



**UNITED NATIONS
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
COOPERATION FRAMEWORK
2021-2025
UZBEKISTAN**



**UNITED NATIONS
UZBEKISTAN**



DECLARATION OF COMMITMENT

The Government of Uzbekistan (GoU) and the United Nations (UN) are committed to working together to achieve the country's national vision for sustainable development.

The United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (Cooperation Framework) will guide the work of the UN system in Uzbekistan until 2025. This framework builds on the successes of our past cooperation and 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) and international human and labour rights commitments. The collective results expected from this Cooperation Framework will help the people of Uzbekistan to live longer, healthier, and more prosperous and secure lives.

In signing hereafter, the participating partners endorse this Cooperation Framework and underscore their joint commitment towards the achievement of its results.



For the Government of Uzbekistan

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jamshid Kuchkarov', written over a horizontal line.

Jamshid Kuchkarov
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For the United Nations Country Team

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Helena Fraser', written over a horizontal line.

Helena Fraser
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SIGNATURES

In witness thereof, the undersigned, being duly authorized, have signed this Government of Uzbekistan and United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework for the period of 2021-2025 on 24th of September 2020 in Tashkent, underscoring their joint commitment to its priorities and cooperation results.



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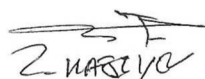
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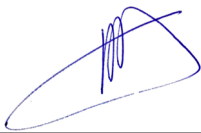
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	6	2.5. Synergies between Cooperation Framework outcomes	38
CHAPTER 1: COUNTRY PROGRESS TOWARDS THE 2030 AGENDA	9	2.6. Sustainability	39
CHAPTER 2: UN DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM SUPPORT TO THE 2030 AGENDA	12	2.7. UN Comparative advantage	39
2.1. Strategic prioritization process	13	2.8. UNCT Configuration	40
2.2. Theory of change for vision 2030	13	CHAPTER 3: COOPERATION FRAMEWORK IMPLEMENTATION PLAN	41
2.3. Strategic priorities for the UN development system	15	3.1. Implementation strategy and strategic partnerships	42
2.4. Intended development results	18	3.2. Governance	44
Cooperation Framework outcomes and partnerships	19	3.3. Joint Workplans	46
Strategic Priorities and Outcomes	20	3.4. Operational Framework	46
Strategic Priority A. Outcome 1	20	CHAPTER 4: MONITORING AND EVALUATION PLAN	47
Strategic Priority A. Outcome 2	24	4.1. Monitoring Plan	48
Strategic Priority B. Outcome 3	27	4.2. Evaluation plan	49
Strategic Priority B. Outcome 4	30	4.3. Results Framework	50
Strategic Priority C. Outcome 5	34	LEGAL ANNEX	63
		ANNEX	66

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



Uzbekistan underwent sweeping reforms starting in late 2016. The new leadership has aimed to drive growth by breaking Uzbekistan out of its international isolation and economic stagnation and reorienting the public sector to provide high-quality services to citizens across the whole country. Achieving a high and sustained economic growth over a long-term period is feasible if structural reforms are backed up by considerable investments in public administration, rule of law, human rights, labour rights, gender equality, natural resource use, and environmental management dimensions.

To achieve this ambition, Uzbekistan has confirmed its commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and in October 2018 passed a resolution adopting 16 national SDGs, 125 related targets, and 206 indicators to monitor implementation of the SDGs. A Coordination Council was established to oversee SDG implementation across 21 government agencies. The National Action Strategy 2017-2021 was confirmed as a pathway towards SDG implementation.

Weak policy coherence, the lack of an integrated national financing framework for development and insufficient high-quality data for evidence-based policymaking may pose significant impediments to achieving the SDGs. Exclusion and inequalities - in particular, gender discrimination that prevents the full participation of women and girls in socio-economic life - are a significant barrier to the SDGs and may be exacerbated if reforms do not fully take into consideration the rights-based and integrated nature of the 2030 Agenda. Deliberate efforts need to be made to ensure that reforms equitably

distribute benefits while minimizing any unintended negative implications and ensuring no one gets left behind.

Reforms will also need to reduce inequalities in basic services (e.g. health, education, and social protection), create new jobs that meet decent work standards, and mitigate the impact of climate change on Uzbekistan's already highly stressed natural resources. It will also be imperative to enhance the culture of adherence to international human rights and labour rights standards and to ensure full implementation of recent legislation supporting gender equality and women's empowerment. Measures to support freedom of expression, including media freedoms, and the growth of civic space will also be an important factor in strengthening the accountability of government bodies. The COVID-19 pandemic of 2020 has reconfirmed the importance of all the above priorities.

To this end, the UN has identified three strategic priorities and five outcomes within this Cooperation Framework (CF), which are fully aligned with national priorities, to support the Government in achieving the national SDGs. The CF adopts an integrated and multidimensional programming approach in line with the five Ps of the 2030 Agenda (People, Prosperity, Planet, Peace and Partnerships) to address the core principles of: leaving no one behind, a human rights-based approach to development, gender equality and women's empowerment, resilience, sustainability and accountability.

The CF will be nationally executed under the overall coordination of the Ministry of Economic Development and

Poverty Reduction, and operationalized through the development of joint work plans, in close collaboration with government ministries, state institutions, civil society, and INGOs. The UN will also engage with a wide range of national stakeholders including media and the private sector as well as seek to establish synergies with International Financial Institutions (IFIs) and development partners. To support national ownership, and in line with the reconfigured UNCT capacities, governance structures will be established to ensure that support from the UN System is delivered in a coordinated way. A monitoring, reporting and evaluation plan will be developed in line with UN development system standards. The CF is proposed to run from 2021 through 2025 and will be reviewed and reported against annually, and evaluated prior to the start of the subsequent planning cycle.



**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 (national SDGs: 1, 5, 8, 10, 16 and 17).

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 (national SDGs: 1, 5, 10, 16, and 17)



**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 (national SDGs: 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 10, and 11)

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).



**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 (national SDGs: 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13,15)



CHAPTER 1: COUNTRY PROGRESS TOWARDS THE 2030 AGENDA

The Republic of Uzbekistan has experienced remarkable growth since its independence in 1991 and transitioned from a Low-Income Country (LIC) to a Lower Middle-Income Country (LMIC) in 2011. With the election of Shavkat Mirziyoyev in 2016 this transformation has accelerated due to widespread structural reforms which have impacted every aspect of social, political and economic life. Uzbekistan now aims to become a high middle-income country (HMIC) by 2030.

To achieve this ambition, Uzbekistan has confirmed its commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In October 2018, the Government passed a resolution adopting 16 national SDGs, 125 related targets, and 206 indicators to facilitate monitoring the implementation of the SDGs. A Coordination Council was established to oversee SDG implementation across 21 government agencies and the National Action Strategy 2017-2021 was confirmed as a pathway towards SDG implementation.

Reforms have also created a positive set of conditions and opportunities for sustainable development. Incremental steps have been taken to enhance freedom of speech and civic space. Human rights are more prominent on the political agenda and Uzbekistan engages more actively with international treaty bodies and procedures. Improved relations with neighbouring countries and multilateral institutions are providing new and invigorated economic opportunities and mechanisms to address regional and global challenges. Structural reforms and trade liberalization are encouraging new and increasing financial flows, including from International Financial Institutions (IFIs). Finally, the country is passing through a large “demographic window” with a high proportion of potential young workers creating an opportunity to “make the country rich before it gets old”.

Nevertheless, significant challenges remain. Lack of strong policy integration and coherence, and sound data analytics on development progress may impede or delay gains. Limited administrative capacity will make it difficult to deliver equitable gains

across the population, especially in rural areas. Reforms are also entering a high-risk phase where internal resistance and bottlenecks may increase the possibility that the most vulnerable will be disproportionately impacted. High environmental vulnerability to climatic shocks will need deliberate policies to ensure resilience and disaster risk reduction. Finally, prevailing cultural norms on women and girls and other minority groups threaten to leave large portions of the population behind.

Leaving no one behind is at the core of the sustainable development agenda and recognises the primacy of people in development efforts. Therefore, every policy, reform, and decision must be designed with an overarching theme of reaching those furthest left behind first and ensuring that the most vulnerable groups are not disproportionately and negatively impacted by the changes. This includes re-thinking how the structure of the economy, governance institutions, and social infrastructure impact these groups, and ensuring that international labour rights, gender equality, and human rights standards are mainstreamed.

