

Evaluation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) for Uzbekistan (2021-2025)

Final Report

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DISCLAIMER

This evaluation report presents the view of the evaluation team and does not necessarily fully correspond to the opinions of the UNRCO, UN entities, public authorities of Uzbekistan or other stakeholders referred to in this report.

Every effort has been made to ensure that the information given here is correct. Any factual error that may appear is unintended and falls under the responsibility of the evaluation team.

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Acronyms

ARR	Annual Results Report
CA	Contribution Analysis
CCA	Common Country Analysis
CF	Cooperation Framework
DAC	Development Assistance Committee of the OECD
DCO	Development Coordination Office
EM	Evaluation Manager
EMT	Evaluation Management Team
EE	Evaluation Expert
EQ	Evaluation Question
ESC	Evaluation Steering Committee
ET	Evaluation Team
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations
FE	Final Evaluation
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEWE	Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment
GHG	Greenhouse Gas Emissions
GII	Gender Inequality Index
GoU	Government of Uzbekistan
GPAP	Government Programme and Action Plan
HDI	Human Development Index
IARP	Inter-Agency Humanitarian Response Plan
IFI	International Financial Institution
ILO	International Labour Organisation
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IR	Inception report
IT	Information Technology
IGTG	Internal Gender Theme Group
JSC	Joint Steering Committee
JWP	Joint Work Plan
KII	Key Informant Interview
LNOB	Leave No One Behind
MEL	Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
MIRA	Multi-Sectoral Initial Rapid Assessment
NDS	National Development Strategy
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development

OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
OSCE	Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
OVI	Objectively Verifiable Indicator
RBM	Results Based Management
RC	Resident Coordinator
Result Group	Results Group
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SME	Small and Medium-sized Enterprises
SOP	Standard Operating Procedures
SoV	Sources of Verification
TL	Team Leader
ToC	Theory of Change
ToR	Terms of Reference
UHC	Universal Health Coverage
UN SWAP	UN System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
UN-Habitat	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UNDAP	UN Development Assistance Framework
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDCS	United Nations Development Cooperation Strategy
UNDRR	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNEG	UN Evaluation Group
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
UNRCO	United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office
UNSDCF	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
UNSDS	United Nations Sustainable Development System
USD	United States Dollar
VNR	Voluntary National Report
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organisation

Executive Summary

This report presents the key findings, conclusions and recommendations of the evaluation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) in Uzbekistan (2021-2025). The evaluation will serve as key input in the future UN Cooperation Framework planning while contributing to system-wide oversight, transparency, accountability, and collective learning.

Context

Since gaining independence in 1991, Uzbekistan has undergone significant political, economic, and social transformations. Recent reforms are encapsulated in the “Uzbekistan-2030” Strategy, which targets economic growth, governance improvements, and social and environmental sustainability. The country has adopted 16 national SDGs with 125 targets to monitor its progress in sustainable development. Key reforms have included constitutional amendments to enhance governance, introduce legislative oversight, and strengthen social and environmental protections. Nevertheless, challenges persist in political freedoms, corruption, and human rights, as evidenced by Uzbekistan’s rankings in global indices. Despite progress in gender equality through legal reforms and increased female political participation, societal barriers and labor market disparities hinder full equality.

Uzbekistan has demonstrated robust economic growth, with GDP increasing at an average of 5-7% annually, declining unemployment, and reduced poverty rates. However, fiscal sustainability remains a concern, driven by high government spending and rising income inequality. Social welfare systems have expanded significantly, although disparities in access persist. Education reforms have improved enrollment rates, but challenges with quality and outdated infrastructure remain pressing. Similarly, the healthcare system has seen advances in maternal and child health, yet faces barriers such as outdated facilities and high out-of-pocket costs. Environmental priorities include increasing renewable energy and addressing vulnerabilities such as air pollution, water shortages, and climate impacts. While Uzbekistan has made substantial progress across sectors, addressing structural reforms, demographic pressures, and resource sustainability will be critical to achieving long-term development goals.

About the UNSDCF 2021-2025

The UNSDCF (2021-2025) is a strategic framework between the UN system and the Government of Uzbekistan designed to support national priorities aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It focuses on three strategic priorities: effective governance and justice, inclusive human capital development, and sustainable, climate-resilient development. These priorities are operationalized through five outcome areas: improved governance systems and rule of law, strengthened policy coherence for reform implementation, expanded access to livelihoods and decent work, enhanced quality and inclusivity of health, education, and social services, and increased resilience to climate change and disasters. Developed through consultations with national and international stakeholders, the framework is guided by the five Ps of the 2030 Agenda: People, Prosperity, Planet, Peace, and Partnerships. It aims to enhance policy coherence, inclusion, and institutional capacity while addressing inequalities and aligning efforts with international human rights and labor standards.

With funding needs identified at USD 437.4 million and 74.3% of resources secured, the framework focuses on advancing governance, economic growth, social services, and environmental sustainability. The framework's outcomes are measured through a results-based system aligned with national SDG indicators and supported by coordination mechanisms, such as the Joint Steering Committee and Results Groups.

About the evaluation

The evaluation aimed to assess the performance, impact, and sustainability of the UNSDCF (2021-2025) in Uzbekistan, focusing on its alignment with national development priorities and its effectiveness in achieving intended outcomes. Cross-cutting issues such as gender equality, human rights, disability inclusion, and environmental sustainability were key areas of assessment. The evaluation analyzed the UNSDCF's contributions to national development, identifying influencing factors, and providing evidence-based recommendations to enhance programming and strategy. Primary users included the UN Country Team (UNCT) and the Government of Uzbekistan, with additional stakeholders such as donors, civil society, and the private sector engaged in the consultations on the new CF cycle for Uzbekistan.

The scope covered the programmatic, temporal (2021–October 2024), and geographic dimensions of the UNSDCF, examining its adaptability to challenges such as the COVID-19 pandemic and regional conflicts. The evaluation emphasized the integration of UN principles, prioritization of vulnerable groups, and the application of results-based management. Data collection included document reviews, semi-structured interviews, and focus group discussions, involving 167 stakeholders (98 males, 69 females) from diverse sectors. The methodology combined qualitative and quantitative analyses, with triangulation ensuring credibility and accuracy of findings. Stakeholder engagement was inclusive, prioritizing gender equity and marginalized groups while adhering to a “do-no-harm” approach.

The evaluation faced limitations related to data availability and quality, reliance on secondary sources, and the broad aggregation of reporting. Field visits were limited and not fully representative, though remote consultations supplemented stakeholder input. Despite these challenges, the evaluation provided valuable insights into the UNSDCF's achievements, bottlenecks, and areas for improvement.

Key findings

Relevance

The CF in Uzbekistan has been well-aligned with the country's national development priorities, SDG agenda, and international commitments, maintaining relevance in governance, social development, environmental sustainability, and gender equality. Stakeholders acknowledged its consultative and inclusive formulation process, which engaged government ministries, civil society, and development partners to address key challenges such as gender-responsive policies, anti-corruption reforms, and social protection strategies. However, the focus on short-term interventions diluted efforts to comprehensively address structural and systemic reforms.

The CF showed adaptability during the COVID-19 pandemic by redirecting resources to support health infrastructure, social safety nets, and education. However, the absence of a mid-term review limited its ability to recalibrate to post-pandemic challenges. While it effectively addressed immediate needs, stakeholders stressed the importance of maintaining momentum on long-term goals such as healthcare resilience, inclusive education, and sustainable poverty reduction. Contributions to structural reforms, including e-governance and SDG financing, were impactful but highlighted gaps in regional engagement and tailored local approaches.

Stakeholders identified challenges in adapting global UN priorities to local contexts, with some regions and pressing issues receiving insufficient attention. The restrictive environment for civil society and bureaucratic hurdles further constrained partnerships. To enhance long-term impact, stakeholders recommended focusing on fewer high-priority areas, ensuring deeper, sustained interventions that align with Uzbekistan's evolving development agenda.

Coherence

There has been an evolution, steered by the CF, of UN system's strategic position, credibility, and reliability as a trusted partner for the government of Uzbekistan. By emphasizing inter-agency coordination, alignment

with national priorities, and collaboration with international donors, the CF has strengthened the UN's reputation as a cohesive and effective development actor. The CF has enabled impactful initiatives, particularly through evidence-based policy support, technical assistance, and joint programs that address complex challenges like governance reforms, social protection, and healthcare system resilience. This collaborative approach has also facilitated the UN's role as a mediator between government ministries, ensuring the smooth implementation of critical initiatives.

However, the CF's coherence has been hampered by inconsistent coordination among UN agencies, particularly in delivering cross-sectoral outcomes. While joint programs have demonstrated the potential for impactful, integrated responses, operational inefficiencies, such as overlapping efforts and competition for resources, have weakened their full impact. Stakeholders identified challenges in aligning agency priorities, with some agencies occasionally working in silos or duplicating efforts, particularly in the education and social protection sectors. Furthermore, structural barriers within the UN system, such as varied operational modalities and limited capacity within the RCO, have constrained the effectiveness of coordinated actions.

To maximize the CF's potential, stakeholders suggested fostering stronger inter-agency collaboration, streamlining operational processes, and enhancing joint planning mechanisms. Increased transparency in budgeting and reporting, along with stable leadership in key coordination roles, is essential to maintain trust with government counterparts and international partners. Addressing these gaps could enhance the CF's ability to deliver cohesive, long-term development outcomes aligned with Uzbekistan's national priorities and the SDGs.

Effectiveness

Outcome 1 - Governance and Justice for All

Evaluation findings indicated that the UN's contributions supported Uzbekistan in achieving foundational progress towards more accountable, transparent, inclusive, and gender-responsive governance and rule of law systems, particularly benefiting vulnerable groups. Key achievements included the launch of digital platforms streamlining public services and reducing corruption, which handled over 16 million applications online in 2023, and enhancements to anti-corruption and compliance mechanisms engaging multiple ministries and NGOs. The ratification of international protocols, such as the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and the operationalization of platforms like U-Report, were found to promote inclusive governance by enabling civic dialogue and increasing citizen participation.

In advancing gender-responsive and rights-based frameworks, UN-supported policies, such as the National Gender Equality Strategy and the National Action Plan for Gender-Based Violence, institutionalized protections for women and vulnerable groups while enhancing their participation in decision-making. Initiatives like Women's Advisory Groups and leadership training for over 2,000 women strengthened representation. Efforts in child justice, disability inclusion, and community organization empowerment improved access to justice through gender-sensitive legal aid and free legal clinics for marginalized populations. Advocacy supported by the UN was viewed by stakeholders as significant in driving institutional reforms and aligning governance practices with international best practices.

Challenges were identified when it comes to coordination of initiatives and addressing limited local capacities, which constrained the scalability and sustainability of reform gains. Frequent shifts in reform priorities within Uzbekistan's governance structures were found to affect the long-term impact of these efforts, emphasizing the importance of more cohesive planning and capacity-building to sustain progress.

Outcome 2 - Data and Policy for Sustainable Development

The UN's contributions between 2021 and 2023 were found to enhance national institutions' capacity to measure and monitor SDG progress through improvements in data infrastructure, evidence generation, and

capacity-building. Initiatives such as MICS 6 and the establishment of the MPI supported data-driven policymaking, particularly for poverty reduction strategies. The issuance of Uzbekistan's first green sovereign Eurobond in 2023 and the establishment of SDG-aligned financing mechanisms, alongside the UN's role in Climate Budget Tagging, contributed to integrating SDG goals into national policies and financial strategies. These efforts were found to foster a more inclusive governance framework, particularly through the National Action Plan under the CRPD, which supported the inclusion of marginalized groups in policy development.

However, persistent capacity gaps, particularly in rural areas, economic instability, and fluctuating donor support were identified as challenges to the sustainability and inclusiveness of these advancements. While capacity-building initiatives strengthened the alignment of budgeting and policy frameworks with SDG targets, limitations in local technical expertise and financial management capacity, along with resource constraints, were found to hinder the full operationalization and sustainability of these frameworks. Stakeholders noted that further investments in technical expertise and financial management capacity were needed to ensure that SDG monitoring and data-driven policymaking reached all regions and supported inclusive, long-term development.

Outcome 3 - Inclusive Economic Growth and Decent Work

The CF contributed to reducing unemployment, formalizing informal employment, and alleviating poverty in Uzbekistan by aligning with national priorities and global initiatives. Key contributions included supporting the adoption of policies emphasizing decent job creation and labor rights, as well as the formulation of a New Labour Code that promoted gender equality and decent work principles. Active Labor Market Programs (ALMPs) addressed systemic barriers, integrating NEET youth, informal workers, and persons with disabilities into the labor market through skills training and tailored support.

The CF also supported economic empowerment by promoting entrepreneurship, particularly for women and small businesses, through initiatives like the Business Development Fund and mentorship programs. Vocational and digital skills training programs aligned with market demands helped bridge the gap between education and employment, fostered green jobs, and contributed to economic resilience. However, scaling these programs was found to be constrained by limited funding, infrastructure challenges for green industries, and barriers to financial inclusion for small-scale entrepreneurs.

Challenges were noted in raising awareness of opportunities, aligning education with labor market needs, and enforcing labor policies effectively. Structural barriers, workplace accommodations, and biases were found to limit employment opportunities for marginalized groups. Enhanced resource allocation and institutional support were identified as important for sustaining progress and fostering inclusive economic development.

Outcome 4 - Quality Health, Education, and Social Protection

The CF contributed to advancements in health, education, and social protection systems in Uzbekistan. In health, CF efforts supported the introduction of a national health insurance system, improvements in maternal and child health services, and pilot initiatives such as cervical cancer screening and mental health integration. Digital health innovations and strengthened immunization systems were found to improve service delivery and outreach to underserved populations. In education, reforms included the integration of EMIS, alignment of national statistics with international standards, and expanded access to digital learning. Vocational training programs equipped youth and vulnerable groups with market-relevant skills, and inclusive curricula promoted equitable learning environments. In social protection, the CF supported the establishment of the Unified Social Protection Agency and the SPSR, improving service delivery for vulnerable populations while enhancing disability services and GBV response mechanisms. Challenges, including rural infrastructure gaps, limited funding, capacity constraints, and restrictive cultural norms, were found to hinder long-term improvements in these sectors.

Outcome 5: Environmental Sustainability and Climate Resilience

The CF contributed to progress in disaster risk reduction (DRR), with declines in disaster-related fatalities, injuries, and missing persons by 2023. Economic losses from disasters dropped to 0% of GDP, and investments in sanitation infrastructure improved sewerage coverage. However, challenges in water management persisted. Environmental efforts protected 20.5% of biodiversity-critical terrestrial areas and advanced water ecosystem preservation. Joint programs in the Aral Sea region addressed environmental challenges but required sustained water management and ecosystem preservation efforts. DRR initiatives, including gender-sensitive planning workshops, improved capacity but were found to require stronger monitoring and gender integration to meet 2025 targets. Urban development, climate action, and biodiversity conservation faced persistent barriers, highlighting the need for coordinated efforts.

Efficiency

Resource mobilization under the UNSDCF (2021–2025) faced challenges due to overambitious financial planning, reliance on non-core funding, and external disruptions. While 75–79% of required resources were mobilized annually, expenditure often fell below available funds, reflecting inefficiencies in utilization. Uneven resource mobilization across agencies and outcomes led to funding gaps, particularly in health, social services, and economic development. Stakeholders emphasized that dependency on earmarked contributions, multitasking among personnel, and delays in project execution were found to constrain efficiency. Diversifying funding sources, engaging partners, and improving coordination and M&E systems were highlighted as measures to enhance resource utilization and program delivery.

Impact

Progress toward Uzbekistan's 2025 goals was found to vary, with notable achievements in governance, education, and economic formalization but slower progress in renewable energy, environmental sustainability, and social protection. Data gaps were identified as a significant barrier to comprehensive assessment and evidence-based decision-making, limiting the ability to fully scale up critical sectors.

Sustainability

The UN's contributions to legislative and institutional capacity building supported governance, anti-corruption, and service delivery improvements. Participation and rights-based initiatives for marginalized groups were strengthened. However, shifting government priorities, limited civil society engagement, fragmented coordination, and a focus on short-term visibility-driven initiatives diluted the transformational potential of reforms. Strengthening interdepartmental coordination and aligning efforts with long-term strategic goals were found to be critical for ensuring sustainable outcomes.

Conclusions and recommendations

Relevance -	Conclusion 1. The CF has been strongly aligned with Uzbekistan's development priorities, though certain gaps in focus and adaptability have affected its overall relevance.
Coherence and coordination	Conclusion 2. This cycle of UNSDCF has marked an evolution in UN joint approaches, strengthening its role as a trusted development partner in Uzbekistan, but remaining challenges, including siloed operations, overlapping efforts, and inconsistent coordination mechanisms, have persisted, constraining UNCT's full coherence and integration of efforts.
Effectiveness and impact	<i>Conclusion 3. The UN's engagement in Uzbekistan has been effective in advancing key reforms and aligning with national development priorities, though systemic challenges have limited the scalability and sustainability of some achievements</i>

Efficiency	Conclusion 4. The efficiency of the UN's work in Uzbekistan has been moderate, with achievements in resource mobilization offset by underutilization of funds, reliance on non-core financing, and structural inefficiencies in coordination and monitoring systems.
Sustainability	Conclusion 5. The sustainability of the UN's contributions in Uzbekistan is fragile, with foundational reforms providing a basis for long-term change, but systemic challenges such as shifting priorities, reliance on short-term initiatives, and limited civic engagement hindering the consolidation and scalability of these achievements.

Recommendations

Recommendation 1. (Conclusions 1, 2, and 4)	Strengthen Engagement and Capacity-Building at the Subnational Level
Recommendation 2. (Conclusions 1, 2, and 4)	Adopt a More Strategic Approach to Programming and Operations
Recommendation 3. (Conclusions 1, 3, and 5)	Support and deepen digital transformation efforts
Recommendation 4. (Conclusions 1, 3, and 5)	Continue strategically engaging in the rule of law
Recommendation 5. (Conclusions 1, 3, and 5)	Strengthen coordination and foster sustainable development in the employment sector
Recommendation 6. (Conclusions 1, 3, and 5)	Strengthen the integration and sustainability of equitable access to services across the health and social protection sectors
Recommendation 7. (Conclusions 1, 3, and 5)	Strengthen capacity-building and strategic focus in the education sector
Recommendation 8. (Conclusions 1, 3, and 5)	Strengthen long-term impact and integration in the environment sector
Recommendation 9. (Conclusions 1, 2, 3, and 5)	Strengthen gender and disability inclusion through targeted, data-driven, and protective programming.

1 Introduction

1. This report presents the key findings, conclusions and recommendations of the Evaluation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) for Uzbekistan (2021–2025). The Evaluation was commissioned by the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) through the UN Resident's Coordinator Office (UNRCO) with the purpose to assess the current Cooperation Framework's contribution to development outcomes, focusing on both successes and identifying internal and external gaps or overlaps in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The evaluation will serve as key input in the future UN Cooperation Framework planning while contributing to system-wide oversight, transparency, accountability, and collective learning.
2. The evaluation was conducted in accordance with the United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG) Norms and Standards, ensuring independence, impartiality, and applied a rigorous methodology, as outlined in the Guidelines for the Evaluation of the UNSDCF (September 2021), developed by UNEG and the Development Coordination Office (DCO). The evaluation addressed standard evaluation criteria, including relevance and adaptability, coherence, effectiveness, efficiency, coordination, sustainability, and impact orientation (as outlined in the Evaluation Matrix, Annex 2). It also focused on cross-cutting issues such as gender equality and women's empowerment, human rights and non-discrimination, disability inclusion, and environmental sustainability.
3. The primary users of the evaluation included the UNCT and the Government of Uzbekistan (GoU). Other key stakeholders, such as government counterparts, civil society, the private sector, and respective executive boards, were also expected to benefit from the key insights. Additionally, bilateral and multilateral donors and the broader development community are considered important audiences for the evaluation.
4. The report is organised into several interconnected sections:
 - The first section provides a contextual background for the evaluation, detailing the strategic importance of the UNSDCF within Uzbekistan's development context, and clarifies the purpose, objectives, and scope of the evaluation, evaluation criteria, including consideration of cross-cutting issues, and presents the key evaluation questions.
 - Section 2 describes the methodological design and approach employed in this evaluation, detailing data collection methods and instruments, the process of data analysis, and addressing ethical considerations. It also outlines the limitations to this evaluation.
 - Section 3 presents the key findings of the evaluation, structured around the key evaluation criteria and EQs, while the Section 4 presents Conclusions, Lessons Learned, and Recommendations.
 - Annexes to the report include the Terms of Reference, the Evaluation Matrix, Interview Guides, and additional supporting documentation such as lists of interviewed stakeholders and consulted documents, which provide comprehensive support to the evaluation findings.

1.1 Context analysis

5. Since gaining independence from the Soviet Union in 1991, Uzbekistan has experienced significant political, economic, and social transformations. In 2016, the newly elected President Shavkat Mirziyoyev initiated a comprehensive reform agenda covering governance reforms, socio-economic development, and environmental sustainability.
6. To reinforce its commitment to the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development the Uzbek government adopted 16 national SDGs, along with 125 targets and 206 indicators, to monitor the progress of SDG

implementation on a national level¹. The country's reform agenda was also captured in the "Uzbekistan-2030" Strategy. The strategy outlines 100 key targets across five priority areas, covering education, healthcare, and social protection, economic growth, environmental conditions, governance, and security. The key aims of the Strategy include raising per capita income to USD 4,000 to achieve upper-middle-income status, reducing poverty by half, and increasing renewable energy usage to 40%.²

Governance and Rule of Law

7. In 2023, Uzbekistan adopted a new Constitution after a national referendum, which strengthened commitments to international law, enhanced social and environmental protections. In the sphere of governance, the reforms led to the reduction in the size of the Senate, increased legislative oversight, as well as established provision for a clear separation of powers at the regional level. At the same time, the new Constitution expanded presidential powers with extended terms and greater appointment authority. Shortly after Shavkat Mirziyoyev has been re-elected President of Uzbekistan which, under the new constitutional provisions, could allow him to serve until 2030 or beyond.
8. Despite extensive reforms since 2016 Uzbekistan ranks low on the Democracy Index³. The classification reflects limited political freedom and civil society participation, restricted press freedom, and excessive government control over the judiciary and other state institutions.
9. In November 2023, the UN Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Working Group conducted an examination of Uzbekistan's human rights record during the 4th UPR cycle⁴. While Uzbekistan showcased progress, concerns remain regarding the implementation of international commitments in areas such as freedom of expression, the rights of minorities, and the treatment of human rights activists.
10. Corruption also remains a significant challenge. Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) for 2023 ranked Uzbekistan 121st out of 180 countries, highlighting a high level of perceived corruption in both the public and private sectors⁵. The Uzbek government has implemented a number of anti-corruption initiatives, including the adoption of National Anti-Corruption Strategy to promote transparency and enhance legal frameworks to combat corruption.

Table 1. Overview of Uzbekistan's international rankings

Uzbekistan in International Rankings	2022	2023
SDG Index (out of 166)	77	69
Corruption Perception Index (out of 180)	126	121
Index of Economic Freedom (out of 176)	117	109
Global Innovation Index(out of 132)	82	82
Democracy Index (out of 167)	149	148
WJP Rule of Law Index (out of 142)	78	78
World Happiness Index	53 (out of 146)	54 (out of 137)

Sources: <https://dashboards.sdgindex.org/rankings;> <https://www.transparency.org/en/cpi/2023;>
[https://www.heritage.org/index/;](https://www.heritage.org/index/) <https://www.wipo.int/gii-ranking/en/about;>

¹ <https://nsdg.stat.uz/en>
² <https://theasiatoday.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/Uzbekistan-Strategy-2030.pdf>
³ <https://freedomhouse.org/country/uzbekistan>
⁴ <https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/upr/uz-index>
⁵ <https://www.transparency.org/en/cpi/2023>

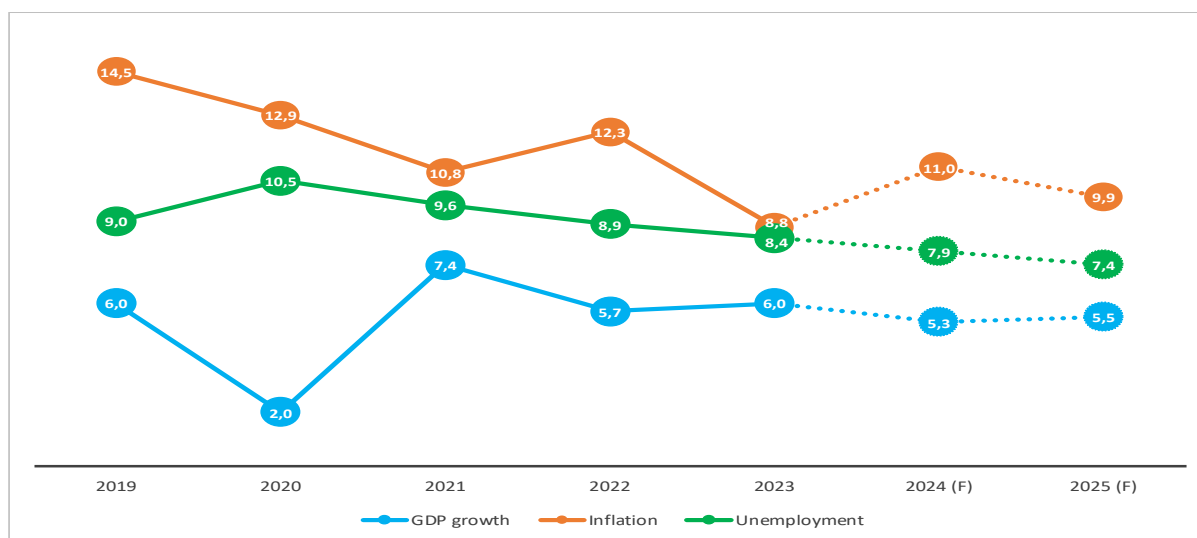
Gender Equality

11. At the same time, Uzbekistan has been making significant progress in promoting gender equality. In 2023, following extensive advocacy by activists and international community Uzbekistan criminalized domestic violence against women and children and established legal accountability for sexual violence and harassment. In 2023 over 21 thousand protection orders were issued to women, most of them related to family incidents⁶.
12. Notable progress has been made in women's political participation, with women holding 34.5% of parliamentary seats, surpassing the global average of 26.7%⁷. Uzbekistan's labor legislation also guarantees the equal rights for men and women to participate in the labor market. However, the country still faces challenges in addressing harmful gender norms and stereotypes as shown by the recent World Bank Country Gender Assessment Report⁸. This stalls the progress toward greater gender equality and hinders women's access to education, healthcare, employment, and decision-making power. As a result, the participation of Uzbek women in the labor market remains relatively low with female unemployment rate twice as high as that of males.⁹

Socio-economic Development

13. Uzbekistan is a lower-middle income country with the GDP growth rate averaging around 5-7% annually. Despite regional conflicts and the impact of Western sanctions on Russia, macroeconomic situation in the country remains generally stable. In 2023 the Uzbek economy grew by 6%, with similar growth forecasts extending into 2024 and 2025. Inflation dropped from 12.3% in 2022 to 8.8% in 2023, reaching a seven-year low. Unemployment rate also decreased to 8.4% reflecting positive trends in the labor market. The improvement is expected to continue, with projections of further unemployment rate decline to 7.4% by 2025.

Figure 1. Overview of Uzbekistan's GDP, inflation and unemployment trends



⁶ <https://daryo.uz/en/2024/05/16/undp-regional-advisor-calls-for-prevention-of-violence-against-women-in-central-asia>

⁷ https://api.data.ipu.org/parliament/uz?chamber_id=13480

⁸

https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/099052824010093257/pdf/P1756961bcc2a50811a9d21c373fd390418.pdf?_gl=1*1wd46tg*_gcl_au*MTUzMjcjY4OS4xNzIxOTI2MzA4

⁹ <https://online.pubhtml5.com/wscvz/lfhh/>

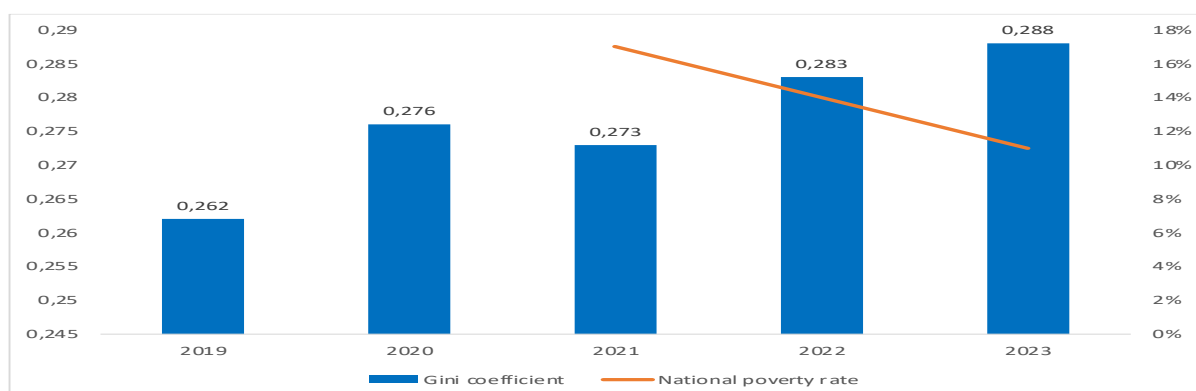
Sources: <https://telega.ph/The-World-Bank-In-2024-Uzbekistan-will-reach-the-ranks-of-the-fastest-growing-economies-in-the-Europe-and-Central-Asia-region-04-12>; <https://www.imf.org/en/Countries/UZB>

14. The record-level fiscal deficit remains of a high concern for Uzbekistan’s macroeconomic stability. In 2023 the deficit reached 5.8% of GDP, driven by increased government spending on energy subsidies, social benefits and subsidized lending to state-owned enterprises (SOEs)¹⁰. The fiscal deficit is projected to remain above the IMF-recommended ceiling of 3%, raising concerns about long-term economic sustainability. To ensure fiscal consolidation, the government of Uzbekistan has been scaling back energy subsidies, as well as improving the targeting of social expenditures and modernizing the tax system.

Social Welfare

15. As of 2023, Uzbekistan's national poverty rate was estimated at 11%, down from 17% in 2021¹¹. The decrease was primary driven by increased wage income and expansion of social protection programs, primary through the Social Protection Single Registry. By 2023 the coverage of social benefits in Uzbekistan reached a total of 10.8 million people¹². The recent establishment of the National Agency for Social Protection (NASP) represents another significant step towards creating an integrated social protection system in Uzbekistan. In particular, the Agency is tasked with integrating social security, social services, and linkages with employment, with a particular focus on child protection and disability inclusion. At the same time, the country has experienced increasing income inequalities with Gini coefficient rising from 0.262 in 2019 to 0.288 in 2023¹³. This is a concerning trend, which may hinder poverty reduction and inclusive economic growth.

Figure 2. Uzbekistan's GINI coefficient and national poverty rate



Sources: <https://blogs.worldbank.org/en/opendata/charting-uzbekistan-s-path-to-poverty-reduction--insights-from-i>; <https://stat.uz/ru/ofitsialnaya-statistika/living-standards>

16. As of the latest report, Uzbekistan's Human Development Index (HDI) was recorded at 0.727 in 2022, positioning the country in the high human development category¹⁴. The country guarantees universal access to primary and secondary education, which contributes to almost 100% literacy rate. The access to early childhood education increased from 20% in 2015 to 62% in 2021¹⁵. Tertiary education enrolment also saw considerable improvements with enrolment tripling to 29% for males and quadrupling to 27.4% for females

¹⁰ <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/uzbekistan/overview#economy>

¹¹ <https://blogs.worldbank.org/en/opendata/charting-uzbekistan-s-path-to-poverty-reduction--insights-from-i>

¹² <https://review.uz/en/post/ocenka-detskoy-bednosti-v-respublike-uzbekistan-infografika>

¹³ <https://stat.uz/ru/ofitsialnaya-statistika/living-standards>

¹⁴ <https://hdr.undp.org/content/human-development-report-2023-24>

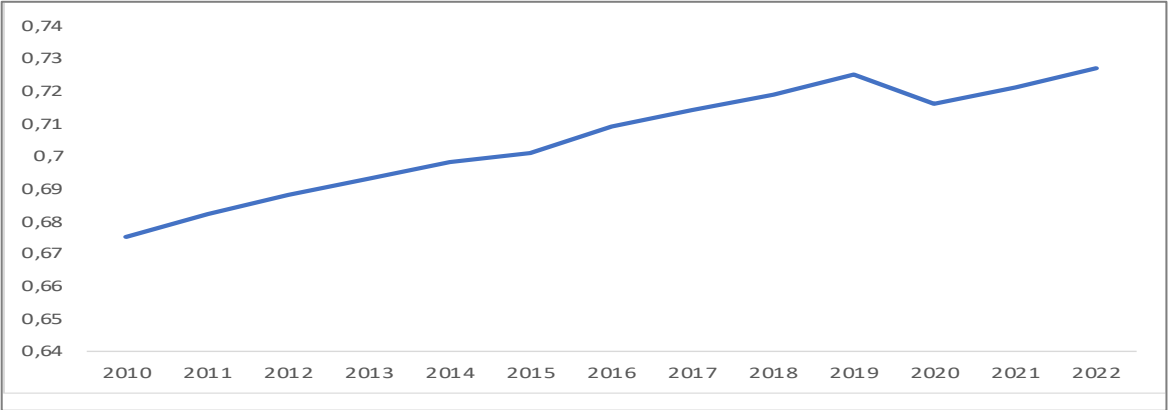
¹⁵

https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/099052824010093257/pdf/P1756961bcc2a50811a9d21c373fd390418.pdf?_gl=1*1wd46tg*_gcl_au*MTUzMjcyNjY4OS4xNzIxOTI2MzA4

between 2017-2022¹⁶. Despite this progress, education system in Uzbekistan faces challenges such as low quality of education, outdated curricula and insufficient resources. The 2022 PISA test results ranked Uzbekistan among the lowest in learning outcomes as well as percentage of qualified teachers globally¹⁷. In 2023 the government of Uzbekistan supported the development of Partnership Compact for Education Reform, which aims to mobilize over USD 600 million to reform education in Uzbekistan and ensure equitable access to quality education.

- 17. In the healthcare, the focus has been on strengthening primary healthcare services, improving maternal and child health, and enhancing the quality and management of healthcare services. According to the World Bank Country Gender Assessment for 2024, since 1990 the infant mortality rate has decreased from 34.6 deaths per 1,000 live births to 9.2 in 2021¹⁸. Average life expectancy saw a steady increase, reaching 74.7 years in 2023¹⁹. At the same time, there are persisting challenges. The majority of public health facilities is outdated and lacks necessary equipment. Moreover, while state health services are funded through national taxation, levels of out-of-pocket spending for healthcare remain high²⁰. This creates additional barriers to accessing healthcare services for the most vulnerable population groups. To address the challenges, the government has been developing Public Health-2030 Strategy, which will serve as a comprehensive reform plan to ensure prevention, infrastructure, workforce development, and digital innovation in the sector.
- 18. With a population of over 35 million Uzbekistan is the most populous country in the region. According to the forecasts, Uzbekistan's population will continue to grow over the next three decades, exceeding 50 million by 2050²¹. Such population dynamic may bring both opportunities and challenges. A growing population may put additional stress on healthcare services and education system. Increase in the share of young people also creates the need for more accelerated job creation. At the same time, there is a possibility for Uzbekistan to harness its demographic dividend. To do this, Uzbekistan will require a targeted long-term action plan with a focus on maximizing the potential its youthful population.

Figure 3. Uzbekistan's Human Development Index



Source: <https://hdr.undp.org/data-center/human-development-index#/indicies/HDI>

Environment Protection and Climate Change

¹⁶ibid

¹⁷ <https://www.oecd.org/publication/pisa-2022-results/country-notes/uzbekistan-2bb94bf1/>

¹⁸

https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/099052824010093257/pdf/P1756961bcc2a50811a9d21c373fd390418.pdf?_gl=1*1wd46tg*_gcl_au*MTUzMjcjY4OS4xNzIxOTI2MzA4

¹⁹ <https://stat.uz/en/press-center/news-of-committee/52595-o-zbekiston-aholisining-o-rtacha-umr-ko-rish-davomiyligi-3>

²⁰ <https://iris.who.int/bitstream/handle/10665/362328/9789289059220-eng.pdf?sequence=1>

²¹ <https://uzbekistan.unfpa.org/en/news/round-table-discussion-dedicated-presentation-population-forecasts-republic-uzbekistan-and-its>

19. Environmental protection has been a priority in Uzbekistan with the new Constitution granting Uzbek citizens the right to a healthy environment. To improve energy security, Uzbekistan announced a long-anticipated energy tariff reform, which outlines steps to gradually adjust energy tariffs to full cost recovery levels by 2026²². If implemented successfully, the reform will allow for a transition to a market-based energy system with additional private investment for infrastructure modernization and efficiency growth. Simultaneously, the government has put emphasis on reducing reliance on fossil fuels with the goal to increase the share of renewables in the energy mix to 25% by 2030.
20. In October 2023, Uzbekistan successfully placed Eurobonds valued at USD 660 million to finance environmentally focused projects²³. These bonds are expected to support initiatives such as water-saving technologies, expansion of sustainable transportation systems, and reforestation efforts.
21. At the same time, the country has faced significant environmental challenges, which could shrink the economy by up to 10% by 2050²⁴. Air pollution caused by fossil fuel use and construction activities has become a significant concern with the average PM2.5 concentration in Uzbekistan 6 times higher than the WHO's recommendations²⁵. The country has been experiencing increased temperatures and more frequent and intense extreme weather events, which may threaten agriculture sector, infrastructure, and overall socio-economic stability. The dependency of Uzbekistan on transboundary rivers, such as the Amu Darya and Syr Darya, makes the country particularly vulnerable to potential water shortages. The shrinking of the Aral Sea has already led to the displacement of communities in Karakalpakstan Republic, deteriorating health conditions and agricultural activities. As climate change exacerbates, more people could be forced to leave their homes in search of better living conditions with projected 2.4 million climate migrants in Central Asia by 2050²⁶.
22. To address these challenges Uzbekistan has focused on adaptation and resilience building, as well as improving water management and agriculture practices. As part of its commitment to the Paris Agreement, Uzbekistan updated its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)²⁷, outlining the country's plans to reduce GHG emissions by transitioning to a low-carbon energy sector, improving energy efficiency, and enhancing afforestation initiatives.

SDGs Implementation

23. Uzbekistan ranked 69th out of 166 countries on 2023 SDG Index rating²⁸. The report highlighted Uzbekistan's progress in ten SDGs, showcasing growth in areas such as poverty eradication, good health and well-being, quality education, gender equality, clean water and sanitation, industry, innovation and infrastructure, sustainable cities and communities, climate action, peace, justice, and strong institutions, as well as partnerships for the goals.
24. In 2023 Uzbekistan submitted the second Voluntary National Review (VNR)²⁹ highlighting the progress in economic development, expanded educational coverage, improvements in healthcare and gender equality. At the same time, the ongoing challenges concern managing demographic growth and implementing ongoing structural reforms across different dimensions.

²²<https://kun.uz/ru/news/2023/09/09/obnarodovan-proyekt-dokumenta-o-liberalizatsiyu-tarifov-na-energonositeli>

²³<https://www.undp.org/uzbekistan/press-releases/uzbekistan-issues-first-ever-green-sovereign-eurobonds-worth-425-trillion-uzs-london-stock-exchange>

²⁴<https://documents.worldbank.org/en/publication/documents-reports/documentdetail/099111423124532881/p1790680f452f10ba0a34c06922a1df0003>

²⁵ https://cdn.who.int/media/docs/default-source/country-profiles/environmental-health/environmental-health-uzb-2022.pdf?sfvrsn=6c967ed9_5&download=true

²⁶ <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2021/09/13/climate-change-could-force-216-million-people-to-migrate-within-their-own-countries-by-2050>

²⁷ <https://www.preventionweb.net/publication/uzbekistan-updated-nationally-determined-contribution>

²⁸ <https://dashboards.sdgindex.org/profiles/uzbekistan>

²⁹ <https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2023/VNR%202023%20Uzbekistan%20Report.pdf>

25. In 2023 Uzbekistan also reinforced its commitment to SDGs implementation by submitting National Commitments on SDG Transformation³⁰. The commitments cover a number of targets in the areas of economic development, human capital, gender equality, and green transition; and are closely aligned with the Uzbekistan 2030 Strategy.

1.2 UNSDCF for Uzbekistan 2021-2025

- 26. The UNSDCF for Uzbekistan (2021-2025) was signed between the UNCT and the Government of Uzbekistan in September 2020. The UNSDCF represents a joint commitment by the Government of Uzbekistan and the UN system to work in close partnership for the achievement of the national priorities framed by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It guides the work of the UN system in Uzbekistan until 2025 in line with international human rights and labor standards.
- 27. The document was prepared whilst taking into account the national priorities as outlined in the Uzbekistan’s National Action Strategy 2017-2021 and drawing on the 16 national SDGs with 125 targets and 206 indicators adopted by the government in 2018. The Cooperation Framework adopted an integrated and multidimensional programming approach, which is guided by the five Ps of the 2030 Agenda: People, Prosperity, Planet, Peace, and Partnerships.
- 28. Since 2016 Uzbekistan has implemented structural reforms. Steps have been taken to open up civic space, as well as increase engagement with international human rights bodies and improve relations with neighboring countries and multilateral institutions. Structural reforms and trade liberalization have attracted increasing foreign investment and created an encouraging environment for sustained economic growth. The UNSDCF identified key areas for supporting Uzbekistan's reform efforts, highlighting the need to address exclusions and inequalities, better integrate the SDGs into national planning, and strengthen policy coherence and administrative capacity for effective implementation.
- 29. The COVID-19 pandemic has significantly disrupted Uzbekistan's economy, with accelerated poverty and unemployment rates. In response to the crisis, the UN in Uzbekistan launched Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan valued at USD 84 million. Additionally, the UN and 22 multilateral organizations in Uzbekistan assembled a socio-economic response package worth over USD 3.5 billion. This initiative aimed to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 on millions of people's livelihoods and the real economy, helping to maintain reform momentum and support Uzbekistan's progress toward its national SDG.
- 30. The Cooperation Framework identified three strategic priorities and five outcomes (Table 1). The priorities were established through inclusive consultation process involving UN entities, national stakeholders, donors, international financial institutions (IFIs), and other development partners. The prioritization exercise also involved partnership survey and a self-assessment to evaluate UN's comparative advantage in terms of mandate, capacity, and strategic positioning.

Table 2. Strategic priorities of UNSDCF 2021-2025

Strategic Priority A: Effective Governance and Justice for All	
Outcome 1: By 2025 all people and groups in Uzbekistan, especially the most vulnerable, demand and benefit from enhanced accountable, transparent, inclusive and gender responsive governance systems and rule of law institutions for a life free from discrimination and violence	ILO, OHCHR, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNODC, WHO, UNHCR, UN Habitat, UN Women, UNOPS
Outcome 2: By 2025, the population of Uzbekistan benefits from more harmonized and integrated implementation of the reform	UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNODC, WHO, UN Habitat,

³⁰ <https://sdgs.un.org/national-commitments-sdg-transformation/22785>

agenda due to strengthened policy coherence, evidence-based and inclusive decisionmaking and financing for development mainstreamed in line with national SDGs	UN Women, UNCTAD, UNESCAP
Strategic Priority B: Inclusive Human Capital Development Leading to Health, Well-being and Resilient Prosperity	
Outcome 3: By 2025, youth, women and vulnerable groups benefit from improved access to livelihoods, decent work and expanded opportunities generated by inclusive and equitable economic growth	FAO, ILO, IOM, ITC, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO, IFAD, UNHCR, UN Habitat, UNECE, UNEP, UNESCAP, UNIDO, UNOPS
Outcome 4: By 2025, the most vulnerable benefit from enhanced access to gender-sensitive quality health, education and social services	ILO, IOM, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNODC, WHO, UN Habitat, UN Women, UNOPS
Strategic Priority C: Sustainable, Climate-responsible and Resilient Development	
Outcome 5: By 2025, the most at risk regions and communities of Uzbekistan are more resilient to climate change and disasters, and benefit from increasingly sustainable and gender-sensitive efficient management of natural resources and infrastructure, robust climate action, inclusive environmental governance and protection	FAO, UNDP, UNDRR, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNICRI, WHO, IFAD, UN Habitat, UNECE, UNEP, UNESCAP, UNIDO, UNOPS

Source: UNSDCF 2021-2025

31. A set of SDG indicators with baselines and annual targets were defined to measure progress towards each outcome. The Results Framework emphasized collaboration with national stakeholders and donors to achieve the set outcomes. To ensure timely adaption to changes in the country context, the Cooperation Framework incorporated annual revisions to the CCA and Joint Work Plans in the implementation process.

