



UNITED NATIONS
UZBEKISTAN



2021 UN COUNTRY ANNUAL
RESULTS REPORT

UZBEKISTAN

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Forward by Roli Asthana, UN Resident Coordinator

On behalf of the UN Country Team in Uzbekistan, I am pleased to present the 2021 UN Country Results Report, which presents key achievements and impact delivered by the 25 UN entities working together with the Government of Uzbekistan.



What makes 2021 special for the UN family is that it was the first year of the implementation of the new five-year UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework for Uzbekistan. Our focus throughout the year was on a sustainable, inclusive and green recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic to Build Back Better in pursuit of the 2030 Agenda. Through our biannual Joint Work Plans, the UN mobilized over \$58 million to address emerging needs and sustain national reforms in three priority areas:

- Effective governance and justice for all,
- Inclusive human capital development, leading to health, well-being, and resilient prosperity and,
- Sustainable, climate-responsible, and resilient development.

This report showcases the many ways in which the UN system worked closely with a wide range of partners to turn the aspirations of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development into concrete results for women and girls, youth and vulnerable people across all regions of Uzbekistan under the overarching vision of a more just, equal and resilient society.

Our collective work aimed to bring about long-lasting effects on the lives of ordinary people and communities. This report also reflects the

dreams and aspirations, hopes and concerns of women, youth, people with disabilities, farmers, medical workers, teachers and many others across Uzbekistan. In their stories, our beneficiaries talk about the impact of our work on their lives and communities. They share the challenges they faced and tell how our programmes offered solutions.

Our achievements have been possible thanks to the effective and fruitful collaboration with the Government, civil society, international financial institutions, donors and other development partners.

In conclusion, I would like to thank my colleagues and extend my great appreciation to the more than 400 UN personnel in Uzbekistan who have worked together tirelessly to deliver our collective mandates and commitments to the Government and people of Uzbekistan.

UN Country Team



In total, 25 UN entities are currently signatories to the UNSDCF.

Key development Partners of the UN Development System in the Country

The UNCT's achievements outlined in this report would not have been possible without the support of the national authorities, and the financial and/or strategic contributions of the following development partners:



Our work in Uzbekistan

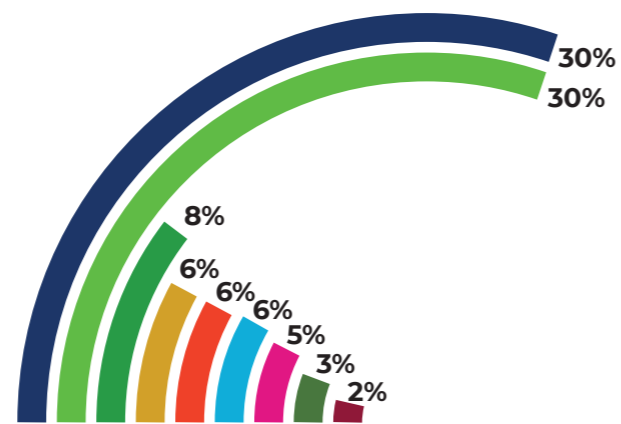


UNCT support to SDGs (% by SDG)



- SDG 1
- SDG 2
- SDG 3
- SDG 4
- SDG 5
- SDG 6
- SDG 7
- SDG 8
- SDG 9
- SDG 10
- SDG 11
- SDG 12
- SDG 13
- SDG 15
- SDG 16
- SDG 17

UNCT support to SDGs (% by function)



- Not specified
- Capacity Development/ Technical Assistance
- Data Collection and Analysis
- Convening/Partnerships/Knowledge Sharing
- Direct Support/ Service Delivery
- Normative Support
- Policy Advice and Thought Leadership
- Support Functions
- Other (including coordination)

Our Impact on People: Facts and Figures

Effective governance and justice for all

863,024 rural people

including **16,341** people with disabilities

gained expanded access to public services centers

730k young people

including **1,000** people with disabilities

and **2,682** women

were empowered for effective participation in decision-making

Inclusive human capital development leading to health, well-being and resilient prosperity

9,214 people including

2,423 women and **6,622** young people

gained vocational and entrepreneurship skills

7k women and youth

including **1,5k** people with disabilities

Increased employment and income generation opportunities



9,200 small businesses received support to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19



Over

6.4 mln

people vaccinated by
COVAX vaccines



52%
females



48%
males



Over

19 mln

people accessed and
benefitted from UN-supported
medical products or services.



506,916
children

aged **6-23** months benefited
from micronutrient fortification



34,187

people with HIV
received antiretroviral
therapy



6,078
children, including



2,856 people with
HIV received
antiretroviral therapy



314,627

adolescents, parents and
teachers increased health
literacy



1.2 mln low-income families and **2,429,121**
children benefited from social protection
support



1.23 mln

children in grades 1 and 2
benefited from enhanced school
curriculum



24,000

young people were equipped
with life and social skills

Sustainable, climate-responsible and resilient development



58,973

people, including

34,760 women

in the Aral Sea region
built climate resilience



Over

21,559

rural people in the Aral Sea region
gained better access to basic
services



6,640 rural people, including

3,320 women

acquired affordable rural low-
carbon housing



15,869

rural households adopted new
agricultural practices



31,500

people were trained on community-
based Disaster Risk Reduction



CHAPTER 1: Key developments in the country and the regional context

Uzbekistan continues to undergo widespread and structural transformations in all areas of social, economic, and political life. Following decreasing growth rates in 2020 caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, Uzbekistan's economy rebounded firmly in 2021 with 7.4% GDP growth according to national statistics. Moreover, the unemployment rate returned to near pre-pandemic levels of 9.4 percent, and so did migration and remittances (key drivers of poverty reduction in Uzbekistan).

Despite encouraging economic recovery at the end of 2020 and early 2021, the impacts of the pandemic are significant and ongoing, including on public health, business and trade, economic growth, the education system, and increasing numbers of poor and marginalised people. Risks and vulnerabilities have increased as income inequalities have grown for the first time in many years, and youth and female unemployment rates remain high at 14.9 and 12.8 percent, respectively.

Despite these setbacks, the Government did not lose its commitment to structural reforms. In 2021, the country improved its ranking in the Index of Economic Freedom (67th compared to 163rd in 2020) and the

Corruption Perception Index (140th compared to 146th in 2020). In July 2021, the **State Anti-Corruption Programme for 2021-2022** was approved and noted that corruption was one of the most serious threats to the state and social development in Uzbekistan.

In October 2021, President Shavkat Mirziyoyev was re-elected for a second term, and on 6 November, he announced a new **Strategy for the Development of New Uzbekistan for 2022-2026**. This strategy, which is largely aligned to the UNSDCF 2021-2025, aims for Uzbekistan to become **an upper middle-income country by 2030** and covers 7 priority areas in institutional, socio-economic, and environmental dimensions:

1. Development of a free civil society
2. Promotion of justice, rule of law, and human dignity
3. Development of the economy
4. Promotion of quality education, public health and social support
5. Development of the spiritual and cultural sphere
6. Search for solutions to global issues
7. Promotion of peace and security, development of international cooperation





At the 2021 UN General Assembly, the President reconfirmed Uzbekistan's **commitment to achieving the Paris Climate Agreement** by taking tangible steps towards building a carbon neutral economy. At the COP26 in Glasgow, the Government declared its commitments to further reducing greenhouse gas emissions per unit of GDP by 35 per cent by 2030 (representing a significant increase from its original commitment of 10 per cent of GDP in 2017). To achieve this ambitious target, the Government plans to, among other actions, increase the share of renewable energy sources to 25 per cent of total power generation, double the energy-efficiency indicator relative to the 2018 level, halve the energy intensity of GDP and decrease industrial consumption of natural resources.

Despite these commendable commitments to the environment, Uzbekistan remains one of the countries with the highest share of GDP spending on fossil-fuel subsidies (FFS). While FFS discourage investments into renewables, eliminating FFS is a sensitive and unpopular measure for the population as it will result in increased energy and petrol tariffs.

At the initiative of the Government of Uzbekistan, a special resolution **declaring the Aral Sea region a**

zone of ecological innovations and technologies was adopted at the 75th session of the UN General Assembly. To implement the resolution, the Government has adopted a national resolution outlining key measures to transform the Aral Sea region based on a Systems Innovation Approach.

A first for the Government and the region, **Uzbekistan issued international SDG bonds** worth of 2.5 trillion UZS (\$235 million), which aim to finance SDG-oriented projects in seven development areas: Education, Water Management, Health Services, Green Transportation, Pollution Control, Management of Natural Resources, and Green Energy.

2021 also saw important progress in advancing human rights and gender equality. In June 2021, Uzbekistan ratified the **Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)** (with one reservation on Article 12) and adopted its **first "National Gender Equality Strategy"** aimed at accelerating empowerment, equality and opportunities for women and girls. At the Generation Equality Forum in Paris, the Government made a commitment to allocate at least \$40 million per year for the implementation of the National Gender Strategy.

In February 2021, the President signed a decree "On measures to improve the system of social protection

of the population of the Republic of Uzbekistan for 2021-2030". According to the ILO, the systematic use of child labour and forced labour in Uzbekistan's cotton industry has come to an end. The Government has also adopted a resolution that fully commits to de-institutionalization reforms in the childcare system.

The collapse of the Afghan government in August 2021 and the rise of the Taliban resulted in a new reality for the region. While the immediate economic impact of the Afghan crisis turned out to be marginal for the Uzbek economy, the longer-term implications of the Afghan crisis may have a significant impact on growth, security, and SDG progress. At the same time, the Government of Uzbekistan has established a dialogue with the interim Taliban government on trade and economic cooperation, border security, and collaboration in the energy sector as well as international cargo transport and transit. The Governments of the two countries confirmed their commitment to the implementation of infrastructure projects, including the construction of the power transmission line from Uzbekistan to Afghanistan and the railway line from Termez to Afghanistan's Mazar-e Sharif to Pakistan's Peshawar. Uzbekistan has also made a commitment to support humanitarian operations inside Afghanistan by offering the international community full use the Cargo Center in Termez and other logistics support.





CHAPTER 2: UN development system support to national development priorities through the Cooperation Framework

2.1. Overview of Cooperation Framework Results

In 2021, the UN Country Team (UNCT) began implementing its new UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework for 2021-2025 (UNSDCF). While continuing to respond to the COVID-19 health crisis, the UNCT focused on promotion of sustainable, inclusive and green recovery from the pandemic through

innovative and flagship interventions in pursuit of the national SDGs. Guided by core programming principles, and in close collaboration with the Government, civil society and international partners, 25 UN agencies have delivered tangible and impactful results for the people of Uzbekistan in line with the principle of Leaving No One Behind.

Joint UN advocacy, capacity building, and policy advice were important accelerators of the national SDGs and advanced human rights and gender equality. For example, the UN Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities was ratified, and The National Strategy for Gender Equality was adopted by the Parliament.

Through a flagship UN joint programme on the establishment of an Integrated Finance Framework, the UNCT has supported Uzbekistan in issuing Sovereign Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Bonds that will enable Uzbekistan to tap into the private global capital markets to finance SDG-related programmes (SDG 17).

A UN Joint Programme on Social Protection contributed to reforming the social protection system that will focus on the most vulnerable groups and ensure that No One is Left Behind. Through the Single Registry programme, which was rolled out with UN support, 1.2 million low-income families have received social benefits (SDG

1). The UN also supported the development of the first national strategy for social protection and its alignment with the SDGs.