While significant gains on labour rights, gender equality, and human rights have been made in the last few years, more needs to be done if the Government wants to ensure inclusive rights-based development for all. This includes, ensuring meaningful consultation with civil society, adequate space for freedom of expression in all its forms, accession and ratification of priority international human rights and labour rights treaties, robust public oversight of implementation, and establishing credible recourse mechanisms to address grievances

(including possible human rights and labour rights violations).

To support the Government in reinforcing these positive reforms and addressing gaps to achieving the 2030 Agenda, the UN has drawn three broad conclusions: exclusions and inequalities are key development challenges; stronger integration of the SDGs in national development planning and coordination is needed; and policy coherence and administrative capacity should be reinforced. All three conclusions remain equally valid as Uzbekistan scales up its COVID-19 response and recovery efforts. As confirmed through extensive consultations, the UN system has a strong comparative advantage to support Uzbekistan’s development priorities in the following areas: transparent, accountable and responsive governance; resilience to climate change, disasters and sustainable resource use; and human capital and sustainable livelihoods.

Ongoing UN activities, including those for the COVID-19 response and recovery, will be folded into this 2021-2025 Cooperation Framework. The framework is proposed to last five years and lessons learnt and challenges and opportunities during this period will inform successive frameworks. In parallel, CCA and Joint Work Plans will be revised on an annual basis in order to account for changes, opportunities and challenges in the country context.



BOX 1. COVID-19

The global COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted the economy of Uzbekistan and severely impacted the poorest and most vulnerable populations. Growth is forecast to slow down to 1.5 per cent of GDP in 2020 against 6.5 per cent in 2019. The World Bank estimates the share of people living in poverty will be 8.7 per cent following the outbreak, compared with a projection of 7.4 per cent pre-crisis, and that 448,000 people may already have fallen into poverty as a result of the crisis. Employment and labour migration have fallen dramatically, hitting services, hospitality and tourism, and those employed informally hardest.

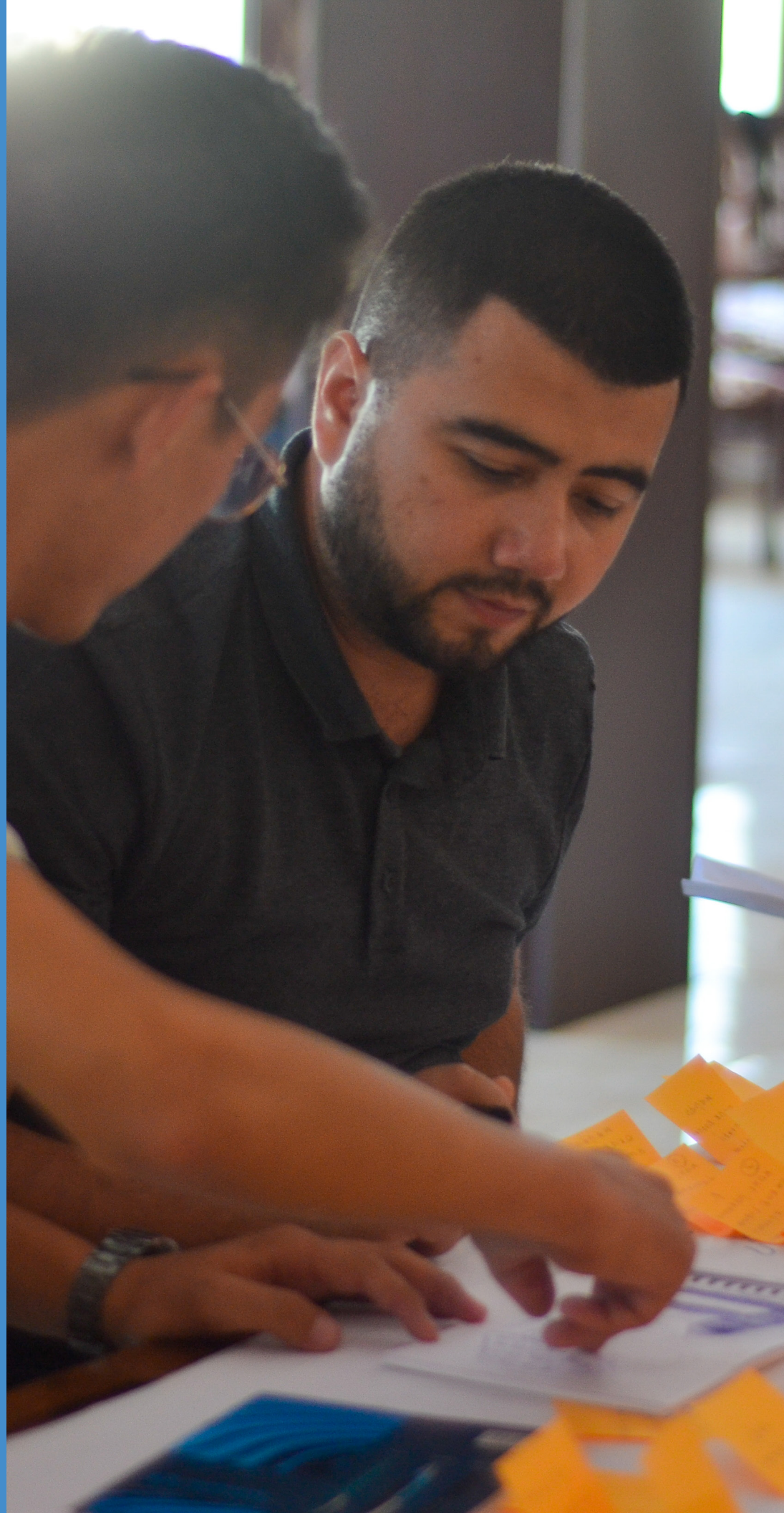
Nation-wide physical distancing measures have disrupted the education of 1.4 million preschool children, 5.85 million students in general secondary schools, 728,000 students in secondary schools, 728,000 students in secondary specialized and professional institutions, and 360,000 students.

The Government's swift and comprehensive health response and anti-crisis package, underpinned by a newly established USD 1 billion anti-crisis fund, demonstrates a proactive and early approach to safeguarding well-being, incomes, livelihoods and the long-term potential of the economy. If implemented well, the measures will help sustain the reform agenda by reducing the recovery time needed for people and the economy to recover

and emerge more resilient, people-centred, and greener.

In addition to the Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan led by WHO in response to the health crisis (valued at USD 84 million), the UN and multilateral partners have put together a socio-economic response offer to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19. The offer details the ongoing and planned support of 22 multilateral organizations (UN & IFIs), valued at over USD 3.5 billion, to cushion the knock on effects of COVID-19 on millions of peoples' lives, their livelihoods and the real economy, thereby preserving positive reform momentum in Uzbekistan and progress towards the national sustainable development goals.

CHAPTER 2: UN DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM SUPPORT TO THE 2030 AGENDA



STRATEGIC PRIORITIES FOR THE UN DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM¹

2.1. STRATEGIC PRIORITIZATION PROCESS

The strategic priorities for the Cooperation Framework have been defined through participatory and inclusive consultations with UN entities, national stakeholders, donors, IFIs and other development partners. The process started with UN-wide consultations with a focus on the challenges and drivers of transformative development changes that are needed to accelerate SDG progress. Consultations on the UN's comparative advantage (mandate, capacity and positioning to act) through a partnership survey and by a UN self-assessment have also been instrumental to the prioritization process. Following these, a 2030 visioning exercise was undertaken to formulate the UN Vision 2030 and its theory of change to address the Government's long-term development goals.

To confirm the relevance of the solutions prioritized, multi-stakeholder consultations were also conducted throughout September-December 2019 in six regions and in Tashkent². As a result, the multi-stakeholder consultations have substantively informed the solutions to the prioritized development challenges, that in turn were translated into the outcomes and outputs of the Cooperation Framework.

2.2. THEORY OF CHANGE FOR VISION 2030

Anchored by the Government's vision to become a high middle-income country and achieve the national Sustainable

Development Goals, the UN system has agreed to focus its joint efforts on the reduction of inequalities and exclusion, and leverage partnerships over the successive cycles of the Cooperation Frameworks towards attainment of a more **"just, equal and resilient society"** by 2030 in Uzbekistan.

KEY OVERARCHING ASSUMPTIONS:

For the Cooperation Framework to deliver on its stated objectives the Government's ambitious reform agenda must be implemented with the following elements in place: policy coherence so that reforms are mutually beneficial, avoid gaps, and take into account trade-offs; significant investments and improvements in public administration, institution-building, capacity-development, rule of law, human rights, labour rights, social protection, gender equality, resource use, and environmental management; mainstreaming of gender equality and human rights commitments in line with international standards; mechanisms to ensure inclusiveness, transparency, efficacy and accountability, especially with all public spending; empowerment of groups at risk of being left behind and their meaningful engagement in decision-making processes at all levels; equitable distribution of development gains while minimizing any negative implications; emphasis on youth engagement and empowerment to harness the "demographic window of opportunity"; investments in improving data collection to inform policymaking.