Background and links with UNDAF 2016-2020

32. UN programming, coordination and financing for the UNSDCF 2021-2025 was informed by the 2016-2020 UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) Evaluation. The Evaluation was conducted in 2019 and confirmed the relevancy of the Framework to the country's context and national priorities. Youth and data have been featured as priority interventions recommended for the next UNSDCF cycle.
33. The UN's comparative advantage was confirmed in its normative role, technical expertise, and convening power. The sustainability of UNDAF results was mixed with institutionalized progress in areas of human rights and gender equality but limited political support for civil society and capacity gaps among partners.
34. The data gap was mentioned as a cross-cutting concern. A lack of SMART indicators and reporting gaps hindered the assessment of outcomes, highlighting the need for better metrics in the next cycle. Financial reporting inconsistencies across UN agencies limited the ability to assess the UNDAF's financial performance. Almost 50% of the UNDAF remained unfunded, pointing to the need for innovative financing approaches.
35. UNSDCF 2021-2025 addresses the mentioned conclusions and recommendations. Youth is specifically highlighted as a priority in a new Framework with the introduction of Youth Advisory Board as a channel for integration of youth voices and issues in the UN's strategies and programmes. To ensure more sustainable results, the UNSDCF integrates institutional capacity gap assessment through annual CCA updates and CF performance reviews. The new Framework also acknowledges the issue of data with the introduction of Monitoring, Evaluation and Data Support Group responsible for ensuring sound results-based management.

Linkages to the 2015 Development Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

36. The UNSDCF has been supporting the Government of Uzbekistan towards achieving SDGs in line with the Agenda 2030. Regarding funding distribution of UN interventions across SDG targets in Uzbekistan over 2021-2025, SGD 3 (Good Health and Well-being) receives substantial funding from multiple sources and is supported by a variety of UN agencies. Other prioritized SDGs include SDG 16 (Peace and Justice), SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 13 (Climate Action), SDG 5 (Gender Equality), SDG 8 (Decent Jobs and Economic Growth), SDG 1 (No Poverty) and SDG 2 (Zero Hunger). These SDGs reflect the core priorities in Uzbekistan's development agenda, with a focus on improving health, education, public administration, gender equality, economic opportunities and environmental sustainability.

Financial Framework

37. Multi-Year Funding Framework's resources required to deliver the entire UNSDCF programme cycle accounted for USD 437.4 million. By 2025 the resources indicated in JWPs by the UN Agencies constituted over USD762 million. The available resources reached USD 325 million reaching 74.3.% coverage of required resources. The first three years of the CF implementation saw an uneven increase in expenditures, totaling to USD 182 million (Figure 4).

Figure 4. Overview of required, available resources and expenditures (annual)



Source: UN Info

Overview of the UNSDCF Coordination Mechanism

38. The UNSDCF is implemented through country programme instruments of UN entities, coordinated via Joint Work Plans (JWPs) that reflect Cooperation Framework outputs. Governance is led by the Joint Steering Committee (JSC), co-chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister and the UN Resident Coordinator, with members from central ministries and UN agencies. The Ministry of Economy and Finance coordinates UNSDCF implementation, and the JSC provides strategic oversight, aligning the framework with national priorities, meeting annually for performance reviews and JWP endorsement.
39. The Government integrated its National SDG Council into the JSC in 2022 and the UNSDCF aligns with government priorities and SDGs. Three Results Groups (RGs) develop and monitor JWPs across strategic priorities, while five Thematic Groups (e.g., Gender, Human Rights, and Youth) mainstream guiding principles. Ad-hoc groups, such as those addressing situation of forcibly displaced (Afghan nationals), stateless people and returnees from conflict zones, respond to emerging issues.
40. To support delivery, the UNCT established Programme Support Groups, including the Monitoring, Evaluation, and Data Group (split into separate M&E and Data Coordination Groups in 2024), the Joint Communications Group for SDG messaging, and the Operations Management Team for efficiency improvements. The Youth Advisory Board ensures youth perspectives are integrated. Over the reference period, there have been nine

joint programmes to enhance coherence and impact, some of which were initiated in the previous cycle (see list in Annex 10).

1.3 Analysis of the UNSDCF's Theory of Change (ToC)

41. During the inception phase, the evaluation team conducted a detailed assessment of the UNSDCF ToC and its alignment with Uzbekistan's national development priorities. This analysis focused on the coherence and logical progression of the ToC, examining how outputs within the UNSDCF framework contribute to outcomes, and how these outcomes collectively support strategic national objectives. The assessment revealed that the ToC effectively aligned with Uzbekistan's key pillars, such as governance reform, economic development, social equity, and resilience-building, and reflects a well-integrated approach to advancing these areas (Discussed further under Section 3.1).
42. The assessment showed that the UNSDCF structure ensured a consistent link between planned outputs and outcomes, demonstrating a logical progression from interventions to desired impacts. Outputs, such as capacity building, policy reform, and support for civil society engagement, have been designed to foster sector-specific improvements while also addressing broader cross-cutting priorities that align with the SDGs. These outputs were collectively set to drive progress across multiple areas, reinforcing national priorities in a manner that is both responsive and adaptable to the evolving policy landscape.
43. Furthermore, the UNSDCF framework enabled for a mutual accountability mechanism between the Government of Uzbekistan and the UN system. This framework was underpinned by a clear result chain that links activities to outcomes, providing a reliable basis for both evaluation and ongoing adjustments where necessary. This mutual accountability had strengthened the alignment of the UNSDCF with national objectives, ensuring that outcomes were directly tied to Uzbekistan's developmental focus areas.
44. The consultations with the UNCT and the review of available documentation indicated ToC's flexibility and adaptability, as prerequisite for the framework to ensure ongoing relevance throughout implementation. Over the period, given the stability of Uzbekistan's development trajectory, there was no need for substantial changes, and only minor adjustments were made to clarify certain outputs' scope and thematic focus.
45. In conclusion, the UNSDCF ToC was found to be sound and well-aligned with Uzbekistan's strategic priorities. It supported the country's development goals in an integrated and structured manner, reinforcing national policies while advancing progress toward the SDGs. The ToC's logical framework provided a stable foundation for monitoring, evaluation, and accountability as well.

1.4 Objectives and purpose of the evaluation

46. This evaluation focused on assessing the overall performance and impact of the UNSDCF in Uzbekistan, examining its alignment with national development priorities, its effectiveness in achieving desired outcomes, and the sustainability of its interventions. Key cross-cutting issues, including gender equality, disability inclusion, human rights, and environmental sustainability, were also evaluated. The assessment considered the UNSDCF's contributions to national development, identified factors influencing performance, and provided evidence-based recommendations to enhance future initiatives. The evaluation aimed to strengthen programming, inform future planning, and assess strategy effectiveness, while ensuring accountability and documenting lessons learned.
47. As mentioned in the Introduction section, the primary users included the UNCT and the Government of Uzbekistan, with additional stakeholders such as donors, civil society, and the private sector. Detailed overview of objectives is presented in Figure 7 below.

1.5 Scope of the evaluation

48. **Programmatic scope:** The unit of analysis of this evaluation was the UNSDCF 2021-2025, understood as the set of priorities, outcomes and outputs that were included in programmatic document.³¹ COVID-19 pandemic and conflict escalations were also considered to assess the adaptability of the UNCT and its operations (e.g., methods for managing stakeholder participation and inclusiveness). The evaluation had a retrospective lens by assessing past contributions of the CF to national development, identifying factors that influenced performance, and drawing conclusions on the UN's role. The evaluation's forward-looking perspective focused on providing actionable recommendations to enhance future CF contributions, ensuring they are informed by the lessons learned from this evaluation.
49. **The temporal scope** covered the period between January 2021 to October 2024 (end of field mission).
50. **Geographic scope:** The primary data collection took place in the capital city (Tashkent), while remote Focus Group was conducted with representatives of all regional administrations³².
51. **UN normative work, programming principles and cross-cutting issues:** The evaluation assessed the alignment of UN normative work with UN standards and principles, focusing on how well the UNCT prioritized vulnerable groups and whether they benefited from accessible and quality support. It also examined the integration of key principles, such as human rights, gender equality, environmental sustainability, and results-based management. Initial briefings with the RCO and UNCT shaped the evaluation design, emphasizing learning and accountability objectives.

1.6 Evaluation Criteria and Questions

52. The analytical framework for this evaluation built on the UNDCO/ UNEG Guidelines for the Evaluation of the UNSDCFs,³³ and the Evaluation Questions that have been provided in the ToR as well as the analysis of the ToC of the UNSDCF (See Annex 5 with Synoptic Table). The evaluation assessment was structured around 6 key evaluation criteria – *relevance and adaptability, coherence, effectiveness, efficiency, coordination, orientation towards impact and sustainability*(see Annex 2 with Evaluation matrix).

³¹ United Nations (2021); UN Sustainable Development Framework for Uzbekistan 2021-2025

³² These included: Finance departments of the khokimiats in Fergana, Andijan, Namangan, Surkhandaria, Bukhara, Dkizak, Navoi, Samarkand, Syrdaria, and Khorezm regions; Kashkadaria region's Infrastructure and Construction Department; the Ministry of Economy of Karakalpakistan Republic; and Tashkent region's Finance Department.

³³ [UNEG \(2021\); Guidelines for the Evaluation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework](#)

2 Methodological approach

53. The evaluation employed a mixed-methods, theory-based approach, integrating primary and secondary data collection through various techniques. This approach facilitated a comprehensive assessment of the UNSDCF results, including any unintended consequences, while enabling the ET to refine data collection methods to ensure data utility for analysis. The flexibility of mixed methods allowed adjustments based on emerging findings, stakeholder feedback, and changes in context, ensuring the evaluation remained responsive and comprehensive throughout its implementation.
54. An iterative, consultative approach was adopted, with regular exchanges between the ET and the RCO to promote mutual understanding of the evaluation process and make adjustments as needed to support the successful completion of the evaluation.
55. The evaluation's stakeholder mapping initially identified approximately 110 entities, covering a wide range of groups and sectors. From this, a sample of institutions was selected through purposive sampling in collaboration with the RCO for primary data collection (See an overview of consulted stakeholders below). Criteria for inclusion included the stakeholders' level of engagement with UN interventions, experience with UN support, understanding of UNSDCF themes, and their ability to represent institutional perspectives on UN contributions. The selection emphasized gender equity and inclusivity, prioritizing representation from women, marginalized groups, and vulnerable populations to capture a nuanced view of the UNSDCF's impact. A strict "do-no-harm" approach was applied, ensuring duty of care for interviewees and team members, with special care taken to represent diverse experiences. Children were not consulted as part of this process. The final sample included 13 UN agencies (both resident and non-resident), government bodies at central and regional levels, donors, civil society organizations, private sector actors, and other development partners.
56. This approach enabled the evaluation to encompass a wide spectrum of stakeholder insights, ensuring a comprehensive and balanced understanding of UN activities under the current Cooperation Framework.

2.1 Data collection methods

57. The key data collection methods included the desk review, semi-structured interviews,³⁴ and FGDs, as detailed below. Collected data was managed systematically and stored safely by the evaluation team. The evaluation matrix served as basis for such process (See Annex 2), ensuring a methodical approach to data collection. The ET followed data collection tools to ensure consistency in the data collection phase (Annex 9).

Document review

58. Since the onset of the evaluation, the ET maintained document review as a key activity, given that a number of documents was collected throughout the data collection phase, The ET also produced an internal desk review to help identify data gaps and inform the primary data collection. The key documentation that was analysed included the UNSDCF Document, Common Country Analysis (CCA), Joint Work Plans (JWP), Annual Results Reports (ARR), UN agency-specific Programme Documents, Performance review reports, JSC Minutes, Joint Communication Strategy, National Development strategies and plans, and other external sources. Additionally, relevant evaluations³⁵ were used as secondary sources of information.

Semi-structured interviews

³⁴ A semi structured interview "revolves around a list of topics and questions with varying degrees of specification and a flexible order." It includes a guide with predetermined open-ended questions and probing follow-up questions to prompt a discussion. Source: World Bank Independent Evaluation Group. Evaluation of International Development Interventions: An Overview of Approaches and Methods.

³⁵ e.g., draft UNDP ICPE Uzbekistan Evaluation; End-of-Cycle Evaluation (ECE) of the UN Multi-Partner Human Security Trust Fund for the Aral Sea region in Uzbekistan (Aral Sea Trust Fund), 2019-2024; project level evaluations

59. Building on the desk review, the ET interviewed key stakeholder interviews (KIIs) the RC and the RCO team; ii) UN agencies iii) key ministries and national institutions; iv) regional and local authorities in sampled regions; v) key civil society and private sector partners; vii) donors, and viii) development partners. The interviews served as key data collection method, collecting reflections, experiences and feedback on UNCT engagement in Uzbekistan, and also served as sounding boards for the ET in testing hypotheses and triangulation of data collected through document review.

Focus Group Discussions (FGDs)

60. The ET also conducted FGDs, complementing Key informant interviews, with a total of 16 FGDs with eleven FDGs with resident and non-resident UN agencies;with civil society organisations, think tanks and academia based in Tashkent; with private sector partners based in Tashkent;with bilateral partners and donors.
61. Over the primary data collection, a total of 167 interlocutors (69F, and 98M) were consulted through KIIs and FGDs from UNCT; 21 national institutions; 13 regional administrations³⁶, 7 donors and development partners, and 14 CSOs and private sector (See Annex 8).

2.2 Data analysis

62. The Evaluation Matrix served as the main framework for the analysis of data, with assumptions and indicators serving as analysis frames towards synthesis of findings at EQ level. A variety of data analysis methods were applied, including the descriptive, trend, and comparative analyses that served to summarise key metrics such as resource allocation, service delivery trends, while assessing the efficiency and effectiveness. Thematic, narrative, and content analyses delved into qualitative aspects, capturing social dynamics of interventions. The use of limited contribution analysis aided in establishing causal relationships and synthesising broader trends.
63. Triangulation of data from multiple sources—document reviews, interviews, FGDs, and quantitative metrics—helped to strengthen the credibility of the findings. The ET applied a **cross-validation approach**³⁷ for information from various sources and different collection methods to ensure the accuracy of findings. In parallel, the ET examined multiple sources to ensure the internal validity of the findings. This **triangulation**, involving various sources, ensured the confirmation and cross-checking of major trends while establishing a pattern through the convergence of data from different sources³⁸. Singular-source observations were considered with caution.
64. The Exit Debrief at the end of the primary data collection served to present initial observations and cross-check any data gaps and factual corrections. Once draft report was submitted, the ET collected feedback from RCO and UNCT on the findings, conclusions and recommendations, and finalised the report integrating these inputs. .

2.3 Ethical considerations

65. The evaluation adhered to the 2020 United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG) ethical guidelines,³⁹ emphasising independence, impartiality, integrity, accountability, and respect. The ET prioritised the rights and welfare of participants, ensuring informed consent, privacy, confidentiality, and anonymity. Measures

³⁶ These included: Finance departments of the khokimiats in Fergana, Andijan, Namangan, Surkhandaria, Bukhara, Dkizak, Navoi, Samarkand, Syrdaria, and Khorezm regions; Kashkadaria region's Infrastructure and Construction Department; the Ministry of Economy of Karakalpakistan Republic; and Tashkent region's Finance Department.

³⁷Morras-Imas and Rist define triangulation of methods as "Collection of the same information using different methods in order to increase the accuracy of data", p. 300. MorraImas, L. G., &Rist, R. C. (2009). The Road to Results: Designing and Conducting Effective Development Evaluations. Washington, D.C., World Bank.

³⁸Morras- Imas and Rist, p. 376.

³⁹ UNEG (2020); UNEG Ethical Guidelines for Evaluation

were in place to avoid risks or harm to participants, with sensitivity toward religious beliefs, gender roles, disability, ethnicity, and local customs, ensuring equitable participant recruitment, including women and marginalized groups. No children were involved in the evaluation process.

66. Before engaging stakeholders, the ET sought informed consent, clarifying the evaluation's purpose and scope. Stakeholders retained the right to withdraw at any stage. The ET ensured privacy and confidentiality, securely handling all data and maintaining the anonymity of sensitive information to prevent any risk of reprisal. Confidential data, such as interview records and notes, were retained in secure files until the evaluation's completion. All ET members acted independently, with no prior involvement in the UNSDCF's design, implementation, or monitoring, and no conflicts of interest.

2.4 Limitations

67. The evaluation faced limitations concerning the availability and quality of data sources and documents. This evaluation primarily relied on secondary data sources, including agency-specific programme evaluations, such as UNDP ICPE. However, other agencies did not have such reports at the time of the finalisation of this evaluation, presenting challenges. To overcome this challenge, the ET utilised annual UN reports and agency-specific annual reports or intervention level- evaluations (where available). These sources, however, often lacked consistency, completeness, or sufficient detail to provide a nuanced understanding of the outcomes and impacts. Another key limitation was that the reporting was often broad and aggregated, hindering the identification of specific achievements and bottlenecks across different thematic areas, target groups or geographic areas. These limitations collectively reduced the evaluation's ability to provide a comprehensive and contextually informed assessment of the UN's contributions.
68. In the absence of detailed data, the evaluation tapped on general reports and primary sources, such as KIIs and FGDs, managing to consult a wide range of stakeholders, as discussed above. Although the ET planned to visit two regions, Aral Sea and Fergana Valley, these visits were not sufficiently representative of all UNCT activities in the field. The limited scope of field engagement also restricted the ability to validate findings through direct observation and comprehensive stakeholder consultations.
69. The field mission was also split in two stages due to the need to ensure sufficient time for government counterparts to respond to interview request. The Team adopted a hybrid approach, including remote consultations, which helped expand stakeholder input.

3 Key findings

70. This chapter presents the key findings from the analysis of the UN's work in Uzbekistan, focusing on *Relevance, Coherence, Coordination, Effectiveness, and Efficiency*. It also includes an assessment of progress toward *Impact and Sustainability*.

3.1 Relevance and adaptability

71. The following section present the key findings from the analysis of the alignment of the UNSDCF's strategic priorities with the country's development needs, national goals, and international commitments, as well as its responsiveness to emerging challenges. The findings are organised around sub-questions and related assumptions, followed by the summary answer at EQ level.

EQ 1. Is the CF adapted well to emerging needs?

Alignment and consistency of CF objectives with the needs, priorities, and policies of the government

Finding 1. The CF has been well aligned and responsive to the Uzbekistan's development priorities, SDG agenda and international commitments in the areas of CF's focus. However, the evaluation found that UN support often accommodates diverse, ad-hoc government requests, prioritizing high-visibility events and immediate results over long-term, strategic programmes. This approach strengthens UN's responsiveness, but risks undermining its focus on sustainable capacity-building and cohesive governance reform.

72. The evaluation findings reveal that the CF aligns well with Uzbekistan's national development priorities, policies, and international commitments. Drawing from the National Action Strategy 2017–2021,⁴⁰ the 2019 CCA,⁴¹ and a partnership survey conducted in 2019 among 28 international organizations,⁴² the UN identified thematic areas where it had a comparative advantage, shaping the CF to address inclusive economic development, governance, environmental sustainability, social development, and gender equality.⁴³ Stakeholders have noted that this alignment has ensured the CF's relevance to Uzbekistan's vision for sustainable growth and international obligations.⁴⁴
73. The consultative process for the CF's design was extensive and included diverse participants, such as high-level government representatives, civil society organizations, the private sector, and development partners. Stakeholders highlighted the active participation of civil society groups, including women's rights advocates, in shaping the framework to address issues like gender equality, healthcare, and economic empowerment. This approach was acknowledged as critical in creating an inclusive framework that integrates grassroots perspectives and ensures coordinated actions.
74. The CF's programming and planning were guided by findings from the 2016–2020 UNDAF evaluation,⁴⁵ which informed key adjustments, such as refining the results framework and identifying priority areas for intervention. Stakeholders have noted that the UN's technical expertise and policy advice were relevant in supporting areas like health, governance, social protection, and climate change.⁴⁶ For instance, support for

⁴⁰ National Development Strategy 2017-2021 <https://strategy.uz/index.php?static=programma>

⁴¹ United Nations (2019); UN Common Country Analysis (Uzbekistan)

⁴² United Nations (2021); UN Sustainable Development Framework for Uzbekistan 2021-2025

⁴³ Ibid

⁴⁴ Ibid

⁴⁵ The 2016-2020 Uzbekistan UNDAF Final Evaluation Report

⁴⁶ United Nations (2019); UN Common Country Analysis (Uzbekistan)

digital public services and e-governance directly contributed to government reforms aimed at improving service delivery and public accountability.⁴⁷

75. The UN's work in strengthening national data capacities has supported evidence-based policymaking in Uzbekistan. Stakeholder feedback highlights the role of the UN in developing the Integrated SDG Financing Strategy, the National Strategy for Transition from Informal to Formal Economy,⁴⁸ and the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI), which have improved data collection and use for targeted poverty reduction strategies. The establishment of an Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF) has reinforced financial planning for sustainable development.⁴⁹
76. In economic development, stakeholders emphasized that UN initiatives in job creation, digital skills training, and support for small businesses align with Uzbekistan's goal to reduce poverty and formalize the labor market. Programs focusing on vulnerable groups, including women and youth, have contributed to the government's objectives of promoting inclusive development and reducing poverty rates.
77. In health and education, the UN's support was relevant to national priorities. Stakeholder feedback highlighted its contributions to universal health coverage, maternal and child healthcare, and disease prevention, aligning with the National Health Strategy. In education, initiatives in teacher training and curriculum development supported government efforts to address regional disparities and improve quality, though some stakeholders noted the need for more flexible programming to respond to policy changes.
78. In social protection, the CF aligned with national efforts to empower marginalized groups and improve service delivery. Stakeholders noted the UN's support in creating a social protection strategy and a social registry system as critical for enhancing coordination and targeting vulnerable populations. Financial and technical assistance for initiatives like case management and gender-based violence training further addressed national priorities.
79. The evaluation findings highlight that the CF addressed environmental sustainability, climate change, and biodiversity conservation in line with Uzbekistan's priorities. Projects integrating the Green Growth Strategic Framework (GGSF)⁵⁰ have supported sustainable agriculture, water resource management, and climate resilience, with a focus on empowering women in agriculture and improving rural livelihoods.⁵¹
80. The evaluation reveals that some stakeholders view the CF as broad and lacking strategic prioritization, with instances of overlap in areas where external expertise could be more effective, such as in education. A need for better coordination with IFIs was also identified. Additionally, there is sometimes a disconnect between global UN mandates and Uzbekistan's local priorities, as seen with WHO addressing global health issues like hepatitis C, which has relatively low prevalence in Uzbekistan, while more pressing issues, such as access to clean drinking water in Kashkadarya and Surkhandarya, may be overlooked. This highlights the need for a more tailored approach to align global mandates with local needs.
81. Although the UN's visibility is strong nationally, regional disparities persist. Regions like the Aral Sea area receive significant attention, while others remain underserved due to shifting government priorities and limited local resources. Stakeholders emphasize the importance of increased sub-national engagement to address localized needs, support policy implementation, and build capacity. While the UNCT has started addressing these gaps through regional consultations, a more systematic approach is needed to bridge the national-regional divide, particularly as IFIs and other partners focus efforts primarily in Tashkent.
82. Stakeholders also note that Uzbekistan's restrictive environment for civil society limits the pool of implementing partners. Bureaucratic hurdles for NGO registration and funding reduce the capacity of civil

⁴⁷ e.g., Law on Anti-corruption screening of legal acts, Law on Civil Service, Law on Conflict of Interest, Law on State funded Legal Aid, etc.

⁴⁸ <https://www.ilo.org/projects-and-partnerships/projects/transition-informal-formal-employment-project-uzbekistan>

⁴⁹ <https://inff.org/country/uzbekistan>

⁵⁰ https://www.undp.org/sites/g/files/zskgke326/files/2022-12/Final%20GGSF%20071222_FINAL_Clean.docx-2.pdf

⁵¹ United Nations (2021); UN Sustainable Development Framework for Uzbekistan 2021-2025

society organizations (CSOs) to act as effective partners. Despite some progress, stakeholders highlight the need for a comprehensive strategy to strengthen partnerships with CSOs and ensure their sustainable growth, which is critical for effective and locally relevant interventions.⁵²

UNSDCF's responsiveness to emerging and unforeseen needs, especially those of the most vulnerable, disadvantaged and marginalized groups

Finding 2. The UNSDCF has demonstrated considerable adaptability in addressing emerging needs across various population groups and vulnerable communities in Uzbekistan, especially in addressing the impact of Covid 19. However, the lack of mid-term review is considered a missed opportunity for adjusting the CF to changing national realities. Furthermore, with the growing government emphasis on sub-national level interventions, stakeholders identify the opportunity for increased UN focus on subnational level and hands-on experience.

83. The adaptability of the UNCT to unforeseen challenges was frequently highlighted as a core strength by interviewed stakeholders. For instance, desk research and the comparison of the United Nations' interventions in Uzbekistan during 2019-2021⁵³ reveals significant shifts in priorities, approaches, and outcomes due to the COVID-19 pandemic. While in 2019, the UN's focus in Uzbekistan was on advancing sustainable development and aligning national priorities with the SDGs and the interventions were centered on systemic, long-term reforms with significant progress achieved across key areas (i.e., advancements in economic liberalization and governance reforms, adoption of gender equality and protection from violence laws, strengthening of social protection system), the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 introduced unprecedented challenges, **forcing a shift from systemic reforms to emergency response measures**. One example includes the establishment of a health information system was a direct response to the need for better data collection and response capabilities during health emergencies. Annual reports reveal that over 16 thousand health workers were equipped with essential supplies. UN supported the rolling out a comprehensive risk communication campaign, reaching over 6 million children and 2 million parents with infection prevention information and supported immunization logistics for 750,000 children, in response to mitigating disruptions to routine healthcare⁵⁴. Stakeholders also noted that UN programs enhanced support for vulnerable groups through scaling up single registry for social protections, and expanding gender equality programs including tools like GBV hotlines and mobile apps to provide support to women in remote areas. By 2021, there was improved health access and vaccination rates which restored momentum toward SDG health targets. Interventions increasingly integrated resilience and recovery frameworks, realigning with pre-pandemic priorities.⁵⁵
84. Immediate needs shifted somewhat the focus from governance and environmental reforms temporarily. Stakeholders noted that in the pandemic response, UNCT was also able to repurpose plans and resources which allowed for some continuity in addressing SDGs while navigating a global health crisis.⁵⁶ By 2021, interventions regained focus on key CF sector priorities, quality and equity, though recovery gaps remained for marginalized groups.⁵⁷
85. Within the reference period, evaluation found that the broad scope of the CF allowed for flexibility and adaptability, however, evaluation findings identified the absence **of a mid-term review** for the CF as a critical missed opportunity to adapt to new and emerging realities and shifting of national priorities over the period of CF implementation. Without scheduled reviews, stakeholders believed the CF's relevance was weakened, leaving gaps in addressing changing context, identifying new gaps and re-focus on specific priorities and

⁵² UNDP IEO (2024); ICPE Uzbekistan

⁵³ UN (2020); 2019 UN Country Annual Results Report: Uzbekistan; UN (2021); 2020 UN Country Annual Results Report: Uzbekistan; UN (2022); 2021 UN Country Annual Results Report: Uzbekistan

⁵⁴ UN: Consolidated Multilateral Covid-19 Socio-Economic Response and Recovery Offer - Final Report

⁵⁵ UN (2020); 2019 UN Country Annual Results Report: Uzbekistan; UN (2021); 2020 UN Country Annual Results Report: Uzbekistan

⁵⁶ Ibid.

⁵⁷ ibid

efforts to evolving needs. Stakeholders emphasized the importance of incorporating regular reviews into the CF to better support its adaptability and ensure its continued relevance in rapidly changing environments.

3.2 Coherence and Coordination

EQ 2. How well does the CF fit?

Extent to which the CF strengthened the UN System's position, credibility, and reliability as a partner for the government and other stakeholders, and the extent to which post reform RCO roles and responsibilities enabled better coherence for the country team (SQ 2.1; SQ 5.2)

Finding 3. The CF has enabled UN system to strategically position itself with the government of Uzbekistan. UN emphasis on inter-agency coordination, alignment with national priorities, and engagement with international donors has sustained the UN's reputation. Still, outstanding challenges were noted in achieving full coherence due to competition and inconsistent coordination among UN agencies in some cross-sectoral themes or funding opportunities.

86. Evaluation findings indicate that the UNSDCF has positioned the UN as a credible and strategic partner in Uzbekistan, facilitating development coordination and targeted contributions across key sectors. Stakeholder feedback highlights that inter-agency coordination, alignment with national priorities, and engagement with donors have sustained the UN's reputation as a trusted convener. The CF has served as a foundation for improved collaboration, demonstrated by a significant increase in joint programs (see Annex 10 for list of joint programs). The target of two joint programs (JPs) per year was greatly surpassed, with nearly 23 joint programs implemented (and five more in the pipeline), indicating strong growth in this area. This success is partly attributed to pooled funds, such as the Aral Sea Fund and the Uzbekistan Vision 2030⁵⁸ Fund, which have supported collaborative initiatives. Guidance on joint programming, issued in 2023, was tested in the new Uzbekistan Vision 2030 Fund. While the guidance provided a valuable framework, stakeholders noted it is somewhat idealistic and challenging to implement fully in practice. Examples of successful joint programs include the JP on social protection, which supported the development of Uzbekistan's first National Social Protection Strategy. However, joint programming remains concentrated among a few agencies like UNICEF and UNDP, with limited participation from others. Stakeholders noted that while guidance issued in 2023 has improved planning, implementation challenges persist due to varying capacities and complexities in operationalizing joint efforts. Overall, in 2023, the UNCT carried out 280 joint activities aligned with national SDGs across five outcomes, demonstrating high levels of coordination and commitment to shared goals in governance, healthcare, and education⁵⁹. These comprehensive solutions not only addressed critical needs, but also reinforced the UN's reputation as a trusted partner in Uzbekistan.
87. Stakeholders emphasized that thematic collaboration, such as common groups focusing on health, employment, and education, has improved coherence compared to past practices, where agencies worked independently. Despite these advances, gaps in coordination persist, particularly in sectors like social protection and education, where agencies often operate in silos. Mission creep⁶⁰ and fragmented approaches were also identified as ongoing issues, diluting the effectiveness of unified programming. Efforts by some agencies to improve coordination, such as joint planning meetings, were highlighted as positive steps, but cross-sector coordination remains inconsistent, limiting the CF's potential impact.

⁵⁸ <https://mptf.undp.org/fund/uzb00>

⁵⁹ UN (2024); 2023 UN Country Annual Results Report: Uzbekistan

⁶⁰ In this context, **mission creep** refers to situations where one agency gradually expands its activities into areas that fall under the mandate of another agency. This can occur when an agency begins to address issues, implement programmes, or claim expertise in areas where it does not have a clear mandate, leading to overlapping roles, duplication of efforts, and potential friction among agencies.

88. Field findings reveal that competition among UN agencies for funding continues to undermine coherence, with overlaps in programming and resistance to central oversight weakening a unified approach. Although the CF Guidance issued in June 2022 provides a primary framework for agency programs, and requires agencies to consult the RC on the alignment of their programs, challenges such as lack of coordination and establishment of clear roles between agencies, **lack of sharing information amongst agencies and activities beyond the CF**, weaken the unified approach intended by the CF. The RCO plays a key role in fostering collaboration, but frequent leadership turnover has disrupted continuity and weakened partnerships with government counterparts. Stakeholders expressed concern about the lack of shared information and financial transparency among agencies, which affects accountability and donor trust. According to some stakeholders, the RCO's efforts to encourage coordination and joint reflection, but this is not always achieved, as the consistency in sharing the required information varies. This affects the implementation of unified programming strategies, especially in contexts where agencies resist central oversight, preferring independent operations by directly engaging with the government.
89. Stakeholder feedback also highlighted a perception that the UN's interventions are often donor-driven, with a focus on small-scale projects rather than long-term systemic reforms. This risks the UN's positioning as a strategic advisor to the government, with stakeholders recommending a shift toward supporting Uzbekistan's transition to UMIC status through sustainable, large-scale initiatives. Concerns were also raised about the quality of expertise provided by the CF and inconsistent financial reporting, further emphasizing the need for greater transparency and accountability.
90. While the UN has successfully positioned itself as a valuable partner, field findings also reveal concerns about stability and continuity, particularly due to **high turnover among UN Resident Coordinators** and agency heads. As per stakeholder accounts, frequent changes in leadership have disrupted continuity in programming and hindered relationship-building with government counterparts. Government officials highlighted that this created challenges in sustaining effective long-term partnerships. Recommendations have emerged during meetings with stakeholder on ensuring greater stability in leadership roles to foster sustained engagement and deepen trust and relations with government partners.
91. The evaluation found that the CF has also enhanced the **UN's coordination with international development partners**, such as the ADB, World Bank, etc., particularly in sectors requiring large-scale infrastructure and social investments. Through partnerships with other international players, the UN has been able to maximize impact, ensuring that its projects benefit from extensive technical expertise, financial support, and cross-sector collaboration⁶¹. However, while the CF has fostered improved coherence within the UN system, as well as with donors and national government structures, gaps remain in **formal national coordination mechanisms for broader reforms**. According to field findings, international coordination with other donors and stakeholders remains informal, due to lack of structured platforms for discussing and coordinating broader reforms (i.e. social protection, employment), which limits the potential for coordinated, integrated and sustained results. Stakeholders voiced the need for more structured collaboration between UN agencies and other stakeholders, including civil society and donors, to enhance the national level cross-sector coordination and framework's efficiency and reach. In particular, the comment was given on re-establishment of the UN-CSO consultation platform that effectively worked several years ago.

Finding 4. UNSDCF coordination mechanisms have been relevant to strengthen coherence, though operational inconsistencies and M&E challenges were identified limiting the efficiency of UNSDCF's steering.

92. The evaluation reveals UNCT has made significant advances in enhancing coherence and effectiveness through structured mechanisms such as **UN Results Groups, Thematic Groups, and Programme Support**

⁶¹ ECE of the Aral Sea Trust Fund

Groups. These governance tools, chaired by heads of agencies and accountable to the RC and UNCT, have created a platform for coordinated efforts aligned with the CF and Uzbekistan's national SDGs⁶². The integration of the National SDG Council with the UN-Government Joint Steering Committee, mandated by a 2022 government resolution, has reinforced alignment with national priorities, reflecting the government's recognition of the CF's role in advancing national SDG agendas⁶³. However, stakeholders highlighted that while the result groups functioned effectively within their own domains, there was a clear need for **stronger synchronization across groups**. Many of the issues addressed—such as green jobs, employment, and strong institutions, social inclusion—are deeply interconnected. However, stakeholders noted that the result groups often operated in isolation, limiting opportunities for integrated and comprehensive approaches to these cross-cutting issues. Evaluation findings also noted that some UN agencies were less engaged, remaining idle or rarely contributing to the result groups or the implementation of the CF. Stakeholders even noted that within the UN system, they sometimes are unaware of what another agency is doing. This lack of active participation and engagement is believed to have hindered the potential for cohesive and collaborative efforts

93. This evaluation found that although, joint programs have demonstrated the benefits of coordinated impact, interviews highlight challenges faced in implementation of the CF and **monitoring and evaluation processes**. The need to strengthen effectiveness in monitoring and evaluation was also highlighted and recommended by the 2019 UNDAF Evaluation, which called for regular RBM training for increased competencies in M&E⁶⁴. Different UN agencies have been reported to their own planning, reporting, and operational systems, which makes joint planning difficult. Although the CF serves as an overarching document, the practical execution of JWP, remains fragmented. According to stakeholders, agencies often come into the joint planning process with pre-established agendas, making it difficult to fully align with the CF and work on true joint priorities. This was highlighted multiple times, where discussions showed agencies focused more on avoiding overlap rather than collaborating deeply. They also mentioned that the development of joint work plans is slow, sometimes taking months or years to finalize, making it hard to integrate new initiatives in a timely manner, and forcing agencies to resort to bilateral work plans with governments instead of maintaining the joint approach. Stakeholders suggested that UN agencies should find ways to better align internal systems to enable more seamless joint planning and reporting. Stakeholders also suggested reforming the governance of the results groups to ensure they serve as forums for strategic discussion and future planning, rather than just for reporting on past efforts.
94. Interviews with stakeholders reveal an overarching need to **harmonize operational activities across various UN agencies**. Focus group participants highlighted the need to create standardized procedures that can be adopted across all agencies, including harmonizing consultant fees, travel expenses, and reporting requirements, which currently vary between agencies and can lead to inefficiencies. There was also a call for more joint activities, such as collaborative training sessions and joint data collection efforts to assess outcomes. Participants mentioned a successful collaboration between agencies to procure medical supplies, demonstrating how interagency cooperation can effectively address gaps in resources and agreed that agencies should focus on their core competencies highlighting that an agency with strong procurement capabilities might lead on purchasing while another with expertise in technical assistance focuses on providing expert guidance. It was suggested that agencies should further increase efforts for submitting coordinated funding requests to donor organizations, presenting a unified funding proposal that highlights their collaborative approach, which may be more appealing to donors than individual requests.
95. Stakeholders further noted that inefficient **financial processes** often stem from agency-specific procedures that can complicate joint efforts. They suggested implementing a unified procurement strategy to streamline

⁶² UN (2023); 2022 UN Country Annual Results Report: Uzbekistan

⁶³ Ibid

⁶⁴ UN: UNDAF Evaluation 2019

costs and enhance/ operational efficiency. Currently, each agency remains responsible for its financial reporting, often leading to delays when consolidating reports. Stakeholders provided examples of joint initiatives, where financial reporting becomes complex, leading to inefficiencies. UNDAF evaluation also identified lack of a harmonized approach to budget reporting under the CF⁶⁵. The absence of unified reporting mechanisms compounds this issue, as it hinders comprehensive financial oversight across joint initiatives. Additionally, staff turnover among agency representatives can cause project delays, highlighting the need for more stable project management structures. Structural differences among agencies create barriers to unified project teams, further complicating joint programming. Each agency's distinct operational modality adds complexity, reducing the overall efficiency of collaborative projects. For example, each agency in a JP manages a unique component (e.g., UNICEF focuses on youth issues, WHO on clinical procedures, and UNFPA on reproductive health), with clear divisions to prevent duplication. However, collaboration challenges emerge, particularly in reporting and accountability. When multiple agencies work on a single joint project, the lead agency is responsible for consolidating reports. The reporting approach, coupled with differing agency modalities, complicates overall project management. Despite these obstacles, joint programming remains beneficial by addressing diverse needs through a comprehensive approach.

96. Lastly, a major theme in focus group discussions was also the difficulty in **generating reliable data for monitoring progress**. Besides difficulties with gaps in data collection (i.e. GBV), it was noted that different agencies use different indicators and methods for tracking progress, making it difficult to compile unified reports. Some agencies also face internal challenges with data collection and monitoring due to capacity constraints, which further hampers efforts to monitor programs. It was noted that in some cases, agencies were unable to provide the required data to measure performance effectively. Stakeholders expressed the need for UN agencies to invest more in "knowledge generation and data generation activities" ensuring that they have the tools to monitor progress and support policy-making.

Extent to which programs and workplans were effectively derived from the CF in design and implementation (SQ 2.2; SQ 5.1)

Finding 5. Post-reform effort have fostered structured collaboration under the CF, representing progress from past fragmented approaches. The comparative analysis of the previous UNDAF and the current CF points to more coherence in terms of approaches. However, limited staff capacity in the Resident Coordinator's Office, has impacted the effectiveness of coordination and reforms at the operational level.

97. The review of agency-specific country programs and plans show that **UN agencies align their programs with the CF**, which point to efforts to ensure that agency programs are consistent with the strategic priorities of the framework. The UN MPHSTF for the Aral Sea region (Aral Sea Trust Fund), for example, reinforces this alignment through a stringent project approval process. The MPHSTF was created in 2018 as a unified platform for the development of partnerships and the mobilization of resources for the implementation of integrated activities in the Aral Sea region in Uzbekistan⁶⁶. Each UN agency that applies for grants under the MPHSTF's Call for Proposals must demonstrate clear compliance with three critical criteria: alignment with the Fund's overarching strategy, adherence to the SDGs, and conformity with the CF. Projects that do not meet these stringent requirements are systematically excluded, ensuring that all funded initiatives contribute meaningfully to Uzbekistan's broader developmental and environmental priorities⁶⁷. The evaluation report of the ECE Aral Sea Trust Fund, highlights its significant contribution to the coherence of efforts to address the consequences of the Aral Sea Disaster. However, the evaluation report also highlights that frequent change in leadership at the RC and GoU levels have led to less programming and more modest role of

⁶⁵ Ibid.

⁶⁶ ECE of the Aral Sea Trust Fund

⁶⁷ Ibid.

coordination than initially anticipated, impeding coherence and the use of the Fund as an integrating platform⁶⁸.

98. The MPHSTF approach is seen by some stakeholders as a **model of coherence within the UN system**. Requiring each participating UN agency to tailor their projects in line with shared goals, enables the Fund to manage to create a unified approach for addressing multi-faceted issues in the Aral Sea region. This structured alignment helps prevent duplication of efforts across agencies and maximizes the collective impact of UN interventions. PUNO interviewees noted that the Fund's projects not only address their organizational mandates but also directly contribute to the national goals of Uzbekistan, highlighting the strategic relevance of MPHSTF's projects within the UN system in Uzbekistan.
99. While the MPHSTF's governance model enhances alignment, the practical implementation of joint programming, according to stakeholders, reveals **operational challenges** (see finding 4), especially within the Resident Coordinator's Office (RCO), which is responsible for coordinating approximately 25 agencies in Uzbekistan. The RCO itself has limited staff capacity to coordinate all efforts, including due to a lack of full staffing (e.g. Head of RCO position has been filled by a temporary NOD, and while Data and Results Monitoring and Reporting position has been vacant since that time. Although not all UN agencies are physically based in Uzbekistan, this limited staffing has constrained the RCO's ability to fully implement and monitor reforms on the ground effectively, underscoring the need for regular reviews (i.e. mid-term review) to assess the reform's operational impact in practice.
100. The RCO's facilitative role is instrumental in bridging these gaps and ensuring that the Fund's efforts align with national needs. The RCO has also initiated joint visits to regional areas, which has been a positive step in understanding local needs. However, **stable leadership and adequate staffing** are essential for the RCO to fulfill its coordination role effectively. The RCO's limited capacity and the unique governance structures of each agency pose additional coordination challenges. For instance, the RCO cannot modify internal procedures of agencies like WHO, which follows a strict governance model from its global headquarters. However, the RCO can set general frameworks for cooperation, establishing principles and guidelines that encourage agencies to work collaboratively. This advocacy underscores the importance of dialogue, as the RCO facilitates these discussions and encourages agencies to adopt adaptive staffing models that could improve flexibility and responsiveness to immediate needs.
101. Moreover, field findings indicate that while joint programming is essential, the current structure could benefit from a more unified **project management team rather than a loosely coordinated setup with a single lead agency**. This approach could involve creating integrated project teams from multiple agencies, rather than relying on temporary staff allocations. Such unified teams would streamline processes, enhance communication, and improve project efficiency.

3.3 Effectiveness

EQ 3. Has the CF achieved its objectives? Is the CF doing it right?

102. The evaluation examined the effectiveness of the UNSDCF in achieving the results specified in the results framework, with a focus on the realization of outputs and their contribution to advancing the overall outcomes. It assessed the extent to which the anticipated outputs have been accomplished and their impact on driving progress toward the intended development goals. The analysis is presented in following findings.

Finding 6. The UN's strategic positioning in the policy and institutional strengthening realm was promoted by its expertise and advisory, as well as its ability to facilitate multi-stakeholder engagement (convener role). However, within Uzbekistan's dynamic development context and busy ecosystem of development partners, UN's strategic

⁶⁸ Ibid.

positioning varied where other partners, such as IFIs or bilateral donors were able to provide more long-term bigger resources.