Following UN advocacy and support, the Government increased its commitments on Nationally Determined Contribution by more than 300 percent, with plans to reduce greenhouse gas emissions per unit of GDP by 35 per cent. The UNCT, through the UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund for the Aral Sea region, delivered 5 Joint Projects benefitting and improving the lives of 213,466 people in total.

Under the leadership of the Resident Coordinator, the UN supported the Government in convening a series of national food systems dialogues. The dialogues, alongside the Strategy for the Development of Agriculture 2020-2030, supported Uzbekistan's Pathway to Transforming to Efficient and Sustainable Food Systems by 2030, to accelerate the fight against rural poverty (under SDG1), and reach zero hunger (SDG2).

The UNCT supported a global dialogue and action around implementation of the 2030 Agenda, youth rights and the green economy at high-level platforms hosted by Uzbekistan:

- The International Forum on Inter-Parliamentary Global Cooperation in the implementation of SDGs in Bukhara in June 2021 gathered representatives of Parliaments from 20 countries and 30 international organizations to discuss the key issues on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.
- The Forum was preceded by the SDG Week on "Leaving No One Behind" in Tashkent consisting of 16 round tables to foster international knowledge sharing and best practice exchange on the implementation of 17 SDGs.
- An International Forum on Youth Rights "Involving Youth in Global Action" in Tashkent in August 2021 convened over 500 people from more than 30 countries to discuss the key issues faced by young people during and after the pandemic and solutions to ensure the full enjoyment of human rights.
- The UNCT Youth Advisory Board was substantively engaged to advise on the agenda as well as moderate and speak at relevant sessions.

The UN system has also supported the establishment of the first Central Asian Women Leaders Caucus that engaged the parliaments and governments of all of the region's 5 countries to

empower the women of Central Asia and facilitate their extended participation in socio-economic and political life, further contributing to the attainment of SDGs.

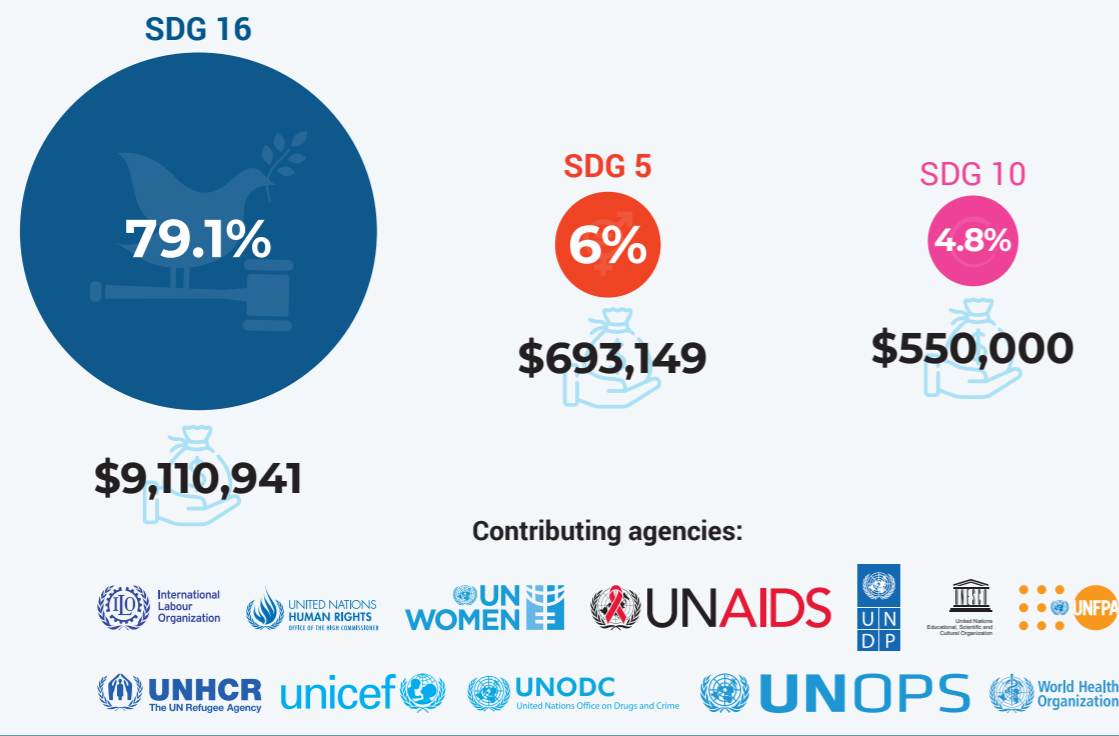
2.2. Cooperation Framework priorities, outcomes and outputs

Strategic Priority Area: Effective Governance and Justice for All

OUTCOME 1

By 2025, all people and groups in Uzbekistan, especially the most vulnerable, will demand and benefit from enhanced accountable, transparent, inclusive and gender responsive governances and rule of law institutions for a life free from discrimination and violence.

Key contributions to SDGs



and academia's coalition on anti-corruption was established by joint efforts of the "Yuksalish" national movement, the Development Strategy Centre, and the Academy of the Prosecutor General's Office, and the first NGO on anti-corruption research "Transparency Uzbekistan" was registered with the support of the UN. Over **1,000 civil servants** (including **320 women**), over **100 legal specialists** from the public sector, and **100 representatives of NGOs and media** (including over **50 women**) gained knowledge on anti-corruption and related ethical and normative frameworks.

The UN supported the establishment of **seven accessible Public Service Centers (PSC)** in the rural areas with braille surfaces, ramps and wheelchairs, playgrounds, self-service corners, and rooms for women's counseling. **863,024 people**, including **16,341 people with disabilities**, gained expanded access to **150 public services** in the PSC. Furthermore, Women's Advisory Groups (WAGs) were created in seven pilot Public Service Centers and helped women and vulnerable people to obtain public services both at Public Service Centers and online, assisting **1,556 women** with advisory support on accessing public services, starting businesses, and legal and psychological aid.

Redesigning the business processes of 17 public services in education, construction and cadaster

sectors has resulted in greater time and cost efficiency - average time for service delivery has decreased by 26 per cent and the average cost was cut by 20 per cent with improved accessibility.

To promote implementation of people-oriented and gender-sensitive legislation, policy and practice in line with international human rights obligations, the UNCT engaged and collaborated with the Parliament of Uzbekistan, human rights institutions, and justice and law enforcement actors.

The UNCT leveraged a dialogue and partnership with the **inter-parliamentary Commission on National SDGs** to strengthen the Parliament's role and engagement in monitoring and implementing the national SDGs, human rights and labour standards.

The UNCT collaborated with the National Gender Commission in the development of the of the **"National Strategy of Achieving Gender Equality in Uzbekistan by 2030,"** endorsed by the Senate of Oliy Majlis in May 2022. The Strategy aims to advance the implementation of SDG 5 and make measurable progress on national gender equality targets.

Collaboration with national human rights institutions was focused on support in the implementation of the 2018 Universal Periodic Review and of the Treaty Bodies' recommendations. Following continued

In 2021, the UNCT accelerated its support for public administration reforms by strengthening capacities of government institutions at all levels to deliver better gender-responsiveness and disability-sensitive public services, with a focus on the most vulnerable.

Anti-corruption efforts were supported through integration of anti-corruption solutions, promotion of anti-corruption policy, and civic engagement. The UN provided policy advice in the elaboration and adoption of the **2021-2022 State Anticorruption**

Programme and contributed to drafting the National Anti-Corruption Strategy in consultation with civil society, media, local communities, and academia. Notable progress was made in enhancing institutional anti-corruption frameworks through internal compliance units at the central and local level, including the establishment of Anti-Corruption Councils in each region.

The UN promoted the establishment of an inclusive mechanism for engagement of civil society organizations in preventing corruption. Civil society

UN advocacy, the Government set up a **National Commission on Children** and strengthened the mandate of the **Child Rights Ombudsperson** to become an independent human rights institution. To promote deinstitutionalization reforms in line with international obligations, UNICEF continued advocating for the full closure of closed-type correctional institutions for children and building local capacity on community-based reintegration and rehabilitation services.

The UNCT supported the operationalization of a system of school-based inspectors-psychologists to work with at-risk children and children in trouble with the law and to build a pool of professional mentors to supervise the work of the 2,000 newly appointed inspectors. Further, **60 criminal court** judges enhanced their knowledge on child-friendly justice, including the principle of deprivation of liberty as a measure of last resort.

The UN, through UNODC, supported law enforcement and criminal justice actors to counter illicit drug trafficking, human trafficking, money laundering, financing terrorism, while strengthening human-rights compliant criminal justice response to crimes.

1,320 justice specialists and law enforcement officers have enhanced their knowledge and skills in countering organized crime, illicit trafficking, trafficking in persons, terrorism and extremism. Two new Border Liaison Offices were established on the Uzbek-Tajik border, and the first Situation Center was set up at the Central Office of the State Customs Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

In line with a key principle of the 2030 Agenda to Leave No One Behind, the UNCT encouraged and empowered population groups at risk of being left behind, including youth, women and people with disabilities, to effectively participate in decision making processes at all levels. To this end, the UN facilitated the creation of social dialogue and political engagement spaces and launched 18 gender-sensitive initiatives/interventions with the engagement of civil society and populations at risk of being left behind.

Recognizing youth as essential actors in civic and political decision-making processes, the UNCT promoted an enabling environment for meaningful **youth engagement** through a wide range of national and local platforms.



730,369 young people

are supported by U-Report, UPSHIFT, Just Start-Up Accelerator, Y-Fikri platform, Young Leaders' Summer Camp, Technovation Girls, Youth Hackathons, Y-MUN programmes, Legal Aid Clinic, Youth Media Hub and many others.

- **225,000 young people** from all regions have become U-Reporters to channel and share their views and recommendations to the Government and the UN. The Youth Committees are established across all regions of the country with UNICEF support to govern the U-Report platform and promote youth participation and dialogue with local authorities.
- **Youth Portal** (yoshlarportali.uz) was launched to serve as a single source of information for young people on education, skills training, social support and employment opportunities.
- A **Regional Network of Youth Organizations and Youth Champions of Change** in Central Asia for Drug-Free, Healthy, Safe and Secure Societies was established with UNODC support to serve as a platform for young people from all Central Asian countries to discuss ways of preventing drug use among key populations.
- Young people were empowered to speak and share the voices and perspectives of youth from all the regions at the high-level **International Youth Rights Conference** and the 2021 Youth Forum organized by the Government with UN support.

A wide range of **youth-focused** initiatives have been implemented to equip young people with knowledge and skills on leadership, prevention of crime and corruption, addressing human rights issues, stigma and discrimination, and promoting social cohesion.

- **4,319 young** people benefited from civic engagement and social cohesion initiatives implemented by UNDP, UNODC and UNICEF.
- **500,000 school** students participated in UNODC-run public awareness campaigns, sport-based activities and trainings on prevention of crime, corruption, terrorism and illicit trafficking.
- More than **250 young people** increased awareness on human rights, stigma and discrimination awareness with engagement with HIV+ young people with UNAIDS support.
- In addition, **800 young people** benefited from the m services of four Legal Aid Clinics in the Fergana Valley to support vulnerable youth with legal aid on civil and administrative laws.
- **1,393 people** with disabilities have enjoyed access to training on decent work, employment and professional development with support provided by UNDP.

Promoting the rights and **inclusion of people with disabilities**, in line with the Sustainable Development Goals, has been a key, long-standing priority for the UNCT.