KEY OVERARCHING RISKS:

Several key risks and bottlenecks have been identified that could impact the development trajectory of the country,

including: reforms which do not take into consideration complexities, interlinkages and trade-offs of structural and legislative reforms; lack of coherence between government bodies in the formulation and implementation of structural and legislative reforms; internal resistance from those who benefited under the old system but now stand to lose out under the current reforms; lack of impact assessment and genuine public consultation which may further marginalize vulnerable groups; mismatch of expectations and the ability of government to deliver quality public and social services which may hinder the reform agenda and / or divert resources to short-term solutions; corruption at all levels of the Government which may, among other things, undermine the credibility of the reforms; natural or man-made disasters and pandemics, including the recent socio-economic impact of COVID-19; climate change and its wide ranging impact on every aspect of social and economic life; weak policies to stimulate the development of civil society and support civil initiatives.

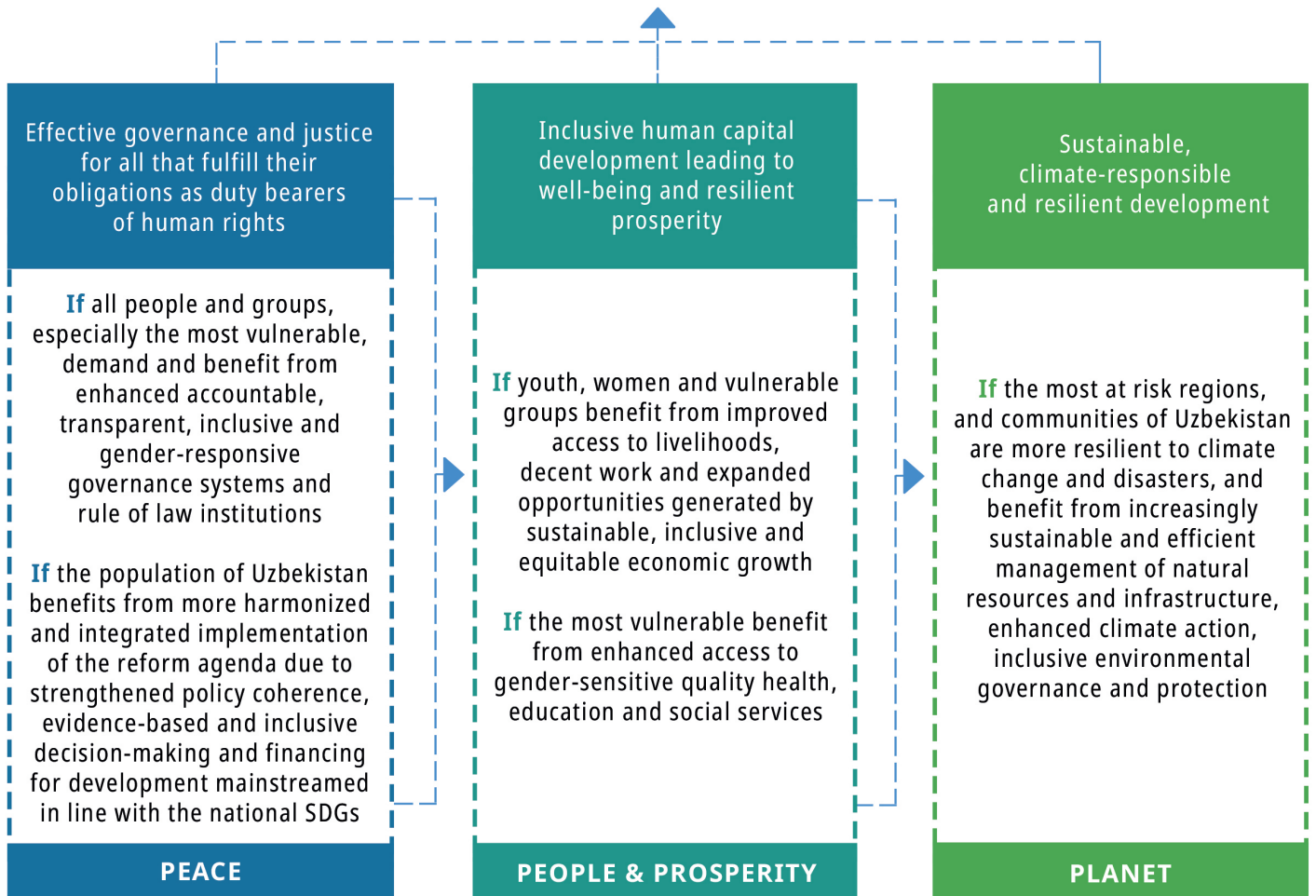
1 The UNSDCF vision and strategic priorities are presented in a visual diagram in Annex 1

2 In total, about 1600 people, including youth and children, local communities and civil society organizations, mass media, academics, local and central government authorities and parliamentarians were consulted on development challenges and on opportunities where the UN could play a useful role.

THEORY OF CHANGE FOR VISION 2030

By 2030, significant progress towards a *more just, equal and resilient society* is made and the national SDGs are achieved in Uzbekistan

because efficient and accountable gender responsive governance and justice systems will have created conditions for a progressive economic growth, social inclusion and political stability which reduce inequalities and discrimination and guarantee rights for all, especially those left behind, reinforce social cohesion and induce green, sustainable growth, underpinned by evidence-based policies, effective financing and regional partnerships



2.3. STRATEGIC PRIORITIES FOR THE UN DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM

Drawing on the Government's national SDGs and informed by the CCA and broad multi-stakeholder consultations, the United Nations and the Government of Uzbekistan agreed to collaborate and invest its collective efforts, capacities and resources into three strategic priorities from 2021-2025:



STRATEGIC PRIORITY A:

Effective governance and justice for all, achieving good governance with a focus on transparency and accountability principles that encompasses effective institutions, rule of law, anti-corruption, human rights, gender equality, labour rights, participatory and evidence-based decision-making, leaving no one behind and providing equitable access to public services and justice as pre-requisites for social and economic transformation within society.



STRATEGIC PRIORITY B:

Inclusive human capital development leading to health, well-being and resilient prosperity focused on building a society where human capital development, the generation of employment and equal socio-economic opportunities for women and men, and the promotion of full access to quality social protection and health and education services, especially for most vulnerable and those at risk, are a reality, while reducing regional inequalities.



STRATEGIC PRIORITY C:

Sustainable, climate-responsible and resilient development where actions are taken to promote effective and sustainable management of natural resources while supporting nature-based resilient development and effective and gender-responsive climate action at local level.



2.3.1. GUIDING & KEY PRINCIPLES

By adopting an integrated and multidimensional programming approach—in line with the “five P’s” of the 2030 Agenda (people, prosperity, planet, peace and partnerships)—the Cooperation Framework identifies how working on and advancing one SDG can maximize synergies and manage potential trade-offs. Therefore, the following principles will be applied at all phases of programme implementation:

1 Leave no one behind

Leaving no one behind is the central transformative promise of the 2030 Agenda and represents the unequivocal commitment to eradicate poverty in all its forms, end discrimination and exclusion, and reduce inequalities and vulnerabilities. The Cooperation Framework will foster social inclusion to address inequality and socio-cultural discrimination, which are perceived as some of the root causes of exclusion, vulnerability, and dissatisfaction in the country.

2 Human rights-based approach

The Cooperation Framework will adopt a **human rights-based approach** (HRBA) to support sustainable development outcomes and continuously analyze and address inequalities and discriminatory practices. An HRBA requires human rights principles (equality and non-discrimination, participation and accountability) to guide all development cooperation, and a focus on capacity development of both ‘duty-bearers’ to meet their obligations and ‘rights-holders’ to claim their rights.

3 Gender equality and women’s empowerment

Gender equality and women’s empowerment are integral to realizing the 2030 Agenda, and development entities will put gender equality at the heart of programming, driving the active and meaningful participation of both women and men, and consistently empowering women and girls. This is in line with the minimum requirements agreed upon by the United Nations Sustainable Development Group (UNSDG) in the UNCT System-wide Action Plan (SWAP) Gender Equality Scorecard Gender equality.

4 Accountability

The Cooperation Framework will strengthen the UN development system’s **accountability** by ensuring: (a) alignment with national priorities and national accountability mechanisms, and support for their further development where warranted; (b) strengthening national and local mechanisms, institutions and processes to monitor and report on SDG implementation, (c) measures to build upon and extend greater transparency, and improved measurement and reporting on results, (d) enabling active and inclusive local community engagement and participation in decision-making; and (e) supporting the development and use of quality, accessible, timely and reliable disaggregated data.