Generating evidence for informed policy making

103. The evaluation collected ample evidence of the added value of UN's evidence-generation initiatives in Uzbekistan, which have been acknowledged by stakeholders to have played an important role in informing policy decisions and advancing social, economic, and environmental reforms. Through comprehensive studies, indices, and targeted reports, the UN has contributed to the government's ability to address critical issues based on accurate, up-to-date data. For instance, in the area of child and youth well-being, the UN has generated valuable data and insights through various assessments and surveys, particularly through the *Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) 6*.⁶⁹ According to stakeholder feedback, MICS was instrumental in identifying key indicators related to children's health, education, and overall well-being, which helped to inform targeted interventions aimed at improving outcomes for children and youth. Building on this foundation, the UN supported the establishment of the *National Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI)*,⁷⁰ which captures essential aspects of well-being across 11 dimensions, offering a multi-faceted view of poverty. The findings revealed that 44.7% of children under 18 experience multidimensional poverty.⁷¹ This granular understanding of poverty among children has become a cornerstone for developing policies that address not only income poverty but also broader social needs, such as education, healthcare, and housing.
104. Youth engagement also emerged as a significant area of UN involvement. Through *U-Report*,⁷² a platform that reached over 370,000 young people in 2023, the UN enabled Uzbek youth to share their perspectives on development issues. Evaluation revealed that the U-Report helped gather direct insights from young citizens on issues ranging from employment to environmental concerns, thus informing government policies to better reflect youth aspirations and needs.
105. In the domain of environmental protection and climate change, the UN has supported Uzbekistan in generating evidence to guide sustainable development strategies. The *National State of Environment Report*,⁷³ prepared with UN assistance, offered a comprehensive snapshot of environmental trends, highlighting key challenges such as air quality, water scarcity, and land degradation. This report was considered as important benchmark for tracking progress in addressing these challenges. Similarly, the UN conducted a *Comprehensive Assessment of Fossil Fuel Subsidy Reform*,⁷⁴ examining the environmental, social, and economic impacts of subsidy adjustments. This assessment has helped the government consider potential reforms that balance economic growth with environmental protection, providing a clearer pathway toward sustainable energy practices. The UN also contributed to water resource management through support for *cryosphere monitoring*,⁷⁵ which involves tracking changes in glaciers. This monitoring initiative has become essential as Uzbekistan addresses water security concerns exacerbated by climate change.
106. For social policy and inclusion, the UN conducted several critical studies that have directly influenced policy formulation. A pioneering study the "Situation of elderly people in Uzbekistan", that UN, in partnership with the Family and Women Research Institute laid the foundation for the Strategy on Healthy Aging and the introduction of the *Active Aging Index*⁷⁶ in the country. This research provided data on the challenges and needs of elderly citizens, which informed policies aimed at improving health and social services for older

⁶⁹<https://microdata.worldbank.org/index.php/catalog/5961/related-materials>

⁷⁰https://www.undp.org/sites/g/files/zskgke326/files/2024-03/en_Pilot%20MPI%20report%202023.pdf

⁷¹ibid

⁷²<https://uzbekistan.ureport.in/>

⁷³<https://unece.org/environmental-policy/events/launch-national-state-environment-report-republic-uzbekistan>

⁷⁴<https://www.iea.org/reports/uzbekistan-2022/executive-summary>

⁷⁵<https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2023-02/S5-4%20Liudmila%20Belavina%20ENG.pdf>

⁷⁶<https://unece.org/population/active-ageing-index>

- adults, thereby promoting their well-being and inclusion in society. Furthermore, a Situational Analysis of the Rights of persons with disability⁷⁷ (PWD) highlighted the challenges that PWD encounter in accessing rights.
107. In addition, the UN addressed social protection and economic inclusion through research that helped shape critical strategies. Similarly, a collaborative effort to develop a *National Strategy on Transition from Informal to Formal Economy* included a gender-responsive analysis of informal employment, informing policies aimed at creating more stable and equitable job opportunities, particularly for marginalized groups.
108. Furthermore, the UN's focus on road safety and economic development in the region resulted in a *Road Safety Performance Review*⁷⁸ and a study on the *startup ecosystem in Uzbekistan*⁷⁹(within a wider research in Central Asia). These initiatives provided data to drive national safety improvements and support entrepreneurial growth, respectively, each contributing to broader economic and social development goals.
109. Results of the piloted cervical cancer screening conducted in the Republic of Karakalpakstan and Chirchik city served as a platform for development of the President Decree as a National Strategy on cervical cancer prevention issued in 2024 by the government with implementation of the hrHPV and cytology based screening at primary healthcare level.

UN's convener role and policy advisory

110. Evaluation findings reveal that the UN's strategic positioning in Uzbekistan's policy and institutional landscape has been strengthened by its expertise, advisory role, facilitation of multi-stakeholder dialogues, and technical assistance. However, stakeholder consultations noted that the UN's role within Uzbekistan's complex development ecosystem is often influenced by the long-term resources and leverage of other development actors, such as International Financial Institutions (IFIs) and bilateral donors, who have positioned themselves strongly in the region.
111. The evaluation highlighted the UN's valued role as a trusted convener, exemplified by its facilitation of multi-stakeholder dialogues on key issues such as health, education, environment, poverty eradication, and SDGs. For instance, the UN supported the 2023 Voluntary National Review (VNR)⁸⁰ and engaged with the national SDG coordination council to promote inclusive policy discussions by coordinating with government bodies, civil society, and international partners. Consultations for the VNR gathered diverse insights on SDG progress and facilitated cross-country learning with Mongolia and Tajikistan, enhancing peer exchange on SDG reporting.
112. The UN also played a critical role in aligning Uzbekistan's "Uzbekistan-2030" strategy⁸¹ with the SDG framework through initiatives like "SDG Month," which involved collaboration with the Senate and Oliy Majlis. This initiative assessed SDG progress through roundtable discussions and culminated in the Second Global Forum of Interparliamentary Cooperation, which emphasized regional cooperation and civil society's role in achieving the 2030 Agenda, particularly in gender equality and sustainable development.
113. Beyond the VNR, the UN's convening role extended to youth empowerment and disability inclusion. Under the Youth 2030 Strategy, partnerships with local youth networks and the UN Youth Advisory Board amplified youth perspectives in development dialogues and promoted skills training aligned with the principle of leaving no one behind (LNOB). Similarly, the UN collaborated with 122 organizations for persons with disabilities (OPDs)⁸² to build capacity in legal awareness and protection from gender-based violence, aligning with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), ratified by Uzbekistan in 2021.

⁷⁷https://unprpd.org/new/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/Situation_Analysis_CountryBrief_Uzbekistan-eb2.pdf

⁷⁸<https://unece.org/transport/publications/road-safety-performance-review-uzbekistan>

⁷⁹<https://startupcentraleurasia.com/uploads/startup-ecosystems/October2022/o2wNIZXPvWXQg4wjSBGq.pdf>

⁸⁰https://api.mf.uz/media/document_files/VOLUNTARY_NATIONAL_REVIEW.pdf

⁸¹<https://uzbekistan.org.ua/en/news/6664-uzbekistan-has-established-a-strong-foundation-for-the-timely-and-high-quality-achievement-of-national-goals-and-sustainable-development-tasks.html#:~:text=To%20organize%20systematic%20work%20towards,Development%20of%20the%20Republic%20of>

⁸²UN (2024); 2023 UN Country Annual Results Report: Uzbekistan

114. Evaluation findings suggest that the UN significantly influenced legislative reforms and policy frameworks. For instance, its support contributed to the criminalization of domestic violence as a separate offense,⁸³ making Uzbekistan the fifth country in the region to achieve this milestone. Recent legislative measures, including the establishment of a Children’s Ombudsperson⁸⁴ and regulations for program-based budgeting, further underline the UN’s role in fostering transparency, accountability, and inclusivity. The UN also supported the drafting of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy,⁸⁵ the Social Protection Strategy,⁸⁶ and the Gender Equality Strategy until 2030,⁸⁷ embedding gender-responsive policies across public institutions.⁸⁸
115. In environmental governance, the UN’s advisory support facilitated the issuance of Uzbekistan’s first green Eurobonds, mobilizing USD 350 million for sustainable development.⁸⁹ Evaluation evidence highlights the role of the Inter-Agency Working Group for climate adaptation planning, which improved coordination among 16 agencies and pilot regions.⁹⁰ Additionally, the UN strengthened Uzhydromet’s capacity for climate finance management through training and recommendations.⁹¹
116. The UN’s technical advisory extended to poverty measurement and policy development, notably through the establishment of the National Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) in 2023.⁹² This data-driven approach has provided the government with tools to better target poverty reduction strategies, focusing on the most vulnerable populations and addressing well-being across 11 dimensions.

Technical Assistance for institutional strengthening

Finding 7. The UN’s institutional capacity-strengthening initiatives in Uzbekistan have bolstered governance, social protection, health, anti-corruption, and digital services through comprehensive technical assistance and targeted capacity building. While these contributions have advanced transparency, inclusivity, and service delivery across sectors, challenges such as local capacity constraints, funding limitations, and competitive dynamics with other international donors have occasionally hindered the full implementation and sustainability of UN-supported reforms.

117. Data collected through document review and stakeholder consultations shows that the UN’s institutional capacity-strengthening initiatives in Uzbekistan have contributed to significant advancements across governance, social protection, health systems, digital transformation, and environmental sustainability, addressing core structural and operational needs, although challenges persist. Evaluation findings reveal that in governance and anti-corruption, the UN facilitated the establishment of compliance departments in key ministries and a digital anti-corruption platform linking 117 government agencies with a public rating system. These efforts enhanced transparency and accountability, aligning with the National Anti-Corruption

⁸³<https://parliament.gov.uz/ru/news/xotin-qizlar-va-bolalar-huquqlarini-himoya-qilish-tizimi-yanada-takomillashtirilmogda>

⁸⁴ The Law on the Authorized Person of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan for Children’s Rights (Children’s Ombudsperson)

⁸⁵

<https://strategy.uz/index.php?news=1960&lang=en#:~:text=Central%20to%20these%20reforms%20is,access%2C%20and%20overhauling%20the%20judiciary.>

⁸⁶<https://www.ilo.org/projects-and-partnerships/projects/uzbekistan-accelerating-progress-sdg-target-13-building-social-protection>

⁸⁷https://saylov.uz/en/gender-equality/national-legislation_in/strategy-for-achieving-gender-equality-in-the-republic-of-uzbekistan-until-2030

⁸⁸ https://static.norma.uz/doc/doc_11/4.pdf

⁸⁹UN (2024); 2023 UN Country Annual Results Report: Uzbekistan

⁹⁰ UNDP (2024); Terminal Evaluation Report “Sector driven National Adaptation Plan to advance medium- and long-term adaptation planning in Uzbekistan” (NAP Project); <https://erc.undp.org/evaluation/documents/download/23487>

⁹¹ UNDP (2024); Terminal Evaluation Report “Sector driven National Adaptation Plan to advance medium- and long-term adaptation planning in Uzbekistan” (NAP Project); <https://erc.undp.org/evaluation/documents/download/23487>

⁹²https://www.undp.org/sites/g/files/zskgke326/files/2024-03/en_Pilot%20MPI%20report%202023.pdf

Strategy.⁹³ Stakeholders highlighted the establishment of the Anti-Corruption Agency⁹⁴ as a key milestone. Training initiatives involving over 2,500 public servants, law enforcement officers, and CSO representatives⁹⁵ resulted in the interception of over USD 4 million in illegal commodities, demonstrating the effectiveness of capacity-building efforts in addressing regional security challenges.⁹⁶

118. In social protection, evaluation data indicate that the UN-supported Social Protection Single Registry (SPSR),⁹⁷ which centralized benefits distribution, increasing accessibility for low-income families, including those with children with disabilities. Stakeholder feedback highlighted the establishment of the National Social Protection Agency⁹⁸ (in line with the Social Protection Strategy⁹⁹) as a step toward more integrated service delivery. At the community level, the UN introduced social work case management in 200 communities, improving access to integrated services for approximately 15,000 individuals, including vulnerable groups such as forcibly displaced (Afghan nationals).¹⁰⁰
119. In health systems, the UN provided technical assistance to advance Universal Health Coverage (UHC), with over 76,000 health professionals trained in primary healthcare delivery and health insurance mechanisms.¹⁰¹ Evaluation findings show that a pilot health insurance project in Syrdarya strengthened the State Health Insurance Fund's capacity to pool and purchase health services, with plans to expand this model. In the Aral Sea region, vocational training centers supported over 1,000 youth, women, farmers, and migrants, contributing to economic resilience in vulnerable areas.¹⁰²
120. The UN also made significant contributions to digital transformation, reengineering and digitalizing 115 public services, including civil registry, licensing, and education services, with blockchain technology enhancing security and efficiency.¹⁰³ An inclusive public service center in Namangan serves over 850,000 people, including 13,000 individuals with disabilities, improving access to essential services. In digital entrepreneurship, the "digitalpulse.uz" platform, supported by around 300 businesses, enabled small and medium enterprises to adopt digital tools for business growth.¹⁰⁴
121. Nationwide interventions to improve quality of perinatal care significantly contributed to the strengthening of maternal and newborn health services in all 230 maternities and primary health levels to serve the needs of more than 1 200 000 of women and newborns by 2026. Strong advocacy resulted in 5 times increase of state budget allocations for procurement of contraceptives in 2023 that will further enhance government efforts to decrease unmet need among fertile women.
122. In environmental sustainability, the UN collaborated with national stakeholders to develop the National Adaptation Plan (NAP)¹⁰⁵ and integrate 25 automated weather stations into Uzhydromet's meteorological network, supporting water resource management and disaster preparedness.¹⁰⁶ Evaluation findings emphasize the importance of these efforts in addressing Uzbekistan's vulnerability to climate change. The

⁹³

<https://strategy.uz/index.php?news=1960&lang=en#:~:text=Central%20to%20these%20reforms%20is,access%2C%20and%20overhauling%20the%20judiciary>.

⁹⁴<https://anticorruption.uz/en>

⁹⁵ ET calculation based on annual reports

⁹⁶UN (2024); 2023 UN Country Annual Results Report: Uzbekistan

⁹⁷<https://jointsdgfund.org/es/node/1049>

⁹⁸<https://ihma.uz/en/agency-category/national-agency-of-social-protection-under-the-president-of-the-republic-of-uzbekistan/>

⁹⁹<https://www.ilo.org/projects-and-partnerships/projects/uzbekistan-accelerating-progress-sdg-target-13-building-social-protection>

¹⁰⁰ ET calculation based on annual reports

¹⁰¹ ET calculation based on annual reports

¹⁰² ET calculation based on annual reports

¹⁰³UN (2024); 2023 UN Country Annual Results Report: Uzbekistan

¹⁰⁴Ibid

¹⁰⁵ UNDP (2024); Terminal Evaluation Report "Sector driven National Adaptation Plan to advance medium- and long-term adaptation planning in Uzbekistan" (NAP Project); <https://erc.undp.org/evaluation/documents/download/23487>

¹⁰⁶ ET calculation based on annual reports

UN also facilitated 40 Cluster Community Development Plans, engaging over 7,300 rural residents in local climate adaptation and economic resilience initiatives.¹⁰⁷

123. Through the Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF),¹⁰⁸ the UN reinforced financial and governance frameworks aligned with SDGs, with stakeholder feedback highlighting the introduction of climate budget tagging as a key tool for tracking green spending. However, challenges remain, including fragmented approaches to long-term strategy development, limited institutional absorption capacity, and economic instability. Stakeholders noted that while the UN's interventions have improved transparency and anti-corruption, the focus on short-term, high-visibility initiatives sometimes undermines sustainable impact. Frequent leadership changes within UN agencies and donor dependency further constrained the continuity of reforms, particularly in education and health. Despite these challenges, stakeholders recognized the UN's critical role in bridging gaps between the government, donors, and civil society to address immediate and long-term development priorities, aligning efforts with Uzbekistan's Vision 2030 goals.

Public Advocacy and Awareness Raising

Finding 8. The UNCT has implemented a range of awareness campaigns in Uzbekistan, addressing health, social justice, disability inclusion, anti-corruption, and youth engagement. These initiatives tackled human rights issues, promoted inclusivity, and a range of societal challenges were considered by stakeholders as important at the Uzbekistan's development stage and in line with SDGs. These activities have underpinned other UN's work in the country.

124. Through the review of UN Annual Reports and communication materials, the evaluation found that the UN's awareness-raising efforts in Uzbekistan have addressed social challenges, promoted inclusivity and empowering vulnerable groups, youth, and women. Such efforts were considered by stakeholders across UN, donors and national partners as useful to raise public awareness on some key societal issues and challenges, but also to set some of such issue on the agenda of the government, a value that was considered as key feature of the UN. Such advocacy efforts also raised the profile of UN agencies, as corroborated by interviewed UN and government stakeholders, who acknowledged UN's role and publicly praised the collaborative efforts of UN agencies, further strengthening UN status as vital partner.
125. For illustration, the UN led **HIV awareness campaign** reached approximately 18.5 million people via street advertisements and an additional 5.4 million through social media.¹⁰⁹ The campaign was tailored to deliver behaviorally informed messages promoting COVID-19 vaccination while addressing the stigma surrounding HIV. Additionally, personal stories from individuals living with HIV, showcased in UN-supported videos, garnered over 600,000 views.¹¹⁰ Peer-to-peer communication initiatives amplified this effort, reaching around 1,000 students in universities, fostering greater understanding and empathy for those affected by HIV.¹¹¹ However, interviews UN and national stakeholders noted that HIV-related stigma and discrimination continue to challenge awareness-raising efforts, limiting the participation of vulnerable populations. UN, in collaboration with the National Mass Media Foundation, conducted a learning session for journalists to improve the quality of HIV-related coverage. According to stakeholder feedback, personal stories shared by women living with HIV resonated with the audience, helping to break stereotypes and reduce stigma.
126. Addressing GBV was a key focus of awareness-raising activities. Over 100 youth participated in training and educational programs aimed at **preventing GBV in schools and colleges**, cultivating a culture of safety and awareness.¹¹² Religious leaders also played a crucial role, with 260 individuals (including 233 women) trained

¹⁰⁷UN (2024); 2023 UN Country Annual Results Report: Uzbekistan

¹⁰⁸<https://inff.org/country/uzbekistan>

¹⁰⁹ UN (2023); 2022 UN Country Annual Results Report: Uzbekistan

¹¹⁰ Ibid

¹¹¹ Ibid

¹¹² UN (2024); 2023 UN Country Annual Results Report: Uzbekistan

to advocate for reproductive health and GBV prevention within their communities.¹¹³ These initiatives significantly contributed to breaking the silence around GBV and empowering individuals to act against it. However, evaluation found that a lack of institutional capacity and financial resources affected the scalability and sustainability of these awareness-raising initiatives

127. To promote **HPV vaccination**, a nationwide campaign engaged 514,735 school workers and reached 13 million people with educational messages on the vaccine's importance. This extensive outreach resulted in 94.4% of eligible girls aged 12-14 receiving two doses of the HPV vaccine.¹¹⁴ According to the findings of this evaluation, this campaign was a crucial contribution for protection of thousands of girls from **cervical cancer** but also for raising awareness about preventive health measures across Uzbekistan. Stakeholders also acknowledged collaborative efforts in education and healthcare, where multiple UN agencies worked together to improve **maternal and child health services**. One such initiative included organizing joint health camps in underserved areas, which provided free medical consultations, vaccinations, and health education. Furthermore, stakeholders shared a recent campaign where UN agencies combined resources to promote **educational opportunities for girls**. This involved outreach programs in schools, partnerships with local NGOs, and leveraging social media to raise awareness about the importance of girls' education in rural communities. Stakeholder also mentioned a specific campaign was launched that utilized social media platforms to disseminate information about maternal health services, incorporating local language and cultural references to resonate with target audiences. This approach led to a notable increase in service utilization. Collaborative workshops with community leaders were organized to discuss health behaviors and cultural beliefs, utilizing insights from behavioral science to craft messages that encourage positive health practices.
128. The UN implemented impactful awareness initiatives to combat stigmatization and **discrimination against individuals with disabilities** educated over 200 service providers on responding to GBV within this vulnerable group.¹¹⁵ Additionally, disability rights awareness activities emphasized inclusivity and equality, fostering a more supportive environment for persons with disabilities in both public and private spheres.
129. More than 22,000 students from 390 schools enhanced their **understanding of justice and anti-corruption principles** through life-skills and sports-based programs.¹¹⁶ Educational tools developed as part of this initiative were integrated into the national curriculum, ensuring that future generations grow up with a strong foundation in the rule of law and ethical conduct.
130. The **U-Report platform** emerged as a powerful tool for amplifying youth voices, engaging 370,000 young participants across Uzbekistan,¹¹⁷ while the "Youth and Child-Friendly Local Governance" initiative further involved nearly 10,000 young individuals, whose insights directly informed city action plans.¹¹⁸ These activities showcased the active role youth can play in shaping a more inclusive and participatory governance system.
131. Challenges raised by stakeholders include limited resources and challenges with timely delivery. Stakeholders shared specific instances where project timelines were extended or scaled down due to budget constraints. For example, a planned health awareness campaign aimed at combating TB was reduced in scope, limiting the reach of educational materials that were initially intended for a broader audience. The discussions also highlighted the need for diversified funding sources, with calls for enhanced partnerships with the private sector and local businesses to support community awareness raising initiatives. Stakeholders noted that leveraging CSR programs could provide additional resources for projects focused

¹¹³ Ibid

¹¹⁴ UN (2023): 2022 UN Country Annual Results Report: Uzbekistan

¹¹⁵ UN (2024): 2023 UN Country Annual Results Report: Uzbekistan

¹¹⁶ UN (2023): 2022 UN Country Annual Results Report: Uzbekistan

¹¹⁷ Ibid

¹¹⁸ Ibid

on education and health. Stakeholders also mentioned the importance of ensuring a unified voice among agencies in advocacy efforts to maintain coherence in communications and strategic initiatives.

SQ 3.1. How effective has the CF been in achieving the results outlined in the results framework? and SQ 3.2. What have been the benefits for the people and institutions targeted by the interventions, including the most vulnerable, disadvantaged, and marginalized population?

Outcome 1: By 2025 all people and groups in Uzbekistan, especially the most vulnerable, demand and benefit from enhanced accountable, transparent, inclusive and gender responsive governance systems and rule of law institutions for a life free from discrimination and violence.

132. Analysis of financial data shows that Outcome 1 was rather well resourced, despite the fact that over 1 million USD was the funding gap as of the end of 2023. The following are key findings organized per output area.

Finding 9. The UN's assistance has effectively equipped national institutions in Uzbekistan with foundational anti-corruption, accountability, and transparency tools, including the establishment of the Anti-Corruption Agency, compliance units in core ministries, and a digital anti-corruption platform linking 117 agencies, all of which promote government transparency and public oversight. Additionally, UN-supported digital service reforms have significantly streamlined public service access, while initiatives like the National Gender Equality Strategy and CRPD Action Plan have advanced gender-responsive and disability-inclusive governance, ensuring a more equitable service framework, though challenges remain in expanding and institutionalising these systems and overcoming systemic barriers. (Output 1.1)

133. The evaluation findings indicate that the UN's targeted efforts in promoting and advocating for anti-corruption measures have contributed to prioritising this issue on the government's agenda. These efforts have aligned with Uzbekistan's Action Strategy for 2017-2021, the Law on Anti-Corruption, and the country's commitments under the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC), and the OECD/ACN Istanbul Action Plan regarding the prevention of corruption in the public sector.
134. The policy advisory that was provided to the government resulted in the issuance of Presidential Decree No. 81 on January 12, 2022, which established a legal and organizational framework for implementing a rating system to assess the effectiveness of anti-corruption measures in government agencies, including local authorities. UN efforts included extensive capacity strengthening of state institutions,¹¹⁹ including the most tangible contribution to the establishment of the Anti-corruption Agency and the establishment of compliance units within core ministries. UN also supported the launch of a digital anti-corruption platform, E-antikor.uz, linking 117 agencies. The legal and organisational framework that is now in place facilitates the introduction of anti-corruption compliance system. Building on these results, collaboration under the Regional Platform for Fast-Tracking the UNCAC Implementation in Central Asia has been spearheaded to facilitate the adoption of best practices. UNCT also initiated efforts to build awareness and instill a culture of integrity and zero tolerance for corruption across educational systems in line with UNODC's global Global Resource for Anti-Corruption Education and Youth Empowerment (GRACE)¹²⁰ initiative.
135. According to evaluation findings, such support has been transformative, as also acknowledged by stakeholders. Review of international ratings shows that Uzbekistan improved standing on the Corruption Perceptions Index (with an increased score by 2 (from 31 to 33) in the latest rating, standing at 121st place of 180)¹²¹ with moving from 17 in 2013 to 33 in 2023), which has been an important milestone for the country.

¹¹⁹ UN data indicates that over 2,500 officials and law enforcement personnel were trained in anti-corruption and conflict prevention, while local civil society organizations benefited from capacity-building workshops, enhancing public oversight and encouraging an ethics-focused culture within government agencies.

¹²⁰ <https://grace.unodc.org>

¹²¹ <https://www.transparency.org/en/countries/uzbekistan>

Uzbekistan has also succeeded to score over 86 points in anti-corruption policies under the 2023 5th round of monitoring by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), making it one of the leading nations in Central Asia.¹²²

136. However, interlocutors noted that anti-corruption support efforts have led to establishing strong foundation, but the behavioural changes are still in early stages, with persistent systemic barriers in this sector affecting the extent of transformative results under this thematic area.
137. **Digital transformation of public services**, as supported by the UN, has been also found as an important area of UN's contributions to the enhanced institutional efficiency and accessibility. Evaluation found that the reengineering and digitalization of 115 public services—spanning civil registry, licensing, and education sectors—have helped to streamline service delivery, with blockchain technology introduced to some services for added security. For illustration, in 2023, over 16 million service applications were processed online, demonstrating a substantial shift toward e-governance.¹²³ According to available UN data, these initiatives have helped to reduce service times by 26% and costs by 20%, enabling broader access to government services. On the demand side, UN has worked extensively to raise awareness and capacity of citizens, particularly women, in remote areas to enable them to access and utilise such services. Interviewed stakeholders noted that this support has been crucial to create efficiencies, automatisations and accessibility of services, addressing the vulnerability issues as well.
138. During the previous UNDAF cycle, UN piloted the Public Service Center model, and the current CF implementation saw its replication across the country, a result which was considered by stakeholders as a transformative result. For instance, the Public Service Center in Namangan facilitated the service provision for 850,000 individuals, including 13,000 people with disabilities, offering an impactful example of accessible digitalized service models that address longstanding inequalities in service delivery.¹²⁴ Stakeholder interviews raised that the government has now expanded the outreach of public services, by organising mobile public service center services to the most remote areas, in which the citizens have difficulties to come to the Centers for their needs. However, this CF evaluation echoes the findings of the UNDP's ICPE, which noted that "while progress was made, there remained a valuable opportunity to further enhance the universal adoption of digital services, especially in rural areas."¹²⁵ Given UN's strategic positioning at sub-national level, interlocutors considered that it is in good place to support the replication of best practices across different regions in the country.
139. The UN investments in further institutionalisation of the E-Sud tool, which was established under the previous UNDAF programming cycle, have proven helpful to streamline case processing, significantly reducing the frequency of court visits for involved parties and lightened judges' caseloads. During the reference period, this tool was integrated with the ICT systems of economic, administrative, and criminal courts at national and subnational levels, forming a comprehensive electronic justice system. This has been an important contribution with strong sustainability perspective, which was also noted in the UNDP's ICPE.

Finding 10. UN's sustained advocacy and technical assistance have contributed to Uzbekistan's regulatory and institutional capacities in rule of law and human rights, aligning national reforms with international standards. These efforts have helped lay a foundation for rights-based, people-centered governance practices across the judiciary and law enforcement sectors. However, gaps in management frameworks, quality standards, local capacity, and coordination among stakeholders present challenges to the long-term sustainability and comprehensive impact of UN-supported rule of law reforms. (Output 1.2 and 1.3)

¹²² <https://www.undp.org/uzbekistan/press-releases/tashkent-anti-corruption-forum-promotes-innovation-strengthens-compliance-and-fosters-global-cooperation>

¹²³ UN (2024); The 2023 UN Country Annual Results Report: Uzbekistan

¹²⁴ UN (2023); 2022 UN Country Annual Results Report: Uzbekistan

¹²⁵ UNDP IEO (2024); ICPE Uzbekistan

1. As discussed in Finding 1 and 2 above, UN has offered significant support to regulatory and institutional capacity development over the reference period. When it comes to rule of law and human rights, UN's advocacy role was very important to promote and push reforms in alignment with international human rights standards, in combination with capacity-building, and institutional support. A core achievement involves the UN's role in drafting and operationalizing foundational legislation, such as the adoption and enactment of the Law on the Protection of Children from all Forms of Violence and the establishment of a strengthened National Mechanism for Multisectoral Response to GBV. According to stakeholder insights, these initiatives have not only established formal protections for vulnerable populations but also supported law enforcement and judicial bodies in adopting practices that reflect a people-centered, gender-sensitive approach and criminalisation of GBV.
140. Another core achievement was the support to the adoption of the Law on Provision of Legal Aid at the Expense of the State,¹²⁶ and the expansion of the FLA provision by both state and CSO actors across the country. These support interventions were considered as very important to enable the provision of accessible legal support for underserved populations. According to 2023 UN data, 35.2 million people benefited from support in accessing justice,¹²⁷ which was considered as important achievement of the reforms of legal aid services. ICPE evaluation highlighted the importance of developing structured management and quality standards for legal aid services to ensure long-term sustainability and accountability.¹²⁸ Besides, ICPE findings noted benefits of having digital legal aid services, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, the ICPE findings pointed to the need for a greater emphasis on data protection and regulatory reforms to safeguard user privacy as digital legal support expands.¹²⁹
141. Capacity-building initiatives with the Parliament, independent institutions, judiciary, and law enforcement were crucial in embedding human rights principles.¹³⁰ For illustration, the law enforcement agencies have benefited from UN technical assistance and training of 1,320 justice specialists and law enforcement officers¹³¹ on child protection standards, while further institutional strengthening efforts supported such agencies in countering organized crime, trafficking, and human trafficking. The establishment of two Border Liaison Offices and the Central Situation Center for trafficking prevention, with support of UN, has been reported as a milestone in enhancing cross-border security. Stakeholder consultations underscored the importance of these interventions in improving interagency collaboration and operational capacity, enabling Uzbekistan to better address regional security challenges while adhering to international human rights standards.
142. However, stakeholder consultations and available evaluations, including the ICPE, revealed gaps in structured management frameworks and consistent quality standards across justice and law enforcement institutions, which can impede the long-term sustainability and impact of UN-supported reforms.¹³² While UN assistance has been useful in embedding human rights principles and people-centered approaches, particularly through training for legal professionals, law enforcement, and judicial bodies, limited local capacity and resource constraints within institutions pose barriers to maintaining and expanding these reforms. Besides, the stakeholders noted the need to invest further in behavioural change among population, which is critical for enrooting reformed mechanisms and measures. Furthermore, a lack of coordination among diverse stakeholders—such as civil society, government entities, and international

¹²⁶ <https://lex.uz/en/docs/6906878>

¹²⁷ UN (2024); 2023 UN Country Annual Results Report: Uzbekistan

¹²⁸ UNDP IEO (2024); ICPE Uzbekistan

¹²⁹ Ibid

¹³⁰ For instance, targeted training included over 1,300 legal professionals and law enforcement actors to adopt rights-based practices, especially in areas such as child-friendly and gender-sensitive justice. See more in UNDP IEO (2024); ICPE Uzbekistan, p. 21

¹³¹ UN (2024); 2023 UN Country Annual Results Report: Uzbekistan

¹³² UNDP IEO (2024); ICPE Uzbekistan

partners—has sometimes resulted in fragmented efforts that limit comprehensive sectoral impact, as emphasised by interlocutors.

Finding 11. The UN's efforts to empower vulnerable groups in Uzbekistan have facilitated inclusive participation in decision-making processes, particularly for women, youth, and persons with disabilities. A certain level of fragmentation of such efforts has been noted, but this was considered as inevitable in light of available resources and needs for empowerment of the most vulnerable groups.

143. The evaluation reveals that the UN has contributed to empowering vulnerable groups, including women, PWD, and youth, through targeted initiatives aimed at fostering inclusive governance, enhancing access to rights and services, and strengthening participation in decision-making processes. These efforts align with Uzbekistan's commitments under international conventions and national strategies, contributing to incremental progress toward equitable development.
144. Notably, the UN has made substantial progress in promoting the **rights of persons with disabilities**, primarily through support for legal and institutional reforms. Key achievements include the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and the establishment of an inter-agency Council on Disability. Current UN support measures are geared towards facilitating a shift from a medical to a social model of disability, which has a potential for embedding disability inclusion into Uzbekistan's governance framework, as noted by stakeholders. Besides, UN's joint efforts contributed to organisational development of over 90 organisations representing PWD rights, which is helping to enable active participation in policy development as highlighted by stakeholders. Additionally, the UN supported innovative tools, such as AI-based accessibility systems, to improve access to information for persons with disabilities.
145. The UN's work has been instrumental in advancing gender equality and addressing systemic barriers to women's empowerment. Support for foundational policies, including the National Gender Equality Strategy and the creation of Women's Advisory Groups (WAGs) within Public Service Centers, has embedded gender considerations in public governance structures, that has been considered by stakeholders as particularly relevant in terms of upskilling and empowering women in remote and rural areas to access services and rights.
146. Targeted measures addressed GBV through the development of legislation (having that domestic violence was criminalized through the ammendments of the Criminal Code), supported by coordinated efforts involving civil society organizations. The most important contribution, as also corroborated by stakeholders, was the facilitation of the establishment of a GBV case management system to enhance institutional responsiveness. At the community level, training programs for 260 religious and community leaders, including women, tackled GBV stigma in rural areas, fostered grassroots advocacy and empowering local actors to address social issues. By offering legal resources and education, UN contributed to the empowerment of individuals, especially women and the disabled, to actively participate in decision-making and defend their rights, aligning closely with the UNSDCF's objectives of promoting inclusive governance.
147. The UN has also strengthened civic participation by involving community leaders in advocacy efforts. For instance, in 2023, training sessions were held for 260 religious leaders, including women, to address gender-based violence (GBV) in rural communities, where such issues are often stigmatized.¹³³ By engaging influential community figures, the UN facilitated grassroots advocacy, empowering local communities to address social issues and fostering a culture of accountability at the local level
148. The UN's contributions were also found in terms of strengthened civic participation and human rights advocacy through the development of legal frameworks and platforms for inclusive engagement. Legal reforms supported by the UN expanded access to rights and services for marginalized groups, empowering

¹³³UN (2024); 2023 UN Country Annual Results Report: Uzbekistan

them to navigate legal systems and advocate for their needs. For instance, with UN support legislative acts on prevention of any violence was developed and adopted by a Presidential decree. Initiatives such as the Uzbekistan Women Leaders Caucus provided a platform for women to engage in public policy discussions and address issues like GBV and economic empowerment.

149. Youth participation was also supported through platforms like U-Report, which reached over 370,000 young people, enabling them to voice their views on development priorities and influence policymaking processes.¹³⁴ These initiatives underscored the importance of inclusive governance in fostering equitable development outcomes.
150. However, challenges remain, particularly in rural areas where limited resources and capacities hinder effective implementation. Available evaluations and stakeholder feedback also reveal some fragmentation in these initiatives, with varying focus areas and limited coordination between actors. While each project achieved specific objectives, the overall impact was sometimes diluted by the parallel, uncoordinated nature of efforts across different groups and sectors. Local capacity and resource constraints further challenged the sustainability of these achievements. Besides, stakeholder interviews also noted challenges with civil society engagement, when it comes to operational constraints that sometimes limit proactive participation. The registration and operational processes for civil society organizations, combined with evolving institutional capacities, contribute to the need for a supportive and coordinated approaches, which were not always promoted by UN interventions. Stakeholder consultations indicate that, while empowerment initiatives have achieved targeted short term results in some areas, sustained progress would have benefited from further strengthening the frameworks that support these organizations' engagement in national decision-making processes.

Outcome 2: By 2025, the population of Uzbekistan benefits from more harmonized and integrated implementation of the reform agenda due to strengthened policy coherence, evidence-based and inclusive decision-making and financing for development mainstreamed in line with national SDGs

Finding 12. The UN's contributions from 2021 to 2023 have enhanced national institutions' ability to systematically measure SDG progress and use this data to inform policy decisions. However, persistent capacity gaps, especially in rural regions, confirm the remaining needs for sustained investments in institutional strengthening and capacity-building to ensure that SDG monitoring and data-driven policymaking are effective and inclusive across Uzbekistan.

151. Document review and stakeholder feedback indicate that the UN has made significant contributions to strengthening national institutions' capacity to generate systematic evidence to measure SDG progress and inform national and sectoral policies, programs, and SDG financing. UN's strategic support in data infrastructure, evidence generation, capacity-building, and leverage has helped to facilitated Uzbekistan's transition toward more data-driven decision-making frameworks aligned with SDG goals.
152. As mentioned in the Finding 6 above, key UN-supported initiatives include the MICS 6 and the establishment of the MPI, which have both been instrumental in advancing evidence-based policymaking. Both of these were considered by stakeholders as essential for informing poverty reduction strategies by identifying priority areas and directing resources accordingly.
153. Evidence suggest that the UN's technical and strategic support has been critical to the establishment of Uzbekistan's SDG-aligned financing mechanisms, as observed in the issuance of innovative financial instruments and national financing strategies. A key achievement, as also validated by stakeholder interviews, was Uzbekistan's issuance of its first green sovereign Eurobond in 2023, raising USD 350 million to fund sustainable projects, including water conservation, eco-friendly transportation, and land degradation

¹³⁴ <https://uzbekistan.ureport.in>

initiatives.¹³⁵Evaluative evidence also shows that the UN's role in facilitating Climate Budget Tagging, helped to enable transparency by linking climate-related investments to specific expenditure lines. However, economic instability and fluctuating donor support have been cited by stakeholders as factors limiting the sustainability of these financing mechanisms.

154. In addition, the UN's support for the National Action Plan under the CRPD, involving over 60 disability-focused organizations, has promoted a more inclusive governance framework, integrating the perspectives of both women and persons with disabilities into national policies. This inclusion reflects an increased commitment to rights-based governance; however, feedback highlights limited local awareness and insufficient resources as constraints to full adoption across all regions.
155. Stakeholder feedback also highlights the UN's role in guiding the development of the INFS and the INFF, formalized in 2022. These frameworks have introduced a structured approach to consolidating public and private financing streams, aligning resources with both national priorities and SDG objectives. While stakeholders emphasize the positive impact of this alignment on resource optimization, they also note persistent gaps in local capacity for financial management, which may impede the full operationalization of these frameworks.
156. Capacity-building efforts have further supported national institutions in strengthening their SDG monitoring frameworks. Over 80 public officials were trained in program-based budgeting and results-based management, with a focus on aligning national budgeting processes with SDG targets.¹³⁶Evidence suggests that the capacity strengthening efforts helped equip national institutions with skills in policy formulation, budgeting, and SDG progress monitoring. UN stakeholders noted that such outputs have a potential to promote more coherent and results-oriented approach to SDG-aligned public spending.
157. Despite these advancements, stakeholder feedback indicates that challenges remain, particularly in rural areas where limited statistical capacity and technical expertise hinder consistent data collection and reporting. In addition, feedback highlights that economic constraints and shifting donor priorities have occasionally restricted the continuity of these capacity-building efforts, limiting their reach and potential for long-term sustainability.

Outcome 3: By 2025, youth, women and vulnerable groups benefit from improved access to livelihoods, decent work and expanded opportunities generated by inclusive and equitable economic growth

158. UN's work under Outcome 3 has recorded good progress in both implementation and resource mobilization. UN agencies have successfully secured the planned resources for this outcome, facilitating more coordinated interventions. Although the funds available were slightly above what was initially required, the 89.9% expenditure rate indicates efficient fund utilization relative to the available resources, aligning closely with the required budget for the intended outcome. At Outcome level, with 1 achieved indicator and 8 in progress, Outcome 3 is advancing but still has significant work to complete. The focus on issues like unemployment rates, informal employment, and poverty levels reflects ongoing efforts to tackle systemic challenges. Three indicators lack available data, such as those on female-managed enterprises and youth-led enterprises. Without these insights, fully assessing impact in certain areas is challenging.

Finding 13. Complex but well-coordinated effort by the CF addressed employment, entrepreneurship, and inclusivity issues. While there are clear successes, such as the support in the Global Accelerator, ALMPs, formalization of jobs and the promotion of business skills among vulnerable groups, challenges remain,

¹³⁵UN (2024); 2023 UN Country Annual Results Report: Uzbekistan

¹³⁶PEACE RG JWP Outcome 2, p. 6

particularly in bridging the gap between education and market demands, alleviating challenges of financial inclusion and ensuring widespread awareness of new policies and opportunities.

159. The evaluation findings reveal that many of CF's initiatives have had a significant impact, especially in terms of formalizing jobs and improving access to business development opportunities. The focus on issues like unemployment rates, informal employment, and poverty levels reflects CF's ongoing efforts to tackle systemic challenges. The **pandemic's economic impact** reduced the momentum of pre-pandemic economic reforms and forced the repurposing of resources to mitigate immediate impacts. Desk research and stakeholder interviews revealed that drastic drops in employment, household incomes, and remittances pushed approximately 900,000 individuals into poverty, with poverty rising from a projected 7.4% to 8.7%. UN interventions included the launching of **skills development and job creation programs** benefiting over 10 thousand people (over 3000 women) and supported micro and small businesses, particularly women-led initiatives, through seed funding and entrepreneurship training. The UN interventions facilitated the establishment of over 9,200 **small businesses**¹³⁷ in Uzbekistan during the COVID-19 recovery phase. This initiative not only helped mitigate the economic shocks of the pandemic but also focused on inclusivity, with 50% of job placements in recovery programs targeted specifically at women¹³⁸. Additionally, 2,287 **job placements** were created in partnership with local entities to ensure long-term stability, focusing on sectors that showed resilience during the pandemic. The UN also provided support to 1,947 **MSMEs** (339 women-led and 1,155 youth-led) to address the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic¹³⁹. In 2023, the UN facilitated the creation of over 300 jobs, 40% of which were filled by women, and supported around 1,400 MSMEs, half women-led, through initiatives in digital entrepreneurship, business development, and trade acceleration¹⁴⁰.
160. The evaluation findings reveal that since Uzbekistan joined the **Global Accelerator on Job and Social Protection for Just Transitions**¹⁴¹ in 2023, to create decent jobs while also focusing on social protection and job creation, impacting 5 million people vulnerable to poverty, the CF supported the government to identify national priorities for the implementation of the Global Accelerator and supported the adoption of the Uzbekistan Implementation Roadmap, through technical assistance, expertise and sharing of best practices. Government stakeholders expressed satisfaction on UN commitment to work together with UN agencies on poverty reduction, green jobs, labour forecasting, etc. Stakeholders highlighted that the CF also supported the improvement of the legal framework and introduced standard on human rights related to decent work. The technical support and expertise lead to the adoption of the New Labour Code, which is considered a milestone achievement. Furthermore, the CF provided support for regulations regarding labour rights, gender equality and principles of decent labour. Lastly, in 2024, UN supported the MoH to revise the list of professions prohibited for people living with HIV. Professions such as hairdressing (including shaving, piercing, manicure, pedicure, and tattooing) and medical professions involving procedures like injections are no longer restricted, ensuring equal employment opportunities.
161. The UN has effectively strengthened national institutions (i.e. Ministry of Employment and Labor Relations) to design and implement **Active Labour Market Policies** (ALMPs). Stakeholders noted that these policies play a crucial role in integrating marginalized groups such as NEET youth, informal workers, migrants, and persons with disabilities into the labor market by equipping them with relevant skills. The ALMPs were reported to foster resilience by addressing structural employment barriers, thereby promoting long-term economic stability. However, stakeholder interviews have highlighted that further resource allocation and capacity building are needed to address logistical challenges and ensure the sustainability of these policies.