With sustained advocacy by the UNCT, the **Government ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities** in 2021. The UNCT further engaged with organizations for people with disabilities (OPDs) and contributed to the development of the **National Action Plan on CRPD implementation**. An inter-agency council on disability was established at the government level to include OPDs.

Through a flagship **UN Joint Programme on Social Protection** funded by the Joint SDG Fund and an inception phase of UNPRPD-funded Joint Programme on Disability, the UNCT has empowered organizations representing people with disabilities to participate in decision-making in line with the key principle of the UNCRPD "Nothing About Us Without Us!". The OPDs have contributed meaningfully to a Country Analysis on the situation of people with disabilities to inform the UN course of action in support of the UNCRPD implementation. They have also been engaged in policy discussions and pilot initiatives on disability inclusion and inclusive social and public services.



Joint UNDP-UNICEF-UNFPA project **"Transformation of Social Service Delivery: Implementing Human Rights-Based Approach for Children, Youth and Women with Disabilities in Uzbekistan"** was approved by the UNPRPD Fund for Implementation in 2022-2023. The programme will consolidate the multi-stakeholder commitment to the **achievement of CRPD-compliant SDGs** through legislative and policy frameworks, GBV response mechanisms, sound coordination structures, and meaningful participation of organizations of people with disabilities.

Growing by Helping Others: The Story of Abdulbosit

Abdulbosit holds a master's degree from the Pedagogical University and is pursuing his doctoral degree in Philosophy. At the age of 29, Abdulbosit has worked as a schoolteacher in different positions at the Youth Union and now the Youth Affairs Agency. He is currently coordinating the work of a new legal clinic, opened in late 2020 within the framework of the joint UN (UNODC-UNDP-UNESCO) project "Youth for social harmony in the Fergana Valley" funded by the UN Peacebuilding Fund.

"Young people turn to our Agency with queries of a diverse nature. When people come with their issues, you feel that the solution is always out there like the lost piece of a puzzle. In most cases, it is simply the right legal information – it is there, you only need to find and share it, and then the picture comes together. The feeling I get when I find a way to help someone resolve their issue is priceless. No material remuneration can make you feel that good. I believe that this kind of job satisfaction is what should drive leaders in their efforts to meet the needs of the people."

The clinic is open from 9am to 6pm and accepts visitors free-of-charge and regardless of their age, ethnicity or gender. Queries received in person or online are registered, assessed, and processed by staff and volunteers in close consultation with experts from local justice departments and lawyers. Read more about [our work](#) in the Fergana Valley.



To **promote women empowerment and gender equality**, the UNCT supported and empowered **2,682 women** through UN-led initiatives for effective participation in decision-making. Through the **Spotlight Regional Programme**, the UN has strengthened the institutional and organizational capacity of **four grassroots organizations** working on prevention/elimination of gender-based violence (GBV). The first **Central Asian Women Leaders Caucus** was established with engagement of the parliaments and governments of all of the region's 5 countries with support from UNDP, UN Women and UNRCCA. It serves as a regional platform to empower the women of Central Asia and facilitate their extended participation in socio-economic and political life.

The UNCT also worked to enable community-based organizations/NGOs to **respond to and mitigate the pandemic**, fight against COVID-19 related domestic violence and discrimination, and prevent and remedy human rights abuses. Specifically, **21 women's NGOs and rehabilitation centers** have benefitted from capacity-building activities with a focus on preventing and combatting GBV. **40 makhallas/communities** in five regions were supported in the implementation of programmes benefitting about **400 vulnerable women**.



Completing the Symphony through Inclusion in Uzbekistan: A look at the life and work of UN Volunteer Hudoykul Hafizov

Hudoykul Hafizov is a soft-spoken, locally recruited United Nations Volunteer working for UNDP Uzbekistan as a disability inclusion specialist. He is often amazed by how resilient, ambitious and steadfast human beings can be, especially those like him with disabilities. Hudoykul grew up in Urgut district in the Samarkand region of Uzbekistan. He said that as a child, he learned to always put in that “extra effort” to “fit in” so that others would accept him. And he did fit in – excelling at most subjects in national and international law at university.

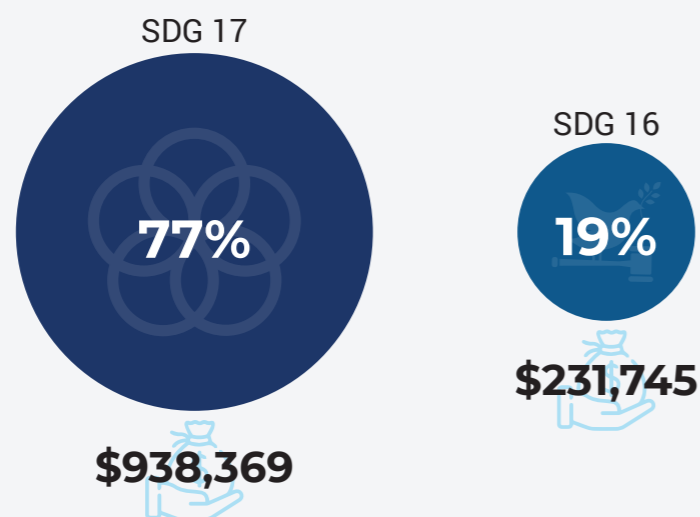
Hudoykul said that when he started volunteering at the United Nations Development Programme, he felt a sense of genuine and full inclusion in the workplace, for the first time in his life. “Life is dynamic and there are always some new aspects to learn or to improve,” he said. “Despite challenges, I witnessed countless times that if we create the right environment and conditions for people with disabilities, they will participate at the same level as everyone else in every aspect of life. We only need to take all appropriate measures to ensure the full development, participation, advancement and empowerment of people with disabilities on an equal basis with their peers.” [Read the full story.](#)



OUTCOME 2

By 2025, the population of Uzbekistan will benefit from a more harmonized and integrated implementation of the reform agenda thanks to strengthened policy coherence, evidence-based and inclusive decision making, and financing for mainstreamed development in line with national SDGs.

Key contributions to SDGs



Contributing agencies:



In 2021, the UNCT worked together to strengthen policy coherence, evidence-based and inclusive decision-making, and financing for development in support of the Government's reform agenda.

UNDP, UNODC and WHO launched a **Joint Programme on Establishment of the Integrated National Financing Framework for Sustainable Development (INFF)** financed by the UN SDG Fund. The joint programme aims to help the Government of Uzbekistan strengthen the overall financing framework for its national development strategies and public finance management including introducing new forms of public and private finance and improving the efficiency of its existing financial resources.

Through the INFF Joint programme, the UN supported the Government in **issuing the first**

SDG Bonds. These Bonds mobilized \$235 million from 50 international institutional investors that will be transferred to finance public SDG-oriented programmes in seven areas: Education (SDG 4), Water Management (SDG 6), Health (SDG 3), Green Transportation (SDG 11), Pollution Control (SDG 11), Management of Natural Resources (SDG 15), and Green Energy (SDG 7).

The UN has accompanied the Government in its elaboration of the **Integrated SDG Financing Strategy** in consultation with major public, private and international institutions. The strategy is still a work in progress, but it will aim to achieve several national priorities: improving public finance efficiency, designing new financial solutions with a focus on private capital and public-private partnership, and strengthening the alignment of strategic and financial planning. The new Financing



Strategy will also incorporate gender equality proposals to empower women and provide new financing solutions to businesses owned or run by women.

The first **State-Guaranteed Benefit Package of services (SGBP)**, focused on primary healthcare, was developed with UN support and introduced as part of a new mixed payment model based on a pilot experience in the Syrdarya region. The implementation of the new financing mechanisms is expected to increase the efficiency of health reforms, and funds allocated for primary medical care will be doubled.

The UNCT promoted mainstreaming of the SDGs into a state budget by introducing the **SDG Budgeting methodology**. The SDG tagging of the Government budget was conducted and reflected in the Citizen's Budget publications to ensure awareness of public finance across national SDGs.

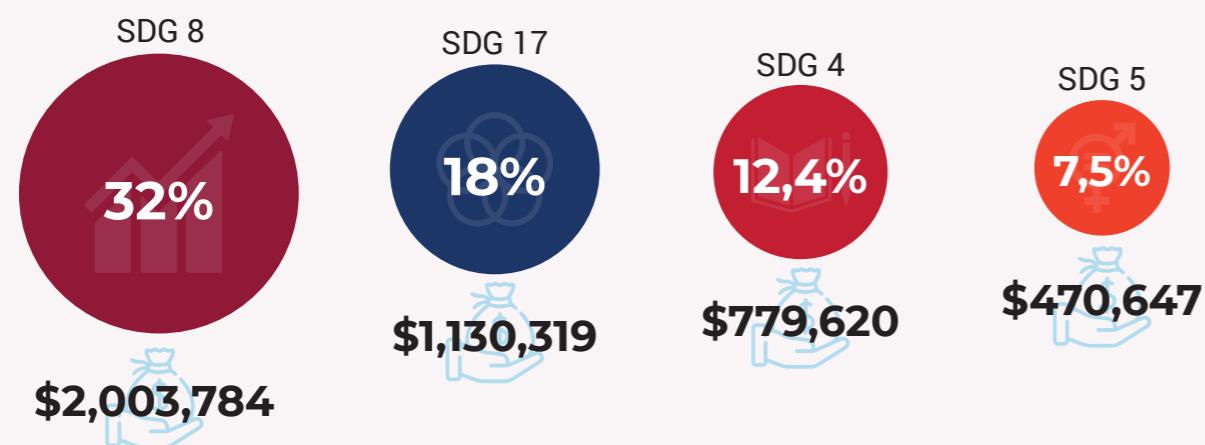
The **MICS 6 data collection** is ongoing, and after finalization, will contribute to the improvement of key child related indicators. A pilot census was carried out by the Government in November 2021 in 4 districts supported by an international observation mission.



OUTCOME 3

By 2025, youth, women and vulnerable groups will benefit from improved access to livelihoods, decent work and expanded opportunities generated by inclusive and equitable economic growth.

Key contributions to SDGs



Contributing agencies:



Improving the living standards of the population, especially in the regions, and reducing poverty, largely through the creation of decent jobs is a key priority for the country. In 2021, the UNCT sought to promote economic empowerment and access to decent work and skills development programmes for youth, women, and people with disabilities. The **professional and entrepreneurship skills development programmes** offered by the UNDP, UNICEF and ITU have empowered **9,214 people**, including **2,423** women and **6,622** young people across the country to gain 21st century skills for learning, personal empowerment, active citizenship and thereby increase employment and income opportunities.

The UNCT has also collaborated with a wide range of national institutions and social partners to improve the capacities in designing and implementing effective and innovative Active Labour Market Policies, decent work and skills development programmes for youth, women, and people with disabilities and policies for inclusive and resilient economic growth and reduced regional inequalities.

- The **National Employment Strategy until 2030** was developed to be approved in 2022. Out of six strategic objectives, three will have a direct impact on youth employment.
- The **Gender-sensitive Skills Development**

Strategy was drafted for the agricultural and water sectors with engagement from the Ministry of Higher and Secondary Specialized Education, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Water Resources, and the Ministry of Employment and Labor Relations with UNESCO support.

