. In addition, legal clinics supported by the UN provided free legal support to women in four regions.

The National Gender Strategy, accompanied by a roadmap and a set of mandatory indicators (2019-2020) has been developed with UN assistance to become the first National Gender Equality Strategy that will use comprehensive and coordinated policy measures to achieve gender equality.

The Senate Gender Commission was supported to launch work on the development of standard operating procedures for a multisectoral response to gender-based violence together with healthcare, law enforcement and psychosocial specialists.

To promote knowledge sharing and awareness raising on GBV issues, more than 200 specialists (of whom 80 per cent are women) from the Ministry of Interior, Centers on Adaptation and Rehabilitation, and Suicide Prevention and the Women's Committee were equipped with the skills to work with victims of violence and GBV; and 50 members of Parliament, candidates to be deputies of the Legislative Chamber, received a training on gender-legal expertise for the first time in Uzbekistan.

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THEMATIC AREA 2: QUALITY HEALTH AND EDUCATION, TO FULLY REALIZE HUMAN POTENTIAL

OUTCOME 4: All people benefit from quality, equitable and accessible health services throughout their life course



Access to integrated SRH services

Evidence-based up-to-date protocols on sexual and reproductive health (SRH), antenatal care (ANC), Family planning (FP) and sexually transmitted disease (STI) prevention have been developed and introduced.

2000 health care specialists from over the country have been covered by trainings on the implementation of national family planning standards by the National Reproductive Health Center and its regional branches.

Within the Joint Programme on the Aral Sea

- 100 primary health care specialists in Karakalpakstan were trained on integrated sexual and reproductive health, family planning counselling, client rights, informed choice and antenatal care
- 160 Makhalla specialists working with women and families in Karakalpakstan were trained on liaising with patronage nurses for SRH/RR/FP awareness raising among population





660 specialists (midwives, obstetrics and gynecology, resuscitation) were trained in maternal and newborn care

UN supported the statistical capacity of the Government, and, for the first time, Uzbekistanreleasednationallyrepresentative data on the nutritional situation of women and children. Evidence from the nutrition survey has supported the Government's policy development, specifically in a law on the Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes and Infant and Young Child Food and national food fortification law.

More than 2,850,000 children nationwide, aged from six to fifty-nine months old, benefitted from two rounds of UN supported Vitamin A supplementation.

Immunization and vaccination

The vaccine against human papillomavirus has been introduced into the national calendar, with vaccination coverage reaching 94 per cent, the highest among countries implementing this vaccine, making this a significant step in combatting cancer. 34,677 specialists, including 21,448 teachers and 13,229 school-based health providers have strengthened their knowledge through cascade trainings on HPV.



Construction of 13 cold chain storages has been completed. The first phase of the Cold Chain Equipment Optimization Platform (CCEOP) was successfully implemented with 100 per cent of refrigerators and freezers installed at regional level, allowing for the safe storage of an annual stock of nine different vaccines for more than 750,000 children; followed by hands-on trainings on the comprehensive and high-quality maintenance of cold chain equipment.



Non – communicable disease (NCD) control and prevention

NCD prevention campaigns and Healthy Lessons conducted under the leadership of the Ministry of Health with engagement of community volunteers, medical studentvolunteers, NGOs, schools, and colleges in all regions of Uzbekistan have reached around 12,000 community members in the Aral see region, and around 100,000 people nation-wide.

Introduction of the WHO Package of Essential Non-communicable Disease Interventions (WHO PEN) has been launched through a training course that covered 100 per cent of Primary Health Facilities throughout the country. This was followed by the decision of the Government to scale up the implementation of the WHO PEN protocols in 1,991 PHC facilities.



Maternal, Newborn and Child Health

660 health specialists improved their capacity in quality maternal and newborn care delivery, including 440 midwives on post-partum hemorrhage control and preeclampsia first aid; 75 midwives and 75 obstetricians/gynecologists in Emergency obstetric care (EMOC); and 70 resuscitation specialists in intensive therapy in obstetrics.

The UN supported Uzbekistan to update four neonatal care standards, revise the neonatal care in-service training curriculum, train national neonatologists on evidencebased newborn interventions in the neonatal intensive care unit, and to introduce perinatal audit in six facilities. A total of 340 health care providers received hands-on training on small and sick newborn care in 2019 and 162,469 live births benefited from this.

Parents of 15,700 children under five years old benefited from improved counselling on health and nutrition as a result of the training of 333 patronage nurses in counselling and the provision of support to caregiver/family in three regions. Moreover 41 supervisors benefitted from the development of a model facility, and district and regional level based supportive supervision guidelines.

A mobile application of the 'WHO Pocket book of hospital care for children: Guidelines for the management of common childhood illnesses' was developed and provided to specialists throughout the country at the National Pediatrics Congress in October 2019.

Drug dependence treatment

106 drug dependence treatment professionals enhanced their understanding on evidence-based treatment and care services during a series of trainings on the Universal Treatment Curriculum on Substance Use Disorders (UTC) training package, with an average knowledge increase of 40.17 per cent. It is estimated that approximately 1,500 patients in the country benefitted from the services of these trained professionals.

National quality standards for drug dependence treatment services have been developed and approved based on the UNODC-WHO standards; and integrated in a new government policy on measures to improve the system of narcological assistance to the population of the Republic of Uzbekistan, which was adopted in October 2019.

Treatment and prevention of infectious diseases (TB, HIV, hepatitis)

Advocacy remained an important part of the UN's HIV-treatment strategy, and several high-level consultations with Government representatives were organized to advocate for universal access to antiretroviral (ARV) treatment care and support services (90-90-90). In addition:

Uzbekistan reviewed and adapted its national legislation and policies to ensure they are up to date with respect to scientific evidence on drug use, drug dependence and HIV and that they conform to international human rights obligations. • Continuous advocacy efforts resulted in a decision to gradually increase the allocation of Government funds for lifesaving antiretroviral therapy (ART) treatment, to allow for a scale up of ART provision from from 61 per cent of HIV-positive people (24,738) to 66 per cent (28,265).

• Extensive support to implement the National ART plan ensured 100 per cent access to ART for men, women, HIV-positive pregnant women and children infected with HIV; in 2019, 97.1 per cent of HIV-positive pregnant women received ARV prophylaxis for the prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV (PMTCT) in accordance with the nationally approved treatment protocol, and 99.2 per cent of infants born to HIV-positive women received a virological test for HIV within two months of birth. All these have significantly contributed to reaching 90-90-90 targets.