5 Sustainability

The 2030 Agenda calls for **sustainability** by ensuring lasting protection of the planet and its natural and cultural resources, supporting inclusive³ and sustained economic

growth, ending poverty in all its dimensions and enhancing human well-being. Strengthening the capacities of national and subnational institutions and communities is essential and therefore the Cooperation Framework will help to strengthen these institutions so that they are appropriately configured, capacitated and resourced.

6 Resilience

Resilience is a key principle to guide the design of integrated and cost-effective approaches that reduce risks and help prevent disasters and crises. Risks comprise those associated with natural and human-induced hazards, violent conflict, epidemics and pandemics, financial systems and food price fluctuations. Drivers of risk stem from poverty, climate change, inequality, discrimination and exclusion, extremism, demographic pressures, unplanned urbanization, ecosystem degradation, weak institutions and declining respect for human rights. These negative factors acting together can unleash cascading impacts across many dimensions, causing loss of life and livelihoods, and setting back progress towards productive, sustainable and peaceful societies.

In addition to the key guiding principles, the UN will focus on enhancing and mainstreaming youth inclusion across the Cooperation Framework. As an approved fast-track country for roll-out of the Global UN Youth 2030 Strategy, the UN will also promote an enabling environment

3 Inclusive growth is economic growth that is distributed fairly across society and creates opportunities for all (source: <https://www.oecd.org/inclusive-growth/#introduction>)

that recognizes the rights of youth and enhances the meaningful engagement of youth as essential actors in civic and political decision-making processes.

Innovation is critical for addressing development challenges across all SDGs. Uzbekistan has increased its focus on, and investments into innovation as part of the ongoing reforms. The country's Strategy for Innovation Development adopted in 2018 aims to place the country among top 50 of the Global Innovation Index⁴. Complementing government initiatives

to spur innovations, the UN will also apply innovation as a key principle and approach for integrated programming, including through its flagship initiatives such as Innovation Labs and Innovation Facility.

Given the complexity of the development challenges, requiring ever greater collaboration across sectors and partners to deliver impact at scale and to utilize limited resources efficiently, throughout its work the UN will prioritize integrated approaches. It will support Uzbekistan to “connect the

dots” on sustainable development issues, and to convene across line ministries and development partners to promote “whole-of-government” and “whole-of-society” responses vital for transformational change. The UN, and particularly UNDP in its integrator role, will be available to facilitate such efforts.

4 <https://www.uz.undp.org/content/uzbekistan/en/home/presscenter/articles/2018/10/260/innovative-development-drives-economic-prosperity.html>



2.4. INTENDED DEVELOPMENT RESULTS

The Cooperation Framework is designed to promote cooperation in three strategic priority areas of development and to support the ongoing reforms aimed at developing a more open, modernized, and well-functioning market economy. The Framework is also fully aligned with national SDG priorities, their targets and indicators, and will support the 16 national SDG priorities endorsed by Uzbekistan in a holistic and integrated manner (goal 14 is merged with goals 13 and 15).

STRATEGIC PRIORITY A: Effective governance and justice for all

For effective governance and justice systems that fulfill their obligations as duty bearers of human rights, the Cooperation Framework will strive to empower state institutions at all levels to effectively design, finance and implement gender-sensitive, human rights and evidence-based public legislation and policies which promote effective participation of the most vulnerable in an inclusive, transparent and accountable manner, and to ensure all people in Uzbekistan, especially the most vulnerable, benefit from increased and more equitable access to effective justice and human rights protection mechanisms.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY B: Inclusive human capital development leading to health, well-being and resilient prosperity

Cooperation in this area focuses on promoting improved livelihoods, decent work and expanding enabling opportunities generated by inclusive economic growth. It also includes enhancing access to inclusive, equitable and gender-sensitive quality health, education and social services for women, youth, children, persons with disabilities and other most vulnerable and at-risk groups of population. These elements are particularly key to a people-centred recovery from the COVID-19 socio-economic shock.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY C: Sustainable, climate responsible and resilient development

Considering the cascading effect of climate change and scarce natural resources on the livelihoods and well-being of the population and the subsequent impact on achieving Uzbekistan's national economic and development priorities, including the national SDGs, the United Nations will cooperate with the Government and all relevant stakeholders towards increased resilience of the most at-risk regions and communities to climate change and disasters. More sustainable and efficient use and management of natural resources and infrastructure, enhanced climate action, environmental governance and protection are expected to bring Uzbekistan a step closer to achieving sustainable, climate-responsible and resilient development and ensure a greener post-pandemic recovery.



**STRATEGIC PRIORITY A:
Effective governance
and justice for all**

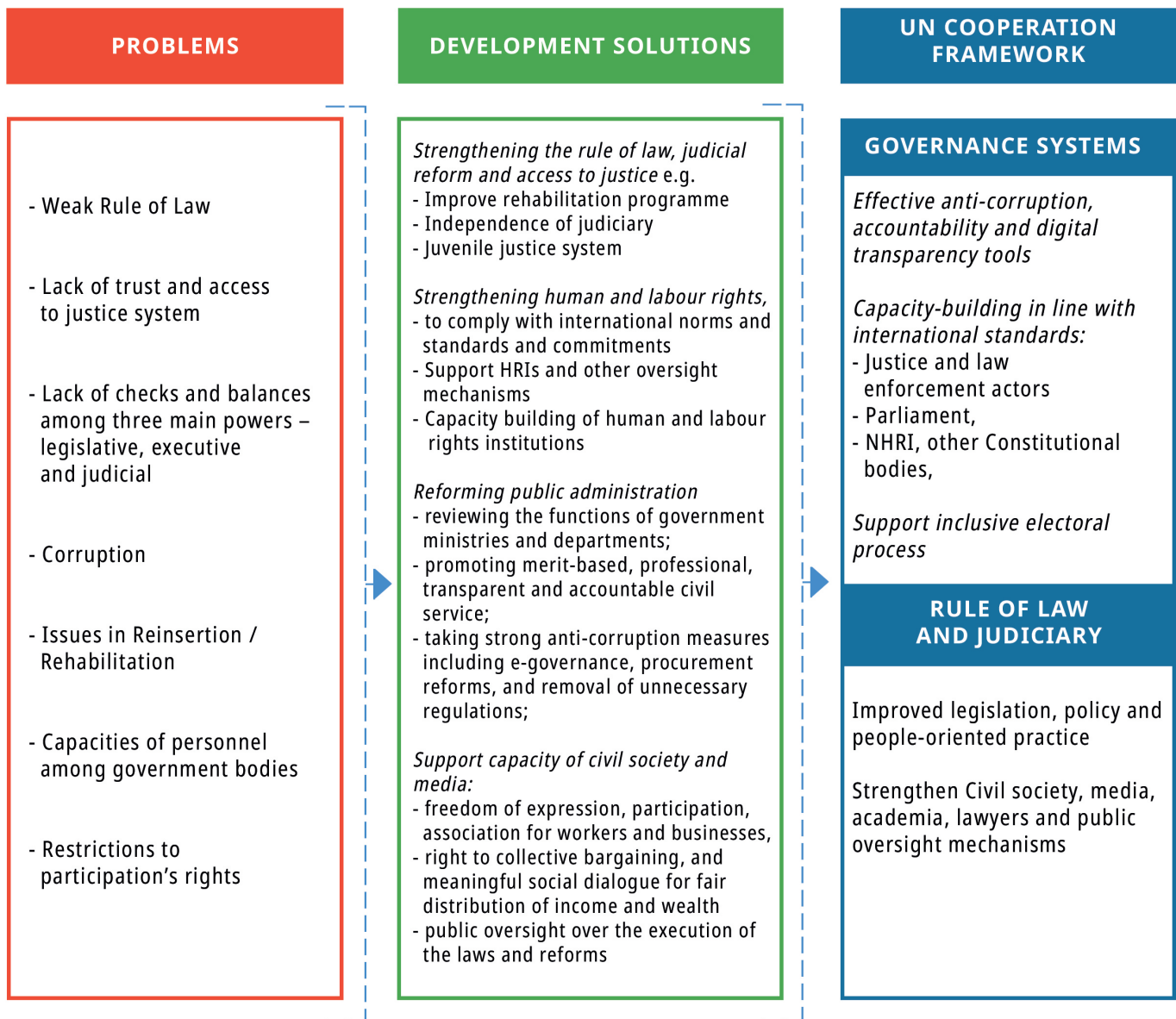
Outcome 1. By 2025, all people and groups in Uzbekistan, especially the most vulnerable, demand and benefit from enhanced accountable, transparent, inclusive and gender-responsive governance systems and rule of law institutions for a life free from discrimination and violence.