- With a view of increasing professional competencies and reducing the skills mismatch in the labour market, the UN, through UNDP, has supported upgrades in the **vocational training curriculum** of the Monocenters “Ishga Markhamat” under the Ministry of Employment and Labour Relations based on the International WorldSkills Standards that eventually will benefit more than **5,000 unemployed youth and women**.
- Creation of a stronger youth entrepreneurship support system was promoted through the implementation of the **social innovation and social entrepreneurship programme** (UPSHIFT) jointly with the Ministry of Innovative Development, the Ministry of Public Education and the Youth Affairs Agency with UNICEF support. The **Life Skills programme** on development of the socio-emotional skills among adolescents has been piloted with the support of the

“Big wins start with small steps” Inspiring girls in Uzbekistan to become tech leaders: The Story of Malika, Madina and Sarvinoz

These three young women recently participated in Technovation Girls Uzbekistan, the largest tech programme for girls and young women in the country where participants apply their skills to develop solutions to real-world problems through technology.

Hosted by Technovation Girls, a global tech education non-profit that empowers young women and girls to become tech entrepreneurs

and leaders, and supported by UN agencies including IOM, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNDP, UNAIDS and other partner organizations in Uzbekistan, the programme has been empowering young women and girls in Uzbekistan since 2018.

Read how UN agencies are helping to foster these favorable conditions, and support the creation of a more equitable landscape for women and economic growth for Uzbekistan. [Read the full story.](#)



Ministry of Public Education. The Ministry for Development of Information Technologies and Communications has launched a joint project with ITU to train girls in ICT and provide graduates with the opportunity to find a job in the IT sector.

- Targeted **employment services for women and youth** in the context of COVID-19 recovery were also promoted through a series of ILO webinars focused on evidence-based labour market analysis to underpin the employment intensive economic recovery policies.

COVID-19 had a negative impact on small and medium business. To address this negative effect and help recover better, the UN, through UNDP, has provided business advisory and consultancy support to **9,200 small business enterprises**, including more than 30 per cent run by women. A Startup Central Eurasia Platform was created to facilitate regional cooperation among startups and provide the opportunity to reach out to potential investors. 37 Uzbek startups were trained by ITU on increasing sales and finding investors and entering the markets of neighboring countries.

The UN also strived to address regional inequalities and supporting speedy recovery of vulnerable regions after the COVID-19 pandemic by promoting an integrated area-based development approach. In particular, the UN, through UNDP, has assisted in designing the **2021-2030 Development Strategy of the Namangan region** in the Ferghana Valley. The strategy aims to unlock the potential of economic development of the region and includes development measures in the areas of socio-economic and green development, housing, education, health, employment, tourism, logistics and other sectors. Agroplanning IT Tool is being piloted in the Namangan region to assist local authorities to effectively plan and monitor development of the agricultural sector in the region.

The UN mobilized support to empower local communities to implement and sustain innovative business practices and development initiatives for improved livelihood opportunities in rural and vulnerable communities.



When Hard Work Pays Off: The Story of Khushvakt

Khushvakt Khusinova lives in the outskirts of Bukhara. Her family participates in the FAO project “Integrated management of natural resources in drought-prone and saline agricultural production landscapes of Central Asia and Turkey” that supports low-income households to explore new sources of income through greenhouse farming.

“We were all very happy when they came to our home to install a large, spacious greenhouse. They said it would serve as a new source of income for us year-round. The stable income from the greenhouse has allowed us to solve many problems. There is confidence in the future,” says Khushvakt.

Implemented in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Uzbekistan since 2018, the project has donated 34 greenhouses to rural families in the Bukhara and Kashkadarya regions as part of the national socio-economic response to the crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. [Read the full story.](#)

“Khurliman-Aru Takhta” - Business of Cleanliness and Health

“**D**ue to the pandemic, we lost our incomes,” remembers Arukhan Seitmuratova from the Takhtakupir District of Karakalpakstan. The idea to start making soap came up at a family gathering. “We had some trading experience. We decided to organize a family business and start a small production. And the pandemic helped determine the choice of the production.”

The UNDP-UNESCO Joint project “Addressing the urgent human insecurities in the Aral Sea region through promoting sustainable rural development” supported the initiative of the Khurliman-Aru Takhta Family Enterprise and the launch of soap production. At the moment, the daily production capacity of the family enterprise shop “Khurliman-Aru-Takhta” is over 600 units of laundry soap for residents of the Takhtakupir District.

The project focuses on strengthening economic security for vulnerable communities by creating new conditions and opportunities for running and developing business, providing support to women and youth living in the target communities. [Read the full story.](#)



UN support to 4 adaptation business projects in the Fergana Valley, 50 business projects and demonstration plots in the Aral Sea region, and the COVID-19 recovery Programme have facilitated the creation of jobs for **2,287 youth and women**. 40 makhallas/communities in five regions were supported in implementing income generation and professional development programmes, reaching nearly 400 unemployed or informally employed women to help them start family business and access the labour market. Through a community-based handicraft training center/NGO established with UN support in the Syrdarya region, 1,500 unemployed women have received vocational and business skills training that helped them cope with the consequences of the COVID-19 crisis.

The initiatives implemented by FAO, ITU and UNESCO have empowered **897 people** from remote areas with knowledge and skills on **alternative income generation**. This includes more than 400 rural women who have benefitted from trainings on handicrafts and entrepreneurship skills that helped them explore new self-employment opportunities. Further, the UN has supported **617 smallholder farmers**, including women and youth, to gain knowledge on innovative agribusiness practices and sustainable forest management, as well as building **74 small greenhouses** and providing training on cultivation of vegetables in small greenhouses.

The UN Joint Projects implemented in the Aral Sea region with financial support of **the UN Multi-Partner Human Security Trust Fund for the Aral Sea Region** were instrumental in addressing livelihoods needs and strengthening the resilience of youth and women in the exposed communities. The UN system also fostered conditions to ensure equal and inclusive access to sustainable livelihoods, basic resources, and decent work conditions for youth, women and disabled people.

Disability inclusion has been mainstreamed across UN interventions. The UN-supported programmes implemented in collaboration with the Entrepreneurship Support Centers, IT Parks and Trade and Commerce Chamber have empowered **1,417 people** with disabilities with **vocational skills** in handcrafting, computer and digital

literacy, and accounting. The first of its kind Digital skills training center for hearing impaired children was opened in Tashkent and it will pave the road for creation of similar facilities in other regions of Uzbekistan. A grant programme has provided over 4,400 hours of training for people with disabilities to expand their access to pertinent knowledge, employment and technical skills. The first inclusive recruiting web portal for people with disabilities (www.ishplus.uz) was launched in collaboration with the 'SHAROIT PLUS' Public Association of Disabled Persons in Tashkent.

Bringing together governments, employers' and workers' organizations to shape socio-economic policy is critical for ensuring decent working conditions. Through the ILO, the UN has facilitated

a regular tripartite dialogue about employment policies with the engagement of workers and employers (FTUUs and the CEU). As a result, rates for manual raw cotton-picking were set up by the Government in consultation and agreement with social partners, members of the Republican Tripartite Commission of Social and Labour Issues in 2021.

Finally, recognizing the importance of expanded trade as part of any long-term, post-crisis growth in the economy, the UN has provided support in facilitating the process of **Uzbekistan's accession to the World Trade Organization**. 1,049 civil servants were trained on various aspects of WTO accession, including trade policy formulation and execution of WTO accession negotiations.

Digital inclusion of youth

In November 2021, the Information Technology Training Center for hearing-impaired children was opened in Tashkent with support of the International Telecommunication Union.

The first participants of the Center included 24 children who learn the basics of computer literacy and web technologies, graphic design, programming and website development. The Center is built in accordance with international standards and is equipped with all the necessary audio equipment for each child, taking into account his individual needs. It is also supervised by high qualified specialists who help children master the acquired knowledge in a quality manner.

Zarina became one of the first students of the Center. She is 15 years old and is studying in the 9th grade of a specialized boarding school.

"I love photography and I want to learn how to process photos beautifully. That's why I chose graphic design. I tried to find video tutorials for Photoshop on the Internet myself, but it's hard for me to understand them without explanation."



Key Results of the UN Joint Projects in the Aral Sea Region

FAO, UNDP and UNFPA

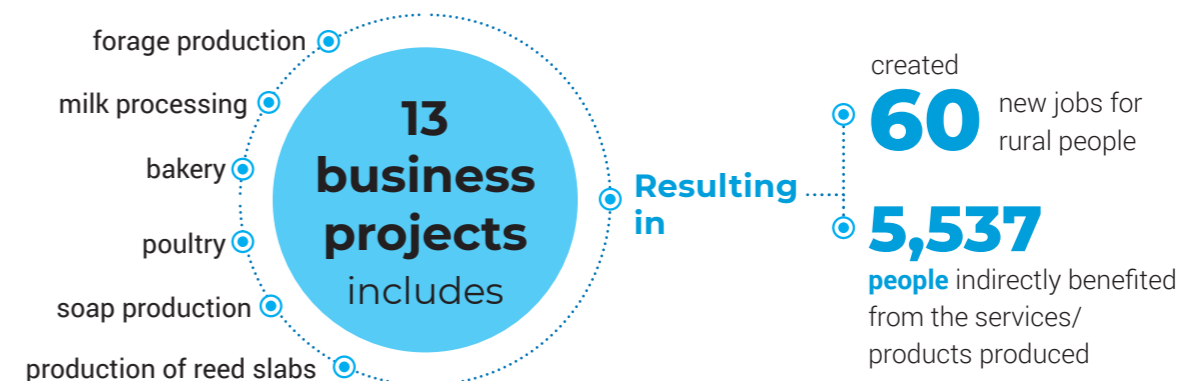
"Unleashing young people's and vulnerable citizens' creativity and innovation by strengthening their adaptive capacity to address the economic and food insecurities in the exposed communities of the Aral Sea region" helped to

created impact-generating opportunities for **325** vulnerable women and young people **13** potential projects **21** out of innovative business plans for starting individual or family-owned business

Developed **9** Community Development Plans based on consultations with **279** vulnerable women and youth to cover 45 projects

UNDP and UNESCO have jointly supported

"Addressing the urgent human insecurities in the Aral Sea region through promoting sustainable rural development" have jointly supported



95 people including **52%** females

Enhanced their skills through training on value chain management in the livestock sector and fundamentals of business planning and entrepreneurship development; **20 owners of SME** were trained on strategy formulation, value-chain analysis and taxation, which had a positive impact on their business development; and **225 tourism and culture professionals**, and local communities were trained on the development of heritage-based, sustainable tourism that harnesses a cultural and natural heritage of Karakalpakstan.

UNICEF, UNFPA and UNODC

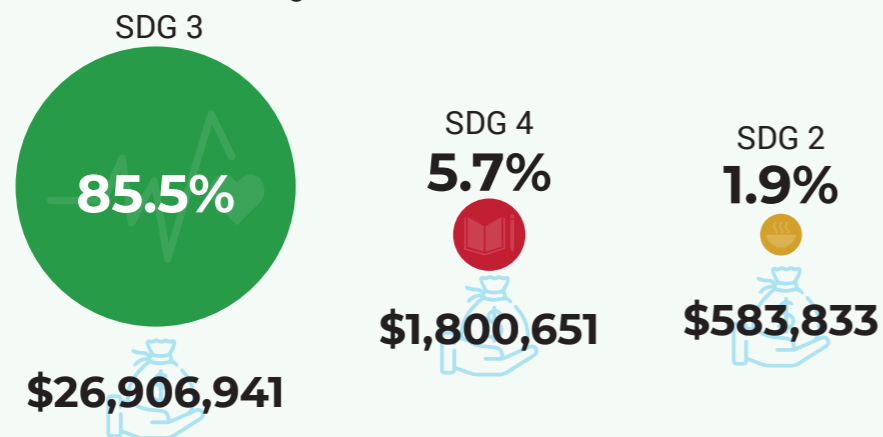
"Investing in a resilient future of Karakalpakstan by harnessing the talents of youth and improving water, sanitation, hygiene and nutrition during and after COVID-19" resulted in:

building resilience among youth by expanding opportunities for social innovation skills development. **119** young people were equipped with social innovation and life skills, and **17** youth-led projects were supported with seed funding and mentoring in incubation. 2 of those projects (production of bio humus and a women-led bakery) grew into sustainable income-generating enterprises.