• The National TB Strategic Plan for 2021-2025 was finalized with UN support to become the basis for application to grants from the Global fund to fight AIDS, TB, and Malaria (GFATM).

• More than 300 RR/MDR-TB patients have benefitted from treatment with standard short treatment regimen courses and regimens containing new drugs in two pilot areas, with a treatment success rate of 81 per cent as compared to 58.6 per cent (with standard regimens)

• Delivery of dispersed TB drugs for treatment of children with drug resistant TB treatment has been initiated to reach out to 62 children with RR/MDR-TB with TB drugs free of charge.





OUTCOME 5: Continuous quality education and lifelong learning for all are improved

A new "Law on Preschool Education" was adopted based on international evidence and best practice shared by UN; and various alternative and innovative models of preschool provisions, such as familybased preschools and one-year pre-primary education, have been designed with UN support, including Public Private Partnership (PPP) models with a focus on the most remote regions and vulnerable families;

A one-year pre-primary Early Child Education programme, including multiage groups and play groups model, has been modelled in three pilot regions based on a conceptual framework developed with UN support, that will be scaled-up at national level by 2021. Early Learning and Development Standards (ELDS) have been revised and a new curriculum for preschool education using a competency-based approach was developed.

To enhance the institutional capacity to deliver the new ELDS and preschool curriculum, based on a comprehensive inservice training package that was developed on the ELDS and the preschool curriculum, a core team of 32 Master Trainers at the national level and 185 trainers at the subnational levels, from 14 regions of the country have been trained to reach out to 38,400 preschool teachers from 5,738 preschools with cascade training.

An Education Quality Assurance Framework (EQAF) with quality standards and performance indicators, at the preschool and basic education levels; and Teacher Qualification Frameworks and Professional Standards for preschool and general secondary school teachers have been established with UN support. Education Quality Assurance involves the systematic review of educational programmes and processes to maintain and improve their quality, equity and efficiency; while Teacher professional standards represent the characteristics of high-quality teaching for the twenty-first century. Together with the Qualification Framework they will form the basis for revising pre-service training programmes, for in-service professional development and for teacher appraisal.

A study on the assessment of learning outcomes in reading comprehension, mathematics and science in grade IV (data collected in 2018) was carried out in collaboration with MOPE, to provide evidence on gender disaggregated performance in learning levels for the firsttime in the country. The study contributed to better understanding of quality issues and informed the development of the National Curriculum Framework.

To raise awareness about the importance and urgency of increasing opportunities in higher education, the UN engaged the Government of Uzbekistan to review the 2011 Asia-Pacific Regional Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications in Higher Education and as a result, a Roadmap on the Ratification of the Regional Convention on Recognition of the Qualifications of Higher Education was adopted; and the National Information Center on Qualifications was established. The Government was supported to participate in the discussions and adoption of the Global Convention on Recognition of Qualifications, which was held during the General Conference of UNESCO in Paris.

Based on extensive work on reviewing the existing curriculum and identifying the core competencies relevant for the country that was carried out by the UN with partners through 2017-2018, the first ever National Curriculum Framework (NCF) for the general secondary education system has been developed, based on a competency-based approach.

Cooperation with the Government of Uzbekistan has been further strengthened to address topical issues, such as family skills to combat drug use among youth, building a culture of lawfulness, preventing violence and extremism, including genderbased violence, a safe learning environment in schools, crime prevention, etc.

The UN-supported Strengthening Families Programme for families and children aged 10-14 years (SFP 10-14) and the Strong Families Programme for families with children aged 8-15 years have been officially acknowledged as the basis for a «Happy Schools» project run by the Ministry of Public Education.



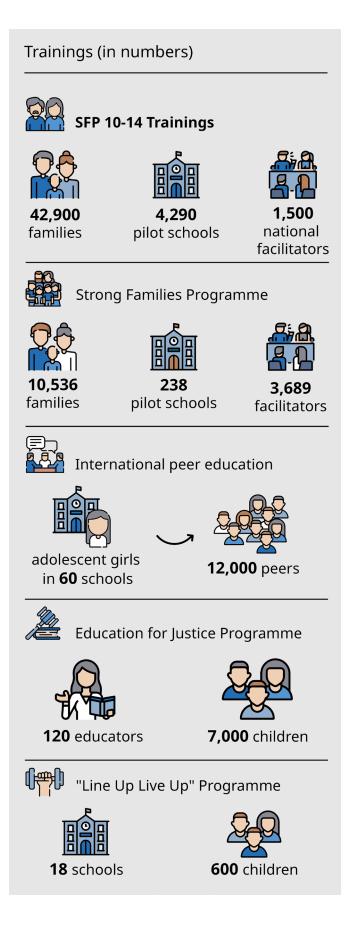
42,900 families in 4,290 pilot schools improved their parental skills thanks to participation in the SFP 10-14 trainings focused on strengthening family relationships for the prevention of drug use among children and youth, that were carried out by 1,500 national facilitators. This pool of national experts ensured smooth integration of the SFP 10-14 into the education system of Uzbekistan.

10,536 families in 238 pilot schools in remote rural areas and resource-limited settings benefitted from the Strong Families Programme and 3,689 facilitators were trained to conduct trainings on improving parenting skills, child well-being, and family mental health.

International peer education methodology was adapted to the national context and piloted in Jizzakh region with a very positive reaction from adolescent girls in 60 schools who then conducted peer education classes in their own schools, thereby covering 12,000 peers, as well as teachers and parents.

Within the Education for Justice (E4J) programe, which promotes the rule of law through education in primary and secondary schools, over 120 educators in Uzbekistan were equipped with tools to promote critical thinking, integrity and other values in schools and to support youth in solve ethical and moral dilemmas, reached out to 7,000 children in Uzbekistan with trainings.

The «Line Up Live Up» programme was piloted in 18 schools in the Fergana Valley involving over 600 children between ages 13-18 to promote sport-based life skills training and prevent crime and violence among youth.



THEMATIC AREA 3: ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, TO ENSURE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

OUTCOME 6: Rural population benefit from sustainable management of natural resources and resilience to disasters and climate change

Enhancing the resilience of people and communities in drought prone areas

A Drought Early Warning System (DEWS) for the Aral Sea region was developed and introduced to deliver forecasts about water availability. Automation of 11 meteorological stations in Karakalpakstan has been strengthened to cover 30,450 km2 with the hydro-meteorological and drought monitoring. 3,555 people (20 per cent women) benefited from early drought warnings received through information bulletins. Data and weather forecasts are widely available through the internet (Field Climate/NG by Meteos).