Reforming public administration, strengthening the parliament and judiciary with a view to ensuring the rule of law and labour rights, gender equality, and human rights, combatting corruption, and strengthening public oversight and civil society have been at heart of the Government's reform agenda. These priorities were also voiced by different groups of people, including youth and children, local communities and civil society organizations, including women's groups and organizations of people with disabilities, during multi-stakeholder consultations.



OUTCOME 1. PROBLEM TREE



OUTCOME 1. THEORY OF CHANGE

If national institutions are equipped with and apply effective anti-corruption, accountability and transparent tools, digital innovations and mechanisms and deliver better gender-responsive and disability-sensitive public services; **if** the Legislature and other constitutional bodies, human rights institutions, and justice and law enforcement actors are capacitated to improve and implement people-oriented and gender-sensitive legislation, policy and practices in line with international human rights and labour rights standards; **if** 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 use them to prevent any human rights and gender-based violations; and **if** population groups at risk of being left behind are empowered to effectively participate in decision making processes at all levels, **then** by 2025, all people and groups in Uzbekistan, especially the most vulnerable, demand and benefit from enhanced accountable, transparent, inclusive governance systems and rule of law institutions to live a life free from discrimination and violence.

To achieve this outcome the UN development system will:

a) **Strengthen institutional capacities to support public administration reform**, including that of public servants and national, regional and local government institutions responsible for service delivery in line with the Government's Concept of Administrative Reform⁷ and the Concept on Improvement of E-Governance Index; introduce and equip national and local authorities with effective anti-corruption, accountability and transparency tools, digital innovations and mechanisms for more efficient public administration.

b) **Collaborate to increase efficiency, transparency and accountability of justice and law enforcement actors and legal professionals/ defense lawyers**; provide technical advice and expert support to improve legislation and policy; promote enhanced parliamentary and public oversight to reform the judicial and legal systems; strengthen the capacity of parliamentarians, at the Oliy Majlis level, in law-making and policy analysis to ensure compliance with legislation at international standards; support the Oliy Majlis to effectively engage with the population, especially marginalized groups, to strengthen oversight mechanisms; encourage participation of disadvantaged groups (including women and men with disabilities, people living with HIV, single parents, families and vulnerable migrants' families, stateless persons and refugees) in policy making and in feedback mechanisms.

Support the Government in engagement with UN treaty bodies, UN special procedures, and ILO Supervisory Bodies, including

monitoring and reporting of labour rights, gender equality, and human rights obligations; promote ratification of remaining core UN human rights and labour rights treaties, and optional protocols, including, inter alia, the Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities (CRPD), the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of all Migrant Workers (CRMW), the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (CED) and the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OP-CAT)⁵ and others as recommended by the Human Rights Council through the 3rd UPR; support efforts for full implementation and alignment of legal framework in compliance with international human rights instruments and commitments; support recommendations from independent state oversight bodies, as well as national human rights institutions, such as the Parliamentary Human Rights Commissioner/ Ombudsperson; provide policy advice, expertise, and technical assistance for successful implementation of relevant strategies, including the National Human Rights Strategy and Gender Equality Strategy.

c) **Encourage participation of civil society groups, including disabled people's organizations and women's and youth NGOs, human rights activists and defenders**, in monitoring and reporting on international labour rights, gender equality, and human rights obligations; support initiatives that promote women's economic empowerment, advance women's participation in public leadership and end harmful practices and Gender Based Violence (GBV); Expand UN engagement with

civil society organizations, including employers' and workers' organizations, media, academia, citizens and lawyers to increase their awareness, knowledge and skills on human rights, gender equality and labour rights; promote the improvement of national legislation to create an enabling environment for NGOs and civil society groups.

d) **Encourage youth, women and vulnerable groups to participate in policy and/or decision-making processes by providing feedback** on Government decisions, programmes and institutions at national and local levels, and through social dialogue platforms; support capacity to deal with the additional needs of vulnerable persons due to the socio-economic impact of the COVID-19 crisis, by strengthening social cohesion and building consensus for the social and economic recovery plan;

5 Uzbekistan is signatory to and/or has ratified 10 out of 18 core UN human rights treaties and 17 ILO conventions that provide for economic, social and cultural rights, civil and political rights and fundamental freedoms.

KEY ASSUMPTIONS:

This outcome is achievable if: (i) judicial and legal reforms remain a priority of the reform agenda, and aim to implement recommendations on UN human rights and labour rights mechanisms; (ii) the Government remains strongly committed to implementing National Anti-Corruption Programmes and the Law on Anti-corruption, recommendations of OECD/ACN monitoring missions as well as UNCAC requirements, and other instruments preventing corruption; (iii) political commitment to expand on-going reforms for human rights, gender equality and labour rights protection is made, inter alia focusing on the ratification of pending international conventions, and enhancing normative frameworks to create a conducive environment for civil society, media, academia and other independent bodies, including the Ombudsperson.

PARTNERSHIPS:

The UN will work closely with national stakeholders, including the Oliy Majlis, General Prosecutor's Office, Ombudsperson office, National Human Rights Center, Cabinet of Ministers and line ministries and government agencies, grassroots NGOs, human rights activists and the media, and employers' and worker's organizations. Notably, the UN team will leverage its partnership with the parliamentary SDG Commission in the monitoring of the SDG implementation.



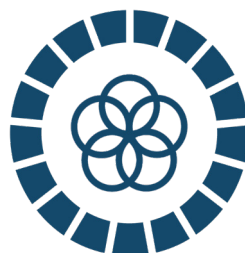


**STRATEGIC PRIORITY A:
Effective governance
and justice for all**

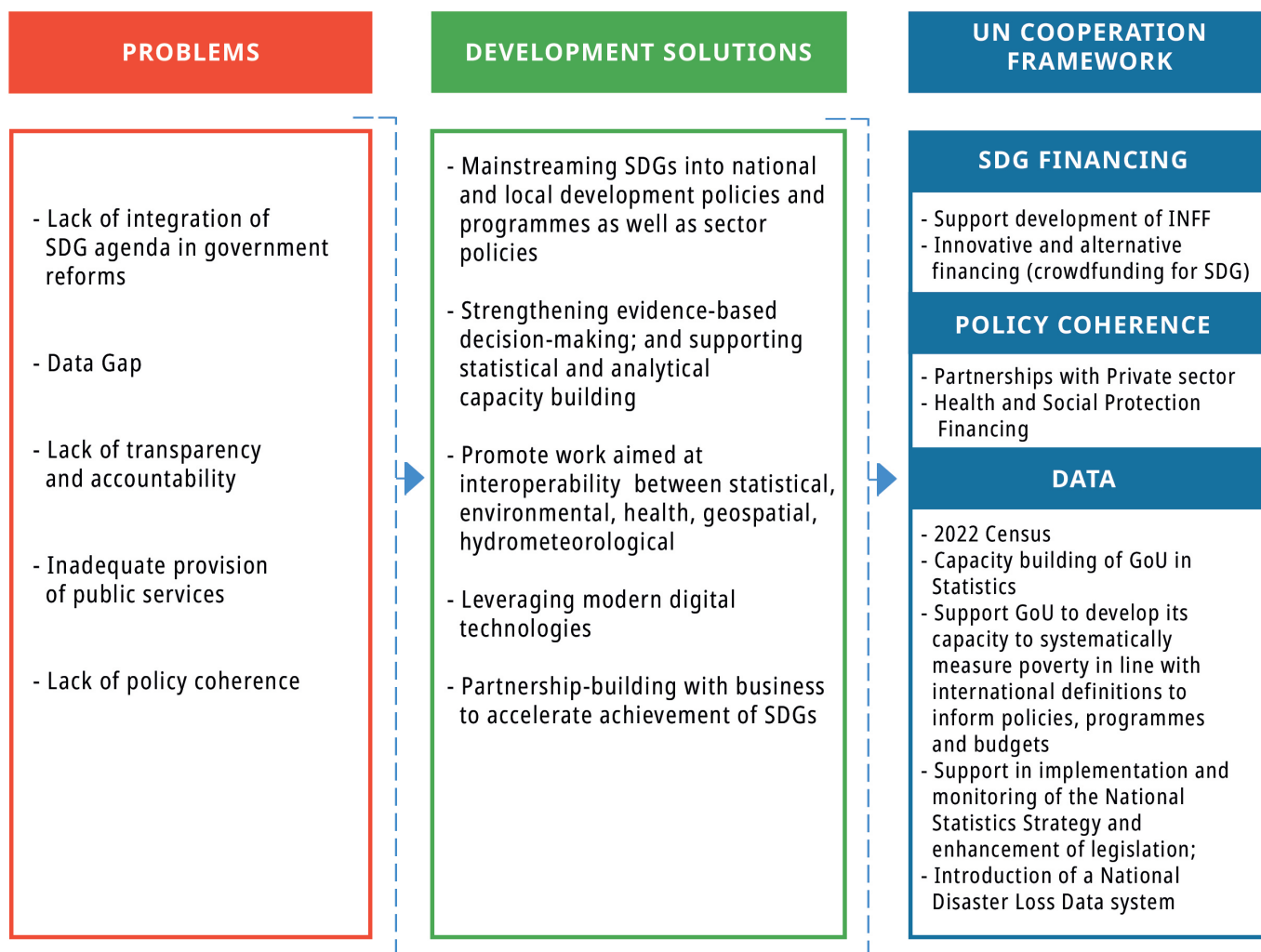
Outcome 2. By 2025, the population of Uzbekistan benefits from more harmonized and integrated implementation of the reform agenda due to strengthened policy coherence, evidence-based and inclusive decision-making and financing for development, mainstreamed in line with national SDGs