OUTCOME 4

By 2025, the most vulnerable will benefit from enhanced access to gender-sensitive quality health, education and social services.

Key contributions to SDGs



Contributing agencies:



In 2021, the UNCT leveraged partnerships with Government and other national stakeholders and mobilized resources to provide better access for all groups, especially the most vulnerable, to equitable, inclusive and quality education, health and social protection services and thereby mitigated negative effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on human capital development.

The UNCT supported the Government's health response to COVID-19. **9,197,540 COVAX vaccines** were supplied through UNICEF and WHO to support the national vaccination campaign. The cold chain system was upgraded with UN support and allowed for successful administration of 49 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines to vaccinate 12,441,333 people (52 % women). 2,511 health workers were trained for health emergencies, including evidence-based management of COVID-19, infection prevention and control.

UNICEF and WHO also supported implementation of an enhanced and sustainable system on vaccine-

preventable diseases. In total, **19,199,342 people accessed and benefitted from UN-supported medical products or services**. The majority of these received vaccines, including the COVID-19 vaccine for adults, and the measles and rubella, and/or polio vaccines for children.

WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNODC, and UNAIDS mobilized resources to advance the implementation of the Government's health reforms by providing policy advice and building capacities to implement efficient and transparent, innovative and inclusive Universal Health Coverage-focused policies.

27 public health goods (strategies, plans, guidelines, protocols and curricula) were adopted covering: communicable diseases (HIV and HPV), immunization, NCDs (cervical and child cancer), obstetrics, adolescent health and nutrition, strengthening health systems (Primary Health Care—PHC, health financing, telemedicine) and health emergencies (COVID-19 and pandemic influenza), with sexual and reproductive health and gender mainstreaming.



506,916 children (49% aged 6-23 months) benefited from micronutrient fortification. **34,187 people** received antiretroviral therapy, and **38,647 women** were screened for cervical cancer. **6,078 children**, including 2,856 girls living with HIV/AIDS, received health and psycho-social support in 14 regional day cares.

immunization, patronage/home visits, micronutrient management, care for small and sick newborns, package of essential noncommunicable (PEN) disease interventions for PHC, integrated sexual and reproductive health, and drug dependence treatment and care. **23 health facilities** began applying new standards for maternal and perinatal death audits.

73,237 health and nutrition workers were trained in the provision of the following health services:

48,000 nurses were trained on the Universal Progressive Home Visiting approach. As a result,



96% of home visit nurses are equipped with tools to assess health and development risk factors among pregnant women and children under 5 and provide improved counselling services.

Initiatives were undertaken by UN agencies to promote a healthy lifestyle and health literacy among all age groups. **10,598 schools were equipped with new or updated information** about reproductive health, healthy lifestyle, HIV and STI

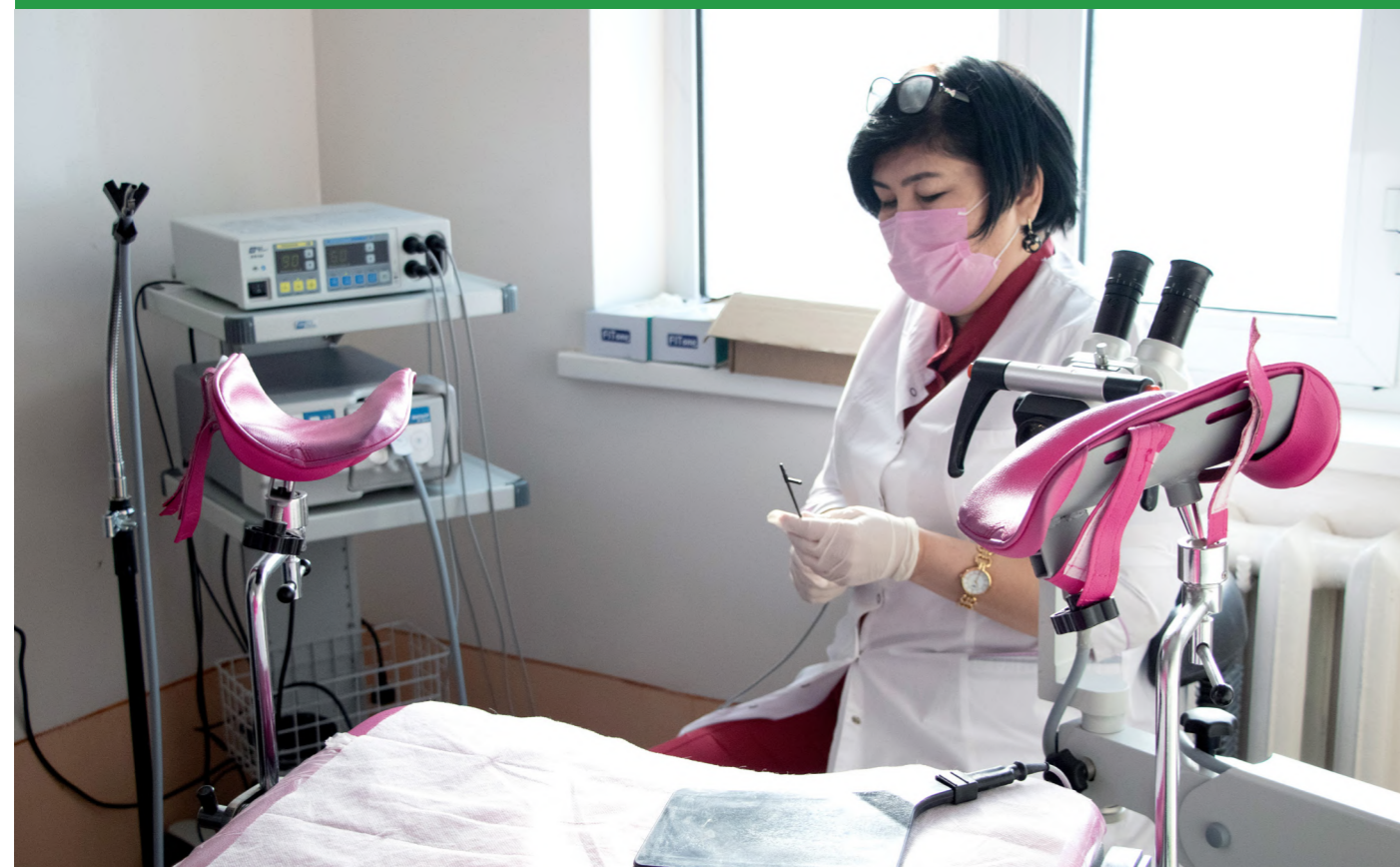
prevention, family planning, WASH and nutrition. For example, schoolteachers from **10,242 schools** nationwide are now providing gender-sensitive education on the benefits of the HPV vaccine for girls. **314,627 adolescents, parents and teachers were equipped with knowledge and skills** in reproductive health, healthy lifestyle, HIV, HPV and STI prevention, family planning, drug use prevention, WASH and nutrition. Most of the beneficiaries (77%) were women.

Cervical Cancer Screening Programme: Story of Gavhar

“I never complained about my health and could never have imagined I had such a disease,” says Gavhar as she explains her shock upon learning about her condition.

Gavhar took advantage of the cervical cancer screening, which is part of the joint UNFPA-WHO project on cervical cancer screening and

conducted HPV testing on **50,000** women between the ages of 30-55 in Karakalpakstan. The project was realized with the financial support of the Government of Japan. Through the testing programme, Gavhar received an accurate, early diagnosis, making it possible for her to both get a test and undergo surgery in her native Nukus without the need to ever travel to another part of the country. [Read the full story of Gavhar.](#)



Through the MPHSTF Joint Projects, the UNCT addresses regional disparities and promotes human security in the most exposed communities in the Aral Sea region by ensuring the population's access to basic services.

The two-year joint project by UNICEF and UNFPA has resulted in improved accessibility and quality of maternal and newborn health care services:



70%

of Karakalpakstan's
population

is served with modernized,
targeted inter-district
perinatal centers.



12,159
mothers and
12,067
newborns

benefited from the upgraded
infrastructure and improved quality of
care at the targeted perinatal centers.

The survival rate of newborns in the **1,000 to 2,499-gram** weight category increased significantly

from **76% to 91%** between 2018 and 2020.

Thanks to a joint project run by UNDP, UNFPA and FAO, access to clean drinking water has been provided to a Kungrad Central Republican clinic, polyclinic and two schools with the total number of beneficiaries at 7,208 people. Another joint project implemented by UNDP and UNESCO has provided access to drinking water for **3,491 people in five rural communities** through six infrastructure projects on water purification.

The joint project run by UNICEF, UNFPA and UNODC, allowed 59 distance healthcare facilities to be equipped with learning equipment (28 HCFs) and laboratory equipment, reagents and consumables (31 HCFs) to ensure better quality services to a total population of 181,200 in the targeted districts.

Under a flagship UN Joint Programme on INFF, the UN facilitated the implementation of a new financing mechanism in the area of primary health facilities that resulted in the introduction of the first State-Guaranteed Benefit Package (SGBP) with a focus on PHC services. This should further increase the efficiency of current health reforms.

Following advocacy on the importance of PHC for the prevention of NCDs and for Universal Health Coverage, and capacity-building of the State Health Insurance Fund and MOH, a new system for early detection, prevention, and treatment of cardiovascular diseases (CVDs) was developed to be introduced in 2022. Funds allocated for primary medical care will be doubled - 350 million soums (\$35,000) will be allocated to each district next year.

The joint programme also leveraged **stronger partnerships across the health sector** (e.g. between the Ministry of Health and the Service of Sanitary and Epidemiological Welfare and Public Health), and **inter-sectoral collaboration** (e.g. with the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Health).

In education, UN agencies supported efforts to enhance quality in the national education system at all levels and strengthen the professional development system for teachers.

Creating and managing data and evidence to inform educational policies and programmes is crucial to ensure quality and accessibility. UNICEF and UNESCO collaborated with national partners to establish and enhance the Education Management Information Systems (EMIS) and introduce a methodology for generating education statistics in line with international standards. 7,000+ schools were also equipped for real-time monitoring of internet connectivity, enabled to track the quality of school internet connectivity more frequently, and integrated into school EMIS to enhance transparency and accountability of school-related services.

In tertiary education, the UN supported the design of a National Information Center (NIC) web portal (<http://nic.tdi.uz/ru>) that integrates a national EMIS system on recognition that enables perspective students to apply for qualification recognition online at national and international levels.

Further, the UN helped develop and introduce e-solutions for monitoring educational quality and assessment practices to increase transparency of school performance. This includes two web-based platform “ONAKS” for QA data collection and management (<http://onaks.tdi.uz>) and an online accreditation register (<http://reestr.tdi.uz>).

Further support was provided to enhance competency-based and inclusive curriculum and textbooks in early grades. Around **1.23 million children** in grades 1 and 2 have benefited from a new child-centered curriculum and new textbooks on math, mother language and science.