¹³⁷ UN (2022); 2021 UN Country Annual Results Report: Uzbekistan

¹³⁸ Joint Steering Committee Meeting/ UN Country Annual Result Reports

¹³⁹ UN (2023); 2022 UN Country Annual Results Report: Uzbekistan

¹⁴⁰ UN (2024); 2023 UN Country Annual Results Report: Uzbekistan

¹⁴¹ <https://www.unglobalaccelerator.org/uzbekistan-identifies-national-priorities-implementation-global-accelerator>

162. Desk research and field findings also highlighted that in alignment with national goals on halving poverty by 2030, UN supported the development of the national Poverty Reduction Strategy and National Employment Strategy 2030. The UN collaborated with national and local institutions to design and implement more effective poverty reduction policies, labour market policies, benefitting over 3400 people who gained decent jobs in 2022. As the Government reaffirmed its commitment to poverty reduction by tackling its different dimensions related to social protection gaps, job creation, entrepreneurship, human capital development, green transition, digitalization, infrastructure development and other¹⁴², coordinated efforts were undertaken by the CF to address the challenges. The evaluation found that UN has taken significant steps to **formalize the informal sector** and extend social protections. The UN advocated for improved labor standards and fair wages, particularly for workers in informal sectors. Annual reports reveal that the UN also built capacity of relevant government entities to measure employment in informal sector/ informal employment. Employment Support Centers have successfully integrated career development services through 40 specialists trained with UN support¹⁴³. Stakeholders noted the critical reform reduced the social debt burden on temporary and seasonal workers, which had previously been 12% but was reduced to 1%. This policy change resulted in 1 million new formal jobs being created in the service sector, particularly in the restaurant and food industry. Through the Integrated Support Services Program (ISSP), 100 women in the **informal economy received training and support** to transition into more stable employment¹⁴⁴. Stakeholder noted that the UN was involved in training programs that benefit over 22,000 individuals, including youth, women, and vulnerable groups, aimed at improving employability and reducing informality. The policy not only formalized employment but also allowed for more structured benefits (social security) for these workers. Furthermore, it contributed to an increase in the country's registered GDP, with the informal sector contributing an additional \$10 billion to the total GDP. The country's GDP exceeded \$100 billion for the first time, with significant contributions from newly formalized industries.
163. The findings reveal that the support for women's entrepreneurship through a dedicated **business development** fund helped bridge gaps in financial inclusion and poverty reduction by promoting small business development. According to interviewed stakeholders, the government, in collaboration with UN, launched the first-ever business development fund, allocating \$100 million specifically for **women entrepreneurship**. This fund is supported by additional financial contributions from international organizations such as the ADB. The initiative faced challenges in terms of financial inclusion, particularly in ensuring that women and vulnerable groups have access to the necessary credit and banking services. The interviews highlighted that commercial banks tend to lend only to clients who are seen as "safe" investments, creating barriers for small-scale entrepreneurs. The involvement of the "Businesswomen Association" and other civil society organizations, in promoting entrepreneurship and business development in regions like the Fergana Valley was considered as integral to CF's success. Stakeholders mentioned that NGOs helped identify successful entrepreneurs within their networks to serve as mentors, a critical element of capacity-building efforts. This collaboration increased the effectiveness of programs designed to foster entrepreneurship among vulnerable groups
164. Stakeholders emphasized **digital skills programs focused on software development** and English proficiency as instrumental in improving employment prospects for NEET youth and women, equipping them with job market skills. Furthermore, analysis of output indicators reveals that the indicator for **skills development programs** exceeded targets, suggesting effective outreach and participation. In 2021 alone, 24 thousand young people were equipped with life and social skills.¹⁴⁵ With UN support, 90 young people from vulnerable groups gained entrepreneurship skills and started business projects, five of which have

¹⁴² https://www.undp.org/sites/g/files/zskgke326/files/2024-03/en_Pilot%20MPI%20report%202023.pdf

¹⁴³ UN (2023); 2022 UN Country Annual Results Report: Uzbekistan

¹⁴⁴ UN (2021); 2020 UN Country Annual Results Report: Uzbekistan

¹⁴⁵ UN (2022); 2021 UN Country Annual Results Report: Uzbekistan

already generated revenue. Creation of a stronger youth entrepreneurship support system was also promoted through the implementation of the social innovation and **social entrepreneurship programme** (UPSHIFT) with UN support in partnership with government institutions. However, stakeholders have noted that to maximize this impact, a more comprehensive support system for new businesses, including access to mentorship, financial management training, and market linkages, would help sustain these enterprises in the long run. In 2023, over 7500 young people and women gained skills through social innovation, STEM and digital skills programmes¹⁴⁶.

165. Furthermore, the UN system enhanced the entrepreneurship capacity of over 6500 women and 14200 young people¹⁴⁷. UN's **vocational training** enabled 738 youth to gain skills in horticulture and conservation, with participants generating an average annual income of \$1,927 from these skills¹⁴⁸. In the UN Joint Programme, the focus on youth employment and innovation led to significant outcomes. To enhance employability, **three vocational training centers** were providing training to 1,120 unemployed youth, women, and migrants to secure better employment opportunities and 439 youth trained on start-up development¹⁴⁹. According to interviewed stakeholders, a startup platform was established at the Youth Center of Karakalpakstan, providing a creative space for business idea development. However, barriers were noted with limitations in scaling innovation due to local economic conditions.
166. With a view of increasing professional competencies and reducing the skills mismatch in the labour market, the UN has supported upgrades in the **vocational training curriculum** under the MELR based on the International World Skills Standards¹⁵⁰. The interventions reached over 5,200 individuals, including youth, women, and persons with disabilities, strengthening digital entrepreneurship and green jobs. According to interviewed stakeholders, UN facilitated vocational training in green jobs for over 1,000 youth in areas like organic farming and sustainable resource management, supporting both employment and environmental sustainability. As highlighted by stakeholders, equipping youth with market-relevant skills, enables the development of a workforce that is prepared to contribute to both economic growth and environmental resilience. However, limited funding and infrastructure for green industries restrict the scalability of these programs. To address this, further investment in green sectors is essential according to stakeholders, along with partnerships that can expand training opportunities to underserved regions¹⁵¹.
167. A joint UN programme made significant strides in fostering **sustainable rural development** by creating jobs, promoting entrepreneurship, and enhancing the social wellbeing of the rural population, with a particular focus on youth and women. Recognizing the importance of entrepreneurship as a tool for empowerment, especially for women and youth, the JP facilitated a series of training sessions that improved the **entrepreneurial skills of over 60 participants** to start and sustain their own businesses. To further diversify income-generating opportunities, the JP emphasized the **development of sustainable tourism**. Over 225 professionals, local community members, and youth—particularly women—enhanced their capacities through five specialized trainings¹⁵². Another UN initiative empowered around 900 people from remote areas on alternative income generation (400 women benefited from handicrafts training and 617 farmers on innovative agribusiness practices)¹⁵³. In 2022, around 750 smallholder farmers were provided with access to market, land, and technologies¹⁵⁴. In 2023, the UN improved incomes for 525 households

¹⁴⁶ UN (2024); 2023 UN Country Annual Results Report: Uzbekistan

¹⁴⁷ UN (2023); 2022 UN Country Annual Results Report: Uzbekistan

¹⁴⁸ Narrative Report MPTF 2023

¹⁴⁹ UNDP, UNFPA, FAO (2023). Final Narrative Program Report

¹⁵⁰ UN (2022); 2021 UN Country Annual Results Report: Uzbekistan

¹⁵¹ UN (2024); 2023 UN Country Annual Results Report: Uzbekistan

¹⁵² UNDP UNESCO JP (2021). Final Programme Narrative Report

¹⁵³ UN (2022); 2021 UN Country Annual Results Report: Uzbekistan

¹⁵⁴ UN (2023); 2022 UN Country Annual Results Report: Uzbekistan

through training in horticulture, crop diversification, and irrigation. Additionally, 1,600 community representatives gained skills in handicrafts, entrepreneurship, and sustainable forest management¹⁵⁵.

168. The evaluation found that a significant area of focus was **value chain development in agriculture and food processing**, particularly aimed at small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and smallholder farmers. Stakeholders noted that the UN worked on developing 11 new value chains in the past year, providing mentorship to help farmers and SMEs grow their businesses and access new markets. Stakeholders pointed out that the value chain development was carried out through mentorship programs that focused on teaching SMEs and farmers modern biological processes, helping them improve their production techniques and align their products with market demand. This mentorship extended over a full year, ensuring continuity and sustained support. The value chain projects placed a particular emphasis on women and youth, providing them with both technical skills and market access. This was critical in addressing the gender gap in rural and agricultural development, where women often face more barriers to entry.
169. Interviewed stakeholders and UNDP recent country evaluation¹⁵⁶ have highlighted that UN role in supporting the employment of **people with disabilities** was underscored by the creation of policy papers for the social protection agency, focused on improving access to employment for people with disabilities, and empowering women and girls with disabilities through training and small grant, offering them a "one-window shop" where individuals with disabilities could access multiple services, including job assessment and placement. The interviews revealed however that only about 1% of people with disabilities are employed, although 7% of the population are identified as having a disability. This was highlighted as a systemic failure in providing adequate employment opportunities for this group. The UN's initiative seeks to rectify this by integrating SOPs to ensure that people with disabilities can access comprehensive services through one centralized system. In 2021, over 1400 people with disabilities benefitted from vocational education. In 2022, disability empowerment grants were awarded to 11 NGOs, benefiting over 1,000 individuals with disabilities, including 600 women. These grants have supported socio-economic integration by providing resources for skill development, enabling individuals to contribute to local economies and attain sustainable livelihoods. Despite these gains, resource limitations and occasional coordination gaps among local agencies have delayed the full implementation of disability-inclusive employment policies. To address this, the UN has prioritized engagement with organizations for persons with disabilities in policy formulation, ensuring that inclusive economic measures are integrated at a national level.
170. However, while there are clear successes, stakeholders have noted that **challenges remain**, particularly in bridging the gap between education and market demands, alleviating challenges of financial inclusion and ensuring widespread awareness of new policies and opportunities. A key challenge discussed in the interviews was the mismatch between the skills taught in universities and the skills required by employers. Many graduates struggle to find employment due to this gap, despite being well-educated. Another issue identified was the lack of adequate institutional frameworks and policy enforcement. While the SOP was designed to address fragmentation in service delivery, the interviews revealed that significant gaps remain in employment opportunities for people with disabilities due to societal and structural barriers, such as workplace accommodations and job market bias.

Outcome 4: By 2025, the most vulnerable benefit from enhanced access to gender-sensitive quality health, education and social services

171. Outcome 4 in 2021 and 2022 exceeded or closely matched its required resources in these years, with a high percentage spent, indicating efficient fund utilization and alignment with planned activities. In 2023, available resources decreased significantly compared to previous years, but expenditure remained high relative to

¹⁵⁵ UN (2024); 2023 UN Country Annual Results Report: Uzbekistan

¹⁵⁶ UNDP (2024): Independent Country Programme Evaluation

available funds. The available funding fell short of the required amount, with only about 56.6% of the needed resources available. At Outcome level, only one indicator (incidence of anemia) was fully achieved, reflecting measurable success in reducing anemia prevalence. Seven indicators are marked as “progressing,” suggesting steady advancements but not yet reaching full achievement. These indicators address critical areas like maternal and child health, communicable diseases, and government spending on health and social protection. Progressing status indicates these areas are moving in the right direction, but need more time, resources, or targeted interventions to fully meet the established goals.

Finding 14. The CF-supported national health insurance system has significantly expanded healthcare access in Uzbekistan, particularly for underserved communities in rural areas. Service delivery for maternal and child health, mental health expansion, cervical cancer screening, and HIV prevention have been found effective in achieving their intended outcome. However, the healthcare system’s limited capacity, especially in rural areas, constrained the effectiveness of these interventions.

172. Analysis of output indicators reveal that at output level, 2 indicators were achieved (health sector workforce training, school health and nutrition education), 4 indicators partially achieved (e.g., clinical audits in health facilities, access to medical products), 1 indicator on track (UN-supported health service beneficiaries), 1 indicator no progress (health policy development) and there is no available data for 1 indicator (Health Management Information System status).
173. Desk research and field findings reveal several interventions were effective in achieving their intended outcomes, particularly in expanding access to health services, improving the quality of healthcare, and fostering institutional change in Uzbekistan’s healthcare system. The UN’s healthcare programs have demonstrated a positive impact, with over 395,749 individuals benefiting from CF-supported services in 2023 alone. One of the most impactful reforms highlighted by the stakeholders is the **national health insurance system**, developed with UN assistance, which provides citizens with access to a wider range of healthcare services, particularly in underserved areas where access to affordable care had been limited. Stakeholders noted that UN’s support extended to the MoH on health financing and service delivery systems as well. Capacity building interventions reached over 76,000 health specialists across various aspects of **Universal Health Coverage**, strengthening the skillset of healthcare workers¹⁵⁷. Stakeholders note that these interventions stand to have long-term positive effects on health outcomes across the country. However, despite the overall positive assessment of UN support and coordination among UN agencies, challenges were noted in terms of inter-ministerial coordination within the government. Stakeholders shared that in the process of developing the new health insurance models, there was insufficient coordination between the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Economy and Finance and funding for the initiative was not secured until late in the process, causing delays in its rollout.
174. Stakeholder interviews highlighted **maternal and child health** (MCH) as another effective area of intervention. UN agencies worked together with the government to improve perinatal care by establishing and upgrading perinatal centers and training health professionals¹⁵⁸. The evaluation found that over 380,000 newborns benefited from enhanced healthcare services in perinatal centers, and 700,000 newborns and their mothers saw improved healthcare quality¹⁵⁹. National scale-up of service quality standards enhanced the capacity of 70 perinatal centers in implementing perinatal death audits and led to the full implementation of PDA in 12% of maternity hospitals (28 out of 227)¹⁶⁰. According to UN agency reports, over \$43.5 million mobilized to strengthen perinatal care, improving services across all perinatal centers. Initiatives included rolling out perinatal death audits in 100% centers and gradual capacity building of the knowledge and skills

¹⁵⁷ UN (2024); 2023 UN Country Annual Results Report: Uzbekistan

¹⁵⁸ UNICEF, UNFPA JP (2021). Final Narrative Progress Report

¹⁵⁹ UN (2024); 2023 UN Country Annual Results Report: Uzbekistan

¹⁶⁰ Ibid

of medical practitioners on effective perinatal technology, antenatal care and family planning. Additionally, by 2024 UN supported development of 14 protocols on maternal and reproductive health and in 2024 trained 225 health workers from 46 district maternities. Two online learning platforms were developed based on updated protocols to be launched through medical education institutions for pre- and post-diploma education for medical practitioners¹⁶¹.

175. In 2020-2022 UN piloted a comprehensive approach to strengthen the quality of perinatal services in three perinatal centers of the Republic of Karakalpakstan. As a final result, a total of 60 percent of all cases of perinatal death (31 out of 52 cases) and 30 percent of all near-miss maternal cases (117 out of 390 cases) were reviewed and audited, and context-appropriate courses of action were adopted under guidance from national trainers. A total of 12,159 mothers and 12,067 newborns, being approximately 28 percent of mothers and newborns in Karakalpakstan, have benefited from upgraded infrastructure and improved quality of care at the target perinatal centers. 84 percent of mothers raised satisfaction compared to 66 percent before project started and women's dissatisfaction with the quality of perinatal services dropped from 17 percent in 2019 to 5 percent in 2021. The project served as an evidence for development of further interventions in maternal and newborn health to sustain the improvement in perinatal care¹⁶².
176. The evaluation found that the perinatal centers provided vital maternal health services, including **antenatal and postnatal care**, which significantly reduced maternal and infant mortality rates. In 2023, the Republic of Karakalpakstan's progressive home visiting model reached 320,289 individuals, including 156,485 women and children, ensuring access to comprehensive primary healthcare and reducing equity gaps. The home visiting model benefited 320,289 individuals in Karakalpakstan, including 156,485 women and children¹⁶³. 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. Enhanced parenting skills for 360,000 caregivers through the Bebbio parenting application, targeting early childhood development and maternal health. According to stakeholders, a key factor in the effectiveness of these interventions was the strong alignment with national health priorities, particularly the government's emphasis on reducing maternal and infant mortality. The collaborative nature of the health initiatives, combining technical expertise and funding from multiple UN agencies, ensured that the interventions were well-resourced and effectively implemented
177. The CF piloted the HPV DNA-based **cervical cancer screening**, which has led to a broader strategy for cervical cancer elimination. Stakeholders highlighted this as a standout example of an effective health intervention, conducted jointly by two UN Agencies, and considered it as having a significant long-term potential. The program introduced modern HPV DNA-based testing to screen for cervical cancer, which was a significant improvement over previous methods. A pilot was carried out successfully, and the results were shared with the Ministry of Health. In 2022, 56,000 women underwent cervical cancer screening using an HPV test and 94.4% of girls age 12-14 years were vaccinated with two doses of the HPV vaccine¹⁶⁴. The use of HPV DNA-based testing was in line with international best practices and provided the government with solid evidence to support the scale-up of the program. According to interviewed stakeholders, building on the success of a pilot program that screened 62,000 women. The UN aligned all initiatives with SDG 3 targets, contributing significantly to reducing mortality and morbidity specifically in cancers, infectious and non-infectious diseases in Uzbekistan. In 2024, in collaboration with the government of Uzbekistan and supported by a \$70.7 million Islamic Development Bank loan, UN has upgraded oncology services in 13 regions and Tashkent city. Over 1,500 pieces of medical equipment have been procured, delivered, installed, and adhering to national laws and IAEA safety standards. The initiative aimed to serve 150,000 cancer patients

¹⁶¹ UNFPA Agency-provided info

¹⁶² UNFPA Agency-provided info

¹⁶³ UNICEF Agency-provided info

¹⁶⁴ UN (2023): 2022 UN Country Results Annual Report: Uzbekistan

annually, increasing outpatient capacity by 40% and inpatient services by 20%. As of October 2024, \$60 million in equipment has been delivered, with \$30 million allocated to Tashkent's Oncology and Radiology Medical Center, equipping it with 500+ units.¹⁶⁵ Uzbekistan has adopted a National Strategy for Reproductive Cancers and enacted a presidential decree to implement nationwide cervical cancer screening. UN Agencies provide technical expertise, ensuring the strategy's successful rollout and long-term impact in reducing cancer-related deaths among women. Although securing sustainable funding for national expansion remains a challenge, the groundwork laid during the pilot was seen as a major step forward in combating cervical cancer in Uzbekistan. The government has expressed interest in expanding the cervical cancer screening program, but without a concrete financial commitment, the program risks being reliant on international donors for sustainability. The presidential decree supporting the program was seen as a positive step, but stakeholders emphasized that the decree lacked a clear budgetary framework, leaving the long-term viability of the program in question.

178. Stakeholders also highlighted the expanded **mental health services**, as another key reform, as particularly effective in increasing access to care for individuals suffering from mental health issues. Prior to CF intervention, mental health services were limited, and there was a significant stigma associated with seeking mental health support. The new programs, developed in partnership with various UN agencies and the MoH, helped to reduce this stigma and provide more comprehensive mental health care to individuals in need. The expansion included training for healthcare workers, the establishment of new mental health facilities, and the integration of mental health services into primary healthcare settings. The integration of mental health literacy into primary healthcare is a notable achievement, addressing a historically underserved area of public health¹⁶⁶. UN supported trainings of 13,864 school psychologists on suicide awareness, prevention, intervention and postvention and providing psychosocial support¹⁶⁷. Additionally, mental health services were improved for 6 million adolescents in schools. The integration of mental health services into the primary healthcare system was considered by stakeholders with strong long-term potential. They highlighted that the effectiveness of this intervention would likely increase as more healthcare workers received training in mental health care, and as public awareness about mental health issues grew. Desk research and stakeholder interviews also noted that the UN promoted health literacy and healthy lifestyles across all age groups, equipping over 10 thousand schools with updated information on reproductive health, HIV and STI prevention, family planning, WASH, and nutrition. Teachers were trained to provide gender-sensitive education on the HPV vaccine for girls. Additionally, 314,627 adolescents, parents, and teachers—77% of whom were women—gained knowledge and skills in these areas, fostering improved community health awareness¹⁶⁸.
179. **Digital health advancements** introduced through the CF, such as the **Electronic Immunization Registry**, have enabled better tracking of vaccination coverage. This innovation was instrumental in ensuring that vaccination services reached children across the country, reducing gaps in immunization. The UN assistance modernized the National Immunization Programme, ensuring consistent vaccine supply for 3.5 million children¹⁶⁹. Immunization initiatives were strengthened, with a 96.8% DPT coverage for children under one and a near-total coverage for measles vaccination (98.9%). Additionally, 806,376 girls (94.4% of the target) received the HPV vaccine following widespread awareness campaigns and teacher engagement¹⁷⁰. However, stakeholder interviews indicated that rural healthcare providers continue to face challenges in fully utilizing these digital systems due to resource and training constraints¹⁷¹. Furthermore, UN supported the

¹⁶⁵ UNOPS Agency-provided data

¹⁶⁶ Ibid

¹⁶⁷ Ibid

¹⁶⁸ UN (2022); 2021 UN Country Annual Results Report: Uzbekistan

¹⁶⁹ UN (2024); 2023 UN Country Annual Results Report: Uzbekistan

¹⁷⁰ UN (2023); 2022 UN Country Annual Results Report: Uzbekistan

¹⁷¹ P&P RG 2023 Outcome 4 HEALTH Reporting

Government in implementing Micronutrient Powder (MNP) programming, distributing over eight million packets and reaching 1.4 million children aged 6–23 months. This initiative included social listening and behavior change approaches to enhance caregiver participation¹⁷²

180. In terms of **HIV treatment**, stakeholders have noted that many of the laws relating to health, and HIV are outdated and do not reflect recent advancements in medical treatment or international human rights standards. This creates barriers to effective service provision, particularly for marginalized groups. In 2024, UN agencies collaborated and developed an Assessment of National Legislation Affecting Access to HIV Services, presenting the findings to 25 partners from UN agencies and development organizations¹⁷³. The evaluation found that criminalization of HIV transmission continues to be a major barrier to accessing services, and while the availability of HIV treatment has improved, access remains a challenge due to legal and social barriers. Marginalized groups, such as people who use drugs, sex workers, and migrants, often face discrimination and are reluctant to seek services for fear of legal repercussions. Recent policy changes reflect progress in promoting equality and access to HIV-related services. Uzbekistan's acceptance of key Universal Periodic Review (UPR) recommendations, including the decriminalization of HIV and promoting voluntary testing, underscores its commitment to improving public health. The UN-led legal assessment of national legislation also provided actionable insights for enhancing HIV service access.
181. The CF made substantial progress in **HIV treatment**, marked by increased availability and governmental responsibility for ARV procurement, and coverage soared to 84.4%, reaching 41,090 people living with HIV¹⁷⁴. The evaluation found that the introduction of an electronic HIV surveillance system streamlined patient management, tracking treatment adherence and allowing remote registration for migrants. This adaptability has made HIV services more accessible to at-risk groups, including undocumented populations. Antiretroviral coverage reached 84.4%, serving over 41,090 people.¹⁷⁵ Stakeholders also reported significant success in the reduction of HIV incidence due to targeted interventions that focused on high-risk populations, such as people living with HIV, sex workers, and intravenous drug users. UN agencies, in collaboration with the MoH, implemented comprehensive HIV prevention strategies, including awareness campaigns, access to antiretroviral therapy (ART), and harm reduction programs such as needle exchange initiatives. Legal barriers, especially the criminalization of HIV transmission, remain a critical hindrance to CF efforts, discouraging many from seeking care.
182. **Capacity-building efforts** enabled over 76 thousand health professionals to be trained on various aspects of universal health coverage¹⁷⁶ and 48 thousand nurses trained in home visiting program¹⁷⁷. Efforts included training programs on HIV, gender equality, and human rights for diverse stakeholders, including UN staff, law enforcement officers, and journalists. According to stakeholders, these sessions improved understanding of HIV prevention, reduced stigma, and fostered rights-based approaches in healthcare and law enforcement. A **specialized mentoring initiative**, #UzYouthMentor, empowered young people living with HIV, fostering personal and professional growth through transformative guidance. These efforts were complemented by workshops and training on media coverage to ensure accurate, empathetic storytelling about HIV. In 2024, the UN trained 500 professionals in epidemic preparedness and prevention, advanced laboratory techniques and risk management and biosafety as well as ToT programs to enhance staff capacity in training design, delivery, and evaluation.¹⁷⁸ **Advocacy and awareness campaigns** leveraged creative projects to challenge stigma and amplify voices of people living with HIV. These programs are advancing

¹⁷² UNICEF Agency-provided info

¹⁷³ UNAIDS Agency- provided info

¹⁷⁴ UN (2023); 2022 UN Country Annual Results Report: Uzbekistan

¹⁷⁵ UN (2023); 2022 UN Country Annual Results Report: Uzbekistan

¹⁷⁶ Ibid

¹⁷⁷ UN (2022); 2021 UN Country Annual Results Report: Uzbekistan

¹⁷⁸ UNOPS Agency-provided data

social inclusion, reducing stigma, and building a supportive environment for people living with HIV in Uzbekistan.

183. The evaluation found that UNs work on drug prevention demonstrates a comprehensive approach to addressing **drug prevention** through collaboration with law enforcement, education, community engagement, and the integration of values-based curricula. UN, through UN has collaborated closely with the Uzbekistan law enforcement agencies to establish and support the Interagency Mobile Teams, or IMTs, in Uzbekistan. This partnership has been instrumental in developing a robust framework for drug control in the country. According to UNODC data for 2024, the IMT initiative has deployed 13 operational units across the regions of Uzbekistan. In 2024, IMTs have significantly increased drug seizure statistics, underscoring their effectiveness in addressing narcotics challenges. Over 500 drug dependence treatment professionals enhanced their knowledge through the Universal Treatment Curriculum for Substance Use Disorders trainings¹⁷⁹. With UN support, the Regional Youth Network in Central Asia has engaged 3,400 young people in the region to promote a healthy lifestyle and develop social skills. The UN also initiated a new programme - Drug Use Prevention with Friends in Focus, that provides young people with the skills to reduce drug use through assisting their peers effectively, empowering them to intervene proactively by creating a nonjudgmental and supportive approach.¹⁸⁰ Between 2021 and Q1 2024, the IMT's share of national drug seizures rose from 45% to 66%. This upward trend highlights their vital role in disrupting drug trafficking networks. Desk research¹⁸¹ reveals more than 22,000 students from 390 public schools participated in educational programs focused on the Rule of Law, which included components on crime, violence, and drug use prevention. These programs utilized life-skills and sports-based methodologies to enhance protective factors against substance abuse. Additionally, educational tools promoting values such as integrity and respect were developed and integrated into the primary school curriculum, reaching approximately 500,000 students annually. The UN supported the establishment of a regional network around the Drug Monitoring Platform which is a multi-source system for collecting, visualizing, and sharing drug data, improving early warning drug threat identification for law enforcement institutions. Also, the UN developed key recommendations to enhance capabilities of Uzbekistan in delivering forensic analysis of narcotic drugs, DNA, firearms, digital evidence as well as in crime scene management.¹⁸² Moreover, awareness and community engagement initiatives emphasized early intervention and education to combat drug use. These campaigns focused on addressing root causes, building resilience among youth, and fostering community support structures. Furthermore, UN presented the Handbook "Investigation, Prosecution and Adjudication of Trafficking in Persons Cases", prepared in partnership with the Government.
184. However, stakeholders acknowledged that despite the success of these interventions, several challenges hindered their full effectiveness. These challenges were primarily related to **systemic issues within the healthcare sector**. One of the major barriers to effective healthcare delivery was the **outdated infrastructure and lack of modern medical equipment**, particularly in rural areas. While UN agencies introduced new medical protocols and standards, their implementation was often limited by the poor condition of healthcare facilities and the unavailability of up-to-date diagnostic tools and treatment equipment. Mobile health teams, which were critical for delivering care to remote populations, were often under-resourced. Participants mentioned that these teams lacked vehicles, medical supplies, and proper equipment, which hindered their ability to provide effective services. This was a particular issue in rural areas, where the demand for healthcare was high, but the resources were insufficient. Stakeholders expressed frustration that while UN agencies could introduce modern healthcare practices, they were often constrained by the local healthcare **system's lack of capacity to implement** these practices on a wide scale. **Geographic**

¹⁷⁹ UNODC Agency-provided data

¹⁸⁰ Ibid.

¹⁸¹ UN (2023): 2022 UN Country Results Annual Report: Uzbekistan

¹⁸² UNODS Agency-provided data

disparities in access to healthcare also limited the effectiveness of several interventions. Stakeholders highlighted that while urban areas were generally well-served by healthcare programs, rural regions lagged behind due to logistical difficulties and a lack of healthcare infrastructure. This disparity made it challenging to achieve nationwide effectiveness for some interventions, particularly those that required a high level of healthcare infrastructure, such as cervical cancer screening and maternal health services. Another significant challenge to the effectiveness of health interventions was the **shortage of adequately trained healthcare workers**. While UN agencies provided capacity-building programs, participants noted that healthcare workers, particularly in rural and underserved areas, often lacked the skills needed to implement new health protocols effectively.

185. Lastly, **cultural and societal norms** were identified as major challenges, particularly in relation to programs focused on family planning, sexual education, and reproductive and sexual health programmes. Deeply rooted cultural values are often conflicted with some of the objectives of these programs, making it difficult to implement them fully. Participants emphasized that topics such as family planning and sexual education faced significant resistance from both the government and local communities. These programs were seen as sensitive or even taboo, which limited their scope and reach. UN has advanced family planning in Uzbekistan by increasing access to modern contraception and addressing unmet needs. UN advocacy for family planning has led to budget allocations of \$4 million budget for contraceptive distribution, increased availability of contraceptives with initial shipments reaching healthcare facilities and education on their use. UN shifted contraceptive demand calculations to a demographic data basis, enhancing accuracy. It also improved the supply chain system by developing a stock management application, training reproductive health staff, and integrating stock management functions into the Digital Health Platform to enable tracking of contraceptives from arrival to patient delivery¹⁸³. However, stakeholders have highlighted the need to scale up access to contraceptives, particularly in rural areas and provide family planning counseling at civil registration offices, engaging also men in family planning initiatives to foster shared responsibility. Furthermore, stakeholders have highlighted the need to establish partnerships with NGOs, faith-based organizations and religious leaders should promote gender equality and reproductive rights, adapting messages to cultural contexts, specifically through community-based outreach programs (Mahalla networks), to improve access to SRHR services and education.
186. Furthermore, conservative **cultural attitudes** made it difficult to introduce comprehensive sexual education in schools, despite the strong evidence of its benefits. According to stakeholder interviews, sexual and reproductive health education is minimal or nonexistent in schools. Many girls enter adulthood with little knowledge of menstrual or reproductive health, leading to poor health outcomes. UN's initiative to include sexual education in school curricula was met with resistance from both the Ministry of Education and local communities. While some progress was made, the program was not fully implemented as planned due to concerns about the appropriateness of discussing topics like contraception and reproductive health with adolescents.
187. One challenge stemming from cultural and societal norms, is often **inconsistent data collection across sectors**, and there are issues with transparency and accessibility, particularly for marginalized groups such as people living with HIV, migrants, and those facing gender-based violence. Some stakeholders mentioned a cultural issue of "false shame" or fear of punishment, which leads to the underreporting of critical health and human rights data. This has a direct impact on the ability to provide evidence-based policy recommendations. The legal assessment of HIV services showed that criminalization of HIV transmission has led to further barriers to data collection. People living with HIV, particularly migrants, hide their status for fear of deportation, making accurate data collection difficult. Hence, stakeholders suggest that digitalization of data collection systems, as noted in some HIV projects, can help reduce data manipulation and improve

¹⁸³ UNFPA Agency-provided information

accuracy, According to stakeholders, strengthening national data systems is essential to drive evidence-based policies.

188. Lastly, according to stakeholders, Uzbekistan faces one of the highest fertility rates in the region, rising from 2.4 to 3.4 in recent years, resulting in nearly 1 million births annually, with **the population projected to grow to 41 million by 2030** and 50 million by 2050, highlighting the need for systematic integrated of demographic data into policy development, budget planning, and legislation.. As such, the health sector faces growing demands for maternal care, pediatric services, and broader health infrastructure improvements. High fertility rates are driven by limited body autonomy, cultural norms, and misinformation about reproductive health. Stakeholders highlight that women in Uzbekistan often lack the freedom to decide when and how many children to have. This impacts maternal health outcomes, including high morbidity and mortality rates. Stakeholders have recommended undertakin efforts to tackle limited bodily autonomy, restricted reproductive choices, reproductive coercion, and diminished decision-making power for women, which are heightened when family or community expectations are unmet. This underscores the need to prioritize policies and program to mitigate health risks associated with multiple consecutive pregnanices, the integration of SRHR services into primary healthcare systems under universal health coverage and the need for scalable systems to accommodate increased demands in health and education sectors, including through the development of a National Demographic Resilience Strategy to address key population dynamics and harness the demographic dividend.

Access to education

Finding 15. The CF has significantly enhanced Uzbekistan's education system by supporting the establishment of EMIS, developing inclusive curricula, advancing teacher professional development, and supporting implementation of quality assurance systems. However, there is a need for more strategic planning of educational interventions to better align with government priorities while adding value to UN efforts by emphasizing substantial systemic reforms over infrastructure-focused projects.

189. Analysis of output indicators reveal that at output level, 4 indicators were achieved (establishment of EMIS, curriculum development, teacher professional development, quality assurance systems), 3 indicators on track, 1 indicator no progress (inclusive and gender-equitable access to education). Desk research reveals that the CF has contributed to increasing the capacity of the government and educational stakeholders to deliver inclusive and equitable education. Notable progress is reflected in the development and alignment of sector policy, planning, and financing frameworks with SDG 4, with the number of revised frameworks rising from 0 to 2 in 2023, and a target of 4 by 2024¹⁸⁴. The inclusive and gender-equitable education system has also progressed, with improvements noted on a scale of 0-7, moving from 2 to 3 by 2023, targeting 4 by 2024. The effectiveness of the teacher development system, measured on a scale of 0-4, also showed progress, moving from 2 to 2.5 by 2023, with a target of 3 by 2024. ¹⁸⁵

190. The evaluation found that the CF supported efforts to enhance quality in the national education system through policy development, technical expertise, capacity building, infrastructure and direct service provision. Interviewed stakeholders highlighted that UN Agencies 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. The CF also contributed to integrate EMIS into schools to enhance transparency and accountability of school-related services, and supported the development of e-solutions for monitoring educational quality and assessment practices to increase transparency of school performance. In 2022, EMIS reviews at the pre-school level guided the training of 33,000 staff, and a monitoring and evaluation system was implemented to assess the impact of

¹⁸⁴ Education SG Proposed Indicators

¹⁸⁵ Education SG Proposed Indicators

teacher development on both teacher learning and student achievement. Further, the UN supported the National Information Center for tertiary education to integrate EMIS system on recognition of qualifications at national and international levels¹⁸⁶.

191. The evaluation found that UN's education initiatives under the CF have expanded access to inclusive education, particularly for marginalized and rural populations. The CF supported the development of **inclusive and gender-equitable education policies**, including updated curriculum frameworks that incorporate gender-sensitive and human rights-based content. Stakeholders highlighted that the UN supported the adoption of a National Policy Framework for Inclusive Education, ensuring equitable learning conditions and improved internet connectivity in schools across Uzbekistan. These revisions have helped foster an inclusive learning environment from an early age. According to 2024 UN agency data, inclusive school modelled providing an example of inclusive school infrastructure and standards. With CF support, over 112,000 teachers have been trained in inclusive education practices, promoting gender sensitivity and disability inclusion in classrooms across Uzbekistan¹⁸⁷. This training aimed to support educators in meeting the needs of diverse student populations, including children with disabilities and girls in rural areas.
192. **School infrastructure improvements** supported by the CF, including accessibility enhancements such as ramps and adapted restrooms, are found to have made educational facilities more accommodating for students with disabilities, especially in underserved regions. These upgrades reflect a significant commitment to creating an inclusive learning environment, although challenges in rural school infrastructure persist. UN improved WASH facilities across 15 schools and 20 health centers, benefiting vulnerable populations with better hygiene¹⁸⁸. The CF's review indicated substantial improvements in educational access and infrastructure, with indicators showing progress toward inclusive and gender-equitable education systems. Nonetheless, regional disparities in educational resources, especially in rural and low-income communities, remain an obstacle to fully realizing these goals¹⁸⁹. Investments in internet connectivity and professional development programs for educators reached 7,000 schools and 112,000 teachers, improving educational infrastructure and capacity¹⁹⁰. In 2024, investment case showcasing schools as Connectivity Hubs, in partnership with the private sector with connectivity ensured to 1000 households in Fergana Valley¹⁹¹. Internet connectivity improvements reached 10,104 schools (99.6%). Furthermore, over 300 experts and teachers enhanced their knowledge on information security and internet connectivity was ensured in 10 thousand schools, ensuring with increased access to digital learning materials in upgraded digital platforms.
193. Evaluation finding reveal that **digital and alternative learning platforms** developed in response to the COVID-19 crisis have been instrumental in maintaining educational continuity across Uzbekistan. The pandemic interrupted in-person education, with school closures affecting millions of students. The UN's rapid response included distance learning programs reaching 6 million students, technical support for the Government to ensure safe school reopening and initiatives like #LearningAtHome campaigns and parental support materials to sustain child education and well-being during lockdowns. Over 3.5 million students benefited from improved online learning platforms during the COVID-19 pandemic. According to interviewed stakeholder, these platforms helped maintain access to education in both urban and rural areas, preventing significant learning losses during the pandemic, offering learning opportunities despite infrastructure challenges. Additionally, alternative learning centers, created with UN support, have provided education access to marginalized children, reaching over 400¹⁹² students with tailored, inclusive programs¹⁹³. Through

¹⁸⁶ UN (2022); 2021 UN Country Annual Results Report: Uzbekistan

¹⁸⁷ JWP 2023-2024

¹⁸⁸ Narrative Report UNICEF UNFPA UNODC JP 2022

¹⁸⁹ UN (2023); 2022 UN Country Annual Results Report: Uzbekistan

¹⁹⁰ JWP 2023-2024

¹⁹¹ UNICEF Agency-provided data

¹⁹² Annual Education Inclusion Report

¹⁹³ Annual Performance Review 2022

the Education Reform Partnership Compact 2023-2026, the UN mobilized 600 million in funding commitments¹⁹⁴ and supported reforms that provided access to education for marginalized children, including those in rural areas. Digital solution was piloted in 14 schools demonstrating measurable improvements in learning outcomes (Eduten gamified platform for mathematics at grade five), with an average +16.9% improvement in mathematics skills, compared to control group who did not use the platform¹⁹⁵.

194. Field findings and annual reports have confirmed that enrollment in **early childhood education** reached 69.4% for children aged 3-6, and 83.8% for 6-year olds¹⁹⁶. The UN established ten alternative centers benefiting 400 children and secured a \$70 million partnership between the Islamic Development Bank and the Ministry of Pre-School Education in 2022 to scale up these early childhood education models in disadvantaged areas¹⁹⁷. **National Teacher Training Curriculum Framework** was developed supporting pre-school teachers' qualifications and pre-service teacher training standards. More than 2 million children benefited from updated curricula, including competency-based and inclusive content. Around 1.23 million children in grades 1 and 2 have benefited from the UN support to enhance competency-based and inclusive curriculum and textbooks in early grades¹⁹⁸. The ECE evaluation noted the increase in ECE enrollment by 20% among vulnerable children in rural areas, reflecting expanded access to quality education. Expansion of ECE facilities provided accessible education to children from disadvantaged families, with 80% of surveyed parents expressing satisfaction with the service quality. The ECE evaluation included specific provisions for women, with 75% of trained ECE teachers being female, contributing to female employment in rural areas¹⁹⁹.
195. The evaluation found that UN Agencies also 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 curricula²⁰⁰. In 2022, a new Teacher Professional Development Model was introduced, offering flexible and cost-effective access to professional courses. Over 25,700 teacher users (Over 15% of total ECE teachers) accessed on-line training programme through the first ECE teacher training platform and a total of 6,500 teachers benefited from revised in-service teacher training curriculum at national and regional level in 2024. The revised in-service teacher curriculum and program is expected to reach all pre-school teachers over the next 5 years²⁰¹.
196. The evaluation found that CF has strengthened the government's capacity to promote **lifelong learning and continuous professional development** among education sector employees. Efforts include the establishment of a structured professional development system, ensuring that educators receive consistent, high-quality training to meet evolving pedagogical standards. These initiatives have improved the competencies of teachers, enhancing the overall quality of education delivery. Through providing access to ongoing professional development, the CF has supported educators in gaining new skills and adapting to modern educational practices. However, further improvement in creating a decent work environment for educators, such as addressing workload and compensation, remains essential for sustainable progress²⁰².
197. Stakeholders have highlighted that CF, with support from partners like USAID, has prioritized aligning the educational system with the demands of the labor market, focusing on **vocational and technical education reforms**. These reforms aim to equip youth with practical skills needed for the workforce, addressing the skill gap that has historically hindered employability among graduates. According to interviewed

¹⁹⁴ UN (2024); 2023 UN Country Annual Results Report: Uzbekistan

¹⁹⁵ UNICEF Agency-provided data

¹⁹⁶ UN (2023); 2022 UN Country Annual Results Report: Uzbekistan

¹⁹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁹⁸ UN (2022); 2021 UN Country Annual Results Report: Uzbekistan

¹⁹⁹ Evaluation Report ECE Aral Sea Trust Fund

²⁰⁰ UN (2022); 2021 UN Country Annual Results Report: Uzbekistan

²⁰¹ UNICEF Agency-provided data

²⁰² Education Sector Capacity Building Report, p. 5

stakeholders, technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) initiatives included new standards and curriculum upgrades, aiming to enhance employability skills for youth and vulnerable populations. Despite challenges, such as adapting foreign educational models (e.g., the Finnish model) to local contexts, these efforts demonstrated a commitment to improving the relevance and quality of education. Vocational training programs introduced under the CF have provided students with industry-specific skills, particularly in technical fields.

198. Stakeholders in the education sector praised the UN's work in linking education to economic development, which has shown good results. **Entrepreneurship modules** were incorporated into school curricula, teaching youth essential life skills such as financial literacy, communication, and problem-solving. These programs have been especially impactful for rural youth, who may face limited job opportunities. CF promoted vocational training tailored for youth with disabilities, providing them with practical skills that improve employability and independence. Around 1,786,145 adolescents and youth benefited from UN supported skills development programmes in formal and non-formal education including on development of life skills²⁰³
199. Stakeholder interviews revealed that the UN has also promoted **gender equity in education** through programs addressing gender-based violence and enhancing school environments. CF supported curriculum development incorporated gender-sensitive and human rights-based content, promoting awareness and equality from an early age. These revisions have helped create a more inclusive learning environment that respects gender diversity. Gender-based violence awareness initiatives reached over 13,000 students across 100 schools in 2022, fostering safe learning environments and empowering students to advocate against violence. Community involvement, supported by high engagement from educators and community leaders, has facilitated meaningful discussions around gender equality and created a culture of respect within schools.
200. The CF promoted the inclusion of comprehensive sexual education into school and university curricula to increase knowledge about reproductive health among school children, university students and young people. More than 13 000 school children and young people improved their knowledge about sexual reproductive health, healthy lifestyle, early marriage, and family planning with support of trained teachers and young volunteers²⁰⁴. Building on this progress, stakeholders identify it is crucial to continue efforts to integrate comprehensive sexual education into formal education systems to ensure sustained impact and broaden the reach to more young people across Uzbekistan.
201. Stakeholders acknowledged the UN's support in establishing **international qualification standards in education**, which has helped align the national education system with global benchmarks. They see value in the UN's technical assistance however would like to see a more sustained, long-term approach, as short-term projects limit the effectiveness and sustainability of educational reforms. Stakeholders voice the need for more strategic planning of educational interventions to better align with government priorities while adding value to UN efforts by emphasizing substantial systemic reforms over infrastructure- focused projects. A more strategic CF approach could enable the UN to push back against infrastructure-heavy demands and redirect efforts toward addressing the government's actual need for expertise. According to stakeholders, with external loans flooding in, a disproportionate amount of funds are allocated to infrastructure rather than capacity- building, creating inefficiencies. Stakeholders highlighted insufficient efforts to advocate for the importance of capacity-building and expertise. Rapid policy changes in the education sector exacerbate these challenges. For example, UN's contributions to TVET policy have become outdated following the adoption of new policies, while ambitious CF targets in pre-school education have been upended by the recent abolition of the Ministry of Preschool Education.

²⁰³ Based on data provided by MOPSE

²⁰⁴ UNFPA Agency-provided data

Finding 16. The CF's support has facilitated significant improvements in social protection structural reform in Uzbekistan, particularly through the establishment of the National Agency for Social Protection and a comprehensive Single Social Registry. Progress was made in terms of PWD rights, including initiative to transition from medical to social model. However, some areas, such as the social protection system's capacity to respond to all forms of vulnerabilities, are still evolving.