By adopting the National SDGs and targets, the Government has committed to enhance policy coordination and coherence and integrate the principles of sustainable development into the decision-making process, strategies and budgets. Further, strengthening statistical capacity and evidence-based policy making are among the highest priorities of the Government.

The 2020 – 2025 National Master Plan on Statistics aims to improve data and statistical potential and ensure generation of high-quality and relevant data in a timely manner in line with international standards and best practices.



OUTCOME 2. PROBLEM TREE



OUTCOME 2. THEORY OF CHANGE

If effective SDG financing framework is developed and promoted through coherent gender-responsive and evidence-based policy implementation, innovating financing and coordination platform; **if** national institutions have enhanced capacities to generate robust systematic evidence to measure SDG progress and inform national and sectorial policies, programmes/plans and budgets; and **if** the national capacities are strengthened to measure monetary and multidimensional poverty, including female and child poverty, and formulate a comprehensive and integrated evidence-based and gender-sensitive policies and strategies on poverty reduction; **then** 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.

To achieve this outcome the UN development system will:

a) **Assist the Government in establishing and implementing an effective integrated national financing framework**, based on participatory gender-sensitive budgeting, alternative finance instruments and coherent policy implementation; provide support to explore and leverage domestic, non-traditional, private sector and other innovative financing instruments to fund the national SDGs, including country-based pooled funds and global joint funds (eg the Migration and Joint SDG Funds); give support to build partnerships and new financing for the Aral Sea region.

b) **Promote efficient SDG monitoring and evidence-based decision-making that takes into account the needs of all rights-holders**, including children, young people, women, people with disabilities and other vulnerable or marginalized groups; support the Government to implement the 2020-2025 National Strategy on Statistics Development in line with international data principles and standards and based on LNOB principles and Human Rights-Based Approach; provide technical assistance to further develop, adapt and refine methodologies for data collection, monitoring and reporting on national SDG indicators; support to measure and monitor monetary and multidimensional poverty, including female and child poverty, and inequality in line with international definitions and criteria; assist to develop regional statistics, and enhance national statistical and information management systems in the area of water, environment, agriculture, education, health and tourism; help to implement a National Disaster Loss Data system; promote the

development of a national forecasting methodology for socio-economic development and mechanisms to improve policy coherence at various levels of governance and dimensions.

c) **Support large data collection exercises to fill data gaps**, including the Population and Housing Census (PHC), the Multi-indicator Cluster Survey (MICS), the Agriculture Census, Demographic and Health Survey (DHS), the Household Budget Survey (HBS), as well as regular household surveys; promote thematic assessments and studies, including on drug prevalence, victimization and corruption; cooperate with stakeholders to explore new sources of data and diagnostic tools beyond official national statistics, including through use of technologies to collect, disseminate and analyze data; strengthen national capacity to disseminate, analyse and use data to inform policies, programmes and budgets as well as to monitor and report on the progress of implementation of the SDGs, while taking into account linkages with human rights standards and commitments; support in the development of a national civic technology system that improves people-government relations through software for communication, decision-making, service delivery, including civic technologies covering the areas of protection of the rights of freedom of speech, youth policy, support for women and girls, the rights of people with disabilities, and ecology in the dialogue between citizens and authorities.

KEY ASSUMPTION:

This outcome is achievable if: (i) the Government takes a more coherent and

systematic approach to integrating the national SDG framework into the ongoing and new national and local programmes and strategies and sectorial plans; (ii) public spending is made more efficient, transparent, accountable, results-oriented, and with strong internal and external control mechanisms, and sufficient public oversight; and (iii) the Government invests in strengthening its national statistics system (NSS) to generate relevant, accurate, and disaggregated data and use them to inform policy-making.

PARTNERSHIPS:

The UN will partner with IFIs (such as the World Bank, IMF) that are supporting national data and statistical capacities for evidence-based policymaking, as well as the public finance management systems. As part of this collaboration, the UN will work with the World Bank to support the Government's implementation of the National Strategy for Development of Statistics and improvement of household surveys, and with the IMF on advancing the integrated national financing framework for sustainable development (INFF). Partnerships with civil society, youth, private sector, and the parliament will be strengthened as these are the key national stakeholders in SDG implementation and monitoring. Furthermore, the UN will continue to engage international development partners including but not limited to the EU, OSCE, international foundations, bilaterals, and IFIs with a regional and global presence, to leverage joint and coordinated support and dialogue for advancing the sustainable development agenda and evidence-based policymaking in the country.

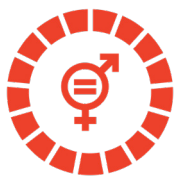


STRATEGIC PRIORITY B:
Inclusive human capital
development leading to
health, well-being and
resilient prosperity

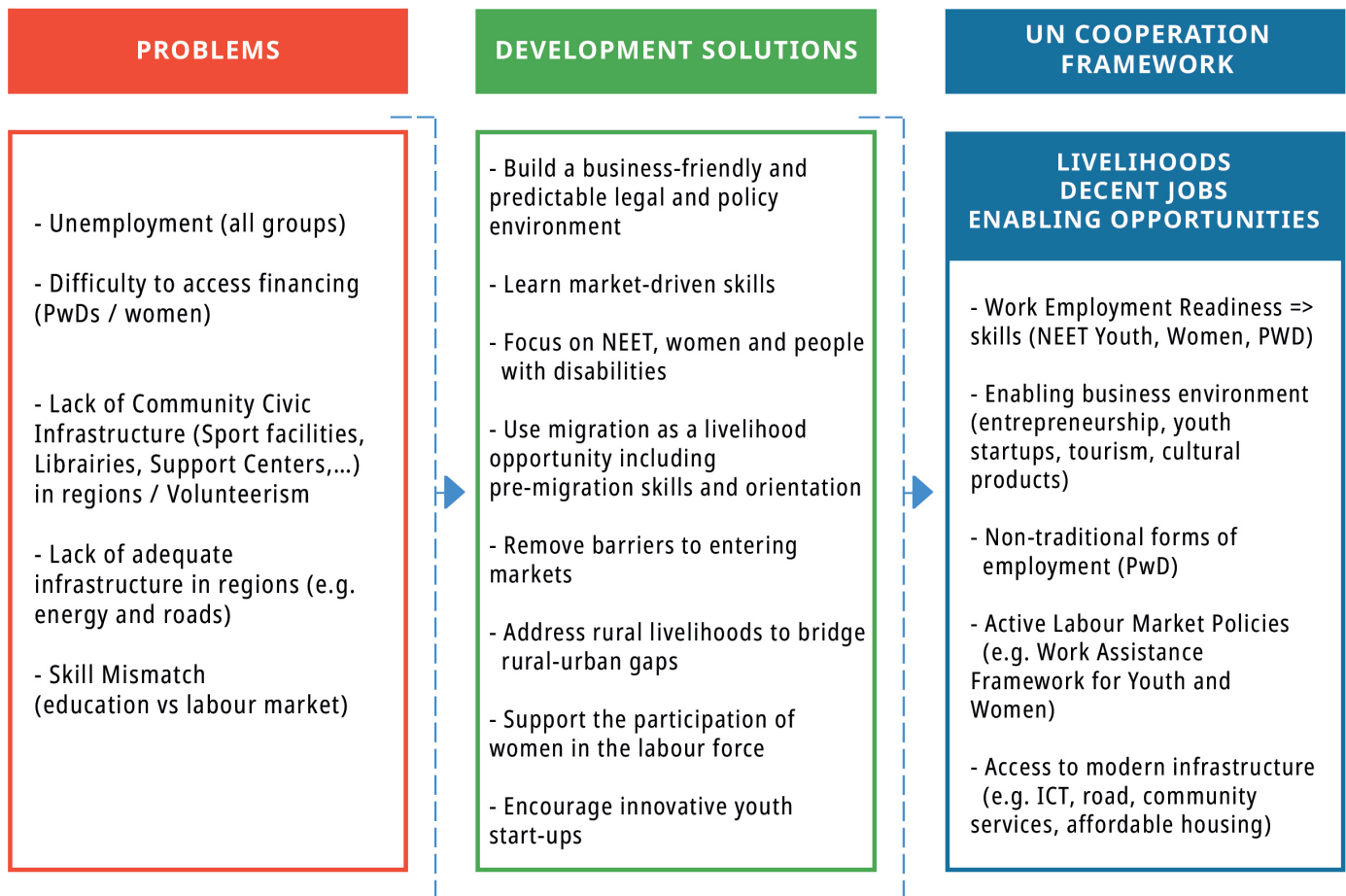
Outcome 3. By 2025, youth, women and vulnerable groups benefit from improved access to livelihoods, decent work and expanded opportunities generated by inclusive and equitable economic growth.