Over 13,000 people (25 per cent women) in rural communities in 6 districts of Karakalpakstan adopted and benefited from agro-conservation and climate adaptation practices on: zero tillage and crop residues retention in the soil, mulching, water sorbent use, bio-protection of crops and improvement of land fertility, fodder production, drip irrigation in gardens and Liman watering in pastures. 10 Field Schools delivered trainings on agroconservation and water saving applications, including on the advantages of using greenhouses to minimize drought-induced risks. 5,904 members of rural communities (26.4 per cent female) were trained and consulted on innovative agro-conservation and water saving practices in the established three Extension Services Centers.

8,845 beneficiaries (40 per cent women) were trained and provided with equipment and materials to establish horticulture greenhouses that will help minimize drought induced losses.

Overall, 15,857 rural stakeholders (30 per cent women) are indirectly benefiting from greenhouses and hotbeds through the provision of their green products. In total, 24,702 people (33 per cent women) benefited from UN support to introduce greenhouse complexes.



Drought Early Warning System



Drought Early Warning System



11 meteorological stations**30,450** km² covered with the hydro-meteorological and



drought monitoring **3,555** people (**20%** women) benefited



Agro-conservation and climate adaptation practices



6 districts of Karakalpakstan



Over **13,000** people (**25%** women) are benefited

Trainings



5,904 members of rural communities **(26.4%** female) on innovative agro-conservation and water saving practices

8,845 beneficiaries (**40%** women) to establish horticulture greenhouses



15,857 rural stakeholders (**30%** women) indirectly benefit from greenhouses



24,702 people (**33%** women) benefited from UN support

Energy efficiency of the buildings sector and renewable energy

800 rural low-income households with 4,000 people, mainly families in need of better housing conditions, women in difficult social situations and young families and public sector employees, have accessed a green mortgage for low-carbon affordable housing designed and operated by a local bank (Qishloq Qurilish Bank) in five regions.

As a spill-over effect, 15,010 energy efficient and affordable rural houses have been constructed under the National Affordable Rural Housing Programme in 2019 - 60,040 people (of whom at least 40 per cent are females) have invested in and now own green housing in Uzbekistan.

Efficient use of water resources

UN engagement in improving irrigation infrastructure, water distribution and metering regulations/practices, as well as building the technical capacity of water professionals has led to water losses being reduced by 30-40 per cent in seven pilot Water User Associations and enabled water delivery to additional irrigated lands and the lands of farmers located at the end of canals.





3,447 water practitioners and users have increased their qualification and knowledge after participating in training conducted by UN. More than 1,500 people, including those in kindergartens, schools and rural clinics have safe water in the community of Kupaki in Samarkand region. More than 2,000 hectares of land, in 5 provinces of Uzbekistan are included in areas where technology for conservation agriculture was applied. No-till planters were purchased and delivered and continue to work and spread technological innovation. Piloting of agroforestry practices has been launched in Djizzak and Kashkadarya provinces. More than 200 farmers have benefited from various trainings and field days.

The UN contributed significantly to the development of a National Action Plan for Seed Policy which was eventually ratified by the Government and facilitated communication with the Secretariat of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC).

Conservation of mountain ecosystems

A Biodiversity Conservation Information Management System (BCIMS) with seven types of environmental data was installed to expand environmental data, and therefore, improve planning and decision-making processes about the environment and other sectors of economy.

The SMART patrol system was introduced in two pilot protected areas of the Gissar State Reserve to prevent illegal poaching.

A micro-grants programme resulted in: a vet service established for 11 villages; seven tree nurseries created for forest restoration (14 hectares in total); a bakery shop established to serve three villages and reduce the communities' need for firewood, thus reducing the pressure on natural forests.

Within the Snow Leopard Research and Monitoring programme in the Western Tien Shan and Pamir Alai, three snow leopards have been identified; and genetic data on the individual snow leopards living in Uzbekistan was obtained for the first time.





Disaster Risk Reduction

A «Basics of Life Safety» course was introduced as part of the Disaster Risk Reduction curriculum in upper schools. An online electronic platform for school emergency preparedness was developed for onward testing as part of an integrated EMIS system.

Support for implementation of the Multilateral Environmental Agreements

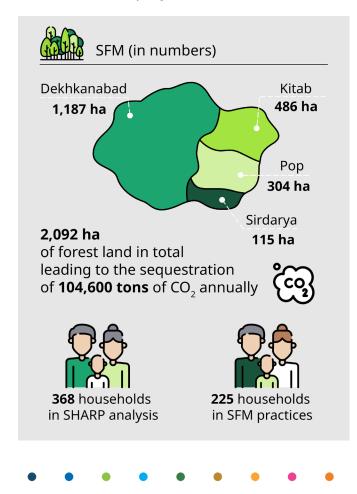
The UN supported the development of a first draft Law on environmental assessment in line with the Convention and the Protocol and in line with the proposed concept note on legislative reform of the environmental assessment system in Uzbekistan.



Sustainable forest management (SFM)

Based on evaluation of a forest inventory system, a Forest Inventory and Monitoring System (FIMS) was designed, and sustainable forest management practices have been introduced in four pilot forestry organizations.

Concepts on forest restoration and nurseries have been developed to contribute to the Sustainable Forest and Pasture Management. SFM practices were introduced in an area of 2092 hectares of forest land, which will lead to the sequestration of 104,600 tons of CO2 annually, including 1,187 hectares in Dekhkanabad, 486 hectares in Kitab, 304 hectares in Pop, and 115 hectares in Sirdarya. 368 households were engaged in the SHARP analysis and 225 households (including 92 women) are involved in SFM practices in four forestry farms to allow them to benefit from project activities.



United Nations Country Results Report



Sustainable Land and Pasture use

The UN consulted and supported the development of Uzbekistan's Agriculture Development Strategy for 2020–2030 which includes a UN proposal on rainfed agriculture development as well as a Law on Pastures that will regulate the issue of pastureland resources to prevent rangeland degradation in the country.

An Integrated Land Use Management Planning (ILUMP) approach was introduced to pilot sustainable pasture use practices as a practical implementation mechanism for the Law on Pastures.

Piloting of Sustainable Land Management has been initiated in selected sites, beginning with the identification of innovative drought mitigation SLM technologies.