202. Analysis of output indicators reveal that at output level, 2 indicators were achieved (National Social Protection Strategy, policies on violence prevention), 2 indicators partially achieved (e.g., solutions in social protection and child protection), 2 indicators on track (basic service access and institutional capacity), 1 indicator no data available (COVID-19 response for gender-based violence).
203. The evaluation findings reveal that the CF's support has facilitated substantial and structural improvements in social protection in Uzbekistan. Through its Joint Programme on Social Protection funded by the UN SDG Fund, the UNCT delivered collective responses to national needs in social protection²⁰⁵. One of the most significant transformational changes in the field of social protection supported was the establishment of the National Agency for Social Protection. This agency consolidates functions that were previously fragmented across more than six different ministries and agencies, addressing long-standing inefficiencies. The UN played a key role in advocating for the creation of this agency and supporting its establishment, including the development of its organizational structure and defining staff roles at all levels, and in institutionalizing a social service workforce, including professionalization of social work. I would like this to be reflected more prominently. Another notable achievement was the introduction of a comprehensive Social Registry, benefiting 2 million people. According to interviewed stakeholders, the establishment of the **Social Protection Single Registry** (SPSR) has been a transformative achievement, now serving as a comprehensive system for identifying and supporting vulnerable groups, with a particular focus on low-income families and children. The registry rollout resulted in the increase of families receiving support to 2.5 million (4.4 million children) in October 2022. Stakeholders praised it as a positive structural reform, enhancing the coordination and delivery of social services. However, stakeholders also note that challenges in service provision, particularly in addressing the needs of vulnerable populations, such as people with disabilities and women affected by GBV, indicate room for improvement. Stakeholders have highlighted that the UN supported the development of a social work case management system designed to serve all individuals requiring social protection support. This system was piloted in selected districts in 2021. In 2022, it was rolled out across the entire Surkhandarya region. Social work case management is a mandatory function for NASP's social workers and is intended for nationwide implementation, however significant capacity-building efforts are still required to achieve this.. UN provided training to over 680 women activists and district-level specialists in 2022.
204. According to interviewed stakeholders, the adoption of the budgeted **National Social Protection Strategy** and **Child Benefits Scheme** demonstrates how reforms can directly expand the social safety net. This scheme led to a 75% increase in the number of families receiving social assistance, which is an indicator of effectiveness in policy implementation. The government has also introduced monthly cash benefits to caregivers of children with disabilities, and launched a compensation of maternity benefits for women working in the private sector. However, stakeholders highlighted a significant challenge with the recent budget cuts in child benefits, which have reduced the ability of the social protection system to deliver the same level of services, this could jeopardize the gains made in poverty reduction if the system cannot maintain its financial support for vulnerable populations. Following continued UN advocacy, disability assessment procedures were simplified to ease access to the determination procedure and make it transparent for applicants. Moreover, the system still faces challenges in effectively reaching highly marginalized populations, **such as the LGBTQ+ community and people with drug use disorders**. Stigma

²⁰⁵ UN (2022); 2021 UN Country Annual Results Report: Uzbekistan

and legal frameworks are barriers that limit the system's ability to provide these populations with the necessary social services

205. According to the interviewed stakeholders, as the national agency becomes operational and new political priorities emerge, the need to realign programs and objectives is challenging. The poverty reduction focus risks overshadowing broader social protection needs, such as services for the elderly or people with disabilities or child and women survivors of violence. The agency and UN bodies have to navigate these changes without losing sight of the comprehensive needs of vulnerable groups. Targeted programs for **elderly individuals and people with disabilities** have been incorporated into the social protection framework, addressing the specific needs of these groups through financial assistance and tailored support services. Nevertheless, economic instability and limited funding continue to challenge the effectiveness and sustainability of these initiatives.
206. Stakeholders have noted that following strong advocacy by UN, the Government ratified the UNCRPD. UN agencies supported the government to develop the National Action Plan for the UNCRPD. The evaluation found that the UN has been effective in advocating for better services and has contributed to important reforms towards a transformative shift from a **medical to a social model in disability assessment**, emphasizing a rights-based approach that considers the social and environmental needs of people with disabilities. This shift has led to more comprehensive service delivery for people with disabilities, addressing a broader range of their needs. Stakeholders highlighted the UN's joint programming as very effective in advocating for better services and has contributed to important reforms. Desk research reveals that technical support was provided to establish a human rights-based model for designing and delivering social services for children and adults with disabilities. This included a disability determination and assessment approach grounded in the social model of disability. UN supported the transition by delivering training on disability assessment to 80 members of national disability commissions. Additionally, 64 service providers, including representatives from organizations of persons with disabilities (OPDs) across sectors were trained to enhance their capacity to prevent and address violence against women with disabilities. In 2024, disability assessment reform has been launched by the Government of Uzbekistan, with the focus on piloting the new instruments for assessment of adults with disabilities. UN supported these reforms with the advocacy and technical expertise with the development of the road map on transition to human rights based model²⁰⁶. The evaluation found that the UN has also facilitated a multi-sectoral support for children at risk of violence and abuse, children repatriated from conflict zones and children from closed-type special educational facilities²⁰⁷. Stakeholders highlighted the UN support in the finalization of intersectoral SOPs on child protection, rolled out in Surkhandarya region, a process that included also the capacity building of 900 professionals. The SOPs supported the increased quality and coordination of services, benefitting over 15 thousand individuals. The CF has also implemented several **gender-responsive social protection programs**, particularly benefiting women, including GBV survivors and women with disabilities. UN supported the Government of Uzbekistan in a nationwide implementation and scale up of a Multi-Sectoral Response to GBV, based on internationally recognized models. Collaboration with the Agency for Social Protection and Association of Mahallas, facilitated knowledge sharing, capacity building, and the scale-up of SOPs for GBV response and the integration of GBV services into social protection systems, enhancing gender equality and empowerment. Key activities included training 38 master trainers from Inson centers across Uzbekistan to cascade gender competence and GBV response protocols. These efforts culminated in regional rollouts across three pilot regions, training over 1,500 social service staff, healthcare providers, and law enforcement personnel to strengthen interagency responses to GBV. The SOPs have become national policy documents and simultaneously, the practical instructions for thousands of service providers on grass root

²⁰⁶ UNICEF Agency- provided data 2024

²⁰⁷ Ibid.

level assisting them to take step-by-step interventions and apply internationally proven principles and approaches to work with GBV survivors while dealing with diverse actual cases of GBV, they face while implementing job daily routines²⁰⁸. Key activities also included improving the capacity of 1146 GBV Hotline staff, increasing awareness from 57.9% to 84.9%.²⁰⁹

207. In support for forcibly displaced **and stateless people**, the evaluation reveals several interventions in advancing protection and services for migrants, forcibly displaced, and stateless populations in Uzbekistan. According to stakeholder interviews, due to the lack of national legislation for refugee protection in Uzbekistan, highlighting the crucial legal gap affecting the ability of forcibly displaced people (Afghan nationals) to receive the protections afforded to refugees in other contexts. The lack of legal status severely restricts their access to essential services. Desk research and stakeholder interviews reveal UNs support in actively advocating for Uzbekistan's accession to the 1951 Refugee Convention and Statelessness Conventions, providing analytical support and facilitating discussions with government officials. To strengthen the support system, 1,325 professionals received training on child protection standards for forcibly displaced and stateless individuals. Additionally, 444 members from Afghan and host communities were trained in preventing gender-based violence, creating safer and more supportive environments. Afghan families—totaling 1,224 individuals—were counseled on political asylum procedures, helping them navigate their legal status. However, challenges persist, as Uzbekistan remains home to the largest stateless population in Central Asia, with over 22,000 individuals. Stakeholders illustrate successful joint efforts among UN agencies, (technical meetings between IOM, UNICEF, UNHCR) to address urgent individual cases of displaced people. This collaborative approach has proven effective in identifying needs and providing targeted assistance. However, despite these efforts, effectiveness is hindered by slow government responses, indicating that the lack of timely responses from government bodies impedes project progress. Stakeholders also expressed concerns about the slow pace of implementing commitments made by the UN. They mention that the UN team attempts to include issues of forcibly displaced and stateless people in their ongoing projects, include the establishment of task forces to address challenges, pointing out that meetings have become less frequent, indicating potential issues with sustained coordination..
208. The evaluation found that the **training programs for social workers**, supported by the UN, have strengthened the capacities of the social protection workforce, enhancing service delivery for vulnerable populations. However, while capacity-building efforts are underway, including the training for provision of tailored services to vulnerable populations, the **shortage of trained professionals remains a bottleneck**. The majority of social service professionals are paraprofessionals—individuals who are not university-trained social workers or psychologists—resulting in substantial re-training needs. According to interviewed stakeholder, social workers are needed to provide not just basic care but also specialized services for people with disabilities, elderly populations, and survivors of violence. A key issue remains the insufficient number of personnel to deliver actual services. Stakeholders confirm that the demand for social services exceeds the supply of trained social workers, especially in underserved rural areas and although the training of social workers through UN-funded programs has created a pool of trainers across different regions, strengthening the capacity of the new agency to provide social services, funding limitations and the insufficient number of trained social workers hinder the full potential of social protection services. While district-based Inson centers for social services have been established, they remain significantly understaffed and unable to provide comprehensive services. Therefore, much work is still needed to design a robust system of social services, including leveraging public-private partnerships to ensure effective service delivery.
209. Stakeholders have emphasized that **continuous and sustainable capacity building for social workers** is critical to ensure that services can be tailored to the needs of various vulnerable groups, including people

²⁰⁸ UNFPA Agency-provided info 2024

²⁰⁹ Ibid.

with disabilities and survivors of GBV, but also child victims of violence, abuse, and exploitation who, according to stakeholders, arguably receive even less support than women survivors of GBV and individuals with disabilities. Despite the progress in advocacy and policy and mechanism development, actual service delivery for people with disabilities and survivors of GBV remains insufficient according to interviewed stakeholders. The newly established agency is still in the early stages of building capacity, and the social workforce (i.e., social workers, service providers) is still underdeveloped. This impacts the ability to offer tailored services to those with complex needs, such as individuals with multiple disabilities. Similarly, while some progress has been made in delivering services to survivors of GBV, particularly women with disabilities, there are still significant gaps in awareness among the target population. Many women do not recognize certain forms of abuse (e.g., psychological or economic violence) as GBV, which risks reducing the effectiveness of these services.

210. Cooperation with **NGOs as implementing partners** is considered a good potential for strengthening partnerships and ensuring actual service delivery. UN interventions have supported NGO strengthening through capacity building. For example, UN strengthened NGO capacities in Surkhandarya for GBV awareness, prevention, and inclusive service delivery, including support for women and girls with disabilities. To ensure sustainability, an online platform for self-learning and monitoring was developed, aligning multisectoral GBV response services with international standards. These efforts comprehensively enhanced GBV awareness, prevention, and survivor support across sectors. However, although NGOs are critical for the advancement of human rights, their ability to access funding and participate meaningfully is hindered by bureaucratic barriers and restrictive registration procedures. Stakeholders suggest UN agencies should streamline procedures to make it easier for civil society organizations to access grants and participate in national programs. There also needs to be increased advocacy for a more favorable legal framework for NGO registration and operations.

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

211. There has been a considerable increase in funds available each year for Outcome 5, from over \$12 million in 2021 to nearly \$28 million in 2023 but reduced back to just above \$23 million in 2024. The percentage of unused funds has decreased each year, indicating an improvement in budgeting. The expenditure rate has generally improved, with 2023 showing the highest utilization of available funds at 81.8%. The progress under this outcome is evident in all output areas. The review of planned and completed activities shows that the CF is making good progress with the delivery of expected outputs showing a good return on investments. The progress with achievement of UNSDCF output indicators by October 2024 shows that out of 32 indicators, with 4 exceeding the targets, 5 being on track and 10 being partially achieved²¹⁰, the progress with the achievement of outcome has been nearly 60%. However, no data is still not available for 11 indicators which is nearly 34%. At Outcome level, eight indicators are in progress suggesting steady advancements but not yet reaching full achievement, while data on 9 indicators (or 53%) is not available and is not likely to be available by the end of 2025.

Finding 177. Evaluation found evidence of the CF's direct contribution to advancing gender-sensitive, climate-focused adaptation and mitigation initiatives at both national and sub-national levels, including in the Aral Sea region. The CF has played an effective role in helping the most vulnerable communities to gain skills and support in climate change mitigation efforts with a proper focus on inclusive decision-

²¹⁰UN INFO data on output and outcome indicators.

212. Significant progress is noted toward climate resilience and sustainable development measures, with the CF playing an essential role in supporting the government across key areas. Notable achievements relate to energy savings, CO₂ emissions reduction, enhanced disaster preparedness, and the adoption of green technologies. The capacity-building initiatives related to climate change policy formulation and implementation, disaster risk reduction, preparedness, and sustainable innovations in agriculture are highlighted as critical accomplishments. Adopting and accepting various laws and policies in agriculture and environment, particularly those resulting from UN strategic initiatives projects, were mentioned specifically. However, the pace of implementation and the challenges in scaling up successful initiatives indicated that while some progress would be made by 2025, full achievement of the outcome might only be possible with intensified efforts and enhanced resource allocation.
213. Analysis of the UN agencies' project reports, evaluation reports and interviews with national stakeholders give sufficient data to conclude on the role of the UN and development partners in facilitating the country to make substantial progress in enhancing its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement, as noted in the Finding 6, increasing its implementation scale from 1 to 2 by 2023.²¹¹ The recognition of these efforts has been the \$7.5 million grant awarded to Uzbekistan by the World Bank's Carbon Asset Development Fund that acknowledged the successful reduction of 500,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions²¹². The National Adaptation Plan (NAP), developed with UN support, targets climate-affected sectors and vulnerable Aral Sea regions, aligning Uzbekistan with global climate goals and SDG 13²¹³. The Aral Sea Fund's support with the establishment of the Advisory Committee on Sustainable Development for Karakalpakstan and the Aral Sea Region resulted in development of an integrated roadmap for Karakalpakstan consolidating numerous existing strategies and action plans into a single government strategy, demonstrating effective governance and management.
214. UN support has strengthened Uzbekistan's capacity to develop green policies that enhance climate resilience, renewable energy and environmental governance through such key contributions as the Environmental Performance Review, access to Green Climate Fund resources, sectoral adaptation plans, and the drafting of the Water Code (there are ongoing hearing in the Parliament on its adoption²¹⁴). However, sustained progress in water management and ecosystem conservation requires ongoing inter-ministerial and cross-sectoral coordination.
215. The evaluation highlighted **significant outreach to final beneficiaries**. In the Aral Sea region, targeted measures to enhance climate resilience and promote sustainable agriculture reached over 293,000 direct beneficiaries across eight of Karakalpakstan's most vulnerable districts, significantly strengthening community and individual resilience to the Aral Sea disaster²¹⁵. The UN's substantial outreach efforts are further evidenced by nearly 60 capacity-building events involving 2,364 participants, 33.4% of whom were women—marking progress in gender inclusivity²¹⁶.
216. Promotion of **climate-smart agricultural practices**, such as smart water, drip irrigation, the Buried Diffuser Irrigation Systems²¹⁷, water-saving technologies in smallholder greenhouses, the adoption of climate-

²¹¹ UNINFO data, 2023

²¹² Interview with the Institute of Macroeconomy and Regional Studies

²¹³ UN Country Results Report 2020, p.26

²¹⁴ [In Uzbekistan, the Water Code will be approved | Qalampir.uz](https://qalampir.uz)

²¹⁵ End-of-Cycle Evaluation (ECE) of the UN Multi-Partner Human Security Trust Fund for the Aral Sea region in Uzbekistan (Aral Sea Trust Fund), 2019-2024

²¹⁶ UNDP 2024 data, ECA cluster

²¹⁷ Enhancing the adaptive capacity of young people and vulnerable citizens to address economic and food insecurities in the Aral Sea region, Narrative Report, June 2023, p.26

resilient crops and techniques, the introduction of digital technologies, including mobile apps and online platforms that give farmers access to real-time weather forecasts, market prices and expert advice on crop management²¹⁸, are cited as example of successful outreach and output delivery. The UN has effectively transformed food systems by engaging in national dialogues and policy discussions, particularly through its role in developing the National Food Security Strategy, which aligns Uzbekistan's agricultural policies with global commitments like the SDGs. However, the evaluation supports the conclusion of the UNDP independent country programme evaluation in that with water stress as a critical issue in Central Asia, the UN should continue to drive innovative solutions and pilot advanced technologies through for example a water innovation fund positioning the UN as a leader in water and agriculture sector reforms²¹⁹.

217. The UN's role is recognized in advancing environmental sustainability by integrating science into agriculture and facilitating the adoption of climate-resilient practices. Many adaptation measures, such as laser leveling, nature-based solutions, saxaul planting, and Agricultural Innovation Groups, have been scaled up through presidential decrees. The concept of Innovation Groups, crucial in a context of limited access to advanced agricultural knowledge and challenges like water scarcity, soil salinity, and climate change, continued to apply to support farmers in safeguarding productivity and livelihoods which is demonstrate by the example, when in 2024, selected amongst 200 new applications, a new group 18 Innovation Groups in the country have been created to test specific solutions in farm conditions, ranging from new resistant hybrids of crops and soil remediation advancements to improved livestock breeds and new fish farming models²²⁰. The evaluation underscores that while the support provided has yielded commendable results, expanding support is essential to deepen outcomes and extend benefits to more institutions, communities, and individuals.
218. Through several **water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) projects**, UN provided modernized health and education facilities and infrastructure for several thousand children and school staff demonstrating innovations in the use of various innovative and environmentally friendly equipment. Among the key achievements, improved WASH services put in place for over 700 school staff and 27,535 students (13,943 boys and 13,592 girls) in 15 schools of Kungrad, Muynak and Bozataw districts, considering climate-resilient, gender and age sensitive, disability inclusive, accessible and innovative WASH/MHH solutions²²¹. By September 2024, the UN has further improved access to WASH facilities at primary health care and educational organizations for 241,000 people, including 5,000 children and adolescents aged 7-18 years²²² in the Kegeyli, Chimbay and Karauzyak districts and Nukus city of the Republic of Karakalpakstan. To ensure the longevity of these improvements, UN partnership with the Zamin Foundation to update WASH standards nationwide has been a proactive step emphasizing the importance of updating WASH standards at schools across the country. Upgraded **water supply facilities** have enhanced community resilience, providing thousands of residents, particularly women, with reliable access to clean water. While data on health and contamination impacts is yet to be gathered, the increased system capacity ensures long-term water access.
219. By creating **income opportunities** and promoting sustainable tourism, UN initiatives in Karakalpakstan have contributed to improving rural social welfare and progress with the achievement of SDG 1. Support for 13 business projects in various sectors (milk processing, soap production, poultry farming) has created 60 new jobs, with indirect benefits for over 5,500 people, and improved community access to local goods and services. Training in heritage-based tourism and hospitality capitalises on Karakalpakstan's unique cultural

²¹⁸ FAO data 2024 provided to the evaluation during the mission

²¹⁹ Independent Country Programme Evaluation, p.51; FAO 2024 data shared by email to UNCT

²²⁰ [The EU and UNDP visit innovation groups dedicated to agricultural development in the Ferghana region](#)

²²¹ UNICEF, UNFPA and UNODC JOINT PROGRAMME: "Investing in a resilient future of Karakalpakstan by improving health, nutrition, water, sanitation, hygiene and wellbeing of adolescents and by harnessing the talents of youth during and after covid-19" Final Programme Narrative Report, December 2022, p.8

²²² [For every child, adequate water, sanitation, and hygiene conditions | UNICEF](#)

and natural assets, in line with trends in eco- and community-based tourism²²³ and offer potential for inclusive economic growth, job creation and cultural preservation with minimal environmental impact. If further supported, with strategic scaling, market linkages and environmental safeguards, these initiatives can be catalysts for long-term development.

220. The UN provided valuable opportunities for female students in agriculture to access training in green agriculture, equipping them with skills in agro-technologies and climate-smart practices. These efforts culminated in the Youth and Innovative Development of Agriculture competition, supported by the EU, UN, and the Ministry of Agriculture. This initiative recognized over 4,000 young agricultural professionals for their innovative climate-adaptation proposals, showcasing the potential of youth-driven solutions in advancing sustainable agricultural development.²²⁴ Presentation of their innovations on global platforms such as the 'Generation Unlimited' Challenge and InnoWeek, achieved notable recognition by ranking of the projects among the top 30 out of 71 teams worldwide at the Youth Climate Forum, highlighting the global competitiveness of youth-driven initiatives. The Forum has continued its proactive engagement by hosting the International Forum "Children and Youth in Action – Climate Change in Central Asia" in Tashkent in November 2023. This event, organized with the involvement of all UN agencies, underscores a collective commitment to empowering young leaders in addressing climate challenges and fostering regional collaboration on sustainability²²⁵.
221. With two groundbreaking scientific expeditions providing critical data on soil conditions and groundwater availability to guide effective reforestation of the parched sea floor, the UN demonstrated a comprehensive approach to **environmental restoration in the Aral Sea region**. These findings enabled local forestry authorities to optimize resources and supported the expansion of local tree nurseries²²⁶. Supporting the Green Aral Sea crowdfunding initiative, which has already planted 34,000 seedlings²²⁷, further demonstrated the UN role in enhancing public engagement to drive restoration efforts and raise awareness. The evaluation also notes the UN technical assistance significantly expanding the Yashil Makon (Green Nation) afforestation initiative's reach: in the Aral Sea region alone, UN-provided equipment and expertise enabled the planting of saxaul trees over 3,000 hectares²²⁸—a marked increase over prior efforts. Additionally, this support has also boosted development of pasture cooperatives resulting in planting 10 million saxaul seedlings across 10,000 hectares in Karakalpakstan²²⁹, where a 49-hectare nursery for drought-tolerant plants now stands as a substantial advancement from the previous 2–3 hectare scale. Also, by introduction innovative financing mechanisms such as Biofinance Initiative, the UN made significant contributions to biodiversity preservation by strengthening and expanding the protected areas from 8 percent to 14 percent, with improved management plans and monitoring capacities²³⁰. Evidence is observed in that through 2024, the UN's support continued to grow, with an emphasis on comprehensive master planning, innovative financing, and income-generating opportunities for local communities, especially in Surkhandarya. The success of this reforestation initiative highlights the impact of collaboration between government, international organizations, and local

²²³ UNDP and UNESCO Joint Programme 'Addressing the urgent human insecurities in the Aral Sea region through the promotion of sustainable rural development', Final programme narrative report, 2021, p.5

²²⁴ <https://www.undp.org/uzbekistan/press-releases/european-union-and-undp-support-young-innovators-agriculture>

²²⁵ <https://www.unicef.org/uzbekistan/en/press-releases/forum-dedicated-world-childrens-day-wcd-and-2023-united-nations-climate-change>

²²⁶ UNDP and UNESCO Joint Programme 'Addressing the urgent human insecurities in the Aral Sea region through the promotion of sustainable rural development' (UNDP and UNESCO Joint Programme 'Addressing the urgent human insecurities in the Aral Sea region through the promotion of sustainable rural development' MPTF office generic final programme narrative report, p.5

²²⁷ the Uzbekistan National State of the Environment Report, p.12

²²⁸ UNDP and UNESCO Joint Programme 'Addressing the urgent human insecurities in the Aral Sea region through the promotion of sustainable rural development' Final Programme, Narrative Report, August 2021, p.16

²²⁹ 2021 UN Country Annual Result report Uzbekistan, p 43

²³⁰ UNDP (2024); Independent Country Programme Evaluation Uzbekistan, p.29

communities, creating a model for climate resilience in arid and semi-arid regions. However, the program's momentum and long-term success will continue to rely on innovative financing and capacity-building.

222. Efforts to integrate **green technologies** and promote **renewable energy** have progressed. The UN was instrumental in developing key strategic documents (Annex 6) which serve as blueprints for sustainable practices across various sectors. By creating replicable models and fostering a culture of green building, such as the Near Zero Energy House in Nurafshan²³¹, the development of 24 energy-efficient building designs, construction of 1,358 energy-efficient homes since 2017, and contributing to the adoption of a New Building Code with a number of regulations focused on the use of solar energy, allowing a 30% reduction in energy consumption in residential buildings²³², the UN has laid the groundwork for broader adoption of sustainable practices, furthering the nation's commitment to reducing its carbon footprint and achieving global climate targets. Supported by the Green Mortgage, as one of the UN's initiatives, 6,640 rural population, including 3,320 women from 1,328 households (of them 778 are women-led) received affordable, low-carbon housing. More than half of these homeowners are women, emphasizing inclusive access to green housing and promoting the economic empowerment of female residents²³³. In total, the number of people with access to clean, affordable, and sustainable energy has been 31,000²³⁴. Attention is brought to the fact, that UNINFO data reports on 'No progress'²³⁵ with indicator 'Number of people who, with UN's support: a) Gained access to clean, affordable, and sustainable energy; or b) Benefitted from services from clean, affordable, and sustainable energy (new indicator)' which contradicts to the facts reported above, or weaknesses in UN monitoring system.
223. Significant strides has also been in promoting **gender equality in environment and energy (E&E) sector** through targeted interventions and gender-responsive programming. Input from the UN's Nature, Climate, Energy, and Waste (NCEW) team has enabled the UNCT to enhance its capacity to integrate gender considerations into E&E programming to ensure that projects are informed by best practices and aligned with international standards. Examples of the UN efforts addressing systemic barriers while empowering women to play active roles in sustainable development are integration of gender considerations in climate adaptation and mitigation plans recognising the differentiated impacts on women and their role in addressing these challenges; facilitating opportunities for women to establish and expand businesses in the agricultural sector, fostering entrepreneurship and financial independence (EU-AGRIN)²³⁶. These initiatives align with the SDGs, particularly SDG 5 (Gender Equality) and SDG 13 (Climate Action). However, these efforts face challenges with sustainability since the initiatives are mostly donor-supported, leading to dependency rather than long-term solutions. Moreover, while gender considerations have been included in national policies and programs, they have not yet been integrated into local government budgeting processes, limiting their broader institutional impact.

Finding 18. The results achieved demonstrate the UN's role in strengthening national and local capacities to implement environmentally sound and sustainable policies for the conservation and sustainable use of land and water ecosystems. With UN support, Uzbekistan has advanced its efforts to integrate environmental priorities into its development agenda and to enhance financial tools for sustainable growth. Through collaboration with international partners and a focus on transparency and accountability across multiple mechanisms, the UN is reinforcing the long-term impact of these initiatives. (Output 5.2).

224. The progress with the achievement of outputs gives sufficient evidence to conclude that the UN played a key role in supporting the Government of Uzbekistan to sustainably finance its SDG commitments in the

²³¹ 2022 UN Country Annual Result report Uzbekistan, p 40

²³² <https://www.undp.org/uzbekistan/press-releases/undp-promotes-energy-saving-methods-building-design-uzbekistan>

²³³ 2021 UN Country Annual Result report Uzbekistan, p 44

²³⁴ UNINFO, Output indicators, 2023.

²³⁵ UNINFO, 2024 data on output and outcomes indicators provide by UNCT

²³⁶ <https://www.undp.org/uzbekistan/press-releases/european-union-and-undp-support-young-innovators-agriculture>

environment. Through technical assistance, policy advice, and facilitating access to international financing mechanisms, the UN supported the integration of sustainable financing strategies into national development plans. Being supported by the UN the government received improved institutional frameworks, built capacity within relevant ministries, and promote innovative financing solutions, such as green bonds and climate finance, to ensure long-term support for the country's SDG goals. The CF support with integration of green and SDG-focused budgeting into public financial management, enhanced transparency through climate budget tagging. Joining the Protocol on Water and Health with UN support to further drive and streamline national action on water, sanitation, hygiene and health²³⁷ made the country to take **leading position**. However, for these initiatives to be successful, it's vital that they are sustained and properly implemented. This can be challenging, considering staff turnover in ministries that can slow progress. This will require ongoing support to build capacity and encourage better cooperation between agencies. While there's been solid progress, maintaining momentum and addressing these challenges will be key to ensuring the long-term success of these efforts.

225. The CF played a key role in enhancing national and local capacities to implement sustainable green policies for the conservation and use of terrestrial and water ecosystems by adopting several fundamental policy documents in the forestry sector (Annex 6). Combined with grassroots projects that involved nearly 11,000 people, nearly 60% of whom are women²³⁸ underscores the UN's commitment to promoting inclusive, community-based solutions. The high participation of women, who often play a key role in managing water in rural areas, highlights the empowering effect of these gender-sensitive approaches.
226. Efforts to protect biodiversity through designated areas were noted, with mean area protected in terrestrial sites important to biodiversity at 20.5% in 2023 (SDG 15 - Life on Land)²³⁹. The CF's involvement in supporting Uzbekistan's efforts to achieve SDG Indicator 6.6 (focused on water ecosystem preservation) has been effective, particularly in coordinating with multiple ministries to set long-term environmental targets. Additionally, the CF's engagement in the Aral Sea region, through multi-agency trust funds and joint programs, has made a positive impact on addressing environmental challenges in the area. However, effective water management and ecosystem preservation require continued, coordinated support, especially as these areas often require multi-ministry and cross-sectoral collaboration, which can be challenging to maintain.
227. Establishing the International Innovation Center in the Aral Sea Region is considered as one of the successful outputs. The innovative solutions developed with the UN support, with a particular focus on closed-loop water use systems, led to a commitment by local authorities to disseminate these innovations to local farmers to address the growing challenges of soil degradation and salinity, particularly in the regions around the Aral Sea. However, much remains to be done at the district level. As local governments develop strategies, they should more meaningfully integrate national strategies. At present, UN investments are often perceived as separate initiatives for donor reporting, rather than as an integral part of the local economy. Strengthening this integration should be a key focus going forward²⁴⁰.
228. Evidence collected in various UN reports suggests that support in Uzbekistan has substantially boosted water management, environmental reporting, wildlife conservation, and afforestation efforts. The UN focus on cryosphere monitoring and glacial flood risks in Central Asia has raised awareness of the link between water sources and climate change. The Syr-Darya River Pollution Prevention Project highlighted the need for integrated water resources management to protect both public health and ecological systems. The UN's support for wildlife monitoring in the Aral Sea region, including over 2 billion UZS worth of equipment for eight protected areas, strengthens conservation efforts and boosts the capacity of national agencies. The

²³⁷ UN Annual Country result report, 2023, p.37

²³⁸ 2022 UN Country Results Report for Uzbekistan, p.41,

²³⁹ [Uzbekistan ranks 81st in Sustainable Development Report 2024 — Daryo News](#)

²⁴⁰ Interview with the Aral Sea Secretariat

establishment of a monitoring station in South Ustyurt National Park further supports these efforts²⁴¹. The successful scaling up of the SMART Patrol System and Adaptation Development Plans across protected areas and Aral projects demonstrates the CF's effective approach to advancing environmental management in Uzbekistan. Initially tested in the Chatkal and Gissar State Reserves, the SMART Patrol System received nationwide adoption which represents an important shift toward standardized, data-driven conservation practices that improve the management and security of protected areas.

229. Stakeholder interviews notes of the CF's key role in biodiversity preservation, including expanding protected areas, supporting the Biofinance Initiative, afforestation projects, and policies for snow leopard conservation. The 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP14) to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), held in Samarkand in February 2024, reinforced existence of several challenges²⁴² and highlighted the importance of integrating conservation objectives with sustainable natural resource management and the continued need for comprehensive approaches to ecosystem and species conservation, with sustainable land-use practices and cooperative regional efforts.
230. The groundwork for systematic and sustainable waste management practice was laid by the UN through inputs into the development of a national healthcare **waste management** strategy, as well as urban and rural waste management models and standards²⁴³. However, this is seen rather a short initiative. Equipping six pilot district hospitals with sterilization equipment and a year's supply of consumables bringing benefits to over 11.3 million people, including 3.8 million children. In general, scaling up efforts across the entire healthcare system will require sustained investment, capacity building for waste management personnel, and ongoing monitoring to ensure adherence to established standards. On a separate note, UNINFO data for 2023 indicates 40,000 units of hazardous waste treated with UN support, though neither the UN Country result reports nor program reports provide further clarification on this outcome.

Finding 19. The evaluation acknowledges the UN's role in strengthening the country's governance and regulatory systems for disaster risk reduction (DRR) in line with the Sendai Framework. Regional cooperation leading to important policy and legislative developments, and the integration of inclusive disaster risk insurance into national legislation and sectoral strategies are laying a sound foundation for long-term disaster risk reduction measures. (Output 5.3).

231. Collected evidence indicates on the UN's contribution in strengthening DRR cooperation in Central Asia, as was also highlighted by the 2021 Tashkent Forum where regional countries adopted a number of important documents such as the regional DRR strategy between Central Asian countries 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 2022-2023.²⁴⁴ As part of the commitments, the UN helped the country to advance the Multi-hazard Early Warning System²⁴⁵ to effectively deliver on obligations under the Sendai Framework on DRR through expanded weather stations, impact modelling, and community-focused mobile apps, training 450 specialists to improve forecasting.
232. Evaluation findings indicate that disaster risk reduction efforts in Uzbekistan require sustained inter-agency collaboration and coordination to achieve long-term, sustainable improvements in preparedness and response. The INFORM subnational risk model, now encompassing 61 indicators across hazard exposure, vulnerability, and coping capacity in Central Asia, including Uzbekistan, represents progress in regional disaster risk assessment. However, Uzbekistan has not yet formally endorsed the DesInventar Sendai

²⁴¹ <https://www.undp.org/uzbekistan/press-releases/undp-and-ministry-ecology-deepen-their-longstanding-partnership-uzbekistan>.

²⁴² (<https://www.cms.int/en/news/major-un-meeting-migratory-species-conservation-opens-uzbekistan>).

²⁴³ UN Annual Country Result report, 2022, p.32

²⁴⁴ 2021 UN Country Annual Result report Uzbekistan, p 45

²⁴⁵ Independent Country Program Evaluation, Uzbekistan, September 2024, p.29

system, delaying steps such as historical data collection and updates to its Sendai Framework reporting, despite improvements in data quality through this system.²⁴⁶

233. Progress in strengthening capacities is reflected in the establishment of six territorial Operational Management Centers under the Ministry of Emergency Situations, which address risks such as floods, mudflows, and avalanches. Early warning systems, supported by mobile and SMS applications, now provide hazard alerts to over 50,000 individuals in high-risk areas.²⁴⁷ In the Aral Sea region, the operational Drought Early Warning System delivers weather and water scarcity notifications across Karakalpakstan, directly benefiting local resilience efforts.²⁴⁸
234. Inclusive disaster risk insurance is being advanced through a joint UN-Tashkent State Economic University project, which has developed a policy and action plan that integrates gender considerations and promotes financial inclusion. While these efforts have laid foundational elements for a more resilient system, gaps in institutional capacity and sectoral integration remain significant barriers to realizing a fully inclusive risk insurance framework.²⁴⁹
235. The UN's contributions to heritage preservation and sustainable tourism include the creation of protected areas such as Tupalang National Park and reserves in the Western Tian Shan, covering over 250,000 hectares, alongside the restoration of historic sites and support for a Tourism Development Strategy for Itchan Kala. Awareness campaigns and studies in Karakalpakstan have highlighted the region's tourism potential, promoting ecotourism and sustainable development.
236. Environmental reforms are ongoing, guided by the Presidential Decree on environmental protection until 2030,²⁵⁰ which outlines cross-sectoral priorities. In 2024, the establishment of the Climate Council under the President marked an institutional step forward in governance for climate adaptation and mitigation.²⁵¹ However, UN analysis indicates a decline in state environmental spending, from 2020 to 2022, with biodiversity-related expenditures accounting for only 0.33% of the state budget.²⁵² Most biodiversity funds were directed toward forestry, and revenues from natural resource use fines and fees fell significantly. These trends highlight the need for a more strategic allocation of resources, structural reforms, and enhanced international collaboration to sustain environmental and biodiversity conservation efforts.

3.4 Efficiency

EQ 4. How well have resources been used?

Finding 18. The UN's efficiency and resource mobilization and utilization of funds was affected by overambitious financial planning, external disruptions, and limited diversification of funding sources.

237. The Joint resource mobilization and partnership development strategy of UNCT capacities and resources for the 2021-2025 UNSDCF for Uzbekistan expressed a total financial requirement of appr. 430 million USD, of which appr. 120 million USD were the available resources, with additional USD 311 million to be mobilized to deliver UNSDCF results.²⁵³ According to UN data, in the first year of UNSDCF implementation, UNCT

²⁴⁶ Strengthening disaster resilience and accelerating implementation of Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction in Central Asia 2019-2023 Final Report, UNDDR, p.29

²⁴⁷ Table with Output indicators, 2021.

²⁴⁸ Table with Output indicators, 2021.

²⁴⁹ ICPE, p.26

²⁵⁰ Presidential Decree No. UP-5863 (October 2019)

²⁵¹ <https://gov.uz/en/eco/news/view/18114>

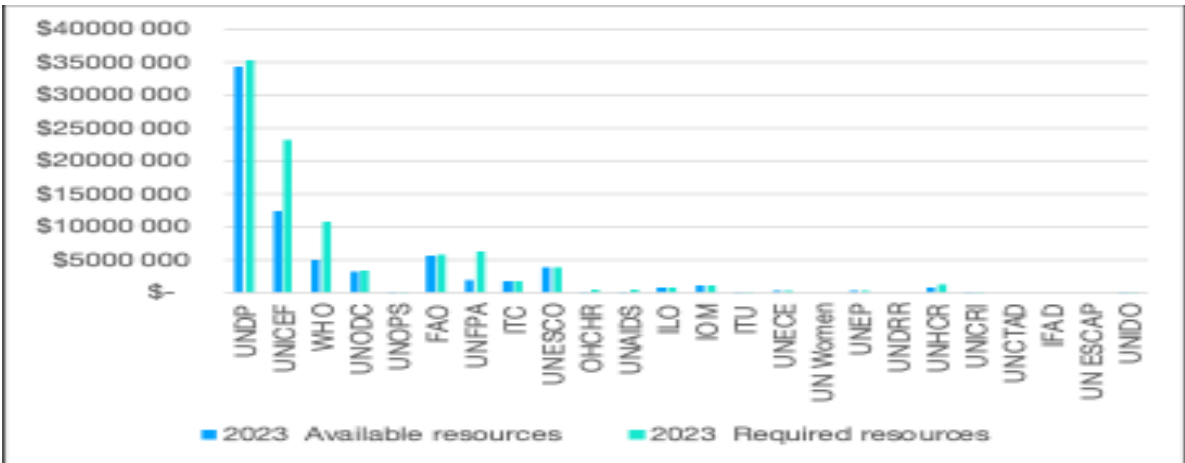
²⁵² UNDP, Uzbekistan Biodiversity Expenditure Review, p.6

²⁵³ UNCT (2021); United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework for Uzbekistan: Resource Mobilization and Partnerships

secured 79.37% coverage of required resources for the year, expressed in USD 59,779,262 in actual expenditure and a delivery rate of 92%.²⁵⁴

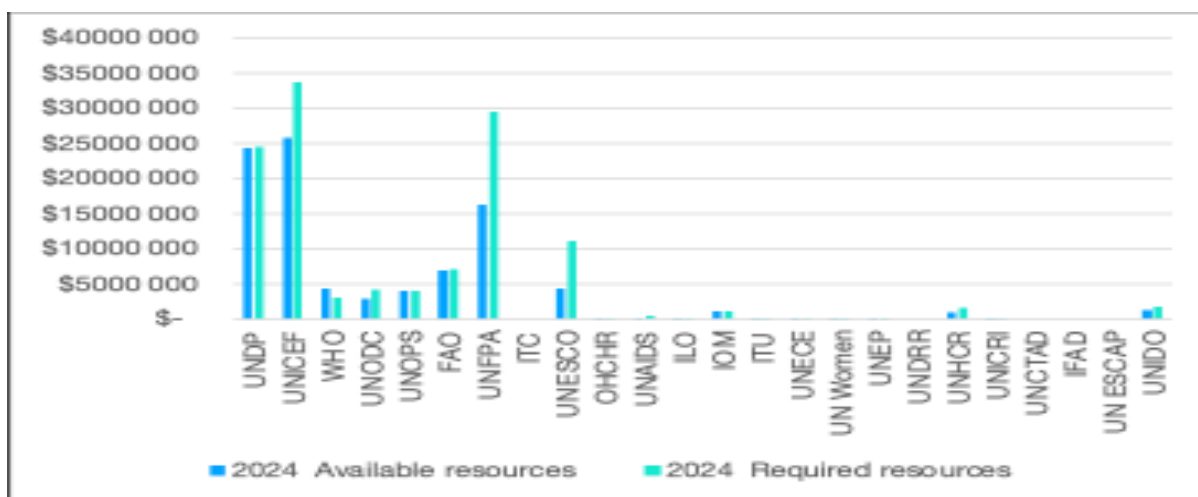
- 238. Expenditures are notably lower than both available and required resources each year, and actual coverage of required resources each year varies from 75-79%. A review of planning and expenditures showed discrepancies in resource mobilization and utilization progress across outcomes and heavy reliance on **non-core, project-specific funds**, with core funding remaining limited. The heavy dependence on earmarked contributions constrained the flexibility and long-term planning capacity of the CF.
- 239. The evaluation revealed inconsistencies in resource mobilization and an overall unstable funding context in Uzbekistan, driven by both decreasing donor assistance to development interventions and the emergence of new humanitarian needs and priorities. Global and regional shocks, declining economic growth, government budget constraints and shifting donor priorities are underlined as key challenges for resource mobilization²⁵⁵. These challenges undermine the consistency and sustainability of resource availability for critical development outcomes. Additionally, the dependency on project-specific, non-core funding further exacerbates the instability, limiting the flexibility to adjust programming in response to evolving needs.
- 240. As presented in Figure 4 in Section 1.3 above, 24% of the resources have yet to be mobilized. Achieving this target is unrealistic given the current pace. The gap between the required and available resources highlights the significant effort still needed to meet the overall goals.
- 241. To look more into the details, we can observe the gap between Total Required Resources and Available Resources for each year in Figure 10. Even though there is a lack of available resources compared to the required amounts, the UN was unable to fully spend the resources that were available. For example, in 2022 and 2023, while over 75% of the required resources was mobilized, the actual expenditures fell short of the available funds.
- 242. Assessment of the gap between available and required resources in 2023 and 2024 per agency in Figure 5 shows that UNDP, being the largest agency in terms of resource needs, was able to mobilize an impressive 97% (2023), respectively 99% (2024) of its required resources. However, the next largest agency, UNICEF was able to mobilize 53% (2023), respectively 76% (2024), while the majority of other agencies only able to mobilize around half of their required resources, indicating a significant shortfall. Interestingly, a few smaller agencies appear to have secured a higher percentage of resources they need.

Figure 5: Total Required Resources and Available Resources by Agencies (2021-2025)



²⁵⁴ UN (2024); UN Info Data

²⁵⁵ UN (2024): Uzbekistan 2023 Country Annual Results Report



Source: UN Info Data- Uzbekistan (2024)

243. The review of the Total Required Resources, Available Resources, and Total Expenditure by Outcomes level for 2023, indicates that Outcome 1, 4, and 5 were identified as having the highest need for required resources. Notably, both Outcome 1 and Outcome 5 were able to mobilize a significant portion of their required resources, showcasing better resource mobilization efforts, with Outcome 3 having the highest rate of resource mobilization. However, despite this, most outcomes still fall short in terms of mobilizing the necessary resources to meet their targets. Furthermore, a recurring trend across these outcomes is that expenditure remains lower than the available resources, indicating underutilization of funds even in cases where a substantial portion of resources has been successfully mobilized.
244. Interviews with UN Stakeholders have revealed that the lack of funding over the last two years, has affected their ability to mobilize resources effectively, even though they continue to manage with limited resources.
245. They also mentioned multitasking across roles due to funding constraints, illustrating the strain on personnel and financial resources.

Table 3. Total Required Resources, Available Resources, and Total Expenditure by Outcomes

	2023			Percentage of resource mobilization
	Available resources	Required resources	Expenditure	
Outcome 1	\$ 17 651 777	\$ 19 379 137	\$ 16 868 857	91%
Outcome 2	\$ 652 151	\$ 2 477 439	\$ 618 151	26%
Outcome 3	\$ 8 379 582	\$ 8 247 659	\$ 7 531 512	100%
Outcome 4	\$ 17 787 208	\$ 31 428 033	\$ 16 291 411	56%
Outcome 5	\$ 27 589 713	\$ 33 594 439	\$ 22 557 553	82%

Source: UN Info Data- Uzbekistan (2024)

246. Persistent funding gaps indicate a need for more proactive and diversified resource mobilization. The strategy could benefit from diversifying the funding pool, engaging additional partners, exploring alternative mechanisms, or improving donor retention. Low expenditures compared to available resources, particularly in 2024, suggest inefficiencies in fund utilization. Addressing delays or bottlenecks in project execution could improve spending alignment with available resources.

Finding 19. The UN system in Uzbekistan faces significant challenges in M&E due to structural fragmentation and capacity constraints. The M&E group's efforts are further constrained by data gaps in critical areas, uncoordinated data generation efforts, and inconsistent monitoring standards.

247. As highlighted in findings around relevance and coherence, the M&E challenges stem from structural and operational issues within the UN system. UN agencies predominantly report vertically to their respective headquarters, resulting in limited engagement and investment in joint UN reporting and reflection processes at the country level. This fragmentation hinders the collective ability to track progress on shared indicators and identify cross-cutting results. Although the M&E group is active, it struggles to drive meaningful improvements in monitoring practices, including better data collection, harmonization, and sharing among agencies. UNDAF evaluation in 2019 has identified challenges with robust M&E frameworks.
248. Compounding these issues is the limited capacity within the RCO, which has experienced staff shortages that have constrained its ability to deepen and coordinate M&E efforts across the UN system. Data gaps in critical areas, further impede evidence-based planning and decision-making processes. These gaps are exacerbated by uncoordinated efforts in data generation, weak information-sharing mechanisms, and inconsistent monitoring standards.
249. Some agencies have reported their work towards streamlining international processes. For example, FAO reported having placed strong emphasis on streamlining internal processes, adopting project management tools and monitoring systems that enhance agency ability to track progress and outcomes and contribute to greater efficiency in delivering services. UNDP has also continued strengthening the M&E Framework, however according to the ICPE (2024), its application across project has not been consistent, limiting the capacity to obtain comprehensive evaluation results. However, overall M&E challenges highlight the need for greater investments in M&E capacity, the development of a unified monitoring framework, and streamlined processes to ensure that data generation, analysis, and reporting align with shared objectives. Internal UN stakeholders have emphasized the need for enhanced collaboration and resource allocation as essential means to strengthen evidence-based planning and ensure that UN interventions are responsive to national priorities and aligned with collective UN goals.