A reliable, evidence-based and coordinated approach to measuring education quality was also promoted. **400 school and 500 preschool specialists** were trained to the implementation of the new Education Quality Assurance standards. An online learning platform “Complex” (<http://moodle.tdi.uz>) was introduced to create personalized learning environments for educators and administrators responsible for quality assurance. 9,734 specialists at the primary and secondary education levels were trained on use of this learning platform.

To promote teacher professional development, UN Agencies supported the development of the Teachers’ Professional Development platform which provides access for more than **112,000 teachers** (almost 90 percent of primary school teachers) to train on new curricula. 35,000 of them



Three Communities in the Takhtakupir District Receive Access to Drinking Water

The Taza Konys community of the Beltau Rural Citizens’ Assembly is located in the North of Karakalpakstan-Takhtakupir. Here people know firsthand the importance of every drop of water. After all, the disappearance of the Aral Sea has led to a whole range of social, economic and environmental problems, negatively reflected on the well-being and health of the inhabitants of the entire region. The COVID-19 outbreak has also created changes in daily life, underlining the importance of consistent access to clean water for health.

“Now the food is tastier, and we drink tea with pleasure. After all, it is known that not a day goes by in the east without a cup of tea. Especially in the cold weather. And when the water is clean, you don’t have to worry about your health anymore,” say people from the Taza Konys. [Read the full story.](#)



have already received certificates of successful completion. The Uzbek Teacher Professional Development at scale (TPD@scale) model was developed with UN support to improve equitable access to quality professional development for teachers. The partnership with the Republican In-service Teacher Training and Research Institute has resulted in agreement to scale-up the TPD model nationwide to cover all 500,000 schoolteachers.

Based on a concept of re-imagining education, the UN fostered the development of core skills in problem-solving, creativity and critical thinking that young people need to be more resilient, increase employability and engage productively in their communities. Specific initiatives were launched to reach and equip over **24,000 young people** (49 per cent girls) with social, socio-emotional, entrepreneurship, employability and STEM skills. More than 1,000 courses from global resources on foundational, transferrable, and digital skills were curated and translated into Uzbek. The digital

learning platform www.maktab.uz was modernized to meet the contextual learning needs of children in remote areas, girls, and children with special needs. The PBF-funded UN Joint Programme “Youth for Social Harmony in the Fergana Valley” promoted integration of four life skills into curriculum and teaching practices in 15 pilot schools in the Ferghana Valley.

Social protection is recognized as one of the main accelerators for SDG achievement in Uzbekistan, and therefore remains a high priority for the UN system. **Through its flagship Joint Programme on Social Protection funded by the UN SDG Fund**, the UNCT delivered collective responses to national needs in social protection. UNICEF, UNDP and the ILO mobilized international expertise and knowledge to support the Government in establishing a strong, integrated and sustainable social protection system. **In total, 2,000,000 people have directly benefitted from these joint efforts.**



1,200,000

low-income families and

2,429,121

children benefited from social protection support through the Single Registry system.

The Government has committed to adopt three flagship and interlinked strategies, including the Social Protection Strategy, Poverty Reduction Strategy and the Employment Strategy. The UN agencies provided technical assistance in designing a budgeted National Social Protection Strategy through a multi-stakeholder consultative process to ensure its alignment with draft poverty

reduction and employment strategies and key principles of Leaving No One Behind and gender equality. It is accompanied by a three-year budgeted Action Plan and options for fiscal space for social protection.

The UN supported the implementation of the national **Social Protection Single Registry**. The

In Search of a Sun: The Story of Ziyoda

“**H**ave you ever lived in a dark tent with the thought that today may be the last day of your life? My name is Ziyoda. I am 16 years old, but my story is different from the stories of most children my age. I have four sisters, two nephews, and a mom. We lived in Syria for 5 years, in cold and in fear, that today we will close our eyes forever...”

Ziyoda and her family were returned to the Fergana region as part of Operation Mehr-3. [Read more about Ziyoda](#) and the work of the EU-funded project, “EU Support-UN to the states of Central Asia for their citizens, returned from conflict zones, primarily Syria and Iraq”.





Single Registry has helped improve the targeting and coverage of the most vulnerable persons and almost doubled the number of beneficiary households to **1.2 million** in 2021. Further reforms of children's' benefits have resulted in increased coverage of child beneficiaries and budget allocation to social benefits by 50 per cent. The enhanced Single Registry has also contributed to e-governance and digitalization reforms.

The UN agencies also promoted improved accessibility of social protection for persons with disabilities and their full inclusion into different aspects of social life.

In 2021, Uzbekistan ratified the **United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD)** following years of concerted advocacy and collaboration by the UN. The UN supported the Government in developing a **National Action Plan on UNCRPD** implementation with engagement and in close consultation with organizations of people with disabilities.

The UN agencies, with organizations of people with disabilities, successfully advocated for the social

disability model and promoted the introduction of the **International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF)**. The Government committed to transition to ICF and CRPD compliant disability assessment/determination procedures and to shift from the medical to the social disability model. UN agencies supported the transition by delivering **120 hours of disability assessment training to 80 members** of the national disability determination commissions and fostering knowledge on disability data collection. The low-volume grants for social projects provided under the Joint Programme for disability empowerment projects of 11 NGOs have benefitted some **1,000** direct participants with disabilities, including at least **600** women with disabilities.

The UN has also tested new initiatives in social protection for better coverage of vulnerable groups. A **case management approach** was initiated and piloted to better identify and respond to needs and deliver social benefits and services through local communities. **106 families**, including **192** children (**101** boys and **91** girls), benefited from this pilot initiative. Digital solutions

were introduced to monitor COVID-19 impacts and coordinate emergency social assistance aid for affected population groups in Namangan City thanks to a public-private partnership promoted by the UNDP Accelerator Lab. An aid platform was launched and over 15,000 applications were swiftly registered and answered.

Through policy dialogue and advocacy, the Government committed to placing ending violence against children higher on the national agenda, including addressing bullying in schools and child online protection from cyberbullying and child sexual exploitation and abuse. The UN has also facilitated a multi-sectoral support for children at risk of violence and abuse with a primary focus on children repatriated from conflict zones and children from closed-type special educational facilities. **65 women and 184 children repatriated from conflict zones** received quality psychosocial support in their communities. More than **300 children** (48 per cent girls) from correctional

institutions have received reintegration support, and 58 children (46 per cent girls) previously released have continued to receive social support in line with their individual reintegration and rehabilitation plans. To build national capacity in rehabilitation and reintegration issues, the UN **trained 319** (46 per cent female) statutory bodies specialists and service providers

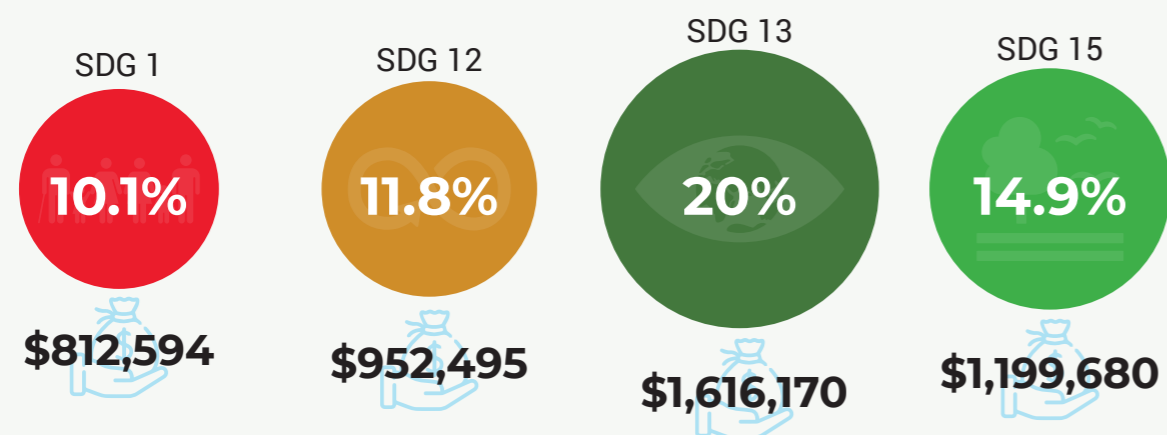
The UN's partnership with national stakeholders on implementation of the law on violence against women and girls, specifically aiming to improve the response to survivors of domestic violence, has evolved. The UN helped prepare a **National Action Plan on GBV** prevention in consultation with the Government and CSOs that includes a scale-up of the national Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for integrated and multisectoral response to GBV that the UN helped develop and introduce last year. A pool of 130 master trainers on SOP was prepared for all 14 regions who will work further with service providers working with GBV survivors.



OUTCOME 5

By 2025, the most at-risk regions and communities of Uzbekistan will be more resilient to climate change and disasters, and will benefit from increasingly sustainable and gender-sensitive efficient management of natural resources and infrastructure, robust climate action, inclusive environmental governance and protection.

Key contributions to SDGs



Contributing agencies:



The UNCT advocated and supported the Government in revisiting and increasing its **Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) under the Paris Agreement**. At COP26 the Government declared a further reduction of greenhouse gas emissions per unit of GDP by 35% by 2030 (previous commitment in 2017 was 10% of GDP).

The UN supported the Government to convene a series of food systems dialogues in support of the **Global Food Systems Summit**. The dialogues, alongside the Strategy for the Development of Agriculture 2020-2030, supported Uzbekistan's Pathway to Transforming to Efficient and Sustainable Food Systems by 2030 to accelerate the fight against rural poverty (SDG1) and zero hunger (SDG2).

Policy advice and assistance was provided in setting up a National Strategic Environmental Assessment

system and undergoing the UNECE Innovation for Sustainable Development Review.

The UN Country Team involving FAO, UNDP, UNECE, IFAD, UNEP, UNESCO and UNICEF have developed and implemented **21 gender-sensitive, policy-level initiatives** and innovative and scalable solutions to support climate change mitigation and adaptation, green economy, biodiversity and sustainable use of ecosystems.

The UN efforts were focused on promotion of systems innovations and integrated solutions in the Aral Sea region in support of the General Assembly's resolution on declaring the **Aral Sea as a zone of technological innovation**. The UNCT supported the Government in developing the Integrated Roadmap for the Aral Sea region to bring about sustainable improvement of the living conditions and livelihoods of people in the Aral Sea region, including restoration

Key Results of the UN Joint Projects in the Aral Sea Region

58,973 people, including

34,760 women

Through **16** social infrastructure projects supported by the UN, over

21,559 rural people (more than 50% female) in the Aral Sea region have improved access to basic services, including access to clean drinking water, a sustainable electricity supply, access to better education and health facilities).

from 6 regions of Karakalpakstan have increased climate resilience thanks to adopting agro-conservation and water saving practices introduced by the UN system.



Also, through the UN Joint Programme, WASH infrastructure was improved in **22 healthcare facilities** and **15 schools** and **578** people (**170** health care providers, **325** teachers and **84** parents) have gained knowledge on WASH, health and nutrition in the most deprived regions of Karakalpakstan.



Over last years, the UN has supported the establishment of 13 pasture cooperatives in rural communities of Karakalpakstan that united **64,723** people (**50.3%** female).



Annually, **110,000** people, including seasonal workers, are engaged in afforestation, maintenance of desert plant nurseries, seed collection, and maintenance of micro and macro irrigation networks for pasture reclamation.