In Kashkadarya and Bukhara regions, demonstration sites have been established to showcase sustainable land management technologies that address drought and salinity. 45.6 tons of drought and salinity resistant varieties of winter wheat and barley seed have been delivered to seed farmers in Kashkadarya and Bukhara regions.

The Interim Regional Secretariat on deserts in Tashkent was established with UN support, to provide biodiversity and ecosystem services for deserts in Central Asia.

THEMATIC AREA 4: EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE, TO ENHANCE PUBLIC SERVICE DELIVERY AND PROTECTION OF RIGHTS

Contraction of the

Google

OUTCOME 7: The quality of public administration is improved for equitable access to quality public services for all



Public administration and public services delivery

UN support was instrumental to the adoption of the ambitious State Anti-Corruption Programme 2019-2020 and the implementation of measures to an introduce anti-corruption management and compliance system into seven state bodies and two SOEs.

The Presidential decree "On measures to radically improve the personnel policy and the system of civil service in the Republic of Uzbekistan" UN policy recommendations were incorporated that also informed a draft Law on the Civil Service and policy paper on Reforming the Civil Service in Uzbekistan.



The public services several government agencies (including the National Agency of Project Management, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Public Education, Ministry of Pre-School Education, Ministry of Internal Affairs, and others) were streamlined through digital (my.gov.uz) and offline (Public Services Centers) channels.

The capacities of 490 civil servants (48 per cent women) have been improved in design thinking; user-centred and participatory service design; evidence-based policy-making; data-driven governance and using behavioural insights in public policy; and 55 civil servants were equipped to conduct regulatory impact assessment of legal acts.

The "Digital Uzbekistan 2030" Concept Note and Roadmap were drafted based on international experience, to replace the expiring master-plan on developing e-government for 2013-2019. These will also serve as a framework for developing a national long-term strategy for Digital Uzbekistan and set the trajectory for Uzbekistan's transition to a digital economy in five priority areas: Digital Infrastructure, Digital Skills, Data Driven Governance, Digital Innovations and Digital Security.

Mid-term and programme-based budgeting have been promoted. State budget recipients, including ministries and government agencies at the central and local level have been applying mid-term budget planning since 2019.

A "Citizens' Budget for Y2019" and a "Citizens' budget for Y2019" for the Tashkent Region and a draft "Citizens' budget for Y2020" have been developed and presented to national/ international partners and the general public.

Women's empowerment in political life

Over 150 representatives, including members of Parliament, gender specialists of concerned state agencies, professional staff of 14 regional branches of the Women's Committee, Republican and town centres for rehabilitation (women shelters) received trainings and workshops dedicated to various topics on gender equality.

Improved data transparency, quality and accessibility

Two longstanding critical data generation activities, namely the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) and Population Census, have been successfully elevated to the highest level and this has resulted in the adoption of the Presidential Decree on the Population Census in Uzbekistan in 2022, and the Presidential Resolution on additional measures on strengthening statistical capacity, that includes, inter alia, the MICS.

Several key assessments and thematic studies were completed to address existing data challenges and evidence gaps, including UNECE/Eurostat Preliminary Assessment of Data and Statistics, Environmental Performance Review, UN Joint Disability Situation Analysis, Nutrition Survey, Social Protection System Assessment and others. The knowledge generated by these studies will be used for the development of national policies and programmes.

The UN promoted the disclosure of gender statistics in line with the UN minimal set of 52 gender indicators through the gender. stat.uz portal.

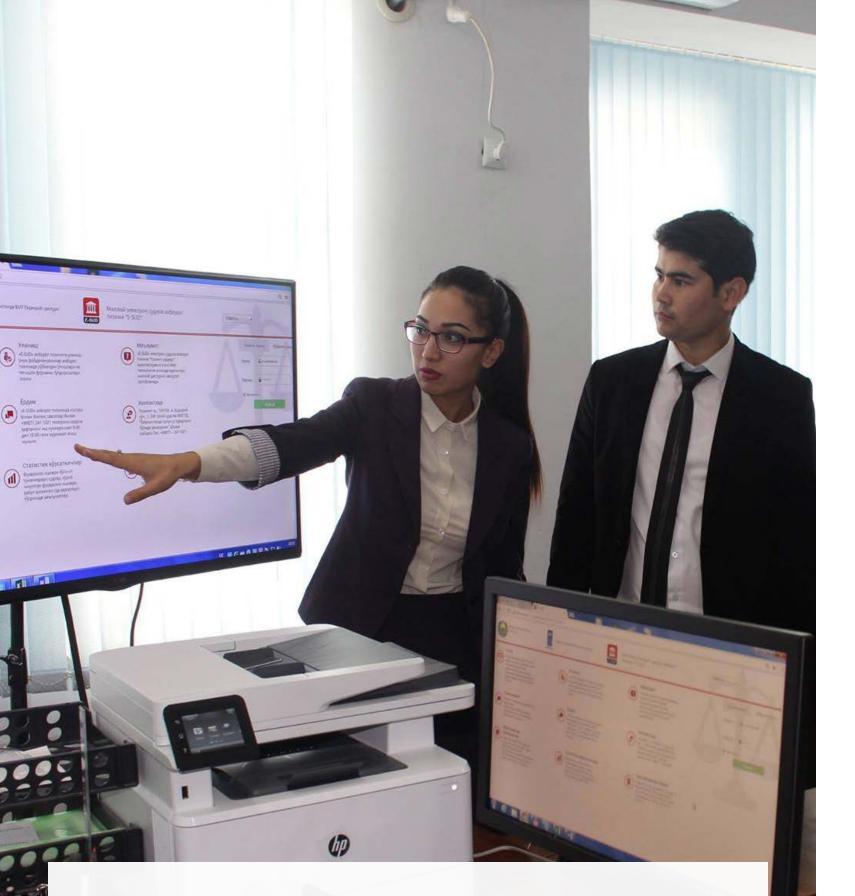
Response to transnational organized crime, illicit trafficking and illicit drug trafficking

Border liaison offices have been established at key border crossing points to counter the trafficking of opiates through the northern route. Six Interagency Mobile Teams (IMT) established in 2018 have been strengthened throughimprovedlegislative and institutional frameworks, procurement of specialized equipment, capacity development activities and implementation of joint inter-agency counter-narcotics operations.

791 law enforcement and criminal justice officers were trained to use advanced techniques and skills to effectively counter organized crime, illicit trafficking and terrorism.

More than 300 investigators and prosecutors and 70 governmental officials benefited from capacity building to combat corruption and economic crimes. 82 specialists were equipped with skills to identify the risk of money laundering and terrorist financing.