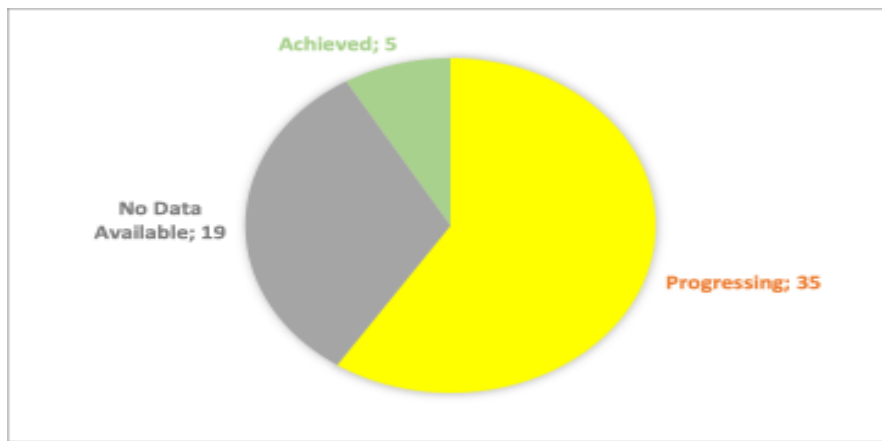
3.5 Orientation towards impact

EQ 6. What difference do CF interventions make?

Finding 20. Progress toward 2025 goals shows mixed results, with advancements in governance, education, and economic formalization offset by stagnation in renewable energy, environmental sustainability, and social protection, compounded by data gaps and uneven sectoral outcomes.

250. Analysis of 59 outcome level indicators and their progress tracking in UNINFO reveals that while a majority (35 indicators) are classified as "progressing," suggesting ongoing efforts toward meeting development targets, only a small portion (5 indicators) have been fully achieved. This indicates that while progress is being made, the pace may not be sufficient to meet all goals by 2025. Additionally, a significant number of indicators (19) lack data, highlighting gaps in monitoring and reporting systems, which was discussed in the Efficiency section. These data deficiencies not only limit the ability to assess progress comprehensively but also impede evidence-based decision-making, pointing to the outstanding issues with regards to data sharing, joint reflection and reporting mechanisms to ensure accountability and targeted interventions.

Figure 6. Outcome indicators' overview



Source: UNINFO, status as of November 2024

251. The analysis of outcome indicators' progress data available in UNINFO reveals mixed results across the various outcomes and indicators. Notable progress has been achieved in areas, such as governance, education, and economic formalization. For example, the proportion of women holding seats in the Chambers of the Oliy Majlis rose from a baseline of 48% in 2021 to 57% in 2023, and informal employment in non-agricultural sectors declined from 38.4% to 31.5% during the same period.²⁵⁶ Similarly, access to preschool education for children aged 3 to 6 years saw a remarkable expansion from 32% at baseline to 69.4% by 2023, reflecting the prioritization of early childhood education.²⁵⁷
252. In contrast, other areas demonstrated stagnation or marginal improvements. For instance, while the poverty rate improved from 17% to 11%, progress remained uneven, with more persisting challenges in rural areas.²⁵⁸ Renewable energy adoption shows limited progress, with electricity generated from renewable sources increasing only slightly from 9.4% at baseline to 9.7% in 2023, falling far short of the ambitious 20% target by 2025.²⁵⁹ Similarly, improvements in environmental sustainability, such as the Water Pollution Index, were modest, decreasing from 1.54 to 1.29 over the same period. Health indicators like child immunization have progressed to meet targets, with coverage moving from 98.7% to 99% between the baseline and 2023.²⁶⁰
253. The trend reflects incremental but uneven progress toward the 2025 goals, with robust advancements in some sectors offset by limited improvements or stagnation in others. For example, while the incidence of HIV infections declined from 0.132 per 1,000 uninfected population at baseline to 0.106 in 2023, indicators related to social protection, such as the proportion of public spending on health, education, and social protection, only increased marginally from 41.7% to 44.9%, indicating challenges in scaling up investments in critical social services.²⁶¹ This underscores the need for intensified and coordinated efforts, resource realignment, and adaptive strategies to ensure balanced progress across all thematic areas.

3.6 Sustainability

EQ 7. Will the benefits last?

SQ 7.1. What mechanisms, if any, has the CF established to ensure socio-political, institutional, financial, and environmental sustainability? and

²⁵⁶ Source of information as stated in the UNINFO: *UN Agency Programmatic Progress Reports*

²⁵⁷ Ibid

²⁵⁸ Ibid

²⁵⁹ Ibid

²⁶⁰ Ibid

²⁶¹ Ibid

SQ 7.2. What is the likelihood that progress towards the SDGs is sustained by national partners and stakeholders over time?

Finding 21. The UN's contributions in Uzbekistan have established foundational legislative and institutional frameworks that support governance improvements, citizen empowerment, and service delivery. Shifting government priorities, limited strategic alignment, and an emphasis on short-term, visibility-oriented initiatives present challenges to sustaining long-term developmental outcomes and fostering transformative impact.

254. Evaluation findings indicate that the UN's contributions to legislative and institutional capacity strengthening have laid a foundation for improved governance, anti-corruption, service delivery, and citizen empowerment in Uzbekistan. Adopted legislation and established institutional frameworks and measures provide a strong basis for further upgrades and expansion towards more efficient services and access to rights for right holders.
255. However, the sustainability of achieved results faces challenges due to various factors, including the shifting government priorities, limited long-term strategic alignment, and a tendency on UN's, government's and donor's sides toward short-term initiatives. The government's frequently shifting priorities and the top-down nature of decision-making often lead to changes in direction that affect continuity and undermine the development of long-lasting, strategic reform results. These shifts, alongside limited interdepartmental coordination within the government, were noted by stakeholders to often dilute the transformational potential of UN-supported initiatives, as various ministries may push their own agendas without cohesive alignment on overarching governance goals.
256. Moreover, the UN's strategic positioning in Uzbekistan is impacted by its need to balance responsiveness to immediate government requests with its commitment to development principles that promote sustained, inclusive growth. Evidence indicates that the UN has supported a wide range of government initiatives, often accommodating diverse and ad-hoc requests for assistance, which has at times led to a preference for visible, short-term results over comprehensive, long-term strategic programmes. For instance, stakeholders frequently highlighted the UN's involvement in high-profile events, such as international conferences and large gatherings, which are seen as beneficial for visibility, promotion, and exchange of ideas. Such visibility-driven initiatives help strengthen the UN's relationship with the government, but they often lack structured follow-up or integration into broader development strategies, limiting their potential to drive sustainable, long-term outcomes. As such, stakeholders note that this approach has strengthened the UN's role as a responsive partner for the government, particularly in areas where high visibility aligns with government priorities. However, it also reflects a pattern where immediate, visible results are prioritized over sustained, strategic interventions, with implications for the depth and durability of the UN's contributions to transformative change in Uzbekistan's governance and development frameworks. They also risk diverting resources away from more strategic results and long-term capacity-building in critical governance areas. Stakeholders also noted that this approach can result in "a shopping list" of interventions that lack cohesive, sustained impact.
257. Findings indicate that the UN's engagement with right holders and organisations representing their rights, including women's groups, religious leaders, youth representatives, CSOs and organizations for persons with disabilities, has been instrumental in fostering participation in governance and rights-based initiatives. These collaborations have strengthened awareness and advocacy on issues such as gender-based violence, HPV vaccination, HIV awareness, disability inclusion, justice and anti-corruption principles in schools and youth engagement, as well as in natural resource management, environmental governance and protection creating important entry points for previously underrepresented voices in governance processes. However, the sustainability of these efforts remains challenging. At individual level, civil society leaders have continued their advocacy independently or are more visible in the public domain, but stakeholders emphasised that a still constrained operational environment for civil society limits the capacity for broader civic engagement.

Uzbekistan is also still building its pool of civil society actors, which stakeholders noted will take time to promote community-driven progress and gain the institutional support needed for lasting results. With few national partners available to implement interventions, and still restrictive conditions for independent civic engagement, the UN's role is critical yet constrained, often relying on a narrow selection of agencies and international organizations. This limited pool of collaborators restricts the scope and scalability of UN-led initiatives, especially in governance and rights-based areas that require strong civil society involvement.

258. Stakeholders also noted a tendency for both the government and the UN to prioritize visibility—such as media-covered events and high-profile conferences—over substantive, on-the-ground progress. In this context, there is a need for the UN to leverage its strategic entry points to encourage the government toward a more sustainable, coordinated approach to governance reforms, rather than focusing solely on surface-level achievements.

4 Conclusions and Recommendations

4.1 Conclusions

Relevance

Conclusion 6. The CF has been strongly aligned with Uzbekistan's development priorities, though certain gaps in focus and adaptability have affected its overall relevance.

259. The UN's work as defined through the UNSDCF has been broadly relevant to Uzbekistan's national development priorities, the SDG agenda, international commitments, and critical national strategies in areas such as governance, social protection, education and health, environmental sustainability, and gender equality. Its inclusive design process, which incorporated inputs from government, civil society, and development partners, ensured that key national needs were addressed, enabling impactful contributions to reforms in areas like anti-corruption, social protection, and digital governance.
260. However, its relevance has been constrained at times by an overemphasis on short-term, high-visibility initiatives, which diluted focus on addressing deeper structural challenges. The absence of a mid-term review further limited the CF's ability to recalibrate to shifting priorities and emerging needs, particularly in the dynamic post-pandemic environment. Additionally, regional disparities in engagement and restrictive conditions for civil society partnerships created gaps in addressing localized challenges and building sustainable capacities. While the CF's alignment with Uzbekistan's development agenda has been strong overall, these factors underscore the need for enhanced strategic focus and adaptability to fully meet the country's evolving development needs.

Coherence and coordination

Conclusion 7. This cycle of UNSDCF has marked an evolution in UN joint approaches, strengthening its role as a trusted development partner in Uzbekistan, but remaining challenges, including siloed operations, overlapping efforts, and inconsistent coordination mechanisms, have persisted, constraining UNCT's full coherence and integration of efforts.

261. This CF cycle showcases an evolution in joint approaches from the last UNDAF cycle, which has strengthened the UN system's role as a credible and trusted development partner in Uzbekistan by aligning closely with national priorities and fostering collaborative efforts across key sectors. Its focus on inter-agency coordination and joint programming has facilitated impactful contributions, particularly in governance reforms, social protection, and healthcare, enhancing the UN's reputation as a strategic and reliable actor in the development landscape.
262. However, achieving full coherence has been constrained by structural inefficiencies and fragmented approaches within the UN system. Instances of siloed operations, overlapping efforts, and competition for resources have diluted the potential for fully integrated actions, particularly in cross-sectoral areas. Additionally, challenges in operational alignment, financial transparency, and leadership continuity have sometimes limited the effectiveness of joint efforts. These factors highlight the complexities the UN faces in achieving full alignment and integration, even as it continues to make significant progress in addressing Uzbekistan's development priorities.

Effectiveness and impact

Conclusion 8. The UN's engagement in Uzbekistan has been effective in advancing key reforms and aligning with national development priorities, though systemic challenges have limited the scalability and sustainability of some achievements.

263. Overall, the effectiveness of the UN's engagement in Uzbekistan is evident in its substantial contributions to advancing the country's reform agenda and development priorities. Through comprehensive initiatives across governance, health, social protection, education, and economic empowerment, the UN has strengthened institutional frameworks, enhanced transparency, and promoted evidence-based policymaking. These efforts have included critical governance reforms, such as anti-corruption measures, digital governance improvements, and mechanisms to enhance public accountability, which have contributed to greater institutional transparency and resilience. Health initiatives have improved access to and outcomes in maternal and child care, supported the integration of mental health services, and strengthened healthcare financing, particularly for underserved populations. In social protection, the development of mechanisms like the Social Protection Single Registry has enhanced service delivery and inclusivity for vulnerable groups, including persons with disabilities.
264. The UN has also addressed broader priorities, such as climate adaptation, environmental sustainability, and economic resilience, by introducing innovative approaches like green financing to tackle long-term challenges. In education, its contributions have advanced inclusive policies, teacher training, curriculum enhancements, and digital tools, while its economic initiatives have supported labor market formalization, entrepreneurship, and job creation, directly benefiting marginalized populations. Its targeted actions for vulnerable groups, including survivors of gender-based violence, have strengthened legal frameworks, institutional mechanisms, and community-based support systems, promoting inclusivity and equity in governance and service delivery.
265. While these achievements are significant, systemic challenges such as resource constraints, uneven institutional capacity, and fragmented implementation have limited the scalability and sustainability of some reforms. Coherence challenges within the UN system—such as fragmented approaches, operational inefficiencies, and overlapping efforts—have occasionally constrained its ability to deliver fully integrated and cross-sectoral actions. These factors, coupled with an overemphasis on short-term initiatives and uneven regional engagement, have at times diluted alignment with long-term strategic goals.
266. Despite these challenges, the UN's contributions have been effective in aligning with Uzbekistan's development agenda, achieving significant reforms, and addressing critical national priorities. By laying a strong foundation for addressing systemic issues, fostering collaboration, and driving sustainable and inclusive progress, the UN has demonstrated its vital role as a partner in Uzbekistan's ongoing development journey.

Efficiency

Conclusion 9. The efficiency of the UN's work in Uzbekistan has been moderate, with achievements in resource mobilization offset by underutilization of funds, reliance on non-core financing, and structural inefficiencies in coordination and monitoring systems.

267. The efficiency of the UN's work in Uzbekistan has been moderate, reflecting a mix of achievements and persistent challenges. The UN demonstrated considerable capacity to mobilize resources, securing 75-79% of required annual funds and achieving a high delivery rate in the initial implementation phase. However, the consistent underutilization of available funds, coupled with a reliance on project-specific, non-core financing, constrained flexibility and reduced the ability to align resource use with evolving priorities and needs effectively.
268. Resource mobilization efforts varied significantly across agencies and outcomes, with notable successes in some areas but significant shortfalls in others, leading to inconsistent program delivery. Structural inefficiencies within monitoring and evaluation systems, including fragmented data collection, limited capacity, and inconsistent standards, further hampered the ability to track progress, align interventions, and support evidence-based decision-making.

269. Such inefficiencies in fund utilization, disparities in resource distribution, and gaps in coordination limited the full realization of its potential efficiency.

Sustainability

Conclusion 10. The sustainability of the UN's contributions in Uzbekistan is fragile, with foundational reforms providing a basis for long-term change, but systemic challenges such as shifting priorities, reliance on short-term initiatives, and limited civic engagement hindering the consolidation and scalability of these achievements.

270. The sustainability of the UN's contributions in Uzbekistan is fragile. Foundational legislative and institutional reforms have established pathways for long-term transformative change, particularly in transparency, anti-corruption, and service delivery. However, systemic issues such as shifting government priorities, reliance on short-term initiatives, and uneven sectoral progress have hindered the consolidation of these achievements. Limited strategic alignment and gaps in data monitoring and interdepartmental coordination further weaken the potential for sustained outcomes.
271. Efforts to build institutional capacities and engage civil society actors have laid important groundwork for inclusive governance, yet the constrained operational environment for civic engagement limits scalability and long-term impact. Incremental progress in environmental sustainability and renewable energy reflects the ongoing challenges in achieving significant, lasting advancements in these areas, emphasizing the fragility of current achievements and the need for more consistent progress.
272. The UN's role as a responsive and trusted partner is evident, but the sustainability of its results depends on the ability of national systems and stakeholders to embed these initiatives within cohesive, long-term strategies.

4.2 Recommendations

273. As Uzbekistan progresses along a positive development trajectory, characterized by ambitious reforms and evolving socio-economic, political, and environmental priorities, the need for the UN to adapt and align its support effectively is more critical than ever. To sustain this momentum and support Uzbekistan's development goals, it is essential for the UN to optimize its operations, streamline its processes, and strengthen collaboration across agencies.
274. This necessitates a strategic shift towards greater agility, coherence, and coordination in the delivery of development assistance. The evaluation team presents the following recommendations:

***Recommendation 1. Strengthen Engagement and Capacity-Building at the Subnational Level
(connected to Conclusions 1, 3, and 5)***

275. Building on the UN's significant contributions to legislative and institutional capacity-building at the central level, it is essential to extend these efforts more systematically to the subnational level. Strengthening regional and local governance and service delivery will be critical to translating national reforms into tangible outcomes for communities, ensuring inclusivity and alignment with diverse regional needs.
- Enhance the capacity of local authorities, governance institutions, and service providers to operationalize recently adopted legislative and policy frameworks by translating national reforms into actionable plans and localized development agendas.
 - Build institutional capacities to deliver inclusive, rights-based, child-friendly and gender-sensitive services that address community-specific needs, ensuring measurable and impactful outcomes for local populations.
 - Promote stronger coordination between central and local governments, while engaging civil society and social actors to align national frameworks with the distinct challenges and opportunities of diverse regions.

- Advocate for a supportive policy environment for NGOs and build NGO capacities to deliver inclusive, community-centered services through enhanced training, streamlined regulations, and strengthened public-NGO partnerships.

Recommendation 2. Adopt a More Strategic Approach to Programming and Operations

(connected to Conclusions 1, 2, and 4)

276. Building on the UN's role as a trusted development partner in Uzbekistan, there is a need to adopt a more strategic approach to programming and operations. By balancing short-term visibility with long-term transformative goals, the UN can enhance its effectiveness and ensure sustained impact across its interventions. Operational recommendation:

- Address the preference for short-term interventions by balancing immediate visibility needs with long-term, transformative programming that fosters sustainable development outcomes.
- Improve inter-agency coordination, resource mobilization, and reporting by streamlining joint UN operations, introducing harmonized procedures, and conducting regular reviews to ensure alignment with emerging priorities and challenges.
- Focus on ensuring that existing UNSDCF monitoring and reporting systems, developed using RBM principles, are consistently and effectively utilised by all UNCT members. Encourage active use of the UNSDCF Results Framework and UNINFO to monitor progress, identify challenges, and make joint evidence-based decisions. Establish regular accountability mechanisms, such as quarterly reviews and data validation sessions, to ensure that UNCT agencies actively contribute to and engage with monitoring processes.
- Strengthen the culture of using monitoring data for adaptive planning by embedding the results of UNSDCF reporting into decision-making processes at both agency and UNCT levels. Facilitate cross-agency discussions to reflect on progress toward shared outcomes, ensuring alignment with national priorities and highlighting lessons learned. Ensure that monitoring tools and platforms (UNINFO) are actively accessed and updated by all stakeholders, promoting consistency and a shared understanding of progress across the UNCT. Increased emphasis on utilising existing systems and jointly reflecting on results and challenges will enhance accountability, improve coordination, and ensure that the UNSDCF achieves its intended results effectively.

Recommendation 3. Support and deepen digital transformation efforts

(connected to Conclusions 1, 3, and 5)

277. Building on the UN's contributions to strengthening governance and digital innovation in Uzbekistan, there is an opportunity to deepen support for the country's digital transformation efforts. This involves advancing both the supply and demand sides of digitalization to enhance public service delivery, promote inclusivity, and strengthen citizen engagement.

On the supply side:

- Enhance the digitalization of public services by upgrading technical infrastructure, integrating innovative technologies, and improving transparency, efficiency, and accountability in governance systems.
- Support evidence-based policymaking through the development of robust digital monitoring tools and platforms, streamlining data collection and analysis while strengthening national capacity for progress tracking and decision-making.

On the demand side:

- Invest in community-level digital literacy programs to empower women, youth, and marginalized populations to use e-governance platforms effectively, ensuring equitable access to digital tools and services.
- Develop and promote accessible digital solutions that address the needs of diverse user groups, particularly those in remote or underserved areas.
- Assist the government in creating citizen feedback mechanisms to improve digital service delivery and foster trust in e-governance systems.

Recommendation 4. Continue strategically engaging in the rule of law

(connected to Conclusions 1, 3, and 5)

278. Building on the UN's ongoing contributions to advancing the rule of law in Uzbekistan, UN should continue strengthening institutional capacities and public awareness will be critical to achieving fair, transparent, and accessible justice for all.

- Enhance the capacities of judicial bodies, law enforcement, and legal aid providers at the subnational level to effectively implement justice-related reforms, with a focus on digital transformation, gender-sensitive approaches, and child protection.
- Promote accountability and oversight mechanisms to ensure transparency and fairness in law enforcement and judicial practices, while fostering interagency coordination to deliver integrated justice services.
- Increase public awareness of legal rights and services, particularly for marginalized groups, through targeted campaigns and community engagement to address barriers to accessing justice.

Recommendation 5. Strengthen coordination and foster sustainable development in the employment sector

(connected to Conclusions 1, 3, and 5)

279. UN should invest in a more integrated and coordinated approach to ensure sustainable progress, financial inclusion, and continuous skills development for all.

- Strengthen synergy between agencies to ensure a unified approach to addressing employment challenges, streamlining government efforts and creating a coordinated strategy instead of fragmented interventions.
- Advocate for and support initiatives that improve access to credit and banking services for women and vulnerable groups, ensuring policies that enhance financial empowerment and inclusion.
- Invest in ongoing skills development programs to ensure the sustainability of progress and maintain the momentum of positive changes, supporting long-term impact in the employment sector.

Recommendation 6. Strengthen the integration and sustainability of equitable access to services across the health and social protection sectors

(connected to Conclusions 1, 3, and 5)

- Enhance coordination between health and social protection sectors to provide integrated services for vulnerable populations, including women, children, and persons with disabilities.
- Improve institutional capacity to deliver quality and accessible healthcare, social services, and targeted support, including mental health and disability-specific interventions.
- Use data-driven approaches to identify gaps and design programs that address overlapping vulnerabilities, such as poverty, health disparities, and social exclusion.
- Leverage demographic forecasts in planning for health, education, and social services to accommodate increased demands in these sectors. Use data to advocate for targeted funding and policy adjustments.
- Embed sustainability measures, such as workforce training, digital innovations, and resource mobilization, into health and social protection systems.
- Foster partnerships with government, civil society, and private stakeholders to scale successful models and ensure long-term impact.

Recommendation 7. Strengthen capacity-building and strategic focus in the education sector

(connected to Conclusions 1, 3, and 5)

280. There is a need for a more strategic approach to capacity-building of educational professionals to enable them to follow and implement rapid policy changes. This will support sustainable development in education and ensure that the UN's contributions remain responsive and impactful.

- Shift the focus of UN development efforts to adopt a more strategic CF approach, integrating infrastructure investments more strongly with building national expertise and capacity. This will reduce inefficiencies and ensure that resources are allocated according to the government's actual needs.
- Strengthen advocacy for the importance of capacity-building and the development of expertise within national sectors to ensure that external assistance supports long-term human and institutional development, rather than focusing solely on infrastructure.
- Address the challenges posed by rapid policy changes in the education sector, such as the recent abolition of the Ministry of Preschool Education. Ensure that interventions, especially in areas like TVET and pre-school education, are adaptable and remain relevant in light of new policies and priorities.

***Recommendation 8. Strengthen long-term impact and integration in the environment sector
(connected to Conclusions 1, 3, and 5)***

281. It is crucial to ensure long-term sustainability of achieved results through continued support for vulnerable communities and better integration of climate-resilient actions into regional development plans. Operational recommendations include:

- Focus on consistent follow-up and deeper integration of environmental initiatives with local systems to ensure sustained impact and alignment with community needs.
- Continue supporting vulnerable communities in adopting climate-resilient techniques to enhance their capacity to cope with environmental challenges and ensure broader community engagement.
- Promote the integration of climate-resilient WASH systems into regional development plans to enhance access to safe water, improve sanitation, and build community resilience to environmental challenges.
- Widely share the knowledge gained from effectively piloted climate-smart agricultural practices at the regional level to encourage adoption by regional and local authorities for broader scaling.

***Recommendation 9. Strengthen gender and disability inclusion through targeted, data-driven, and protective programming.
(connected to Conclusions 1, 2, 3, and 5)***

282. UNCT should systematically enhance gender equality and disability inclusion across its new cycle of the UNSDCF portfolio to ensure that the most vulnerable populations benefit from equitable and sustainable outcomes while contributing to Uzbekistan's national development goals and SDG commitments. Operational recommendations include:

- Use more consistently gender- and disability-disaggregated indicators that can allow for systematically collecting data to identify barriers and solutions faced by women and persons with disabilities across sectors such as employment, education, healthcare, and governance. Based on these, ensure consistent data collection and reporting mechanisms in collaboration with national statistical systems and development partners.
- Design and implement targeted programs that facilitate the participation of women and persons with disabilities in traditionally male-dominated sectors, such as STEM, entrepreneurship, and leadership roles. These programs should include skills development, mentorship, and capacity-building initiatives tailored to their specific needs.
- Integrate safeguards within all programming to ensure safe access and participation, such as anti-discrimination policies, accessibility audits, and robust grievance mechanisms. Expand the availability of gender-sensitive and disability-responsive services, including helplines, counseling, and legal aid.

- Advocate for and support the development of policies and legal frameworks that enhance rights, protections, and equal opportunities for women and persons with disabilities, ensuring alignment with international conventions such as the CRPD.
- Build on effective programs from the 2021–2025 UNSDCF cycle, scaling up interventions like GBV hotlines and the expansion of the social registry to better address the needs of marginalized groups in underserved regions.

Annexes

Annex 1. Terms of Reference

enclosed as a separate pdf. file.

Annex 2. Evaluation Matrix

Based on the document review and analysis of the UNSDCF's structure and TOC, the ET drafted the evaluation matrix. This matrix includes the main evaluation questions and sub-questions from the ToR, assumptions and indicators which represent the core of this evaluation framework. The matrix also includes sources of data, data collection and analysis methods (Table 5).

Table 4. Evaluation Matrix

Assumption to be assessed	Indicators	Sources of Information	Methods and tools for data collection	Data analysis methods
Relevance and Adaptability:				
EQ 1. Is the CF adapted well to emerging needs?				
SQ 1.1: To what extent are the CF objectives aligned and been consistent with the needs, priorities, and policies of the government (including alignment to national development goals and targets, national plans, strategies and frameworks).				
SQ 1.2: To what extent did the implementation of the CF (joint workplan and agencies programmes) adjust to emerging issues faced by the country <i>and needs of the most vulnerable</i> during the implementation?				
Assumption 1.1: The UN, through the UNSDCF, has ensured that its objectives are closely aligned with the national development goals, strategies, and policies, making its interventions relevant and supportive of the country's needs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Degree of alignment between UNSDCF objectives and the government's national development goals. Feedback from government and other national stakeholders on the relevance of UN interventions to current national needs Frequency of consultations and alignment workshops between 	UNSDCF document and annual reports JWPs National Development Strategy and related sector strategies pertaining governance reform, economic development, social equity, health,	Document review Semi-structured interviews FGDs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Qualitative iterative data analysis of the KIIs and FGDs with key stakeholders Thematic Analysis Content Analysis Comparative Analysis

Assumption to be assessed	Indicators	Sources of Information	Methods and tools for data collection	Data analysis methods
	<p>the UN and government stakeholders during the CF planning and implementation phases.</p>	<p>education, social services for vulnerable populations and resilience-building, gender, etc.</p> <p>Monitoring data, UNINFO; progress reports, evaluations and studies</p> <p>Minutes of meetings with partners</p> <p>Stakeholders from the UNCT/ UN Agencies, the GoU line Ministries, other national public institutions, civil society and private sector partners; development partners in the respective fields of UNSDCF</p>		<p>Triangulation between data sources, data collection techniques, and data types</p>
<p>Assumption 1.2: The UN, through the UNSDCF, has effectively identified and addressed emerging and unforeseen needs, particularly those affecting the most vulnerable, disadvantaged, and marginalized groups, ensuring that its</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mechanism or process employed to systematically identify and respond to the needs of targeted populations • Extent to which interventions were consistent with needs of targeted populations 	<p>UNSDCF document and annual reports</p> <p>JWPs</p> <p>National Development Strategy and related sector strategies pertaining governance reform,</p>	<p>Document review</p> <p>Semi-structured interviews</p> <p>FGDs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Qualitative iterative data analysis of the KIIs and FGDs with key stakeholders • Thematic Analysis • Content Analysis • Comparative Analysis

Assumption to be assessed	Indicators	Sources of Information	Methods and tools for data collection	Data analysis methods
<p>interventions remain relevant and impactful.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evidence of adjustments or modifications made to CF interventions in response to emerging and unforeseen needs in the country, as documented in program reports and meeting minutes. 	<p>economic development, social equity, health, education, social services for vulnerable populations and resilience-building, gender, etc.</p> <p>Monitoring data, UNINFO; progress reports, evaluations and studies</p> <p>Stakeholders from the UNCT/ UN Agencies, the Government of Uzbekistan's line Ministries, other national public institutions, civil society and private sector partners; final beneficiaries; development partners in the respective fields of UNSDCF</p> <p>Survey results</p>		<p>Triangulation between data sources, data collection techniques, and data types</p>
<p>Assumption 1.3. The UN system, through the UNSDCF, has demonstrated flexibility in adapting its strategies and interventions to ensure they remain consistent with the</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Degree of flexibility and adaptability of the UNSDCF strategies or interventions in response to changes in national 	<p>UNSDCF document and annual reports</p> <p>JWPs</p> <p>National Development Plan and strategies pertaining</p>	<p>Document review</p> <p>Semi-structured interviews</p> <p>FGDs</p> <p>Partnership survey</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Qualitative iterative data analysis of the KIIs and FGDs with key stakeholders Thematic Analysis

Assumptionsto be assessed	Indicators	Sources of Information	Methods and tools for data collection	Data analysis methods
evolving priorities and policies of the government and needs of the most vulnerable groups	priorities, policies, or emerging needs	<p>health, education, social protection, public administration and governance, environment, gender, etc.</p> <p>Monitoring data, UNINFO; progress reports, evaluations and studies</p> <p>Stakeholders from the UNCT/ UN Agencies, the GoU line Ministries, other national public institutions, civil society and private sector partners; final beneficiaries; donors and development partners in the respective fields of UNSDCF Survey results</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Content Analysis • Comparative Analysis <p>Triangulation between data sources, data collection techniques, and data types</p>

<p>COHERENCE EQ 2. How well does the CF fit?</p>
<p>SQ 2.1. To what extent has the CF strengthened the position, credibility and reliability of the UN system as a partner for the government and other actors?</p>

SQ 2.2. Post UN reform, to what extent have UN agency programs and work plans been effectively and meaningfully derived from the CF both in design and implementation?

Assumptions to be assessed	Indicators	Sources of Information	Methods and tools for data collection	Data analysis methods
<p>Assumption 2.1. The CF has enhanced the UN's position as a credible and reliable partner of the government and other national and international actors</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evidence of joint initiatives, partnerships, and collaborative projects between: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> the UN system and government the UN system and other key stakeholders (e.g. IFIs, donors, development partners, civil society) that have been initiated or strengthened as a result of the CF. Evidence and examples of the extent to which the UNSDCF served as a vehicle to promote complementarity, harmonization, and coordination among UN agencies and other key development partners, resulting in enhanced delivery of results 	<p>UNSDCF document and annual reports JWPs Monitoring data, UNINFO; progress reports, evaluations and studies Stakeholders from the UNCT/ UN Agencies, the GoU line Ministries, other national public institutions, civil society; donors and development partners in the respective fields of UNSDCF</p>	<p>Document review Semi-structured interviews FGDs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Qualitative iterative data analysis of the KIIs and FGDs with key stakeholders Thematic Analysis Content Analysis Comparative Analysis <p>Triangulation between data sources, data collection techniques, and data types</p>
<p>Assumption 2.2: UN agencies consistently demonstrate alignment with the CF by integrating its objectives and priorities into their</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evidence and examples of UN agencies' program documents explicitly reflecting and integrating the CF objectives and priorities 	<p>UNSDCF document and annual reports JWPs</p>	<p>Document review Semi-structured interviews</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Qualitative iterative data analysis of the KIIs and FGDs with key stakeholders Thematic Analysis Content Analysis

programs from the initial design stage through to implementation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Degree to which the post-reform RCO roles and responsibilities have contributed to the coherence of UN agencies in implementing UNSDCF priorities. 	Monitoring data, UNINFO; progress reports, evaluations and studies Stakeholders from the UNCT/ UN Agencies, the GoU line Ministries, donors in the respective fields of UNSDCF Survey results		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comparative Analysis <p>Triangulation between data sources, data collection techniques, and data types</p>
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EFFECTIVENESS				
EQ 3. Has the CF achieved its objectives? Is the CF doing it right?				
SQ 3.1. How effective has the CF been in achieving the results outlined in the results framework?				
SQ 3.2. What have been the benefits for the people and institutions targeted by the interventions, including the most vulnerable, disadvantaged, and marginalized population?				
SQ 3.3. To what extent has the CF contributed to the promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment, human rights, disability inclusion and environmental sustainability?				
Assumptions to be assessed	Indicators	Sources of Information	Methods and tools for data collection	Data analysis methods
Assumption 3.1. CF has effectively realized the outputs outlined in its results framework, thereby making progress toward the intended outcomes across various sectors as defined in the CF theory of change.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evidence and figures showing progress under UNSDCF output areas and targets met Evidence and figures showing progress under UNSDCF towards outcomes 	UNSDCF document and annual reports JWPs Monitoring data, UNINFO; progress reports, evaluations and studies National statistics	Document review Semi-structured interviews FGDs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Qualitative iterative data analysis of the KIIs and FGDs with key stakeholders Quantitative analysis Thematic Analysis Content Analysis Comparative Analysis

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evidence of drivers and hindering factors affecting the delivery of results 	<p>Reports and studies prepared by other actors</p> <p>Stakeholders from the UNCT/ UN Agencies, the GoU line Ministries, other national public institutions, civil society; donors and development partners in the respective fields of UNSDCF</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Narrative Analysis Contribution analysis <p>Triangulation between data sources, data collection techniques, and data types</p>
<p>Assumption 3.2. CF interventions have provided clear and measurable benefits to the people and institutions targeted, with a particular emphasis on reaching the most vulnerable, disadvantaged, and marginalized groups.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Degree to which targeted institutions have been strengthened as a result of CF interventions in the core areas of interventions Evidence and examples of institutional, behavioural, and legislative changes that the UNSDCF contributed to in the core areas of interventions Evidence of drivers and hindering factors affecting the delivery of results 	<p>UNSDCF document and annual reports</p> <p>JWPs</p> <p>Monitoring data, UNINFO; progress reports, evaluations and studies</p> <p>National statistics</p> <p>Reports and studies prepared by other actors</p> <p>Stakeholders from the UNCT/ UN Agencies, the GoU line Ministries, other national public institutions, civil society; donors and development partners in the respective fields of UNSDCF</p>	<p>Document review</p> <p>Semi-structured interviews</p> <p>FGDs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Qualitative iterative data analysis of the KIIs and FGDs with key stakeholders Quantitative analysis Thematic Analysis Content Analysis Comparative Analysis Narrative Analysis Contribution analysis <p>Triangulation between data sources, data collection techniques, and data types</p>

<p>Assumption 3.3. The UNSDCF has effectively contributed to the promotion of GEWE</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence of a comprehensive gender analysis in the design phase of the CF, reflected in program documents, gender-specific needs assessments, and strategic planning reports. • Evidence that UNSDCF contributed to the promotion of GEWE among key institutions • Evidence that the UNSDCF contributed to, behavioural and legislative changes towards integration of gender equality and women's empowerment 	<p>UNSDCF document and annual reports JWPs Monitoring data, UNINFO; progress reports, evaluations and studies Stakeholders from the UNCT/ UN Agencies, the GoU line Ministries, other national public institutions, civil society and private sector partners; final beneficiaries; donors and development partners in the respective fields of UNSDCF</p>	<p>Document review Semi-structured interviews FGDs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Qualitative iterative data analysis of the KIIs and FGDs with key stakeholders • Thematic Analysis • Content Analysis • Comparative Analysis <p>Triangulation between data sources, data collection techniques, and data types</p>
<p>Assumption 3.3. The UNSDCF has effectively contributed to the promotion of disability inclusion and human rights</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence that UNSDCF contributed to strengthening national capacities and fostering key institutional, behavioural, and legislative changes: i) human rights, and ii) disability inclusion • Evidence of progress towards increased inclusion of persons with disabilities, demonstrated by improved access to services, increased participation in public life, and the removal of barriers 	<p>UNSDCF document and annual reports JWPs Monitoring data, UNINFO; progress reports, evaluations and studies Stakeholders from the UNCT/ UN Agencies, the GoU line Ministries, other national public institutions, civil society and private</p>	<p>Document review Semi-structured interviews FGDs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Qualitative iterative data analysis of the KIIs and FGDs with key stakeholders • Thematic Analysis • Content Analysis • Comparative Analysis <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Triangulation between data sources, data collection techniques, and data types

	that previously hindered inclusion	sector partners; final beneficiaries; donors and development partners in the respective fields of UNSDCF		
Assumption 3.3. The UNSDCF has effectively contributed to the promotion of environmental sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evidence that UNSDCF contributed to strengthening national capacities and fostering key institutional, behavioural, and legislative changes in environmental sustainability 	<p>UNSDCF document and annual reports</p> <p>JWPs</p> <p>Monitoring data, UNINFO; progress reports, evaluations and studies</p> <p>Stakeholders from the UNCT/ UN Agencies, the GoU line Ministries, other national public institutions, civil society and private sector partners; final beneficiaries; donors and development partners in the respective fields of UNSDCF</p>	<p>Document review</p> <p>Semi-structured interviews</p> <p>FGDs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Qualitative iterative data analysis of the KIIs and FGDs with key stakeholders Thematic Analysis Content Analysis Comparative Analysis Triangulation between data sources, data collection techniques, and data types

EFFICIENCY
EQ 4. How well have resources been used?
SQ 4.1. Has the CF reduced transaction costs for partners through greater UN coherence?

SQ 4.2. To what extent has the CF collectively prioritized activities based on the needs (demand side) rather than on the availability of resources (supply side), and reallocated resources according to the collective priorities and changing needs if/where necessary?

Assumptions to be assessed	Indicators	Sources of Information	Methods and tools for data collection	Data analysis methods
<p>Assumption 4.1. The CF has facilitated greater UN coherence and reduced transaction costs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of joint initiatives, projects, or workplans implemented under the UNSDCF, as perceived by stakeholders to have improved coherence and coordination among UN agencies. • Stakeholder perception of reduced duplication and increased efficiency in UN programme delivery under the UNSDCF 	<p>UNSDCF document and annual reports JWPs Monitoring data, UNINFO; progress reports, ARR, evaluation reports, performance review reports. Members and Minutes of the Results Groups, UNDCO, Stakeholders from the UNCT/ UN Agencies</p>	<p>Document review Semi-structured interviews</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Qualitative iterative data analysis of the KIIs with key stakeholders • Thematic Analysis • Content Analysis • Comparative Analysis <p>Triangulation between data sources, data collection techniques, and data types</p>
<p>Assumption 4.2.The CF has systematically prioritized activities based on the needs of the population, adapting resource allocation to respond to changing demands, rather than being constrained by available funding or supply-side factors.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence of resource reallocation or CF adjustments, documented in reports or meeting minutes, based on identified shifts in beneficiary needs rather than predetermined resource availability. • Extent to which stakeholder feedback reflects satisfaction 	<p>UNSDCF document and annual reports JWPs Monitoring data, UNINFO; progress reports, ARR, evaluation reports, performance review reports. Members and Minutes of the Results Groups,</p>	<p>Document review Semi-structured interviews</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Qualitative iterative data analysis of the KIIs with key stakeholders • Thematic Analysis • Content Analysis • Comparative Analysis <p>Triangulation between data sources, data collection techniques, and data types</p>

	with the CF's responsiveness to changing needs, demonstrating alignment of resource allocation with demand-side collective priorities rather than availability of funding.	Stakeholders from the UNCT/ UN Agencies		
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COORDINATION				
EQ 5. How well has implementation of the CF been coordinated?				
SQ 5.1. Post UN reform, to what extent have UN agency programs and work plans been effectively and meaningfully derived from the CF both in design and implementation? SQ .52. To what extent did the post reform Resident Coordinator office's roles and responsibilities enable positive UNCT's joint convening power and better coherence of the country team?				
Assumptions to be assessed	Indicators	Sources of Information	Methods and tools for data collection	Data analysis methods
Assumption 5.1. Post-UN reform, UN agency programs and work plans are effectively and meaningfully aligned with and derived from the Cooperation Framework (CF), ensuring coherence in both design and implementation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of UN agency programs and work plans that explicitly reference and align with CF priorities. Alignment and consistency of individual UN Agencies' activities and outputs/outcomes in line with the CF targets. Stakeholder perception of the extent to which UN agency programs and work plans have been shaped by the CF during 	UNSDCF document and annual reports JWPs Monitoring data, UNINFO; progress reports, ARR, evaluation reports, performance review reports. Members and Minutes of the Results Groups, UNDCO,	Document review Semi-structured interviews FGDs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Qualitative iterative data analysis of the KIIs with key stakeholders Thematic Analysis Content Analysis Comparative Analysis Triangulation between data sources, data collection techniques, and data types

	both the design and implementation phases.	Stakeholders from the UNCT/ UN Agencies		
Assumption 5.2. The RCO effectively enhanced the UNCT joint convening power and improved coherence in their collaborative efforts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evidence of instances where the RCO facilitated joint initiatives or collaborative activities among UNCT members Stakeholder feedback (on the perceived improvement in UNCT coherence and joint convening power attributed to the RCO's roles and responsibilities post-reform. Stakeholder feedback reflecting increased coordination and collective impact 	<p>UNSDCF document and annual reports JWPs Monitoring data, UNINFO; progress reports, ARR, evaluation reports, performance review reports. Members and Minutes of the Results Groups, UNDCO, Stakeholders from the UNCT/ UN Agencies</p>	<p>Document review Semi-structured interviews</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Qualitative iterative data analysis of the KIIs with key stakeholders Thematic Analysis Content Analysis Comparative Analysis <p>Triangulation between data sources, data collection techniques, and data types</p>

ORIENTATION TOWARD IMPACT				
EQ 6. What difference do CF interventions make?				
SQ 6.1. To what extent have UN system activities articulated in the CF driven progress towards, or supported achievement of ToC outcomes?				
Assumptions to be assessed	Indicators	Sources of Information	Methods and tools for data collection	Data analysis methods
Assumption 6.1 The activities of the UN system, as articulated in the CF, have effectively driven progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Degree to which the UN system's activities have contributed to the realization of 	UNSDCF document and deliverables	<p>Document review Semi-structured interviews</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Qualitative iterative data analysis of the KIIs and

toward achieving the desired outcomes across various sectors, covered under the CF.	ToC outcomes, measured by progress against specific indicators linked to each outcome area <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evidence of drivers and hindering factors affecting the delivery of results 	Legal and policy documents concerning SDGs and national priorities supported by UNCT National and international statistics Stakeholders from the UNCT/ UN Agencies, the GoU line Ministries, other national public institutions, civil society; donors and development partners in the respective fields of UNSDCF	FGDs	FGDs with key stakeholders <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quantitative analysis Thematic Analysis Content Analysis Comparative Analysis Narrative Analysis Contribution analysis Triangulation between data sources, data collection techniques, and data types
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SUSTAINABILITY				
EQ 7. Will the benefits last?				
SQ 7.1. What mechanisms, if any, has the CF established to ensure socio-political, institutional, financial, and environmental sustainability?				
SQ 7.2. What is the likelihood that progress towards the SDGs is sustained by national partners and stakeholders over time?				
Assumptions to be assessed	Indicators	Sources of Information	Methods and tools for data collection	Data analysis methods
Assumption 6.1. The CF has established effective mechanisms to ensure the socio-political, institutional, financial, and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existence and functionality of formal mechanisms (e.g., sustainability strategies, capacity-building programs, partnerships) documented in 	UNSDCF document and deliverables Legal and policy documents concerning SDGs and	Document review Semi-structured interviews FGDs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Qualitative iterative data analysis of the KIIs and FGDs with key stakeholders Quantitative analysis

<p>environmental sustainability of its initiatives, integrating these aspects into the design and implementation of its programs.</p>	<p>program reports that address socio-political, institutional, financial, and environmental sustainability.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examples of successful institutional sustainability of supported programs or initiatives, demonstrated by the ability of national or local institutions to continue managing and delivering services independently after UN support 	<p>national priorities supported by UNCT National and international statistics Stakeholders from the UNCT/ UN Agencies, the GoU line Ministries, other national public institutions, civil society; donors and development partners in the respective fields of UNSDCF</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thematic Analysis • Content Analysis • Comparative Analysis • Narrative Analysis • Contribution analysis <p>Triangulation between data sources, data collection techniques, and data types</p>
<p>Assumption 6.2. National partners and stakeholders have the capacity, commitment, and resources to sustain progress towards the SDGs over time, beyond external support from the CF.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mechanisms, financial and technical/human resources ensured by the national partners to maintain achievements under UNSDCF and SDGs • Evidence of national policies, strategies, or frameworks aligned with the SDGs that are institutionalized and actively implemented by national partners 	<p>UNSDCF document and deliverables Legal and policy documents concerning SDGs and national priorities supported by UNCT National and international statistics Stakeholders from the UNCT/ UN Agencies, the GoU line Ministries, other national public institutions, civil society; donors and development partners in the respective fields of UNSDCF</p>	<p>Document review Semi-structured interviews FGDs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Qualitative iterative data analysis of the KIIs and FGDs with key stakeholders • Quantitative analysis • Thematic Analysis • Content Analysis • Comparative Analysis • Narrative Analysis • Contribution analysis • Triangulation between data sources, data collection techniques, and data types

Annex 3. Overview of Outcome and output indicators

enclosed as a separate excel file.