Ensuring macro-economic stability and inclusive economic growth to improve the living standards of the population, especially in the regions, and reducing poverty, largely through the creation of decent jobs, and ensuring an enabling environment for entrepreneurship, especially among youth and women, are priorities of the Government for the next five years. The need for these policies reflects the recommendations that people voiced during multi-stakeholder consultations and has been further reinforced by the socio-economic impact of the COVID-19 crisis.



OUTCOME 3. PROBLEM TREE



OUTCOME 3. THEORY OF CHANGE

If 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 and reduced regional inequalities; **if** local communities are empowered to implement and sustain innovative business practices and development initiatives in support of youth, women and vulnerable groups and **if** enabling conditions are promoted for equal and inclusive access to sustainable livelihoods and basic resources, new technologies, modern infrastructure, including ICT, and road safety community services, affordable housing and financial services **then** 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.

To achieve this outcome the UN development system will:

a) **Support national institutions to strengthen capacities to develop and implement effective active labour market policies as well as introducing innovative and inclusive solutions that promote decent work and skills development programmes**

for youth, women, and vulnerable groups, and people with disabilities; support initiatives aiming at capacity building of public employment services (e.g. employment support service centres), labour inspections and other relevant bodies, to deliver services to the population; support national priorities on youth employment and job creation, with a focus on youth not in

education nor in training (NEET) to build competencies that meet labour market demand, including their participation in society through volunteerism; provide policy advice and expertise to galvanize international support for development and implementation of the national Poverty Reduction Strategy that addresses inequalities to leave no one behind and

adhere to gender empowerment and a human rights-based approach; a national comprehensive employment policy framework will be developed, to address macroeconomic, labour market and employment challenges, including transition to formality and gender inequality.

b) Encourage local communities to introduce innovative business solutions and income-generation practices; support entrepreneurship and SME development, particularly in the IT and tourism sectors, with a focus on women and youth, and promoting conditions for fair competition; support business and employment opportunities that are suitable for physical distancing, lock-down, and other movement restrictions resulting from the COVID-19 crisis; address regional inequalities through an emphasis on integrated area-based and flagship UN joint programmes in vulnerable regions, thereby ensuring inclusion, equity, and no one getting left behind; implement joint programming targeting vulnerable groups, including in the Aral Sea region and the Ferghana Valley; promote community development solutions to improve cross border economic cooperation, foster peaceful relations among communities and greater inter-communal linkage, and promote social cohesion at the Uzbek-Kyrgyz border.

c) Foster enabling conditions for balanced spatial development, equal and inclusive access to sustainable livelihoods and basic resources, new technologies, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, road safety, affordable housing and financial services for youth, women and vulnerable groups; promote

knowledge-intensive value chains, trade facilitation, and transport connectivity to support exports and ensure that the benefits of digitalization are widely shared; promote improved public service delivery by expanding access to public services, integrating service delivery systems and decentralizing their access, particularly for vulnerable groups in rural areas and overseas migrant labourers; support the continued engagement with Special Procedures in various areas, including on the right to housing.

d) Assist in the development of initiatives and implementation of state programs to support women's entrepreneurship and entrepreneurship mainly in rural areas, as well as to improve the conditions conducive to the involvement of women in entrepreneurship such as improving basic infrastructure in rural areas through public-private partnerships (more extensive access to kindergartens, the Internet, stable electricity supply, gas and water supply, etc.), development of pilot business models of female entrepreneurship in rural areas, development of comprehensive partnerships and partnerships with the private sector, whose innovative potential will contribute to the development of women's entrepreneurship, as well as the development of strategic partnerships with financial institutions and banks in promoting women's entrepreneurship.

KEY ASSUMPTIONS:

In order to achieve this outcome it is assumed that the Government will: (i) continue economic liberalization, employment-centered and structural reform policies along with sound and

adequate COVID-19-related anti-crisis measures, paying due attention to the generation of decent jobs in rural and urban areas; (ii) continue to focus on improving the business environment and competition and promoting more vibrant SME sector, entrepreneurship, and private investments; and, (iii) target youth and women well-being and expanding the economic opportunities of vulnerable groups to ensure that they benefit from the reforms.

PARTNERSHIPS:

The UN will leverage its partnership with national stakeholders (i.e., government agencies, Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Federation of Trade Unions, private businesses, the parliament) and international development partners (such as IFC, EBRD, ADB, IsDB) to promote innovative and sustainable solutions for improving the business environment and developing labour markets, inter alia, through fostering business start-ups, promoting tourism and cultural products and encouraging volunteerism. The UN will also encourage the establishment of an effective and inclusive social dialogue on challenges in the labour market between the Government and the people (including through CSOs) to consider the gender aspects of unemployment and to address the issues of vulnerable groups such as people with disabilities, school graduates, the elderly, the self-employed and irregular migrants.



STRATEGIC PRIORITY B:
Inclusive human capital
development leading to
health, well-being and
resilient prosperity

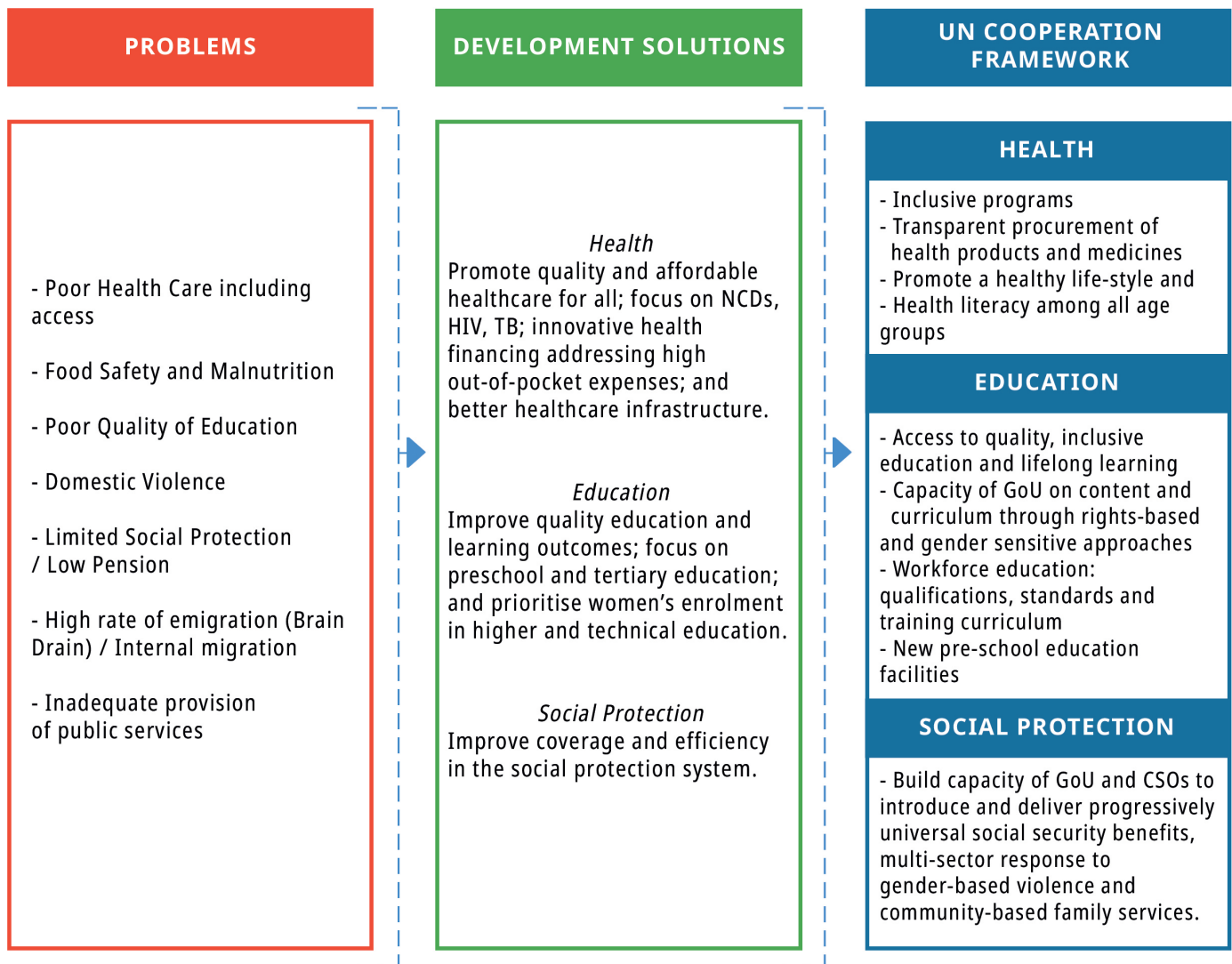
Outcome 4. By 2025, the most vulnerable benefit from enhanced access to gender-sensitive quality health, education and social services.