OUTCOME 8:

Legal and judicial reforms further ensure strong protection of rights, freedoms and legitimate interests of citizens

Access to Justice

356,984 applications were processed by courts through the E-SUD system bringing the total number of external users of the E-SUD information system to 17,618, out of which 9,246 (52,48 per cent) are women. An additional 10 interactive services under the E-SUD information system have been developed and launched, including a database of persons with legal incapacity, a database of civil court decisions, an online calendar of civil court hearings, an online submission of appeals (protests) and cassation complaints.

540 people, including 270 women have benefited from free legal aid services provided by legal clinics supported by UN; 70 per cent of these beneficiaries represent very vulnerable groups, including single mothers, aged people/retirees, the unemployed and people with disabilities

3,041 legal entities, 17,408 individuals and 706 lawyers accessed formal justice through interactive court services.

More than 900 service providers were trained to provide and monitor reintegration services to children returning from closed institutions

The first child-friendly testimony room within a local court was created in Tashkent jointly with the Supreme Court. The number of child-friendly interview rooms at pre-trail stage within the Ministry of Interior across the country reached 31 by the end of 2019.

Jointly with the Prosecutor General's Office (PGO), a first of its kind a diversion and restorative justice approach based on fundamental principles of international juvenile justice standards was piloted in Tashkent city.





E-SUD system



356,984 applications



17,618 external users (**52,5%** women)



10 additional interactive services



Legal aid services



540 people (70% vulnerable people) are benefited







706

lawyers

3,041

17,408 legal entities individuals accessed formal justice



900 service providers were trained

Support in development of the Law on mediation, alternative dispute resolution and efficiency of ICT use in courts resulted into a 19 steps improvement in the 'Enforcement of contracts' indicator of Doing Business. The criminal justice reform processes were facilitated through expert and legal advice contributing to the endorsement of new and revision of existing laws and policies related to judicial/criminal justice reform and anticorruption.

Implementation of UPR and Treaty Bodies' recommendations

The UN substantively supported the development and adoption of the Laws on equal rights and opportunities for women and men and on protection of women from harassment and violence as well as the development of guidelines and regulations for 197 shelters for victims of violence and legal clinics which provide free legal support to women in four regions,

199 people from 22 organizations in eight regions, including local authorities, prosecutor's office, women's committee, political parties, NGOs, media, and others were engaged in public consultations on progress towards fulfilling the National Action Plan on CEDAW recommendations as part of the preparation for the National report on CEDAW implementation.

The first ever dialogue dedicated to International day for the elimination of violence against women was held in Uzbekistan, with commitment to combat sexual violence (rape) against young girls and women, with high-level government officials (Deputy Prime minister, Deputy General Prosecutor, Head religious leader).

The capacity assessment of the Ombudsman informed legislative changes and brought about the application of the Ombudsman's Office for GANHRI accreditation. New legislation on National Preventative Mechanism (NPM) legislation was adopted.

The UN deployed a needs assessment mission on elections and provide international expertise to support the electoral process for Parliamentary elections held in December 2019.

Promoting Rule of Law

A «Line Up Live Up!» (LULU) global youth crime prevention initiative was launched to engage 600 school students in 20 schools in three regions of the Fergana Valley and Tashkent city in sport activities as a tool for peace. There has been no single registered youth crime across the 10 pilot schools since the launch of the programme.

More than 7,000 school students from the Republic of Karakalpakstan, and nine regions of Uzbekistan benefited from the Education for Justice (E4J) Initiative aimed at preventing crime and promoting a culture of lawfulness through education activities designed for the primary, secondary and tertiary levels.

The UN through UNODC conducted a technical needs assessment to identify gaps and opportunities to strengthen laws, practices and the capacity of professionals in preventing and responding to recruitment and violence against children by terrorist and violent extremist groups. As a result, a comprehensive report with recommendations were shared with the Government for further comments and strengthening cooperation in this area.

COMMUNICATING AS ONE





In 2019, UN Uzbekistan communications activities were mainly focused on promoting sustainable development goals, youth engagement, women's empowerment and advocacy efforts to eliminate gender-based violence. The UN supported five Model UN simulations which brought together more than 700 schoolchildren and students across the country.





Overtheyear, 12 SDG related dialogues, including 6 regional dialogues were conducted, highlighting the notion of Leaving No One Behind, with the participation of about 1,600 people, including school-children, students, journalists, independent opinionmakers, representatives of civil society, academia, government, and parliament.



In commemoration of "International Youth Day", the UN conducted a #31DaysOfYOUthChallenge campaign in Uzbekistan. The campaign included dialogues interactive with local youth opinion makers, bloggers and journalists, targeting 100 youth activists. The intense social media campaign consisted of inspirational and motivational appeals, stories and interviews with youth, reaching more than 25,000 people from 12 countries.

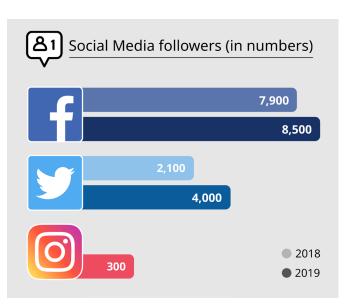
In 2019, for the first time, UN Day was marked not only in the capital but in the Aral Sea region in Nukus, Karakalpakstan. The UN planted trees in the Nukus district of the Republic of Karakalpakstan alongside more than 100 young people, civil society organizations, state agencies and UN staff, and conducted a brief SDG session for 50 students from Karakalpak State University followed by a UN day celebration at the National Theater of Karakalpakstan with more than 260 participants, including international and national partners.





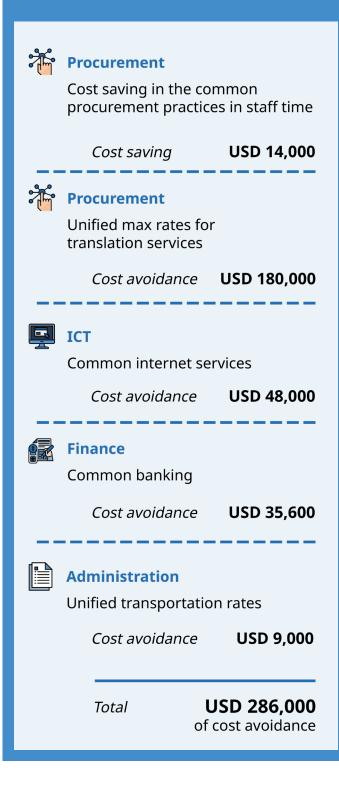
The campaign "16 days of activism against Gender based violence in Uzbekistan" reached out to more than 11,000 people via its social media networks and offline events with clips, social media posts and stories on eliminating violence and advancing women's empowerment.