Annex 4. UNSDCF Management roles and duties

The Management roles for this evaluation include the following:

1. **The Evaluation Steering Committee** consists of the UN Country Team and the selected members of the JSC from the Government is the main decision-making body for the UNSDCF evaluation that will provide oversight of the evaluation process. The ESC will provide endorsement of the process and validate the final deliverables of the evaluation. The ESC will also endorse the management response to the evaluation.
2. **The Evaluation Manager - the** function is performed by the Head of RCO in Uzbekistan, who will oversee the entire process of the evaluation, from its preparation to the dissemination and use of the final evaluation report.
3. **Evaluation Technical management team** comprising current M&E and Learning Group representatives (identified by the UNCT members) will provide routine technical support for the planning and implementation of the evaluation and ensure sound technical review for all the evaluation deliverables.
4. **DCO** supports the Evaluation manager, the RC and the UNCT in quality assurance of all key products. DCO is responsible for approving all evaluation products including the TOR, inception report, final report and other associated products.
5. **The independent evaluation team:**The independent **Evaluation Team (ET)**included three experts, Ms Zehra Kacapor-Dzihic, international team leader (TL), Ms Blerta Perolli-Shehu, international evaluation expert and Ms RahiliaNurbaeva, national evaluation expert. The team has ample collective knowledge of the national context and high technical capacities in the core areas of UN work in Uzbekistan. The evaluation experts will work closely with the TL, who will be responsible for the evaluation.

Annex 5. Synoptic table for the Analysis of the theory of change – UNSDCF 2021-2025

Table 5: Synoptic table for the Analysis of the theory of change – UNSDCF 2021-2025

Pillars of the National Development Strategy	UNSDCF Outcomes	Joint workplan outputs (2021-2022)	Joint workplan outputs (2021-2022)	Analysis of alignment of (JWP outputs-UNSDCF outcomes - NDS pillars/SDGs)	
				Theoretical analysis of contributive links	Conclusions on the alignment between Outputs and outcomes and between outcomes and pillars.
<p>ENSURING THE RULE OF LAW AND FURTHER REFORMING OF THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM (Strategy of Actions 2017-2021)</p> <p>TO ESTABLISH THE PRINCIPLES OF JUSTICE AND THE RULE OF LAW AS THE MOST (Development Strategy of New Uzbekistan 2022-2026)</p> <p>National SDGs: 1, 5, 8, 10, 16 and 17</p>	<p>Outcome 1. By 2025, all people and groups in Uzbekistan, especially the most vulnerable, demand and benefit from enhanced accountable, transparent, inclusive and gender-responsive governance systems and rule of law institutions for a life free from discrimination and</p>	<p>Output 1.1 . National institutions are equipped with effective anti-corruption, accountability and transparency tools, digital innovations and mechanisms for delivering better gender-responsive and disability-sensitive public services to all, with a focus on the most vulnerable</p>	<p>Output 1.1. National institutions have strengthened capacities to apply effective anti-corruption, accountability and transparency tools, digital innovations and mechanisms for delivering better gender-responsive and disability-sensitive public services to all, with a focus on the most vulnerable</p>	<p>The alignment between the National Development Strategy objectives and UNSDCF outcomes and outputs demonstrates a strong coherence in advancing the rule of law, justice, and inclusive governance. The National Development Strategy's focus on ensuring the rule of law and judicial reform is mirrored in the UNSDCF Outcome 1, which emphasizes accountable, transparent, and gender-responsive governance systems. The joint workplan outputs for 2021-2022 further support this alignment by enhancing the capacities of national institutions, civil society, and</p>	<p>The alignment between outputs and outcomes is strong, with outputs effectively supporting enhanced governance, rule of law, and inclusivity. Outputs equip institutions, empower civil society, and involve vulnerable groups, all crucial for achieving accountable, gender-responsive governance.</p> <p>Outcome is coherently aligned with the pillars of consecutive Development Strategies, particularly in advancing rule of law and governance reform, ensuring a clear and logical progression from outputs to strategic pillars. UNCT consultations showed that there a good level of flexibility was ingrained in the design of the outcome framework for potential adaptations, but there was no need for revisions over the reference period. Hence, the conclusion is that it presents a relevant basis for the evaluation.</p>
		<p>Output 1.2. Capacities of the Legislature and other constitutional bodies, human rights institutions, and justice and law enforcement actors are strengthened to</p>	<p>Output 1.2. Capacities of the parliament, local governments, human rights institutions, justice</p>		

	violence	implement improved people-oriented and gender-sensitive legislation, policy and practice in line with international human rights and labour rights standards	and law enforcement actors, and other constitutional bodies are strengthened to implement improved people-oriented, peace-focused and gender-sensitive policies, legislation and practice in line with international human rights standards	vulnerable groups to ensure effective anti-corruption measures, human rights protections, and inclusive decision-making processes, thus contributing to the broader goals of sustainable development (SDGs 1, 5, 8, 10, 16, and 17).	
		Output 1.3. Civil society, media and public oversight institutions have strengthened their awareness, knowledge and skills on human rights and labour rights and access to justice, and are empowered to use them and prevent any human rights and gender-based violations	Output 1.3. Civil society, media and public oversight institutions have strengthened their awareness, knowledge and skills on human rights, access to justice and legal aid, and are empowered to use them and prevent any human rights violations, violence, and all forms of discriminatory practices		
		Output 1.4. Population groups at risk of being left	Output 1.4. Population groups		

		behind are empowered to effectively participate in decision making processes at all levels	at risk of being left behind are empowered to effectively participate in decision making, social cohesion, rule of law and peace-building processes at all levels		
<p>IMPROVING THE SYSTEM OF STATE AND PUBLIC CONSTRUCTION (Strategy of Actions 2017-2021)</p> <p>TO BUILD A PEOPLE'S STATE BY ELEVATING HUMAN DIGNITY AND THE FURTHERANCE OF A CIVIL SOCIETY (Development Strategy of New Uzbekistan 2022-2026)</p> <p>national SDGs: 1, 5, 10, 16, and 17</p>	<p>Outcome 2. By 2025, the population of Uzbekistan benefits from more harmonized and integrated implementation of the reform agenda due to strengthened policy coherence, evidence-based and inclusive decision-making and financing for development mainstreamed in line with national SDGs</p>	<p>Output 2.1. By 2025, an effective SDG financing framework is developed and promoted through coherent gender-responsive and evidence-based policy implementation and innovative financing and coordination platforms</p>	<p>Output 2.1. By 2025, an effective SDG financing framework is operational and promoted through coherent gender-responsive and evidence-based policy implementation and innovative financing solutions, asset management frameworks and coordination platforms</p>	<p>The alignment between the National Development Strategy objectives and UNSDCF outcomes and outputs is strong, particularly in the area of public administration reform and public service provision. The national strategy's focus on building a people-centered state and advancing civil society is well-reflected in UNSDCF Outcome 2, which emphasizes policy coherence, evidence-based decision-making, and integrated SDG implementation. The outputs further support this alignment by enhancing capacities for SDG financing, evidence generation, and poverty measurement, ensuring that national institutions are equipped to effectively implement the</p>	<p>The alignment between outputs and outcomes is strong, with the outputs effectively driving the achievement of the desired outcomes, such as enhanced policy coherence, evidence-based decision-making, and integrated SDG implementation.</p> <p>The outcome is also well-aligned with the strategic pillars of the consecutive Development Strategies, particularly in advancing public administration and inclusive policies, building a people-centered state, and promoting civil society. UNCT consultations showed that there a good level of flexibility was ingrained in the design of the outcome framework for potential adaptations, but there was no need for revisions over the reference period. Hence, the conclusion is that it presents a relevant basis for the evaluation.</p>
		<p>Output 2.2. National institutions have enhanced capacities to generate robust systematic evidence to measure SDG progress and inform national and sectorial policies, programmes/plans and budgets</p>	<p>Output 2.2. National institutions have enhanced capacities to generate robust systematic evidence to measure SDG progress and align national and sectorial policies,</p>		

			programmes/plans and budgets with SDG indicators	reform agenda in line with the national SDGs.	
		Output 2.3. By 2025, national capacities are strengthened to measure monetary and multidimensional poverty, including female and child poverty, and formulate comprehensive and integrated evidencebased and gender-sensitive policies and strategies on poverty reduction	Output 2.3. By 2025, national capacities are strengthened to measure monetary and multidimensional poverty, including female and child poverty, and formulate comprehensive and integrated evidence based policies and strategies on integrated Poverty-Environment and Gender Nexus considerations		
DEVELOPMENT AND LIBERALIZATION OF THE ECONOMY (Strategy of Actions 2017-2021) DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIAL SPHERE (Strategy of Actions 2017-2021)	Outcome 3. By 2025, youth, women and vulnerable groups benefit from improved access to livelihoods, decent work and expanded opportunities generated by inclusive and equitable economic growth(national SDGs: 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 10,and 11)	Output 3.1. By 2025, the capacities of national institutions and social partners are strengthened to design and implement effective and innovative Active Labour Market Policies, decent work and skills development programmes for NEET Youth, Women, and PWD and policies for inclusive and resilient economic growth	Output 3.1. By 2025, the capacities of national institutions and social partners are strengthened to design and implement effective and innovative Active Labour Market Policies, decent work and skills development programmes for the youth and adults (including NEET),	The alignment between the national development strategy objectives and UNSDCF outcomes and outputs is robust, particularly in the areas of economic development and social sphere enhancement. The national strategy's goals of developing a robust economy and pursuing fair public policies are well-reflected in UNSDCF Outcome 3, which focuses on inclusive and equitable economic growth	The alignment between outputs and outcome is strong, with outputs effectively driving the achievement of inclusive economic growth and improved access to livelihoods, particularly for youth, women, and vulnerable groups. This alignment ensures that the outcomes are well-supported by specific actions and interventions. The outcome is also well-aligned with the strategic pillars of the consecutive Development Strategies, particularly in promoting a robust national economy

<p>TO DEVELOP A ROBUST NATIONAL ECONOMY</p> <p>THAT ENSURES RAPID GROWTH (Development Strategy of New Uzbekistan 2022-2026)</p> <p>TO PURSUE JUST AND FAIR PUBLIC POLICIES (Development Strategy of New Uzbekistan 2022-2026)</p>		<p>and reduced regional inequalities</p>	<p>women, informal workers, migrants, PWD to ensure inclusive and sustainable economic growth and reduced inequalities, including spacial and gender inequalities.</p>	<p>benefiting youth, women, and vulnerable groups. The outputs support this alignment by strengthening institutional capacities, empowering local communities, and promoting innovative practices to ensure sustainable livelihoods and decent work. This alignment ensures that the national objectives of rapid economic growth and social equity are effectively supported by targeted interventions at the output level.</p>	<p>and pursuing just and fair public policies. UNCT consultations showed that there a good level of flexibility was ingrained in the design of the outcome framework for potential adaptations, but there was no need for revisions over the reference period. Hence, the conclusion is that it presents a relevant basis for the evaluation.</p>
		<p>Output 3.2. By 2025, local communities are empowered to implement and sustain innovative business practices and development initiatives for improved livelihood opportunities for youth, women and vulnerable groups</p>	<p>Output 3.2. By 2025, local communities, institutions (public and private) are empowered to implement and sustain innovative business practices and development initiatives for improved livelihood opportunities for youth, women and other vulnerable groups</p>		

		Output 3.3. By 2025, enabling conditions are promoted to ensure equal and inclusive access to sustainable livelihoods and basic resources, decent work conditions through workplace collective bargaining, new technologies, modern infrastructure, including ICT, and road safety community services, affordable housing and financial services for youth, women and vulnerable groups	Output 3.3. By 2025, the economy is stimulated and decent working conditions are created by promotion of investment and trade, utilisation of new technologies and modern infrastructure, and harnessing opportunities opened by green transition		
DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIAL SPHERE (Strategy of Actions 2017-2021) TO PURSUE JUST AND FAIR PUBLIC POLICIES (Development Strategy of New Uzbekistan 2022-2026)	Outcome 4. By 2025, the most vulnerable benefit from enhanced access to gender-sensitive quality health, education and social services (national SDG 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 10, 11 and 16).	Output 4.1. By 2025, capacities of health system and stakeholders are strengthened to implement efficient and transparent, innovative and inclusive Universal Health Coverage-focused policies and programmes, comprehensive responses to health emergencies and to promote a healthy lifestyle and health literacy among all age groups as well as quality professional development opportunities and a decent work environment for healthcare employees	Output 4.1. By 2025, capacities of health system and stakeholders are strengthened to implement efficient and transparent, innovative and inclusive Universal Health Coverage-focused policies and programmes, comprehensive responses to health emergencies and to promote a healthy lifestyle and health literacy among all age groups as well	There is alignment between the national development strategy objectives and UNSDCF outcomes and outputs, particularly in terms of focus on social development and fairness, which is well-reflected in UNSDCF Outcome 4, which aims to enhance access to gender-sensitive quality health, education, and social services for the most vulnerable. The outputs further support this alignment by strengthening the capacities of health and education systems and the social protection framework,	The alignment between outputs and the outcome is strong, with the outputs effectively driving the enhancement of health, education, and social services to benefit vulnerable groups, thereby achieving the desired outcome. This ensures that the outcome is well-supported by specific, targeted actions. The UNSDCF outcome aligns well with the national development pillars focused on social development and fair public policies, indicating a well-integrated approach to achieving social equity and justice. UNCT consultations showed that there a good level of flexibility was ingrained in the design of the outcome framework for potential adaptations, but there was no

			as quality professional development opportunities and a decent work environment for healthcare employees.	ensuring these services are equitable, inclusive, and responsive to the needs of vulnerable populations. This alignment ensures that national objectives are effectively addressed through targeted, coherent actions	need for revisions over the reference period. Hence, the conclusion is that it presents a relevant basis for the evaluation.
		Output 4.2. By 2025, Government and other educational stakeholders have increased capacity to provide access to equitable, inclusive and quality education at all levels and promote lifelong learning in an integrated manner, including quality professional development system and decent work environment for education sector employees.	Output 4.2. By 2025, Government and other educational stakeholders have increased capacity to provide access to equitable, inclusive, safe, and quality education at all levels and promote lifelong learning in an integrated manner, including quality professional development system and decent work environment for education sector employees.		
		Output 4.3. By 2025, the national social protection system is strengthened to deliver progressively universal social security and social protection benefits (child-sensitive, gender and shock responsive), community-based family	Output 4.3. By 2025, the national social protection system is strengthened to deliver progressively universal inclusive and gender-responsive social		

		services, and inclusive multi-sector response to vulnerabilities and gender-based violence in line with international standards.	security, social protection benefits and social services to address all forms of poverty, violence, social exclusion and other vulnerabilities		
<p>N/A ((Strategy of Actions 2017-2021)</p> <p>TO DEVELOP A ROBUST NATIONAL ECONOMY THAT ENSURES RAPID GROWTH (Development Strategy of New Uzbekistan 2022-2026)</p> <p>TO PURSUE JUST AND FAIR PUBLIC POLICIES (Development Strategy of New Uzbekistan 2022-2026)</p>	<p>Outcome 5. By 2025, the most at risk regions and communities of Uzbekistan are more resilient to climate change and disasters, and benefit from increasingly sustainable and gender-sensitive efficient management of natural resources and infrastructure, robust climate action, inclusive environmental governance and protection (national SDGs: 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13,15)</p>	<p>Output 5.1. By 2025, innovative, sustainable and age- and gender-responsive climate change adaptation and mitigation initiatives in agriculture, health, water, transport, energy production and building/housing/residential infrastructure sectors are designed and implemented at national and regional levels, with a focus on at risk regions, including Aral Sea region</p>	<p>Output 5.1. By 2025, innovative, sustainable, inclusive and age- and gender-responsive climate change adaptation and mitigation initiatives in agriculture, health, water, transport, energy production and building/housing/residential infrastructure sectors are designed, financed and implemented at national and regional levels, with a focus on at risk regions, including Aral Sea region</p>	<p>UNSDCF Outcome 5, which aims to build resilience in at-risk regions through sustainable, inclusive, and gender-sensitive management of natural resources and infrastructure is aligned with the national strategy's focus on rapid economic growth and fair public policies. The outputs support this alignment by enhancing capacities for climate change adaptation, environmental governance, and disaster risk reduction, all of which are crucial for sustaining economic growth while ensuring social equity and environmental sustainability. This alignment indicates that the national objectives are effectively addressed through integrated and targeted actions that balance economic development with environmental and social resilience.</p>	<p>The alignment between outputs and the outcome is strong, with the outputs effectively driving the implementation of climate change adaptation, environmental governance, and disaster risk reduction, all of which are essential for achieving the desired outcome of increased resilience in at-risk regions. This outcome is also well-aligned with the national development pillars, particularly the goals of fostering a robust economy and pursuing just and fair public policies, ensuring that economic growth is pursued in a manner that is sustainable, equitable, and resilient.</p> <p>UNCT consultations showed that there a good level of flexibility was ingrained in the design of the outcome framework for potential adaptations, but there was no need for revisions over the reference period.</p> <p>Hence, the conclusion is that it presents a relevant basis for the evaluation.</p>
		<p>Output 5.2. By 2025, national and local capacities are enhanced to implement green sustainable policies on the conservation and use of</p>	<p>Output 5.2. By 2025, national and local capacities are enhanced to implement green</p>		

		terrestrial and water ecosystems, environmentally sound management of chemicals and waste in line with international obligations	sustainable policies on the conservation and use of terrestrial and water ecosystems, environmentally sound management of chemicals and waste as well as prevention of air, water, and soil pollution in line with international obligations		
		Output 5.3. Governance system capacity and regulatory framework on Disaster Risk Reduction and natural/cultural heritage preservation are strengthened to effectively deliver on obligations under the Sendai Framework on DRR	Output 5.3. Governance system capacity and regulatory framework on Disaster Risk Reduction and natural/cultural heritage protection are strengthened to effectively deliver on obligations under the Sendai Framework on DRR and related Conventions		

Annex 6. Map of legislation and policies supported by UN over the reference period

The UN supported or contributed to several legislative acts aimed at strengthening governance, accountability, and social protections in Uzbekistan. Key contributions include:

- Law on criminalization of violence against women and children
 - Law on Anti-Corruption Screening of Legal Acts.
 - The National Anti-Corruption Council of Uzbekistan officially adopted methodology for calculating a national corruption index, which was developed with UN support
 - The UN continued to advocate for the ratification of the Third Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the adoption of the “Law on the Children’s Ombudsperson”.
 - Amendments to the Criminal and Administrative Liability Codes.
 - Strategy and Plan of Action on Children's Access to Justice.
 - Law on State Funded Legal Aid.
 - Law on Anti-Corruption Screening of Legal Acts.
 - The UN input contributed to release of the Presidential decree “On measures to radically improve the personnel policy and the system of civil service in the Republic of Uzbekistan” which resulted in the Law on Civil Service adopted in November 2022 to strengthen the integrity and accountability of civil servants working in the public interest
 - The National Strategy for the Modernization and Accelerated Development of the Public Service Delivery System for 2022-2026 approved by the President in April 2022
 - The Law on Conflict of Interest will promote transparency, accountability, and trust in decision-making processes in public sector, and prevent potential corruption. Draft Law Free Legal Aid will ensure access to justice for the vulnerable and marginalized people
- These legislative efforts highlight a robust partnership between the UN and Uzbekistan in promoting legal reforms that aim to improve transparency, accountability, and social protection. However, while these frameworks mark progress, the effectiveness of implementation remains contingent on local capacity and sustained institutional commitment.
- Law “On the protection of the Reproductive Health of citizens”
 - The Low Carbon Development Strategy until 2050.
 - The Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan #903 "On Soil Protection and Increasing its Productivity"

The UN supported the following policies:

Gender equality and social inclusion initiatives:

- The UNCT collaborated with the National Gender Commission to develop the *National Strategy for Achieving Gender Equality in Uzbekistan by 2030*, endorsed by the Senate of Oliy Majlis in May 2022.
- UN supported the Government in creating the *National Action Plan on Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Prevention* with consultations from government and civil society organizations (CSOs).
- UN assisted in the scale-up of national Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for an integrated response to GBV, first introduced last year.
- UN helped establish a *Gender-sensitive Skills Development Strategy* for agriculture and water sectors in collaboration with relevant ministries and UNESCO.

- UN supported gender mainstreaming through the *Gender Action Plan for Climate-Smart Technologies* and the *Gender Strategy for the Forestry Sector*, adopted by the Government.
- UN launched the *GBV Safety Audit Tool* for cash transfer and protection initiatives.
- Support provided to the preparation of Law on Protecting Women from Violence and Harassment
- Support to the law “On guarantees of equal rights and opportunities for women and men”.

SDG and financing strategies:

- UN collaborated with the Government on the *Integrated SDG Financing Strategy*, engaging key public, private, and international partners.
- Jointly with the World Bank, UN contributed to the development of the *National Poverty Reduction Strategy*.
- UN assisted the Government in conceptualizing a *National Strategy for the Transition from Informal to Formal Economy* and conducted a gender-responsive assessment of informal employment.

Public service, employment, and economic development:

- UN supported the drafting of the *National Employment Strategy* through 2030.
- Through UNDP, UN aided in designing the *2021-2030 Development Strategy for Namangan Region* in the Ferghana Valley.
- UN helped establish Uzbekistan’s *E-commerce Strategy for 2023-2027*.
- UN assisted in drafting the *Professional Education Strategy for 2030*, including six new National Occupational Standards and competency-based curricula for agriculture and irrigation.
- The National Strategy for the Modernization and Accelerated Development of the Public Service Delivery System (2022-2026);
- Contribution is made to the draft Law on Conflict of Interest (approved by the Senate of Oliy Majlis in June 2023)
- In 2019, the SDG Acceleration Lab generated policy recommendations in the area of public administration to inform 11 decrees and resolutions adopted by Government.
- Two longstanding critical data generation activities, namely the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) and Population Census, have been successfully elevated to the highest level and this has resulted in the adoption of the Presidential Decree on the Population Census in Uzbekistan in 2022, and the Presidential Resolution on additional measures on strengthening statistical capacity, that includes, inter alia, the MICS, and a national Statistics Development Strategy.
- Support in development of the Law on mediation, alternative dispute resolution and efficiency of ICT use in courts resulting into a 19 steps improvement in the ‘Enforcement of contracts’ indicator of Doing Business.
- A national trade facilitation portal – the Uzbekistan Trade Info Platform (UzbTIP)
- The UN contributed to the development of the digital economy and digital entrepreneurship ecosystem. The “digitalpulse.uz” platform launched
- The “Digital Uzbekistan 2030” Concept Note and Roadmap were drafted based on international experience, to replace the expiring master-plan on developing e-government for 2013-2019.

These will also serve as a framework for developing a national long-term strategy for Digital Uzbekistan and set the trajectory for Uzbekistan's transition to a digital economy in five priority areas: Digital Infrastructure, Digital Skills, Data Driven Governance, Digital Innovations and Digital Security.

- Expert support and policy advice was provided to enhance the normative framework on promoting exports/foreign direct investment (FDI), including the "Strategy on investment policy of the Republic of Uzbekistan until 2025", the law "On Investments and Investment Activities", the law "On Public-Private Partnership", and the law "On Special Economic Zones")
- A "Citizens' Budget for Y2019" and a "Citizens' budget for Y2019" for the Tashkent Region and a draft "Citizens' budget for Y2020" have been developed and presented to national/ international partners and the general public.

Child protection and education:

- UN supported the development and roll-out of SOPs on child protection, addressing violence, abuse, and exploitation, with implementation in Surkhandarya region, training over 700 professionals.
- New legislation on National Preventative Mechanism (NPM) legislation adopted
- UN aided in creating a *Strategy and Plan of Action on Children's Access to Justice*, fostering a specialized child justice system.
- UN launched the *Uzbekistan Partnership Compact for Education Reform 2023-2026*, mobilizing over USD 600 million for inclusive, quality education.
- UN contributed to the *National Policy Framework for Inclusive Education*.
- An Education Quality Assurance Framework (EQAF) with quality standards and performance indicators, at the preschool and basic education levels; and Teacher Qualification Frameworks and Professional OUTCOME 5: Continuous quality education and lifelong learning for all are improved Standards for preschool and general secondary school teachers have been established with UN support.
- The UN supported the government to review the 2011 Asia-Pacific Regional Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications in Higher Education leading to adoption of Roadmap on the Ratification of the Regional Convention on Recognition of the Qualifications of Higher Education and establishment of the National Information Center on Qualifications.
- The Government was supported to participate in the discussions and adoption of the Global Convention on Recognition of Qualifications
- The first ever National Curriculum Framework (NCF) for the general secondary education system based on a competency-based approach developed with EU support
- A new Education Sector Plan (ESP) for 2019-2023 for Uzbekistan
- A new "Law on Preschool Education" adopted based on international evidence and best practice shared by UN
- Contribution is made to the development of the Youth 2030 Strategy.

Climate and environmental sustainability:

- UN facilitated the adoption of the *Green Growth Strategic Framework (GGSF)* and the *Strategy on Climate Change through 2030*, as well as the *National Cooling Action Plan* and the *National Food Loss and Waste Strategy*.
- *SDG7 Roadmap* was supported to prioritize clean energy transitions and provided recommendations for decarbonizing transport.
- UN assisted in drafting a *Gender Strategy for Climate-Smart Technologies and Forestry*, ensuring policy-level gender mainstreaming.
- UN assisted with development of a *Water Sector Strategy Concept 2020-2030* with a concept on the efficient use of land and water, including a roadmap.
- A *National Strategy and Action Plan* on the implementation of the Sendai Framework for 2019-2030.
- The UN contributed to drafting of key policy documents including: the *Strategy on climate change until 2030* of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the *National Cooling Action plan* for Uzbekistan, and the *National Food Loss and Waste Strategy on Conservation Agriculture*.
- Supported the Government of Uzbekistan to develop and join the *Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction* for 2022-2030.
- UN promoted adoption of the UN General Assembly Resolution (18 May 2021) on the Aral Sea region - *Zone of Ecological Innovations and Technologies* resulting in the *Presidential Resolution on Aral Sea* (29 July 2022).
- UNDP AccLab developed an *Aral Sea Greening* concept, to support the Government's efforts to transform the region into a *Zone of ecological and technological innovations*
- *Climate Budget Tagging*
- UN support with 2023 Uzbekistan second *Voluntary National Review on SDG*

Social protection and disability inclusion

- Supported the approval of the *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities National Action Plan (CRPD NAP)* for 2023-2025.
- UN contributed to the development of Uzbekistan's first *Social Protection Strategy through 2030*, adopted in July 2022, aimed at enhancing intersectoral cooperation on child protection
- The *Social Protection Single Registry (SPSR)* - the management information system set up with support of the World Bank and UNICEF in Uzbekistan – was fully completed and handed over to the Ministry of Finance in March 2022.
- A long-term action plan on *De-institutionalization* developed as a follow up to the 2019 Presidential Resolution addressing welfare measures for children deprived of parental care
- UN entities have launched a joint initiative to establish a national *Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI)* for Uzbekistan to enable better pro-poor policy formulation measures and improve social protection mechanisms
- Jointly with the World Bank the UN supported development of the national *Poverty Reduction Strategy*.

Agriculture

- The UN consulted and supported the development of Uzbekistan's Agriculture Development Strategy for 2020–2030 which includes a UN proposal on rainfed agriculture development as well as a Law on Pastures (A national Agri-Food Development Strategy up to 2030)
- UN facilitated the development of a comprehensive Regional Development Strategy for Karakalpakstan
- The UN contributed significantly to the development of a National Action Plan for Seed Policy ratified by the Government
- Contributed to the development of the National Food Security Strategy.

Health

- Evidence from the nutrition survey supported the Government's policy development, specifically in a law on the Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes and Infant and Young Child Food and national food fortification law.
- The UN supported the MoH in developing and finalizing the National Multisector Adolescent Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2022-2026 to improve universal coverage of adolescent health.
- National quality standards for drug dependence treatment services developed and approved based on the UNODC-WHO standards; and integrated in a new government policy on measures to improve the system of narcological assistance to the population of the Republic of Uzbekistan, adopted in October 2019.
- Provided inputs resulted in the adoption of the Presidential Decree "On measures to improve specialized TB and Pulmonology services in Uzbekistan for 2019-2021"

Refugee

- The UN presented legal analysis to support the Government of Uzbekistan's plans to accede to the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol

Annex 7. Summary Performance Rating

Criteria/issue	Rating ²⁶²	Summary comments
A. STRATEGIC RELEVANCE	Median score	
A1. Alignment with SDGs and National strategic priorities	5	The alignment to SDGs and national priorities was assessed as satisfactory.
A2. Relevance to national, regional and global priorities and beneficiary needs	5	The alignment to SDGs and national priorities was assessed as satisfactory.
A3. Dynamic and Responsive CF	4	The CF implementation was challenged by the Covid19, and showed adaptability to the emerging situation up to 2021. Lack of mid-term review made it difficult to identify key emerging needs or priorities.
B. COHERENCE	Median score	
B1. CF position, credibility and reliability	5	The CF and UNCT has been strategically positioned in all thematic areas, and played a convener role in the country
B2. CF complementarity, harmonisation and coordination	3	The complementarity and coordination was suboptimal. the lack of stable RC position affected negatively this process.
B3. Synergies and interlinkages of interventions	4	There were good examples of synergies, but more could have been done to promote them over the reference period.
B4. Forging strategic and effective partnerships	4	UN agencies have maintained strong and effective partnerships. Increased number of JPs is an indication on progress from the previous period
C. EFFECTIVENESS	Median score	
C1.1 Delivery of CF outputs		
C1.2 Progress towards outcomes		
- Outcome 1	5	The UN's contributions in Uzbekistan have facilitated incremental but foundational progress toward more accountable, inclusive, and gender-responsive governance, particularly benefiting vulnerable groups. However, challenges such as fragmented coordination and limited local capacities have hindered the scalability and sustainability of these reforms.
- Outcome 2	5	The UN has significantly strengthened Uzbekistan's capacity for SDG monitoring and data-driven policymaking, with key

²⁶² See rating scheme at the end of the document.

		achievements in data infrastructure, SDG-aligned financing, and institutional capacity-building. However, persistent capacity gaps, particularly in rural areas, and economic constraints limit the sustainability and inclusiveness of these efforts.
- Outcome 3	5	UN's contributions to address employment, entrepreneurship and inclusivity issues have been multiple and brought advancements of economic resilience. however, some challenges emerge with bringing the gap between education and employment and financial inclusion of marginalized groups
- Outcome 4	5	The progress under outcome 4 was satisfactory, with systemic level changes brought to the country though several challenges i.e limited capacity of national workforce and responding to all forms of vulnerabilities, constrained the effectiveness
- Outcome 5	5	The progress under Outcome 5 is satisfactory with the commendable achievements, resulting in significant systemic changes within the sectors. Challenges remain sustaining and in broader scaling up of effective initiatives.
D. EFFICIENCY	Median score	
D1. Use of resources	3	Resource mobilization and utilization of funds was affected by overambitious financial planning, external disruptions, and limited diversification of funding sources
E. SUSTAINABILITY	Median score	
E1.1. Financial risks	2	Reliance on short-term, project-specific funding and fluctuating donor support, limits the long-term scalability of UN modeled approaches.
E1.2. Socio-political risks	4	Shifting government priorities and frequent changes in policy direction, and the fragmented engagement of civil society, which restrict the transformational potential of UN-supported reforms
E1.3. Institutional and governance risks	4	he UN has supported institutional capacity building primarily at the central level, which has contributed to governance improvements and reforms. However, there is an institutional risk due to limited capacity development at the subnational level, where coordination and implementation often face challenges. T
E1.4. Environmental risks	N/A	Environmental risks are relatively low but exist in the context of adapting to

		Uzbekistan's evolving climate-related challenges, where the UN's efforts may face setbacks due to insufficient integration of climate adaptation strategies in national policies.
E2. Catalysis and replication	3	The UN has catalyzed some key reforms and policy changes in Uzbekistan, but the potential for replication and scaling is constrained by fragmented coordination, limited capacity at the local level, and the prioritization of short-term, visible results over long-term strategic initiatives
F. ORIENTATION TOWARDS IMPACT	Median score	
F.1 CF contributions to key institutional, behavioural and legislative changes	4	The UN has played a significant role in supporting key institutional and legislative changes in Uzbekistan, including the development of anti-corruption frameworks, enhanced governance structures, and the adoption of laws promoting gender equality and disability inclusion. However, the focus has primarily been on central-level reforms, with limited capacity-building efforts at the subnational level, which affects the scalability and sustainability of these changes.
F.2 CF contribution to advance achievement of SDG targets	5	The CF has significantly contributed to advancing Uzbekistan's progress toward SDG targets, particularly in areas such as governance, poverty reduction, and gender equality. The UN's support in strengthening SDG monitoring systems and aligning national policies with global goals has provided a solid foundation for tracking and achieving these targets, although challenges in local capacity and resource constraints remain.
F.3 CF contribution to advance cross-cutting concerns on gender equality	5	The CF has been instrumental in advancing gender equality in Uzbekistan, supporting the creation of national policies and action plans, and initiatives to address gender-based violence. These efforts have contributed to increased representation of women in decision-making roles and enhanced legal protections, although challenges persist in fully integrating gender equality into all levels of governance and ensuring its sustainability.
F.4 contribution to advance cross-cutting concerns on human rights and non-discrimination, including disability inclusion	5	The CF has significantly advanced human rights and non-discrimination efforts, particularly through the ratification of international protocols like the CRPD and the promotion of disability-inclusive policies. While progress has been made in integrating rights-based approaches into national frameworks, the

		limited local capacity for enforcement and awareness remains a challenge to full implementation, especially in rural areas.
F.5 contribution to advance cross-cutting concerns on environmental sustainability	5	The CF has contributed to environmental sustainability through initiatives like climate finance mechanisms, including the issuance of green sovereign bonds, and the integration of climate-related policies into national development plans. However, the full impact of these efforts is constrained by challenges in local-level implementation and the need for continued investment in climate resilience, particularly in vulnerable communities.
F. FACTORS AFFECTING PERFORMANCE	Median score	
F1. CF design	5	The design was satisfactory, and involved an extensive consultation process and analysis
F2. Quality of RCO leadership and effective oversight	3	There was a significant turnover in the RC position, which created obstacles to overall coordination and positioning of UN.
F2.1 Quality of CF implementation by UNCT	5	The CF implementation by the UNCT has been generally strong, with notable achievements in strengthening governance, social protection, and environmental sustainability. However, the quality of implementation has been impacted by resource constraints, fragmented coordination across agencies
F3. Quality of UNCT coordination and integration	4	UNCT coordination and integration have improved over the course of the CF cycle, with better alignment across key sectors. However, challenges remain due to siloed operations, overlapping efforts, and inconsistent inter-agency collaboration, which sometimes dilute the impact of joint efforts and hinder a more cohesive approach to development.
F4. National ownership on the CF	6	National ownership of the CF has been strong, with the government actively engaged in the design and implementation of key initiatives. However, the sustainability of national ownership is impacted by shifting government priorities and limited long-term strategic alignment, which can hinder the continuity and full realization of CF objectives.
F5. CF stakeholder engagement	5	Stakeholder engagement has been a strength of the CF, with active involvement from civil society organizations, vulnerable groups, and other stakeholders in shaping programs. However, challenges in the operational environment for civil society and limited capacity at the local level have restricted the broader and more inclusive participation

		necessary for long-term success.
F6. Communication, knowledge management and M&E	3	Communication and knowledge management efforts have been robust, with the UNCT effectively disseminating information on key initiatives. However, the M&E systems face challenges due to inconsistent data collection, limited local capacity for monitoring, and fragmented reporting processes, which affect the ability to track and measure the full impact of CF interventions.
F7. Quality of UNCT collective and joint efforts	5	The quality of collective and joint efforts within the UNCT has been positive, with significant contributions to policy development, capacity-building, and sustainable development goals. However, these efforts are occasionally hindered by inefficiencies in coordination, insufficient follow-up on high-visibility initiatives, and the need for a more unified approach to address complex, cross-sectoral challenges.
Overall rating	4	

Interpretation of ratings:

<i>Rating</i>	<i>Ordinal scale</i>	<i>Description</i>
Highly Satisfactory (HS)	6	<i>"Level of achievement of outputs/outcomes clearly exceeds expectations and/or there were no short comings."</i>
Satisfactory (S)	5	<i>"Level of achievement of outputs/outcomes was as planned and/or there were no or minor short comings."</i>
Moderately Satisfactory (MS)	4	<i>"Level of achievement of outputs/outcomes likely to be as planned and/or there were moderate short comings."</i>
Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU)	3	<i>"Level of achievement of outputs/outcomes somewhat lower than planned and/or there were significant shortcomings."</i>
Unsatisfactory (U)	2	<i>"Level of achievement of outputs/outcomes substantially lower than planned and/or there were major short comings."</i>
Highly Unsatisfactory (HU)	1	<i>"Only a negligible level of achievement of planned outputs/outcomes and/or there were severe short comings."</i>
Unable to Assess (UA)	0	<i>The available information does not allow an assessment of the level of achievements.</i>

SUSTAINABILITY

The sustainability will be assessed taking into account the risks related to financial, socio-political, institutional, and environmental sustainability of outcomes. The evaluator may also take other risks into account that may affect sustainability:

<i>Rating</i>	<i>Ordinal scale</i>	<i>Description</i>
Likely (L)	4	<i>There is little or no risk to sustainability.</i>
Moderately Likely (ML)	3	<i>There are moderate risks to sustainability.</i>
Moderately Unlikely (MU)	2	<i>There are significant risks to sustainability.</i>
Unlikely (U)	1	<i>There are severe risks to sustainability.</i>
Unable to Assess (UA)	0	<i>Unable to assess the expected incidence and magnitude of risks to sustainability.</i>

Annex 8. List of interviewed institutions

no.	Institution	Gender
UN Agencies		
1.	UNRC	1F
2.	UNRCO	2 F, 2 M
3.	UNESCO	1F, 1M
4.	UNICEF	2M
5.	UNFPA	1F
6.	UNDP	1M
7.	CF Result Group 1	3F, 10M
8.	CF Result Group 3	7F, 1M
9.	Gender, Human Rights, HIV/AIDS thematic group/ M&E SUBGROUP	5F, 2M
10.	MIGRATION thematic group	1F
11.	M&E SUBGROUP	3F, 4M
12.	OMT subgroup	3F, 1M
13.	Communications	8F, 1M
14.	Secretariat of the Aral Sea Trust Fund	1F, 3 M
Government		
15.	Social Protection Agency	3M
16.	Ministry of Ecology	1F
17.	Ministry of Pre-school education	1F, 1M
18.	Ministry of Health	1F
19.	HIV/Aids committee	1F, 1M
20.	Ministry of Digital transformation	1F, 1M
21.	Ministry of Finance and Economy	1M
22.	The Statistical Agency	3M
23.	Federation of Trade Union	1F, 1M

24.	Confederation of Employers	1F, 1M
25.	Anti-Corruption Agency	1M
26.	National Human Rights Centre	1F
27.	Ministry of Justice	1M
28.	The Parliamentary Commission on the SDGs and the Senate's Committee on Women and Gender Equal	1F, 1M
29.	Ministry of Employment and Poverty Reduction	1M
30.	Youth Affairs Agency	1F
31.	Committee on Family and Women	1F, 2M
32.	General Prosecutor Office Academy	1F, 4M
33.	The Ministry of Investment Industry and Trade	1F, 4M
34.	Ministry of Agriculture	1F, 3M
35.	Ombudsperson office	1F, 2M
Regional administrations		
36.	Fergana region khokimiat, Finance Department	2M
37.	Andijan region khokimiat, Finance Department	3M
38.	Namangan region khokimiat, Finance department	1M
39.	Kashkadaria region khokimiat, infrastrcuture and construction department	1M
40.	Surkhandaria region khokimiat, Finance department	1M
41.	Bukhara region khokimiat, Finance department	1M
42.	Dkizak region khokimiat, Finance department	1M
43.	Navoi region khokimiat, Finance department	1M
44.	Samarkand region khokimiat, Finance department	1M
45.	Syrdaria region khokimiat, Finance department	2 M
46.	Khorezm region khokimiat, Finance department	2M
47.	Karakalpakistan Republic, Depity Minister of the Ministry of Economy	1M
48.	Tashkent region khokimiat, Finance department	1M

Donors and development partners		
49.	UK FCDO	1F
50.	SWISS Embassy	2F, 1M
51.	IslamicDevelopment Bank	1M
52.	ADB	2M
53.	EUD in Uzbekistan	4M
54.	OSCE	1F, 3M
55.	USAID	1M
NGOs, think-tanks, academia		
56.	The Centre of Strategic Researches	1F
57.	The Development Strategy Centre	2M
58.	Webster University	2M
59.	GGGI	2M
60.	NGO Sharoit Plus	1F, 1M
61.	Centre Nihol	1F
62.	Intilish	1F
63.	Society of the Deaf	3F, 1M
64.	NGO 'Yuksalish movement'	1F
65.	Association of Disabled People	1M
66.	The Association Women of the Agricultural Sector	1F
67.	Civil Initiatives Support Centre	2F
68.	Youth Advisory Board	4F
69.	French Chamber of Commerce	1M
70.	US Association of International Business	1F
71.		
Total		167 (69F, 98M)

Annex 9. Interview Guides

6. The ET will conduct a number of interviews during the data collection phase with UNCT, national stakeholders and development partners to gather their views, experiences and feedback on the performance and results of UNSDCF within the reference period. As the team will split some meetings along their divisions of thematic responsibility, a set of interview guides has been developed to ensure that the data is collected in a targeted manner to enable coherent and systematic input for analysis. The evaluation methodology envisages the use of “semi-structured” interviews, hence the guides presented below are prepared in the form of checklists: to provide overall guidance on targeted areas for discussion.

7. Interviewers will use the checklist to formulate their questions during the interviews, in line with interlocutors' experience and level of engagement with UN. Interview guides cover questions and sub-questions of the Evaluation Matrix and will allow the interviewer to select those questions that apply to the respondent's level of experience or insights. Interviews will last between 45-60 min depending on the respondent's availability and extent of familiarity with UNCT work.

8. The ET will take careful measures to ensure that notes on interviews – a core data source for this exercise – are not seen outside the team. For ease of analysis, all interview notes will be compiled into a compendium. All notes are recorded in a response matrix (coding sheet) and all responses for an evaluation matrix question will be analysed in combination at the end of the data collection phase to determine emergent themes and patterns across the responses.

9. For all semi-structured interviews, the ET will follow the below general introduction and explanation of the protocol, as described below.

Introduction by the team

Hello. Thank you for your time. My name is _____. I am/we are here to do an independent evaluation of the UNSDCF in Uzbekistan for the period 2021-2024. The purpose of this meeting is to explore your experiences with and views about UNCT's cumulative results and potential obstacles to delivery of results in the country.

During our conversation I/we would like to take notes of the conversation. The notes are to make sure that the evaluators have heard and understood what you share with us today. Your views and notes that I/we will take will be treated strictly confidentially and will not be shared with any person outside of the Evaluation Team. Your views, together with other data, will be used to produce an evaluation report, but the report will not single out respondents or institutions, to protect confidentiality and ensure anonymity.

Our discussion today will take approximately 45-60 minutes. The decision to participate in this evaluation is entirely up to you, and you have the right to refuse to take part in the evaluation at any time.

Do you agree to participate in this study? Yes/No

Background information

Name of interviewee(s)
Institution/organization
Role
Location
Date of meeting

Interview Guide for UNCT stakeholders

Section 1: Relevance and Adaptability	
How well do you think the CF objectives align with national development goals and priorities? What is missing?	
Can you share how the CF has adapted to emerging needs, particularly for vulnerable groups?	
How effectively has the CF responded to unforeseen needs, especially for marginalized groups? What is missing?	
Can you provide an example of a significant adaptation made in response to an emerging need?	
What external factors affected the country's development needs? Did any new needs appear? Did any of the previously recognised needs lose priority?	
Section 2: Coherence	
How has the CF strengthened the UN's position as a reliable partner for the government and other stakeholders? What is missing? Follow-up: Can you provide examples of effective partnerships or joint initiatives that have emerged from the UNSDCF?	
How well are UN agency programs aligned with the CF in both design and implementation? What is missing? Follow-up: What challenges have been encountered in achieving this alignment?	
In your view, has the post-reform Resident Coordinator Office (RCO) contributed to better coherence among UN agencies? What is missing?	