In 2021, pasture cooperatives planted **10 million saksaul** seedlings across **10,000ha** in Karakalpakstan. Adopted climate resilient conservation agriculture and water saving practices have resulted in rehabilitation of degraded pasturelands, and the establishment of desert plant nurseries has contributed to the nationwide afforestation programme in Aral Sea region.

of an active ecosystem and biodiversity in the surrounding areas.

Building on a human security concept, UN agencies implemented initiatives on building resilience of local communities in Health, Environmental and Economic Insecurities, including through the Joint Programmes financed by the UN MPTF for the Aral Sea.

Moreover, **15,869 rural households** (**44%** female) across the country adopted new technologies and practices introduced by the UN system, including **13,910** rural households (**45%** female) who adopted climate resilient conservation agriculture practices and **1,959** rural people (**844** women and **562** youth) who adopted sustainable dairy production.



In partnership with the World Bank, the UN supported the development of a **Strategic Framework on operationalization of the Green Strategy** that will in turn lead to the development of a longer-term low carbon development strategy. Also, the secondary legislation for on-grid solar systems was revised and improved to enable independent power producers to generate green power to grid on commercial terms. Through the green mortgage mechanism introduced by the UN, **6,640 rural population**, including **3,320** women from **1,328** households (of them **778** are women-led) now **own affordable rural low-carbon housing**.

The UN contributed to the development of the 2030 Forestry System Development Concept, Forest Restoration Concept, Law on Pasture, National Action Programme to Combat Desertification

and Drought, and Gender Strategy for Forestry Committee. Through grass-root projects, more than **230 women** gained access to forest resources, sustainable forest management techniques and free use of forest fund lands. **326** people (**308** males and **18** females) learned techniques for the efficient use of land and water resources in drought-prone and salt-affected landscapes. The UN also promoted the creation of new protected areas including Tupalang National Park in the Surkhandarya region (200,000ha) and in Ilnach and Beshtor in the Western Tian Shan of the Tashkent region (51,300ha).

To support the biodiverse high-altitude mountain ecosystems, the UN fostered a transboundary cooperation on conservation of snow leopard landscapes in Central Asia. For the first time,



Gulomov Bolta is the aksakal of the village of Vardon, located near the Gissar nature reserve. He participated in a workshop organized by the project 'Sustainable natural resource and forest management in key mountain areas important for globally significant biodiversity' by UNDP in collaboration with the State Committee on Ecology and Environmental Protection.

Bolta was very enthusiastic about the idea of improving the quality of life of his fellow villagers through the creation of a water supply system for his village. He applied for the micro-grant to create orchards on unused lands and a water supply system for irrigation.

Read more about how UNDP Uzbekistan and partners work together to enhance the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources in the biodiverse high altitude mountain ecosystems of Uzbekistan.

a **Memorandum of Understanding** was signed among the environmental agencies of Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan on the protection of snow leopards, their food base and habitat in the Western Tien Shan and Pamir-Alay landscapes.

To reduce vulnerabilities and build resilience of at-risk communities to climate change and disasters, the UNCT supported community-based disaster risk reduction measures and **31,500 people** in 12 target communities in the Samarkand region were trained on community-based DRR (CBDRR) conducted in partnership with the IFRC and the Red Crescent Society of Uzbekistan. The gender-sensitive CBDRR plans were developed by the disaster management committees based on a vulnerability and capacity assessment (VCA). The UN also helped fully operationalize a drought Early Warning System in the Aral Sea region, providing early-warning weather and water scarcity notifications covering all of Karakalpakstan.

Targeted community level interventions were carried out to reduce the risk of the negative impact of uranium waste on people, livelihoods, and the environment in at-risk communities. Trainings on green entrepreneurship skills reached **167 people**, including **108** women from the Tashkent region. 47 master trainers on women entrepreneurship reached **280** women from the Namangan and Tashkent regions. Dosimetry equipment was provided to the Ministry of Emergency Situations to help measure radiation levels and ensure safe residence near the uranium heritage sites.

The UN also promoted a regional cooperation on the implementation of the Sendai framework for DRR through the Regional Forum/Meeting of the Heads of emergency authorities of Central Asian countries in Tashkent. During the Forum, the participating countries approved a Strategy for the development of cooperation between Central Asian countries in DRR for 2022-2030, a Regional disaster risk profile in Central Asia, the Regulation "On the Regional mechanism for coordination of emergency response" and a Roadmap for the implementation of the Strategy for the development of cooperation between Central Asian countries in DRR for 2022-2023.

Afghanistan Situation: 2021 Regional Refugee Response Plan



13,020

Newly arrived Afghans as of 31 December 2021*



The 2021 Regional Refugee Preparedness and Response Plan (RRP) aimed to ensure humanitarian partners in Uzbekistan have capacities required to meet the immediate critical needs of the displaced population at the onset of the Afghanistan emergency.

In this preparedness phase, RRP partners focused on monitoring and coordinating with the Government of Uzbekistan to ensure access to territory and a positive protection space.



In support of relevant authorities, UNHCR coordinated inter-agency preparedness and response efforts, in collaboration with the UNCT. Partners focused their efforts on areas where they have the greatest operational impact based on their expertise and experience.

Key achievements



Protection



UNHCR's hotline responded to **794** Afghan citizens in Uzbekistan through email, telephone and a messaging app.

The UNHCR Position on Returns to Afghanistan was translated into Russian, and the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol, and the UNHCR and Inter-Parliamentary Union Guide to International Refugee Protection and Building State Asylum Systems into Uzbek, for use in government consultations. Standard Operating Procedures on child protection, including in emergencies, developed for use during consultations with key stakeholders in Surkhandarya Region – bordering Afghanistan to the south – **and training of some 400 social service professionals in that region.**

Education



Supplies to be able to support the education needs of refugee and host community children prepositioned in Uzbekistan, including 'school-in-a-box' kits.

Food Security



Initiation of a programme to target refugee households with **a one-off grant of emergency cash assistance** to help mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Top expenditures included food, utilities, and bills.

Health and Nutrition



Procurement and prepositioning of:

IEHK 2017 (Interagency Emergency Health Kit) – a standardised kit of essential medicines, supplies and equipment, for "life-saving" purposes, to meet the **priority health needs of 10,000 people**, for approximately three months.

- supplies to support the health needs of refugees and members of the host community, including digital thermometers, surgical masks, and infant scales.

WASH



Procurement and prepositioning of supplies to be able to respond to the basic WASH needs of up to **10,000 refugees and members of the host community**, including Acute Watery Diarrhoea community kits which includes buckets, water purification tablets, gloves, soap, and scrubbing brushes.

Logistics and Telecoms



Establishment of **logistics and emergency response hub in Termez** – near the Uzbek-Afghan border – to enhance pre-positioning and rapid delivery of Core Relief Items/ Non-Food Items to Afghanistan. Dispatch of **31 shipments by road transport to Afghanistan** from October – December 2021.

Livelihoods and Resilience



Planning initiated together with national partners, the Governor of Surkhandarya region, the Agency for Public Services, mahalla (neighborhoods or local communities), Youth Affairs Agency, business associations and others for entry points to **support resilience and livelihoods of local communities and Afghans in Uzbekistan**, including at the Education Centre in Termez.

* According to Government of Uzbekistan sources. In light of the conditions in Afghanistan, these people cannot return and UNHCR considers them to be in a refugee-like situation

2.3. Support to Partnerships and Financing the 2030 Agenda

The UN leveraged existing and new partnerships with a wide range of public and private sector organizations including IFIs, foundations, funds, and alliances at international and global levels.

From zero in 2020, there are now **five private sector organizations** which have become **full members of the Global Compact**: The Coalition of Business Champions for the Sustainable Development of Uzbekistan¹. Through their membership, these private organizations have supported joint UN campaigns and local initiatives and contributed to SDG attainment.

Through the flagship **UN Joint Programme on establishing an Integrated National Financing Framework**, the UN helped leverage financing for the SDGs through the **sovereign SDG bonds** that Uzbekistan issued in 2021. The SDG bonds were an innovative financing solution that mobilized \$235 million, promoting efficiency and accountability of proceeds through eligible allocations, monitoring, reporting of impacts and results.

Further, the UN supported the Government in elaborating a draft Integrated SDG Financing Strategy. Consultations were facilitated by the UN with participation of major public, private and international institutions which are engaged in financing development processes and discuss new financing solutions and ways to mobilize new resources, while ensuring more efficient use of existing development finances. The UN has also facilitated international knowledge transfer through experts from Germany, Mexico, and Indonesia to help the Government explore new

financing tools for sustainable development.

UN agencies also helped address financing gaps in thematic sectors, including in environment and health. With UNDP support, Uzbekistan joined the **Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN)**, a global partnership that supports countries in creating tailored finance solutions and enhancing their financial management for biodiversity and ecosystems to protect and preserve nature and bolster economies. BIOFIN will provide an excellent opportunity for the country to assess the nation's existing natural wealth and work towards introducing innovative financing options for nature, such as issuing Green Bonds, e-payments, and reforming the tax collection system.

In 2021, the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan made its **third tranche contribution in the amount of \$1.5 million to the Multi-Partner Human Security Trust Fund for the Aral Sea Region (MPHSTF)**. This, as well as previous contributions from the Governments of Norway, Finland, the European Union and the Republic of Korea, is used to finance development programmes in the Aral Sea region. **The MPHSTF launched its Third Call for Proposals** covering "Youth Employment and Innovations, Health, and Green Growth" as priority thematic areas.

The UNCT is in the process of establishing a country-based pooled fund to support the national SDGs and Agenda 2030. The fund will be anchored in the UNSDCF and its implementation architecture. The results groups will play a leading role in proposing the allocation of funds to multiyear joint programmes.

2.4. Results of the UN working more and better together: UN coherence, effectiveness and efficiency

To ensure coherent UN delivery on the UNSDCF priorities, the UNCT, in consultation and agreement with the Government, has established the UNSDCF governance mechanisms that involves:

- I. A **Joint UN-Government Steering Committee (JSC)** to provide strategic oversight and ensure the alignment of Cooperation Framework to evolving country context and national priorities;
- II. Results Groups set up around three strategic priority areas, namely **Peace, People & Prosperity and Planet**, that improve coordination and synergies and ensure a coherent UN system-wide approach and synergies in the CF implementation in line with key programming principles;
- III. UN Thematic Groups on Gender, Youth, Human Rights and Inclusion, Migration and

HIV/AIDS that ensure mainstreaming of cross-cutting priorities across the joint UN work; and

- IV. UN Programme support groups, including an Operations Management Team, Data, Monitoring and Evaluation Group, and Communication Group.

To operationalize the UNSDCF, the UNCT based on the Results Groups have worked together to develop the Joint Work Plans (JWP) for 2021-2022. The Joint Work Plans include all UN development contributions to the UNSDCF delivered jointly or by individual entities, with the goal of maximizing synergies and avoiding duplication, as well as enhancing transparency and accountability.

In 2021, the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) joined the UN Country Team in Uzbekistan. The

Private Sector Partnerships for Sustainable Development

On 28 November 2021, Artel Electronics, LLC (Artel) became the first-ever Central Asian company in the household appliance and electronics sector to join the UN Global Compact. Since its membership to the UN Global Compact, Artel has been a staunch supporter of sustainability initiatives with a specific focus on women, education, and water projects. Artel supported the UN campaign on the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence in Uzbekistan and is opening a weekly women's legal clinic internally to raise legal literacy. The company also provided the infrastructure to access water in a village in the Jizzakh region, an initiative that they intend to replicate elsewhere in the coming years. On 14 July 2021, Silverleafe became the first agribusiness to become a member of the United Nations



Global Compact. Silverleafe is also a strong advocate of women's empowerment and is proactively engaged in various community initiatives, including public safety projects and child oncology support and championing the private sector's role in advancing the Sustainable Development Goals and the national targets in Uzbekistan's agro-industry. In August 2021, Silverleafe, LLC was listed as one of the top 100 companies "for creating the greatest number of jobs" in the country and praised by the President of Uzbekistan.