As a result of wide and intense usage of its social media platforms, UN social media pages, handles and sites increased their reach. In 2019, UN Uzbekistan Twitter followers increased from 2,100 to 4,000, and Facebook followers from 7,900 to 8,500. In 2019, a new UN Uzbekistan Instagram account registered more than 300 followers. The Communication Group has also worked extensively to engage international mass media such as Al-Jazeera English and Russia24. Al-Jazeera English visited Uzbekistan to prepare a news report about ongoing reforms in Uzbekistan. During the visit Al-Jazeera also published a news report about how the UN in Uzbekistan is addressing development challenges related to the Aral Sea crisis. The largest Russian TV company Russia 24 filmed a documentary about people in Karakalpakstan and interviewed the UN Resident Coordinator about UN support in the Aral Sea region.



Operating as One.

In line with the Business Operations Strategy framework, the UN agencies worked collaboratively over the year and have achieved visible results in expanding common services and decreasing transaction costs while improving overall quality of operational support.



SECTION 6 UNDAF 2016-2020 EVALUATION: KEY FINDINGS

In 2019, an independent Final Evaluation of UNDAF 2016-2020 was carried out. The UNDAF evaluation serves as the central independent assessment of the UN system at country level to support accountability, learning and decision-making towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.

The evaluation considered both overall strategic issues related to the UNDAF and to the UN system in Uzbekistan, in addition to progress towards expected UNDAF results. It had two main components: the analysis of development results and the strategic positioning of the UNCT. The overall objectives of the evaluation were:

• To assess the relevance, effectiveness, organizational efficiency and sustainability of UNDAF contributions to development results.

 \cdot To provide lessons learned and actionable, forward-looking recommendations to the UNCT.

• To inform the design and implementation of the UNDAF successor, the 2021-2025 United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF).

The evaluation employed an inclusive, participatory approach, taking on board interviews and focus group discussions with 173 people from Government, civil society organizations and human rights activists, donors and development partners. Although the Evaluation identified some critical challenges and gaps that still need to be addressed in the next programming cycle, in general it concluded that UN advocacy and technical support has been catalytic in bringing about changes in normative frameworks and policies in several areas. It also highlighted that the UN's significant institutional and human capacity-building has been instrumental to increasing sustainable results.

The UNDAF was found to be broadly relevant to, and supportive of the achievement of Uzbekistan's national development priorities, despite significant changes in the country context during the UNDAF cycle. It is well-aligned with international treaties and goals, including Agenda 2030. The Evaluation acknowledged that the SDGs were well integrated into UNDAF programming, and integrated programming under the UNDAF supports SDG acceleration. At the same time, the Evaluation concluded that the UN has been facing the challenge of data availability and reliability, an issue which has been a cross-cutting concern in the UNDAF. Among other factors, the data gap has imposed a significant constraint to achieving results under a number of outcomes and has made other achievements invisible due to the large portion of indicators which cannot be measured.

The UN has a strong, long-standing relationship with the Government and it has leveraged this partnership to successfully advocate for, among others, SDG localization and the social protection single registry. However, its alliances with other expected UNDAF partners, including civil society and the private sector, should be strengthened to further ensure national ownership.

The resource gaps in most of the UNDAF outcome areas, except in Health and Governance, appear significant. It is both timely and relevant for the UN to explore additional financing for the remaining UNDAF cycle and the forthcoming UNSDCF through non-traditional donors, South-South Cooperation, Islamic finance, the private sector and other forms of multi-stakeholder partnerships.

The Evaluation recognizes that the UN has well-leveraged advantages in the normative areas, and as an advocate for the SDGs, is a provider of high-level technical expertise and an honest broker with strong convening power. However, in the rapidly evolving Uzbek context, the UN's technical expertise should be assessed on a regular basis, and it should be strengthened or built as required in order to respond to emerging national priorities and challenges and to ensure the organization's relevance in-country.

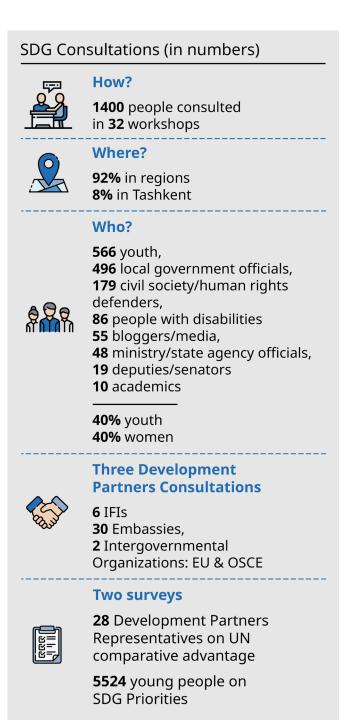
SECTION 7 NEXT CYCLE OF THE COOPERATION FRAMEWORK

In 2019, the UN system in Uzbekistan embarked on the development of the new UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework for 2021-2025. The strategic priorities for the Cooperation Framework have been defined through participatory and inclusive consultations with UN entities, national stakeholders, donors, IFIs and other development partners.

As a first step, a Common Country Analysis (CCA) was carried out jointly by 16 UN agencies. The main objective of the UN Common Country Analysis is to provide the UN system in Uzbekistan with an independent, impartial and collective assessment (a country situation) and analysis (causes and their implications) of the situation in the country in order to inform the development of the UN Cooperation Framework. The CCA examines progress, gaps, opportunities and bottlenecks vis-à-vis the country's commitment to achieving the Agenda 2030, UN norms and standards, and the principles of the UN Charter.