Section 3: Effectiveness	
How effective has the CF been in achieving its results outlined under the Outcome area that your Agency is contributing to? What is missing?	
What benefits have been observed for the targeted populations, particularly the most vulnerable? Please, provide examples	
What have been the most important hindrances? What have been the most important drivers of results? Please, provide examples	
Going forward, what are the priorities and ways in which UNCT can respond?	

Gender Equality	
How has gender analysis been incorporated into CF planning and interventions? What is missing?	
Follow-up: How have these efforts translated into promoting gender equality and women's empowerment?	
Can you discuss any key achievements in promoting gender equality through the CF?	
Going forward, what are the key priorities and ways in which UNCT can address them?	

Human rights and disability inclusion	
How has equity and disability analysis been incorporated into CF planning and interventions? What is missing?	
Follow-up: How have these efforts translated into promoting disability inclusion and human rights?	
Can you discuss any key achievements through the CF?	
Going forward, what are the key priorities and ways in which UNCT can address them?	

Under effectiveness, targeted questions for each outcome area are as follows:

[note to the interviewer, pls share the relevant outcome specific questions to the interviewee. Prompt their familiarity with other outcome areas, and if familiar, cover other outcomes as well]

Outcome 1: By 2025 all people and groups in Uzbekistan, especially the most vulnerable, demand and benefit from enhanced accountable, transparent, inclusive and gender responsive governance systems and rule of law institutions for a life free from discrimination and violence	
How effective has the CF been in contributing to the improvement of the anti-corruption, accountability and transparency tools with the government? Please, provide examples of results	
How effective has the CF been in contributing to the improvement of digital innovations and mechanisms? Please, provide examples of results	
How effective have the measures taken to strengthen mechanisms for delivering better gender-responsive and disability-sensitive public services to all, with a focus on the most vulnerable? Please, provide examples of results	
How effective has the CF been in contributing to the capacity strengthening of the parliament and public oversight institutions to conduct oversight of executive bodies of government?	
How effective has the CF been in contributing to the capacity strengthening of justice and law enforcement actors, and local governments, to implement improved people-oriented, peace-focused and gender-sensitive policies, legislation and practice in line with international human rights standards?	
How effective has the CF been in contributing to the awareness and capacity strengthening of civil society, human rights institutions, media, population groups at risk of being left behind on human rights, inclusive policy making, access to justice and legal aid?	
To what extent are all these institutions empowered to use human rights and prevent any human rights violations, violence, and all forms of discriminatory practices?	
What has been missing? What have been the hindering and facilitating factors?	

How have these outputs contributed to enhancing accountability, transparency, inclusivity and gender-responsive governance systems and rule of law institutions?	
Going forward, what are the key priorities and ways in which UNCT can address them?	

Outcome 2: By 2025, the population of Uzbekistan benefits from more harmonized and integrated implementation of the reform agenda due to strengthened policy coherence, evidence-based and inclusive decision-making and financing for development mainstreamed inline with national SDGs	
How effective has the CF been in promoting SDG financing framework and innovative financing and coordination platforms? What specific achievements can you highlight?	
How has UNCT enhanced capacities of government institutions to generate robust systematic evidence to measure SDG progress and inform national and sectorial policies, programmes/plans and budgets? Please, provide examples	
How has the CF expanded capacities of institutions to measure monetary and multidimensional poverty, including female and child poverty, and formulate comprehensive and integrated evidence based and gender-sensitive policies and strategies on poverty reduction? Please, provide examples	
Going forward, what are the key priorities and ways in which UNCT can address them?	

Outcome 3: By 2025, youth, women and vulnerable groups benefit from improved access to livelihoods, decent work and expanded opportunities generated by inclusive and equitable economic growth	
What outputs have been achieved in terms of strengthening capacities of national institutions and social partners to design and implement effective and innovative Active Labour Market Policies for NEET Youth, Women, and PWD? Please, share some examples	
What results have been achieved in terms of strengthening capacities of national institutions and social partners to design and implement effective and innovative	

decent work and skills development programmes for NEET Youth, Women, and PWD? Please, share some examples	
What results have been achieved in terms of strengthening capacities of national institutions to design and implement policies for inclusive and resilient economic growth and reduced regional inequalities? Please, share some examples	
What results have been achieved in terms of promotion of innovative business practices and development initiatives for improved livelihood opportunities for youth, women and vulnerable groups? Please, share some examples	
What results have been achieved in terms of wider stimulation of economy and decent working conditions? What was the role of social partners?	
How has UN supported trade and green transition?	
How has the CF expanded opportunities for inclusive and equitable economic growth? Can you provide examples of successful initiatives?	
Going forward, what are the key priorities and ways in which UNCT can address them?	

Outcome 4: By 2025, the most vulnerable benefit from enhanced access to gender-sensitive quality health, education and social services	
Health	
How has the CF strengthened the capacity of the health system and stakeholders to implement efficient and transparent, innovative and inclusive Universal Health Coverage-focused policies and programmes? What specific outputs have been achieved? Please, provide examples	
How has the CF strengthened the capacity of the health system and stakeholders to implement comprehensive	

responses to health emergencies? Please, provide examples	
How has the CF strengthened the capacity of the health system and stakeholders to promote a healthy lifestyle and health literacy among all age groups? What specific outputs have been achieved? Please, provide examples	
How effectively have these outputs contributed to the enhancement of access to gender-sensitive quality health?	
Going forward, what are the key priorities and ways in which UNCT can address them?	

Outcome 4: By 2025, the most vulnerable benefit from enhanced access to gender- sensitive quality health, education and social services	
Education	
How has the CF strengthened the capacity of the Government and other educational stakeholders to provide access to equitable, inclusive, safe, and quality education at all levels? Please, provide examples	
How has the CF strengthened the capacity of the government and stakeholders to promote lifelong learning in an integrated manner, including quality professional development system and decent work environment for education sector employees? Please, provide examples	
How effectively have these outputs contributed to the enhancement of access to inclusive and quality education?	

Going forward, what are the key priorities and ways in which UNCT can address them?	
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Outcome 4: By 2025, the most vulnerable benefit from enhanced access to gender- sensitive quality health, education and social services

Social protection	
How has the CF strengthened the capacity of the national social protection system to deliver progressively universal inclusive and gender-responsive social security, social protection benefits to address all forms of poverty, violence, social exclusion and other vulnerabilities? Please, provide examples	
How has the CF strengthened the capacity of the national social protection system to deliver social services to address all forms of poverty, violence, social exclusion and other vulnerabilities? Please, provide examples	
How effectively have these outputs contributed to the enhancement of access to inclusive and quality social protection?	
Going forward, what are the key priorities and ways in which UNCT can address them?	

Outcome 5: By 2025, the most at risk regions and communities of Uzbekistan are more resilient to climate change and disasters, and benefit from increasingly sustainable and gender-sensitive efficient management of natural resources and infrastructure, robust climate action, inclusive environmental governance and protection

<p>How effective has the CF been in promoting responsive climate change adaptation and mitigation initiatives in agriculture, health, water, transport, energy production and building/housing/residential infrastructure sectors are designed and implemented at national and regional levels, with a focus on at risk regions, including Aral Sea region?</p>	
<p>What specific outputs have been achieved in creating an enabling environment for ecosystem management?</p>	
<p>How has the CF contributed to increasing resilience to climate change? Can you provide examples of significant achievements in this area?</p>	
<p>How has the CF contributed to strengthening capacity of government to design and implement green sustainable policies on the conservation and use of terrestrial and water ecosystems, environmentally sound management of chemicals and waste in line with international obligations? Please, share details</p>	
<p>How has the CF contributed to strengthening capacity of government to design and implement the regulatory framework on Disaster Risk Reduction and natural/cultural heritage preservation in line with obligations under the Sendai Framework on DRR/</p>	
<p>What has been the overall impact on Uzbekistan's environmental sustainability?</p>	
<p>Going forward, what are the key priorities and ways in which UNCT can address them?</p>	

Section 4: Efficiency	
How has the CF facilitated greater UN coherence and reduced transaction costs? Follow-up: Were there any gaps or challenges?	
Has the CF been flexible in allocating and reallocating resources in line with emerging needs effectively? Follow-up: Can you provide examples where such reallocations were necessary and effective?	
What have been the most important factors affecting UNSDCF's resource mobilisation efforts? Please, provide examples	
Section 5: Sustainability	
How has the CF contributed to building national capacities for sustainable development? Please, provide examples Follow-up: What factors contribute to or hinder the sustainability of UNSDCF outcomes?	
what have been the key shortcomings of the UNSDCF (or the work of your Agency) in terms of sustainability?	
What is the likelihood that the progress made towards the SDGs will be sustained by national partners?	
Going forward, what are the key priorities to ensure sustainability of results achieved thus far? What should UNCT take into account/consider or be aware of in the development of the next cycle of UNSDCF?	
Section 6: Impact	

<p>How have UN system activities under the CF driven progress toward achieving key outcomes and SDGs, including cross-cutting areas like gender equality and disability inclusion? Please, provide examples</p> <p>Follow-up: Are there any areas where the impact has been particularly notable or where progress has been slower</p>	
Section 7: Connectedness	
How effectively has the planning and coordination of UNSDCF activities contributed to a coherent implementation across UN agencies?	
How effectively has the RCO enhanced the UNCT joint convening power and improved coherence in their collaborative efforts.? What is missing?	
Going forward, how can coordination be better organised?	

Interview guides for national partners

General questions	
Are you familiar with the work of the United Nations Agencies in Uzbekistan? If yes, how is your work related to the areas of intervention of the United Nations Agencies in Uzbekistan?	
Section 1: Alignment with National Priorities and emerging needs	
Have you been involved in the design of the UNSDCF? If yes, share your views on the process	
How well do you think the CF objectives align with national development goals and priorities? What is missing?	

How effectively has the CF responded to unforeseen needs, especially for marginalized groups? What is missing?	
Gender Equality, Equity, Human rights and Disability inclusion	
How have UN agencies promoted gender in their interventions? What is missing? Follow-up: How have these efforts impacted gender equality and women's empowerment in your area of work?	
How have UN agencies promoted human rights and equity in their interventions? What is missing?	
How have UN agencies promoted disability inclusion in their interventions? What is missing?	
Follow-up: How have these efforts impacted inclusions of persons with disability in your area of work?	
Section 2: Coherence	
How do you assess UN's position as a reliable partner for the government and other stakeholders? Please, provide examples of UNCT's strategic positioning. What is missing?	
How would you assess coordination efforts among UN agency programs? Please, provide some good examples.	
In your view, what are the issues in coordination? Are there any areas where coordination could be improved?	
Section 3: Effectiveness	
How effective has the CF been in achieving its outlined objectives and results under the Outcome area your Agency is contributing to? What is missing?	
What benefits have been observed for the targeted populations, particularly the most vulnerable? Please, provide examples.	
What have been the most important hindrances and drivers of results? Please, provide examples.	
Going forward, what are the priorities and ways in which UNCT can respond?	

Outcome-Specific Questions	
(Note: Select the relevant outcome area based on the interviewee's expertise)	
Outcome 1: By 2025 all people and groups in Uzbekistan, especially the most vulnerable, demand and benefit from enhanced accountable, transparent, inclusive and gender responsive governance systems and rule of law institutions for a life free from discrimination and violence	
How effective has the CF been in strengthening anti-corruption, accountability, transparency tools, and public service delivery mechanisms within the government? Please provide examples of results.	
How has the CF contributed to the capacity building of parliament, public oversight institutions, justice and law enforcement actors, and local governments to implement human rights-based, gender-sensitive policies? What are some examples of success?	
How effective has the CF been in raising awareness and building capacity among civil society, human rights institutions, media, and vulnerable groups on inclusive policy-making, access to justice, and legal aid?	
What challenges or gaps have you observed in these efforts, and what factors have either hindered or facilitated progress towards enhancing accountability, transparency, and inclusive governance systems?	
Going forward, what are the key priorities and ways in which UNCT can address them?	

Outcome 2: By 2025, the population of Uzbekistan benefits from more harmonized and integrated implementation of the reform agenda due to strengthened policy coherence, evidence-based and inclusive decision-making and financing for development mainstreamed in line with national SDGs	
How effective has the CF been in promoting SDG financing frameworks, innovative financing, and coordination platforms? What specific achievements can you highlight?	
How has the CF enhanced the capacity of government institutions to generate evidence for measuring SDG progress, including multidimensional poverty, and to formulate gender-sensitive, evidence-based policies? Please provide examples.	

Going forward, what are the key priorities and ways in which UNCT can address them?	
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Outcome 3: By 2025, youth, women and vulnerable groups benefit from improved access to livelihoods, decent work and expanded opportunities generated by inclusive and equitable economic growth

What outputs and results have been achieved in strengthening the capacities of national institutions and social partners to design and implement innovative Active Labour Market Policies, decent work, and skills development programs for NEET youth, women, and PWD? Please provide examples.	
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How has the CF contributed to strengthening national institutions' capacities to implement policies for inclusive, resilient economic growth and reducing regional inequalities? Can you share examples of successful initiatives?	
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What achievements have been made in promoting innovative business practices and livelihood opportunities for youth, women, and vulnerable groups? Please provide examples.	
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How has the CF supported economic stimulation, decent working conditions, trade, and the green transition? What role have social partners played in these efforts?	
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Going forward, what are the key priorities and ways in which UNCT can address them?	
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Outcome 4: By 2025, the most vulnerable benefit from enhanced access to gender-sensitive quality health, education and social services

Health

How has the CF strengthened the capacity of the health system and stakeholders to implement efficient and transparent, innovative and inclusive Universal Health Coverage-focused policies and programmes? What specific outputs have been achieved? Please, provide examples	
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How has the CF strengthened the capacity of the health system and stakeholders to implement comprehensive responses to health emergencies? Please, provide examples	
How has the CF strengthened the capacity of the health system and stakeholders to promote a healthy lifestyle and health literacy among all age groups? What specific outputs have been achieved? Please, provide examples	
How effectively have these outputs contributed to the enhancement of access to gender-sensitive quality health?	
Going forward, what are the key priorities and ways in which UNCT can address them?	

<p>Outcome 5: By 2025, the most at risk regions and communities of Uzbekistan are more resilient to climate change and disasters, and benefit from increasingly sustainable and gender-sensitive efficient management of natural resources and infrastructure, robust climate action, inclusive environmental governance and protection</p>	
How effective has the CF been in promoting climate change adaptation and mitigation initiatives across sectors like agriculture, health, water, transport, and energy, particularly in at-risk regions such as the Aral Sea? Can you provide examples?	
What specific outputs have been achieved in strengthening government capacity to implement green policies, including ecosystem management, conservation, disaster risk reduction, and waste management in line with international obligations?	
How has the CF contributed to increasing resilience to climate change and strengthening the regulatory framework for disaster risk reduction and natural/cultural heritage preservation? Please share significant achievements.	
What has been the overall impact on Uzbekistan's environmental sustainability?	
Going forward, what are the key priorities and ways in which UNCT can address them?	

Section 4: Efficiency	
How efficiently do you think resources have been used to achieve the planned outcomes?	
Were there any challenges or gaps in resource allocation/use that affected CF delivery?	
Section 5: Sustainability	
How has the CF contributed to building national capacities for sustainable development? Please, provide examples.	
What have been the key shortcomings of the UNSDCF (or the work of Agency you cooperate with) in terms of sustainability measures?	
What is the likelihood that the progress made towards the SDGs will be sustained? what are the key factors affecting the SDG attainment?	
Going forward, what are the key priorities to ensure the sustainability of results achieved thus far?	

Interview Guide: Development partners

General questions	
Are you familiar with the work of the United Nations Agencies in Uzbekistan? If yes, how is your work related to their intervention areas	
What UN initiatives has your organisation supported/implemented in Uzbekistan? What are your priority sectors?	
What has been the degree of cooperation with UN Agencies?	
Relevance	
What have been the priority development needs of Uzbekistan from 2021-2025?	
Which specific development priorities of the country and needs of the population (especially vulnerable) your organisation is addressing?	
Do you think that UN Agencies that you have supported have been sufficiently focused on the priority areas and the needs of citizens?	
Have any external factors affected the country's development needs? Did any new needs appear? Did any of the previously recognised needs lose priority?	
Coherence	
How has the UNSDCF facilitated partnerships and coordination among development partners, the UN system, and national institutions?	
Effectiveness, impact and sustainability	
How was your organisation coordinating and cooperating with UN Agencies? Was there an effective nation-driven mechanism for donor coordination in place? If not, what other mechanisms were in place?	
Are there any examples of successful interventions/results of UN Agencies you cooperate with? Please, provide examples	

<p>What factors contributed to the effectiveness of these interventions?</p>	
<p>How have UN agencies promoted gender in their interventions? What is missing? Follow-up: How have these efforts impacted gender equality and women’s empowerment in your area of work?</p>	
<p>How have UN agencies promoted equity and disability inclusion in their interventions? What is missing? Follow-up: How have these efforts impacted inclusion of persons with disability and equity in Uzbekistan?</p>	
<p>How have UN agencies promoted human rights and equity in their interventions? What is missing? Follow-up: How have these efforts impacted inclusions of persons with disability in your area of work?</p>	
<p>In your opinion, what are the most relevant country priorities and needs for the upcoming five-year period?</p>	

Interview Guide: CSOs, private sector partners

General questions	
Are you familiar with the work of the United Nations Agencies in Uzbekistan? If yes, how is your work related to their intervention areas	
What UN initiatives has your organisation supported/implemented in Uzbekistan? What are your priority sectors?	
What has been the degree of cooperation with UN Agencies?	
Relevance	
To what extent are you familiar with the CF? What type of engagement/cooperation you have/had? For how long have you been involved?	
To what extent the CF reflects the national development needs (including of civil society/private sector/media/academia) and needs of the most vulnerable and marginalized groups?	
In your opinion, how dynamic and responsive has the CF (your cooperation) been to emerging and unforeseen contextual changes and needs?	
Coherence	
To what extent is the cooperation with the civil society/private sector improved and synergy and complementarity achieved, and duplication avoided? Please provide some examples.	
Effectiveness	
What type of investments were made in (your) capacitation? Do you consider them sufficient? what is missing?	
What type of capacities were enhanced as the result of CF/your cooperation? Do you see any capacitation on promoting gender equality, women's, children and human rights?	

<p>What are the major factors influencing the achievements/non-achievements and what was the management response?</p>	
<p>Impact, sustainability</p>	
<p>What are the most significant changes generated as the results of your work? Why do you consider them as the most significant?</p>	
<p>What is the likelihood that those achievements/benefits will be sustainable?What are the major factors, which influence the sustainability?</p>	
<p>In your opinion, what are the most relevant country priorities and needs for the upcoming five-year period?</p>	

Focus group guide (civil society, final beneficiaries, private sector)

Introduction by the team

Hello. Thank you for your time. My name is _____. I am/we are here to do an independent evaluation of the UNSDCF in Uzbekistan for the period 2021-2024. The purpose of this focus group discussin is to explore your experiences with and views about UNCT's cumulative results and potential obstacles to delivery of results in the country.

During our conversation I/we would like to take notes of the conversation. The notes are to make sure that the evaluators have heard and understood what you share with us today. Your views and notes that I/we will take will be treated strictly confidentially and will not be shared with any person outside of the Evaluation Team. Your views, together with other data, will be used to produce an evaluation report, but the report will not single out respondents or institutions, to protect confidentiality and ensure anonymity.

Our discussion today will take approximately 60-70 minutes. The decision to participate in this evaluation is entirely up to you, and you have the right to refuse to take part in the evaluation at any time.

Do you agree to participate in this study? Yes/No

Background information	
Names of FGD participants:	
Community/organisation:	
Location	
Date of meeting	

How did you become involved in the activities of UN Agencies?	
How did you benefit from the support from UN Agencies? Please provide specific examples.	
Do you know about other results of support from UN Agencies?	
What were your needs, and did the UN support address these needs?	
Did UN Agencies' work and results help improve the situation in your	

community/sector or in Uzbekistan? Please provide examples	
Do you have any suggestions on how to improve the support provided by UN Agencies?	
What are the priority areas of your community/sector (or the country) that you recommend for future development assistance to address?	
What constraining factors for reaching results can you identify?	
How could the intervention have been more successful in reaching results?	
What would you wish to be different in the future of a potential UN/Partner support?	
Any other comment, suggestion, recommendation that you wish to make?	

10. Joint UN projects

Funding Source	Name of Joint Programme	Start Date	End Date	Lead PUNO	Other PUNOs	UNINFO Sector/Thematic Areas	Budget in the ProDoc	Fund Modality	Donors to the Funding Source	Result Group	Outcome Areas	Document Source
Government of Japan	Building the resilience of local communities against health, environmental and economic insecurities caused by environmental destruction in the Aral Sea region	Jan-20	Jun-22	UNDP	UNFPA		USD 3,373,392	Not applicable	Japan	People & Prosperity, Environment	3. Live lihood, 4. Social Protection, 5. Environment	https://www.undp.org/uzbekistan/projects/completed-building-resilience
Joint SDG Fund	Accelerating Agenda 2030 in Uzbekistan through Inclusive Transformation of	Jan-20	Feb-22	UNICEF	ILO UNDP		USD 2,000,000	Pass-through	Sweden, European Union, Netherlands, Spain,	People & Prosperity	3. Live lihood, 4. Soci	https://www.jointsdgfund.org/programme/un-joint-programme-strengthening-

	the Social Protection System								Norway, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, Germany, Denmark, Ireland, Luxembourg, SDG Fund, Portugal, Private Sector, UNICEF, Monaco		al Protection	social-protection-uzbekistan
Joint SDG Fund	Establishment of an Integrated National Financing Framework for Sustainable Development in Uzbekistan	Jan-21	Dec-22	UNDP	WHO UNO DC UNICEF	Data Development Finance Economic Policy Support SDG 1 SDG 3 SDG 16 SDG 17	USD 1,000,000	Pass-through	Sweden, European Union, Netherlands, Spain, Norway, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation	People & Prosperity	3. Live lihood	https://www.jointsdgfund.org/programme/establishment-integrated-national-financing-framework-sustainable-development-uzbekistan

									n, Germany, Denmark, Ireland, Luxembourg, SDG Fund, Portugal, Private Sector, UNICEF, Monaco			
Joint SDG Fund	Multi-faceted response to the food and energy emergency in Uzbekistan	Jun-22	Mar-23	UNICEF	FAO ILO	Data Development Finance Economic Policy Support Integrated Policy LNOB SDG 1 SDG 2 SDG 8 SDG 10	USD 250,000	Pass-through	Sweden, European Union, Netherland, Spain, Norway, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, Germany, Denmark, Ireland, Luxembourg,	People & Prosperity	3. Live lihood 4. Soci al Protection	https://mptf.undp.org/project/00132415

									SDG Fund, Portugal, Private Sector, UNICEF, Monaco			
PeaceBuilding Fund	Youth for Social Harmony in the Fergana Valley	Jan-20	Jul-22	UNDP	UNO DC UNES CO		USD 938,685	Pass- through	Germany, Norway, Netherland , Sweden, United Kingdom, Canada, Denmark, Australia, Switzerland, New Zealand, Foreign,Co mmonweal th& Developme nt Office, Japan, Ireland, Finland, Republic of Korea, Italy,	People & Prosperity	3. Live liho od, You th	https://www.undp.org/uzbekistan/projects/completed-youth-social-harmony

									Belgium, European Union, France, Department for International Development (DFID), Luxembourg, Turkey, Estonia, Poland, Chili, Portugal, Slovakia, Cyprus, Peru, Morocco (2019-2024)			
PeaceBuilding Fund	Shared Prosperity through Cooperation in Border Regions in Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan	Jan-22	Jun-24	FAO UNFPA	Data DRR Economic Policy Support	Economic Policy Support	USD 1,500,000	Pass-through	Germany, Norway, Netherlands, Sweden, United Kingdom,	People & Prosperity	3. Live lihod, Youth 5.	https://mptf.undp.org/project/00129737

					Gender LNOB Integrated Policy Youth SDG 2 SDG 5 SDG 8 SDG 13 SDG 16				Canada, Denmark, Australia, Switzerland, New Zealand, Foreign,Co mmonweal th& Developme nt Office, Japan, Ireland, Finland, Republic of Korea, Italy, Belgium, European Union, France, Departmen t for Internation al Dvelopmen t(DFID), Luxembour g, Turkey, Estonia,	Envi ron me nt	
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									Poland, Chili, Portugal, Slovakia, Cyprus, Peru, Morocco (2019- 2024)			
UN COVID-19 Response and Recovery MPTF	Support to Early Recovery and Inclusive Service Delivery for Vulnerable Groups Heavily Affected by the COVID-19 crisis	May-20	Dec- 20	UNDP	UNICE F UNFP A IOM		USD 1,000,000	Pass- through	Norway, Netherland , Switzerland , Denmark, Sweden, Republic of Korea, Finland, Austrian Developme nt Agency, United Kingdom, New Zealand, Croatia, Iceland, Portugal, Thailand,	People & Prosperity	3. Live liho od, 4. Soci al Prot ecti on	https://mptf.undp.org/project/00121958

									UN Evaluation Group, Slovakia, Std Chartered Bank Zambia PLC, Romania, Cambodia, Cyprus			
UN Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities MPTF	Transformation of Social Service Delivery: Implementing Human Rights-Based Approach for Children, Youth, and Women with Disabilities in Uzbekistan	Inception Phase: March 2021, Full Implementation of Phase 1: January 2022	May-24	UNICEF	UNDP OHCHR UNFPA	Data Disability Inclusion Gender Governance Human Rights LNOB Integrated Policy	USD 700,000	Pass-through	Finland, Australia, Swedish International Development Cooperation, DFID, Australian Agency for International Development, Norway, FCDO,	People & Prosperity	3. Live lihod, 4. Social Protection	https://unprpd.org/programme/uzbekistan/

						SDG 5 SDG 16			Sweden, Mexico, Israel, Spain, Cyprus			
UN Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities MPTF	Transformation of Social Service Delivery: Implementing Human Rights- Based Approach for Children, Youth, and Women with Disabilities in Uzbekistan	Inception Phase: March 2021, Full Implementation of Phase 1: January 2022 Implementation of Phase 2: September 2024	Jul-25	UNICEF	UNDP UNFP A	Data Disability Inclusion Gender Governance Human Rights LNOB Integrated Policy SDG 1 SDG 3 SDG 4 SDG 5 SDG 16	USD 500,000	Pass- through	Finland, Australia, Swedish International Development Cooperation, DFID, Australian Agency for International Development, Norway, FCDO, Sweden, Mexico, Israel, Spain, Cyprus	People & Prosperity	3. Live lihood, 4. Social Protection	

UNMPHSTF for the Aral Sea Region in Uzbekistan	Improvement of quality of perinatal care service to most vulnerable mothers and newborns	Aug-19	Apr-21	UNICEF	UNFP A		USD 1,619,666	Pass-through	Uzbekistan, European Union, Finland, Norway, Republic of Korea	People & Prosperity	3. Live lihod, 4. Social Protection, Gender	https://mptf.undp.org/project/00117258
UNMPHSTF for the Aral Sea Region in Uzbekistan	Addressing the urgent human insecurities in the Aral Sea region through promoting sustainable rural development	Sep-19	Aug-21	UNDP	UNESCO		USD 1,463,900	Pass-through	Uzbekistan, European Union, Finland, Norway, Republic of Korea	People & Prosperity, Planet	3. Live lihod, 4. Social Protection, 5. Environment	https://mptf.undp.org/project/00117259

UNMPHSTF for the Aral Sea Region in Uzbekistan	Leaving no one behind from universal health coverage in Republic of Karakalpakstan	Jul-20	Nov-23	WHO	UNOPS	LNOB SDG 3 SDG 8 SDG 11	USD 425,379	Pass-through	Uzbekistan, European Union, Finland, Norway, Republic of Korea Alwaleed Philantropies Germany	People & Prosperity	3. Live lihood, 4. Health, 4. Soci al Protection, Youth	https://mptf.undp.org/project/00125932
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UNMPHSTF for the Aral Sea Region in Uzbekistan	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	Sep-20	Jun-23	UNDP	UNFP A FAO	Economic Policy Support Gender LNOB Youth SDG 1 SDG 2 SDG 3 SDG 5 SDG 6 SDG 8 SDG 9 SDG 11 SDG 15	USD 2,100,000	Pass-through	Uzbekistan, European Union, Finland, Norway, Republic of Korea Alwaleed Philantropies Germany	People & Prosperity	3. Live liho od, 4. Edu cati on, You th	https://mptf.undp.org/project/00125229
UNMPHSTF for the Aral Sea Region in Uzbekistan	Investing in a resilient future of Karakalpakstan by harnessing the talents of youth and improving water, sanitation, hygiene and nutrition during and after COVID-20	Sep-20	Feb-23	UNICEF	UNO DC UNFP A	Economic Policy Support Gender Youth SDG 1 SDG 3 SDG 4 SDG 6	USD 3,550,273	Pass-through	Uzbekistan, European Union, Finland, Norway, Republic of Korea Alwaleed Philantropies Germany	People & Prosperity	3. Live liho od, 4. Hea lth, 4. Soci al Prot ecti on,	https://mptf.undp.org/project/00125228

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UNMPHSTF for the Aral Sea Region in Uzbekistan	Empowering Youth through Green and Innovative Development	Dec-22	Apr-24	UNDP	FAO UNICEF	Economic Policy Support Gender Youth SDG 1 SDG 2 SDG 3 SDG 5 SDG 6 SDG 8 SDG 9 SDG 11 SDG 15	USD 1,620,001	Pass-through	Uzbekistan, European Union, Finland, Norway, Republic of Korea Alwaleed Philantropies Germany	People & Prosperity	3. Live liho od, 4. Soci al Prot ecti on, You th	https://mptf.undp.org/project/00134415	

UNMPHSTF for the Aral Sea Region in Uzbekistan	Climate-resilient primary health care and water, sanitation and hygiene practices	Dec-22	Apr-24	UNICEF	UNFP A FAO	LNOB Gender Youth Disaster Risk Reduction SDG 1 SDG 3 SDG 6 SDG 7 SDG 9 SDG 13	USD 2,780,000	Pass-through	Uzbekistan, European Union, Finland, Norway, Republic of Korea Alwaleed Philantropies Germany	People & Prosperity Planet	https://mptf.undp.org/project/00134414
EU-UN Support in Central Asia for Third Country Nationals returned from Syria and Iraq – Security and Accountability Action	EU-UN Support in Central Asia for Third Country Nationals returned from Syria and Iraq – Security and Accountability Action			UNDP UNODC OHCHR		Gender Governance Human Rights Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) SDG 5 SDG 16	USD 1,240,580	Parallel Financing	European Union	People & Prosperity Peace	

US-funded Uzbekistan Expert Advisor and Rehabilitation and Reintegration Program	US-funded Uzbekistan Expert Advisor and Rehabilitation and Reintegration Program			UNOCT UNODC OHCHR		Governance Gender Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) SDG 16 SDG 5	USD 781,976	Consolidated	United States	People & Prosperity Peace		
Vision 2030 Fund	Every Mother and Child Survives and Thrives: Reducing Preventable Maternal and Newborn Deaths in 227 Perinatal Centres of Uzbekistan	Sep-23	Mar-26	UNICEF	UNFP A WHO		USD 43,500,000	Pass-through	Uzbekistan Government of Switzerland	People & Prosperity Peace		https://mptf.undp.org/project/00140334
UNMPHSTF for the Aral Sea Region in Uzbekistan	Building knowledge and skills of local partners and communities to address environmental insecurities through innovative air, land, and water management	Jun-24	Dec-24	UNDP	FAO		USD 900,000	Pass-through	Uzbekistan, European Union, Finland, Norway, Republic of Korea Alwaleed Philantropi	People & Prosperity Planet		https://mptf.undp.org/project/00140724

	solutions in the Aral Sea Region								es Germany			
UNMPHSTF for the Aral Sea Region in Uzbekistan	Enhancing Climate-Resilient and Safe Water, Sanitation, Hygiene, and Health Services for the Most Affected Communities in Four Districts of Karakalpakstan	Jun-24	Dec-24	UNICEF			USD 900,000	Pass-through	Uzbekistan, European Union, Finland, Norway, Republic of Korea Alwaleed Philantropies Germany	People & Prosperity Planet		https://mptf.undp.org/project/00140725
Vision 2030 Fund	Empowering Education In Uzbekistan: Leveraging ICT And Digital Learning For High-Quality And Inclusive Education Results	Jul-24	Jul-27	UNICEF	UNESCO		USD 23,500,849	Pass-through	Uzbekistan Government of Switzerland	People & Prosperity Peace		https://mptf.undp.org/project/00140755
Funding Source	Name of Joint Programme	Start Date	End Date	Lead PUNO	Other PUNOs	UNINFO Sector/Thematic Areas	Budget in the ProDoc	Fund Modality	Donors to the Funding Source	Result Group	Outcome Areas	Document Source

Government of Japan	Building the resilience of local communities against health, environmental and economic insecurities caused by environmental destruction in the Aral Sea region	Jan-20	Jun-22	UNDP	UNFP A		USD 3,373,392	Not applicable	Japan	People & Prosperity, Environment	3. Livelihood, 4. Social Protection, 5. Environment	https://www.undp.org/uzbekistan/projects/completed-building-resilience
Joint SDG Fund	Accelerating Agenda 2030 in Uzbekistan through Inclusive Transformation of the Social Protection System	Jan-20	Feb-22	UNICEF	ILO UNDP		USD 2,000,000	Pass-through	Sweden, European Union, Netherland, Spain, Norway, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, Germany, Denmark, Ireland, Luxembourg, SDG Fund, Portugal,	People & Prosperity	3. Livelihood, 4. Social Protection	https://www.jointsdgfund.org/programme/un-joint-programme-strengthening-social-protection-uzbekistan

									Private Sector, UNICEF, Monaco			
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Joint SDG Fund	Establishment of an Integrated National Financing Framework for Sustainable Development in Uzbekistan	Jan-21	Dec-22	UNDP	WHO UNO DC UNICEF	Data Development Finance Economic Policy Support SDG 1 SDG 3 SDG 16 SDG 17	USD 1,000,000	Pass-through	Sweden, European Union, Netherland, Spain, Norway, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, Germany, Denmark, Ireland, Luxembourg, SDG Fund, Portugal, Private Sector, UNICEF, Monaco	People & Prosperity	3. Livelihood	https://www.jointsdgfund.org/programme/establishment-integrated-national-financing-framework-sustainable-development-uzbekistan
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Joint SDG Fund	Multi-faceted response to the food and energy emergency in Uzbekistan	Jun-22	Mar-23	UNICEF	FAO ILO	Data Development Finance Economic Policy Support Integrated Policy LNOB SDG 1 SDG 2 SDG 8 SDG 10	USD 250,000	Pass-through	Sweden, European Union, Netherland, Spain, Norway, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, Germany, Denmark, Ireland, Luxembourg, Portugal, Private Sector, UNICEF, Monaco	People & Prosperity	3. Livelihood 4. Social Protection	https://mptf.undp.org/project/00132415
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PeaceBuilding Fund	Youth for Social Harmony in the Fergana Valley	Jan-20	Jul-22	UNDP	UNO DC UNES CO		USD 938,685	Pass-through	Germany, Norway, Netherland, Sweden, United Kingdom, Canada, Denmark, Australia, Switerland, New Zealand, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, Japan, Ireland, Finland, Republic of Korea, Italy, Belgium, European Union, France, Department for Internation	People & Prosperity	3. Livelihood, Youth	https://www.undp.org/uzbekistan/projects/completed-youth-social-harmony
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									al Dvelopmen t(DFID), Luxembourg, Turkey, Estonia, Poland, Chili, Portugal, Slovakia, Cyprus, Peru, Morocco (2019- 2024)			
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PeaceBuilding Fund	Shared Prosperity through Cooperation in Border Regions in Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan	Jan-22	Jun-24	FAO UNFPA	Data DRR Economic Policy Support Gender LNOB Integrated Policy Youth	Economic Policy Support	USD 1,500,000	Pass-through	Germany, Norway, Netherland, Sweden, United Kingdom, Canada, Denmark, Australia, Switerland, New Zealand, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, Japan, Ireland, Finland, Republic of Korea, Italy, Belgium, European Union, France, Department for Internation	People & Prosperity	3. Livelihood, Youth 5. Environme nt	https://mptf.undp.org/project/00129737
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									al Dvelopmen t(DFID), Luxembour g, Turkey, Estonia, Poland, Chili, Portugal, Slovakia, Cyprus, Peru, Morocco (2019- 2024)			
UN COVID-19 Response and Recovery MPTF	Support to Early Recovery and Inclusive Service Delivery for Vulnerable Groups Heavily Affected by the COVID-19 crisis	May-20	Dec- 20	UNDP	UNICE F UNFP A IOM		USD 1,000,000	Pass- through	Norway, Netherland , Switzerland , Denmark, Sweden, Republic of Korea, Finland, Austrian Developme nt Agency, United	People & Prosperit y	3. Livelihood, 4. Social Protection	https://mptf.undp.org/pr oject/00121958

									Kingdom, New Zealand, Croatia, Iceland, Portugal, Thailand, UN Evaluation Group, Slovakia, Std Chartered Bank Zambia PLC, Romania, Cambodia, Cyprus			
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UN Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities MPTF	Transformation of Social Service Delivery: Implementing Human Rights-Based Approach for Children, Youth, and Women with Disabilities in Uzbekistan	Inception Phase: March 2021, Full Implementation of Phase 1: January 2022	May-24	UNICEF	UNDP OHCHR UNFP A	Data Disability Inclusion Gender Governance Human Rights LNOB Integrated Policy SDG 1 SDG 3 SDG 4 SDG 5 SDG 16	USD 700,000	Pass-through	Finland, Australia, Swedish International Development Cooperation, DFID, Australian Agency for International Development, Norway, FCDO, Sweden, Mexico, Israel, Spain, Cyprus	People & Prosperity	3. Livelihood, 4. Social Protection	https://unprpd.org/programme/uzbekistan/
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UN Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities MPTF	Transformation of Social Service Delivery: Implementing Human Rights-Based Approach for Children, Youth, and Women with Disabilities in Uzbekistan	Inception Phase: March 2021, Full Implementation of Phase 1: January 2022 Implementation of Phase 2: September 2024	Jul-25	UNICEF	UNDP UNFP A	Data Disability Inclusion Gender Governance Human Rights LNOB Integrated Policy SDG 1 SDG 3 SDG 4 SDG 5 SDG 16	USD 500,000	Pass-through	Finland, Australia, Swedish International Development Cooperation, DFID, Australian Agency for International Development, Norway, FCDO, Sweden, Mexico, Israel, Spain, Cyprus	People & Prosperity	3. Livelihood, 4. Social Protection	
UNMPHSTF for the Aral Sea Region in Uzbekistan	Improvement of quality of perinatal care service to most vulnerable mothers and newborns	Aug-19	Apr-21	UNICEF	UNFP A		USD 1,619,666	Pass-through	Uzbekistan, European Union, Finland, Norway, Republic of Korea	People & Prosperity	3. Livelihood, 4. Social Protection, Gender	https://mptf.undp.org/project/00117258

UNMPHSTF for the Aral Sea Region in Uzbekistan	Addressing the urgent human insecurities in the Aral Sea region through promoting sustainable rural development	Sep-19	Aug-21	UNDP	UNESCO		USD 1,463,900	Pass-through	Uzbekistan, European Union, Finland, Norway, Republic of Korea	People & Prosperity, Planet	3. Livelihood, 4. Social Protection, 5. Environment	https://mptf.undp.org/project/00117259
UNMPHSTF for the Aral Sea Region in Uzbekistan	Leaving no one behind from universal health coverage in Republic of Karakalpakstan	Jul-20	Nov-23	WHO	UNOPS	LNOB SDG 3 SDG 8 SDG 11	USD 425,379	Pass-through	Uzbekistan, European Union, Finland, Norway, Republic of Korea, Alwaleed Philantropies, Germany	People & Prosperity	3. Livelihood, 4. Health, 4. Social Protection, Youth	https://mptf.undp.org/project/00125932

UNMPHSTF for the Aral Sea Region in Uzbekistan	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	Sep-20	Jun-23	UNDP	UNFP A FAO	Economic Policy Support Gender LNOB Youth SDG 1 SDG 2 SDG 3 SDG 5 SDG 6 SDG 8 SDG 9 SDG 11 SDG 15	USD 2,100,000	Pass-through	Uzbekistan, European Union, Finland, Norway, Republic of Korea Alwaleed Philantropies Germany	People & Prosperity	3. Livelihood, 4. Education, Youth	https://mptf.undp.org/project/00125229
UNMPHSTF for the Aral Sea Region in Uzbekistan	Investing in a resilient future of Karakalpakstan by harnessing the talents of youth and improving water, sanitation, hygiene and nutrition during and after COVID-20	Sep-20	Feb-23	UNICEF	UNO DC UNFP A	Economic Policy Support Gender Youth SDG 1 SDG 3 SDG 4 SDG 6	USD 3,550,273	Pass-through	Uzbekistan, European Union, Finland, Norway, Republic of Korea Alwaleed Philantropies Germany	People & Prosperity	3. Livelihood, 4. Health, 4. Social Protection , Youth	https://mptf.undp.org/project/00125228

UNMPHSTF for the Aral Sea Region in Uzbekistan	Empowering Youth through Green and Innovative Development	Dec-22	Apr-24	UNDP	FAO UNICEF	Economic Policy Support Gender Youth SDG 1 SDG 2 SDG 3 SDG 5 SDG 6 SDG 8 SDG 9 SDG 11 SDG 15	USD 1,620,001	Pass-through	Uzbekistan, European Union, Finland, Norway, Republic of Korea Alwaleed Philantropies Germany	People & Prosperity	3. Livelihood, 4. Social Protection , Youth	https://mptf.undp.org/project/00134415
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UNMPHSTF for the Aral Sea Region in Uzbekistan	Climate-resilient primary health care and water, sanitation and hygiene practices	Dec-22	Apr-24	UNICEF	UNFP A FAO	LNOB Gender Youth Disaster Risk Reduction SDG 1 SDG 3 SDG 6 SDG 7 SDG 9 SDG 13	USD 2,780,000	Pass-through	Uzbekistan, European Union, Finland, Norway, Republic of Korea Alwaleed Philantropies Germany	People & Prosperity Planet	https://mptf.undp.org/project/00134414
EU-UN Support in Central Asia for Third Country Nationals returned from Syria and Iraq – Security and Accountability Action	EU-UN Support in Central Asia for Third Country Nationals returned from Syria and Iraq – Security and Accountability Action			UNDP UNODC OHCHR		Gender Governance Human Rights Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) SDG 5 SDG 16	USD 1,240,580	Parallel Financing	European Union	People & Prosperity Peace	

US-funded Uzbekistan Expert Advisor and Rehabilitation and Reintegration Program	US-funded Uzbekistan Expert Advisor and Rehabilitation and Reintegration Program			UNOCT UNODC OHCHR		Governance Gender Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) SDG 16 SDG 5	USD 781,976	Consolidated	United States	People & Prosperity Peace	
Vision 2030 Fund	Every Mother and Child Survives and Thrives: Reducing Preventable Maternal and Newborn Deaths in 227 Perinatal Centres of Uzbekistan	Sep-23	Mar-26	UNICEF	UNFP A WHO		USD 43,500,000	Pass-through	Uzbekistan Government of Switzerland	People & Prosperity Peace	https://mptf.undp.org/project/00140334
UNMPHSTF for the Aral Sea Region in Uzbekistan	Building knowledge and skills of local partners and communities to address environmental insecurities through innovative air, land, and water management	Jun-24	Dec-24	UNDP	FAO		USD 900,000	Pass-through	Uzbekistan, European Union, Finland, Norway, Republic of Korea Alwaleed Philantropi	People & Prosperity Planet	https://mptf.undp.org/project/00140724

	solutions in the Aral Sea Region								es Germany			
UNMPHSTF for the Aral Sea Region in Uzbekistan	Enhancing Climate-Resilient and Safe Water, Sanitation, Hygiene, and Health Services for the Most Affected Communities in Four Districts of Karakalpakstan	Jun-24	Dec-24	UNICEF			USD 900,000	Pass-through	Uzbekistan, European Union, Finland, Norway, Republic of Korea, Alwaleed Philantropies, Germany	People & Prosperity Planet		https://mptf.undp.org/project/00140725
Vision 2030 Fund	Empowering Education In Uzbekistan: Leveraging ICT And Digital Learning For High-Quality And Inclusive Education Results	Jul-24	Jul-27	UNICEF	UNESCO		USD 23,500,849	Pass-through	Uzbekistan, Government of Switzerland	People & Prosperity Peace		https://mptf.undp.org/project/00140755

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