¹ Angelesey Food LLC (Korzinka), Silverleafe LLC, Artel, HRC Consulting, and the Food Industry Association of Uzbekistan



ITU committed to cooperation with the Government of Uzbekistan and support of the ongoing reforms aimed at developing a more open, modernized, and well-functioning market economy, by contributing to (1) inclusive human capital development leading to health, well-being and resilient prosperity, and (2) sustainable, climate responsible and resilient development.

In 2021, FAO completed the development of the Country Programme Framework for 2021-2025 and the ILO presented the Decent Work Country Programme for Uzbekistan for 2021-2025. The two programmes are derived from the Cooperation Framework and both UN entities have exchanged letters with the UN Resident Coordinator to confirm alignment of their respective programmes to the UNSDCF.

The UNCT also developed and launched **four new joint programmes in 2021**, bringing the total number of joint UN programmes in Uzbekistan to 12. The new joint programmes have received funding from the UN Peacebuilding Fund, the UN Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Fund (UNPRPD), the European Union and the U.S. Department of State. These programmes will focus on disability

inclusion, reintegration and rehabilitation of citizens returned from conflict zones, and for the first time, cross-border environmental and socio-economic cooperation between Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan.

Through the UN Communication team, the UNCT delivered consistent and coherent messaging and advocacy on the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs and the international normative agenda while ensuring unified UN branding in the country. It jointly



observed and commemorated various key UN observances days and weeks together with national and international partners, including International Women's Day, UN Day, Press Freedom Day, the 16 Days Campaign, International Youth Day, Anti-Corruption Day, Human Rights Day, etc. More than 1,000 people have joined these observations online and offline.

The UNCT also held **11 dialogues, lectures, and presentations to raise awareness on the SDGs** and the key principle to "Leave No One Behind". The events brought together 560 participants from all walks of life, including local authorities, members of Parliament, local parliaments, students, school children and youth networks in the Tashkent, Navoi, Kashkadarya and Fergana regions.



2.5. Financial Overview and Resource Mobilization

\$85,169,128

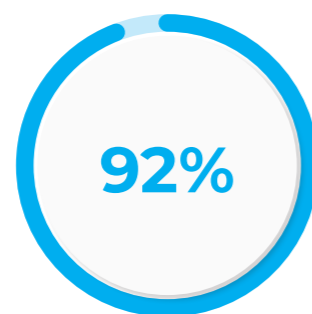
Required Resources/
Budget

\$63,820,341

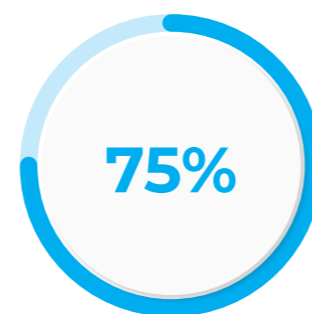
Available Resources

\$58,543,434

Expenditure



Delivery Rate
(expenditure vs available)

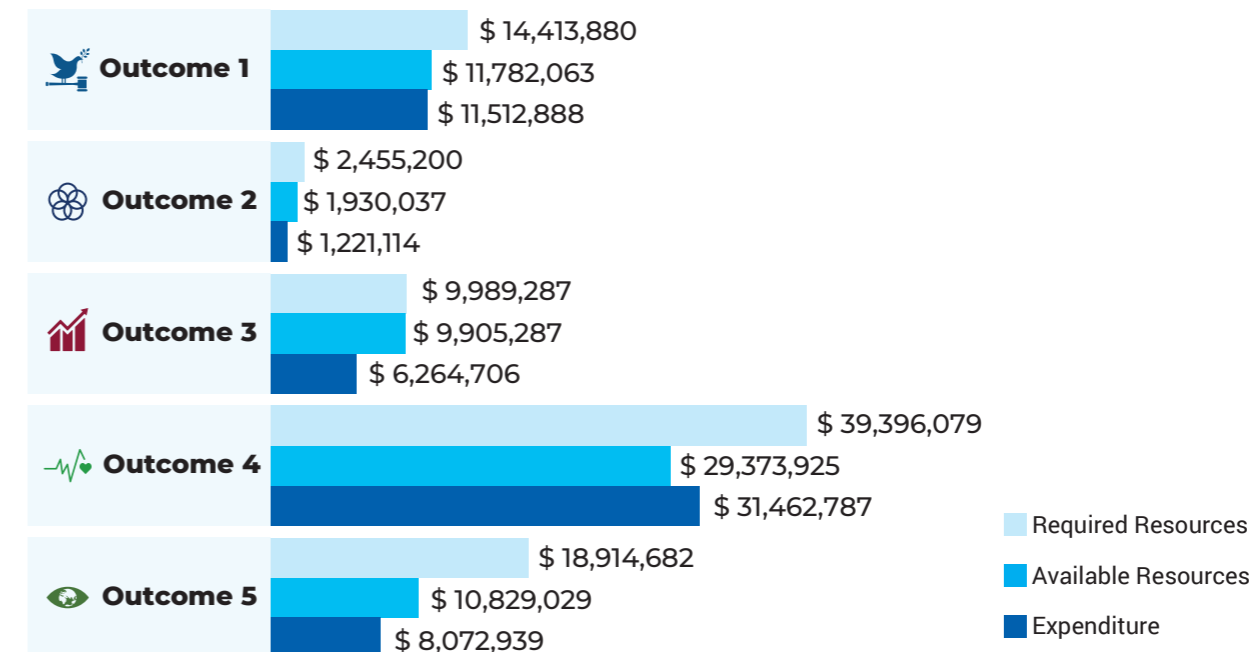


Resource Mobilization Rate
(available vs required)

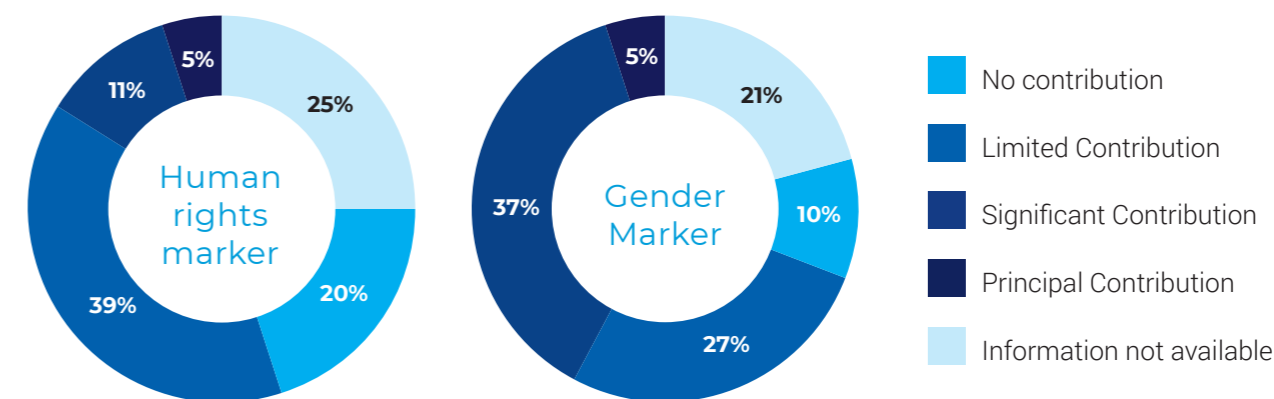
Expenditure by SDG



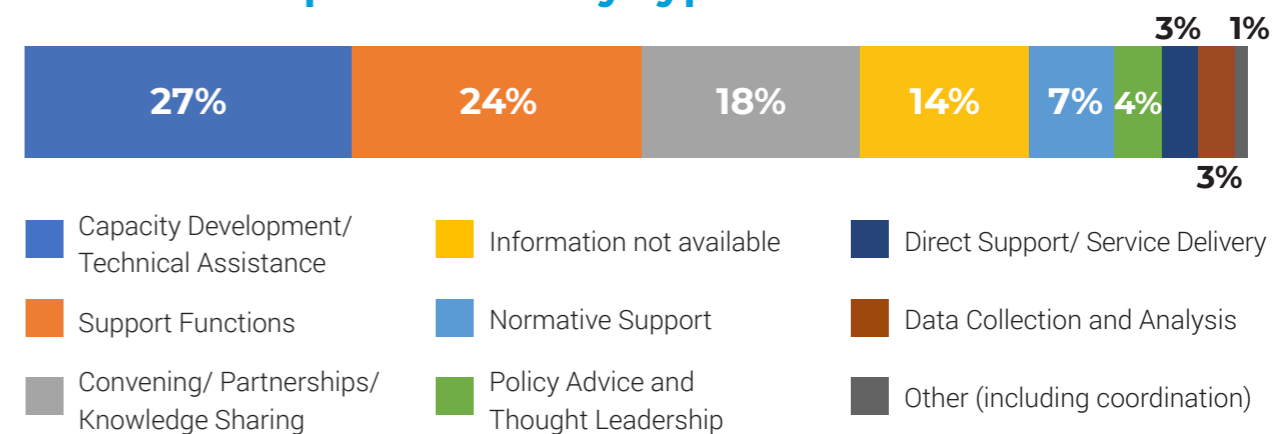
Financial Overview by Outcome



Expenditures towards gender equality and human rights



Expenditures by type of functional



List of acronyms and abbreviations

AIDS	Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome
CBDRR	Community-based disaster risk reduction
CDP	Community development plans
CEU	Confederation of employers of Uzbekistan
COP26	2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference
CRPD	Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
CSO	Civil society organization
CVD	Cardiovascular disease
DRR	Disaster risk reduction
EMIS	Education Management Information Systems
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FFS	Fossil-fuel subsidies
FTUU	Federation of trade unions of the Republic of Uzbekistan
GBV	Gender-based violence
GDP	Gross domestic product
HCF	Healthcare facility
HIV	Human immunodeficiency virus
HPV	Human papillomavirus
ICF	International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health
IEHK	Interagency emergency health kit
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IFRC	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
ILO	International Labour Organization
INFF	Integrated National Financing Framework for Sustainable Development
IOM	International Organization for Migration
ITC	International Trade Centre
ITU	International Telecommunication Union
JWP	Joint Work Plans
MICS	Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys
MPHSTF	Multi-Partner Human Security Trust Fund for the Aral Sea Region
MPTF	Multi-Partner Trust Fund
NCD	Noncommunicable diseases
NGO	Non-governmental organization
NIC	National Information Center
OHCHR	United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
OPDs	Organizations for people with disabilities

PHC	Primary health care
PSC	Public service centers
QCPR	Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review
RRP	Refugee response plan
SGBP	State-guaranteed benefit package of services
SME	Small and medium enterprise
SOP	Standard operating procedure
STEM	Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics
STI	Sexually transmitted infections
TPD	Teacher professional development
UN	United Nations
UN ESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
UN HABITAT	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS
UNCRPD	United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDRR	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
UNICRI	United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
UNPRPD	UN Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Fund
UNRCCA	United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia
UNSDCF	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
VCA	Vulnerability and capacity assessment
WAGs	Women's advisory groups
WASH	Water, sanitation and hygiene
WTO	World Trade Organization
Y-MUN	Youth Model United Nations