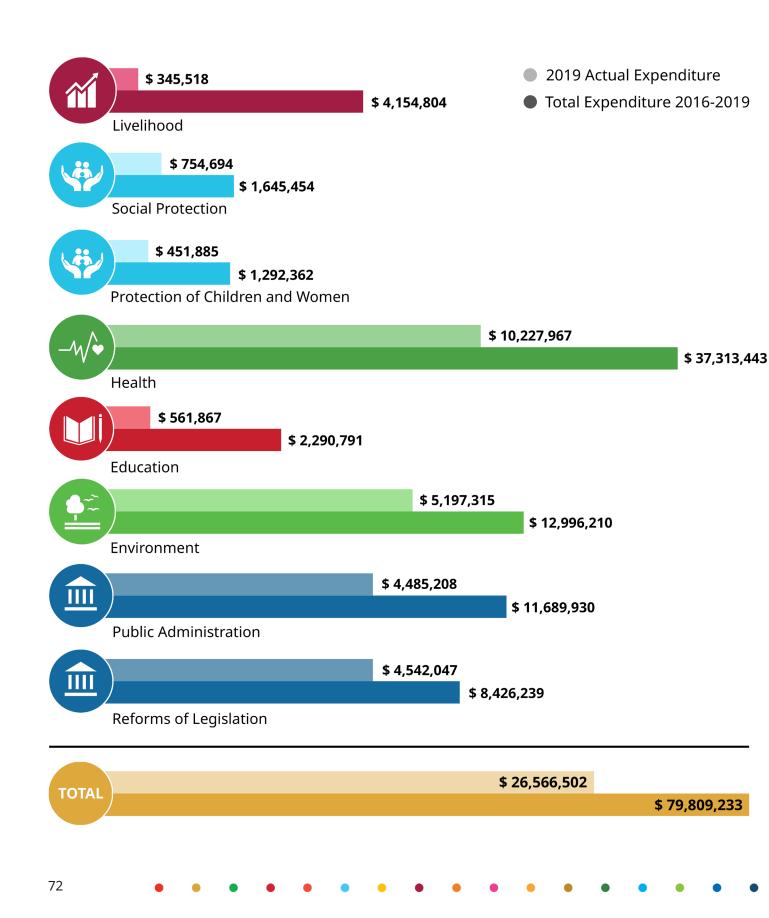
The CCA was followed by UN-wide consultations with a focus on the challenges and drivers of transformative development changes that are needed to accelerate the SDGs. Consultations on the UN's comparative advantage (mandate, capacity and positioning to act) through a partnership survey and by a UN self-assessment were also instrumental to the prioritization process. Following these, a 2030 visioning exercise was undertaken to formulate the UN Vision 2030 and its theory of change to address the Government's long-term development goals.

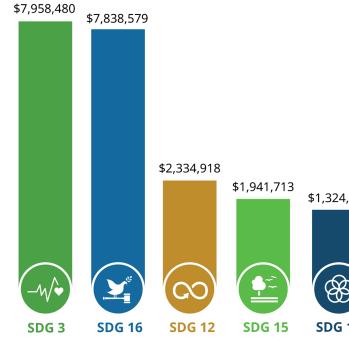
To confirm the relevance of the solutions prioritized, multi-stakeholder consultations were also conducted throughout September-December 2019 in six regions and in Tashkent³. As a result, the multi-stakeholder consultations have substantively informed the solutions to the prioritized development challenges, that in turn were translated into the outcomes and outputs of the Cooperation Framework.

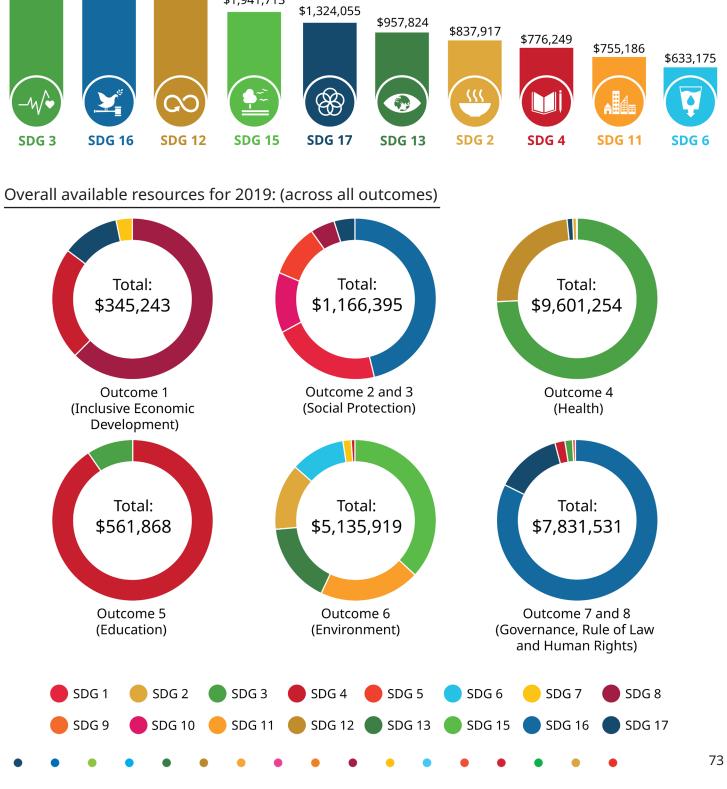


³ In total, about 1500 people, including youth and children, local communities and civil society organizations, mass media, academics, local and central government authorities and parliamentarians were consulted on development challenges and on opportunities where the UN could play a useful role.

SECTION 8 FINANCIAL OVERVIEW







Expenditure for 2019 by top-10 SDGs

SECTION 9 IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

«Ugam Chatkal biosphere reserve» of Uzbekistan railways JSC Academy of Public Administration Academy of sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan Academy of the Prosecutor General's Office Agency for Public services Agency for sanitary and epidemiological wellbeing of Ministry of Health Agency on Youth Affairs (Youth Union of Uzbekistan) Border Troops of State Security Service of the Republic of Uzbekistan Business Women's Association of Uzbekistan «Tadbirkor ayol» Cabinet of Ministers **Central Bank** Centre of Hydrometeorological Service at **Ministry of Emergency Situations** Centre of Hydrometeorological Service at Ministry of Emergency Situations branch in Karakalpakstan Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Uzbekistan Chambers of Parliament Commission on Gender Equality of the Republic of Uzbekistan Department on Combating Economic Crimes under the General Prosecutor's Office **Higher Judicial School** Institute of Zoology Khokiymiat of Muynak district Khokiymiat of Takhtakupir district Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis Media institutions Ministry for Development of Information Technologies and Communications

Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources Ministry of Construction Ministry of Culture Ministry of Economic Development and Poverty Reduction **Ministry of Emergency Situations** Ministry of Employment and Labor Relations Ministry of Finance Ministry of Health Ministry of Higher and Secondary Specialized Education (MoHSSE) of the Republic of Uzbeksitan Ministry of Interior Ministry of Investments and Foreign Trade Ministry of Justice Ministry of Mahalla and Family Affairs Ministry of Physical Culture and Sports Ministry of Preschool Education (MoPSE) Ministry of Public Education (MoPE) National Agency for Project Management under the President (NAPM) National Association of Electronic Mass Media (NAEMM) National Human Rights Center National Information-Analytical Center on Drug Control under the Cabinet of Ministers National TV and Radio Company (NTRC) Off-Budget Pension Fund (MoF) Ombudsman Presidential Administration Prosecutor General's Office (PGO) Regional Khokimiyats **Republican AIDS Center of Uzbekistan** Republican Center for Social Adaptation of Children (RCSAC) of Uzbekistan **Republican Perinatal Center**

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State Inspection for the Supervision of Education Quality (SISEQ) under the Cabinet of Ministers State Institute of Art and Culture State Security Service Supreme Court of Uzbekistan Supreme Judicial Council Uzbekkino National Agency Women's Committee of Uzbekistan World Bank

Funding sources

Adaptation Fund Aid for Trade in CA (Phase-3) project British Embassy European Union Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance Global Environment Facility (GEF) **Global Partnership for Education** Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Government of Japan Government of Sweden Government of the UK Green Climate Fund Readiness programme Investment Climate Project MFA of Sweden Ministry of Health of the Republic of Uzbekistan State Committee on forestry State Committee on Land, Geodesy, Cartography and State Cadastre State Committee on Statistics State Customs Committee Senate Gender Commission Senate of the Republic of Uzbekistan State committee on ecology and environmental protection

Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Uzbekistan Multi-partner human security trust fund New World Program (NWP) of Coca Cola Foundation Peace Building Fund Republic of Korea - Ministry of Culture **Republican AIDS Center** Russian Federation - UNDP- Trust Fund for Development (TFD) SDG Fund Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) The Global Fund UK Conflict, Stability and Security Fund (CSSF) Central Asia UN Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs UN Human Security Trust Fund **UNAIDS/UBRAF** UNDP Financing for development project **UNDP** Funding Window **UNDP** Regional Funds UNDP regular funds UNDP Seoul Policy Center UNDP Support to Policy Research for Sustainable Development Project UNECE regular funds UNESCO Extrabudgetary funds UNESCO regular funds UNFPA regular funds **UNICEF** regular funds Universal Health Coverage Partnership (UHC-P) USAID WHO

World Bank cost-sharing

LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AccLab	Acceleration Lab	GBV	Gender-based violence	PMTCT	Prevention of mother-to-child	UNIATF
ANC	Antenatal care	GDP	Gross Domestic Product		transmission of human	
ART	Antiretroviral therapy	GER	Gross Enrollment Ration	DODe	immunodeficiency virus Stockholm Convention on	
ARV	Antiretroviral	GFATM	Global fund to fight AIDS,	POPs		
BCIMS	Biodiversity Conservation		TB, and Malaria	חחח	Persistent Organic Pollutants	UNICEF
	Information Management	HIV	Human immunodeficiency	PPP	Public Private Partnership	UNODC
POC	System		Virus	PWID	People who inject drugs	
BOS	Business Operations Strategy	HPV	Human papillomavirus		Rapid Integrated Assessment	UNSDCF
CCA	Common Country Analysis	ICPD	International Conference on	RR/MDR-TB	«Multidrug- and rifampicin- resistant tuberculosis»	
CCEOP	Cold Chain Equipment	ICT	Population and Development			ססע
	Optimization Platform	ICT	Information and	SDGs	Sustainable Development	UPR
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination	11.0	communications technology	CEN 4	Goals	UTC
	of All Forms of Discrimination	ILO	International Labour	SFM	Sustainable Forest and	
	against Women		Organisation	65D	Pasture Management	WASH
CEMD	Confidential Enquiry into	ILUMP	Integrated Land Use	SFP	Strengthening Families	WHO
	Maternal Death		Management Planning		Programme	WHO PEN
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent	IMT	Interagency Mobile Teams	SHI	State health insurance	
	States	IPPC	International Plant Protection	SLM	Sustainable Land Management	
CxC	Cervical cancer		Convention	SOE	State-owned enterprise	
DDT	Dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane	LULU	Line Up Live Up!	SRH	Sexual and reproductive health	
DEWS	Drought Early Warning System	MICS	Multiple Indicator Cluster	STI	Sexually transmitted disease	
E4J	Education for Justice		Survey	TB	Tuberculosis	
EAEU	Eurasian Economic Unit	MPTF	Multi-Parter Trust Fund	TPs	Low-threshold facilities	
ECCE	Early Childhood Care	NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategy	UN	United Nations	
	and Education		and Action Plan	UN CRC	United Nations Convention	
ECOSOC	United Nations Economic	NCD	Non-communicable disease		on the Rights of the Child	
	and Social Council	NCF	National Curriculum	UN SDF	United Nations Sustainable	
EGMA	Early Grade Mathematics		Framework		Development Fund	
	Assessment	NMCR	Near-Miss Case Review	UNCAT	United Nations Convention	
EGRA	Early Grade Reading	OECD ACN	Organisation for Economic		Against Torture	
	Assessment		Co-operation and Development	UNCRPD	United Nations Convention	
ELDS	Early Learning and		Anti-Corruption Network		on the Rights of Persons	
	Development Standards	OSCE/			with Disabilities	
EMIS	Education Management	ODIHR	Office for Democratic	UNCT	United Nations Country Team	
	Information System		Institutions and Human	UNDAF	United Nations Development	
EMOC	Emergency obstetric care		Rights is the principal		Assistance Framework	
EQAF	Education Quality Assurance		institution of the Organization	UNDP	United Nations Development	
,	Framework		for Security and Cooperation		Programme	
ESP	Education Sector Plan		in Europe	UNECE	United Nations Economic	
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment	PGO	Prosecutor General's Office		Commission for Europe	
FIMS	Forest Inventory and	PHC	Primary health care	UNESCO	United Nations Educational,	
	Monitoring System	PLHIV	People living with human		Scientific and Cultural	
FP	Family planning	· · ~ ·	immunodeficiency virus		Organization	
	e					

UNIATF	United Nations Interagency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of Non- communicable Diseases
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNODC	United Nations Office on
	Drugs and Crime
UNSDCF	United Nations Sustainable
	Development Cooperation
	Framework
UPR	Universal Periodic Review
UTC	Universal Treatment
	Curriculum
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WHO	World Health Organisation
WHO PEN	World Health Organisation
	Package of Essential
	Noncommunicable Disease
	Interventions



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