Human capital development has been defined by the Government of Uzbekistan as one of the main factors to increase the country's global competitiveness and ensure continuing innovation. The priorities set forth by the Government for the next five years include improvement of people's well-being and strengthening their social protection, developing and improving the quality of health care services, and improving the quality and coverage of education at all levels while continuing systematic work to support children, youth and women. These priorities have been also tabled by the people during consultations, and young people in particular have defined health and education as the most critical priorities for their future.



OUTCOME 4. PROBLEM TREE



OUTCOME 4. THEORY OF CHANGE

If capacities of health system and stakeholders are strengthened to implement efficiently and transparently innovative and inclusive Universal Health Coverage-focused policies and programmes, comprehensive responses to health emergencies and promote a healthy lifestyle and health literacy among all age groups as well as quality professional development opportunities and decent work environment for healthcare employees; **if** 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; and **if** 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 services, and inclusive multi-sector response to vulnerabilities and gender-based violence in line with international standards; **then** by 2025, the most vulnerable will have enhanced access and benefit from gender-sensitive quality health, education and social services.

To achieve this outcome, the UN development system will:

a) **Promote universal health coverage through health system strengthening**, public health measures, a strengthened primary health care system, evidence-based health sector policies, a health management information system (HMIS), improved supply chain management, revised service delivery models with multi-profile facilities, a health workforce upgraded to international standards, enhanced pandemic preparedness and response capacity, and affordable and sustained universal health insurance; support mechanisms and protection of the rights of healthcare workers to ensure quality professional development and decent working conditions; support implementation of the 'Joint External Evaluation' (JEE) of International Health Regulation (IHR) (under the Cabinet of Ministers and led by the Ministry of Health); provide technical assistance on case management of HIV and TB (with a focus on drug resistant TB); support implementation of an enhanced and sustainable system on vaccine-preventable diseases, implementation of an intersectoral programme on antimicrobial resistance, and strengthening of laboratory services; improve capacity to treat and diagnose non communicable diseases (NCDs), including training for clinical staff, correct use of medical equipment, and development of postgraduate training; support the COVID-19 health response through technical assistance to strengthen the health care system, training of health care workers, procurement of essential health items, enhanced surveillance systems, and building infectious disease laboratories.

Provide technical support for efficient and sustainable service delivery systems in reproductive, sexual, women, newborn, child and adolescent health; establish a healthy environment and possibilities for healthy choices by all socio-economic groups, including introduction of new approaches like healthy settings and "Health For All" policies; promote healthy lifestyles, including on nutrition and health literacy among all age groups, with a particular focus on vulnerable groups (including survivors of sexual gender-based violence in the development of health protocols); support effective implementation of "protection orders" introduced by the Government and develop a systematic approach to working with perpetrators.

b) **Support inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all**, with a focus on marginalized groups, including girls and children with disabilities; support education system-strengthening, improving innovative service delivery, and creating and managing data and evidence for informing policies and programmes; promoting community engagement and enhancing communications and advocacy in education; capacity building to develop and implement evidence-based policies and programmes, competency based, rights-based and gender sensitive curricula, and prepare the education workforce in terms of qualifications, standards and training; support to develop and model alternative education service delivery, particularly in preschool education; assist in strengthening data systems and support more studies in education systems through education management information systems

(EMIS); promote community engagement in school governance and parental support for improving child learning; support commitments made at the Nairobi Summit⁶ to conduct gender trainings in schools, and for government institutions, including law enforcement; continue advocacy to address the gender asymmetry in choices of study programmes at the vocational and tertiary education levels caused by ingrained stereotypes about gender roles, and encourage girls and women's participation in STEM programmes.

In view of the COVID-19 impact on education, the UN in partnership with IFIs will provide assistance to the Government to develop learning recovery approaches, integrated distance education, and a monitoring and evaluation/assessment platform; introduce alternative education delivery systems for ECE and general secondary education continuity; give support to enhance the education system's ability to provide education during emergencies, learning recovery and to facilitate a safe environment and risk communication when schools/pre-schools reopen; introduction of blended learning into the education process; share the best practices for ECE provision in emergencies, and support the development and introduction of distance learning platforms for ECE/ECD.

6 On 12-14 November 2019 the Government of Uzbekistan along with more than 170 participated in the Nairobi Summit commemorating the 25th anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development

c) Bring together government and civil society to introduce and deliver universal social protection benefits and improve the social security system, multi-sector response to gender-based violence, and community-based family services; support to develop and implement a comprehensive national strategy on social protection built on evidence and wide multi-stakeholder consultations; assistance to operationalize the national social protection system including, inter alia, designing an effective mechanism for interagency coordination and policy integration, and introducing best practices; pilot the International Classification of Functioning (ICF) in the assessment of disability to promote greater access of persons with disabilities to social protection and their full inclusion into different aspects of social life; provide technical assistance in establishing a single registry for social protection to improve efficiency and enhance the social service workforce to apply a case management approach effectively; assist in strengthening capacity to design and operationalize integrated health, education and social protection systems informed by social dialogue; build institutional capacity to systematically measure and monitor poverty in line with international standards; policy advice for programme-based budgeting to ensure investments are directed to where they are needed most; address and advocate for systematic actions to reduce the risks of and regulate labour migration, including the formalization of employment, with specific attention to domestic and care work, and the harmonization of the pension and social protection systems of sending and receiving countries.

Strengthen partnership with the Oliy Majlis, NGOs and women led organizations to achieve transformative results for gender equality and women's empowerment in line with Gender Equality programming principles, including upholding women's sexual and reproductive health rights, and rights to education, as well as changing social norms and attitudes about the role of women in the family and society; support to strengthen multi-sector support to prevent domestic violence and for survivors of domestic violence through the development of standard operating procedures for police, health sector and psychosocial services;

As an immediate priority, due to COVID-19, the UN will give support to addressing the emerging needs of the population for social protection and strengthening resilience to possible future pandemics, through existing interventions aimed at strengthening the social protection system, improving shock-responsiveness, and integrated institutional reform; expansion of the existing social protection (SP) system in order to ensure coherence between social assistance, labour market and social insurance programmes; support to roll out the single registry, Labour Market Information System (LMIS) roll out, ALMPs and Social Insurance development.

KEY ASSUMPTIONS:

In order to achieve this outcome it is assumed that the Government will ensure that: (i) health remains a cross-sectorial priority reform based on people-centered and human rights-based approaches, backed by adequate

state resources; (ii) the education system is prioritized with adequate resources dedicated to implementing educational strategies, and existing and/or new partnerships are nurtured to support education modernization and development; (iii) commitments to bring the social protection system in line with international standards and best practice, coupled with sufficient financial and human resources, are maintained.

PARTNERSHIPS:

The UN will continue to expand its partnership with national authorities in the health, education, and social services sectors, particularly the national Ministries of Health and Education. The UN will also strengthen its alliance with the newly formed Ministry of Mahalla and Family Support, Ministry of Employment and Labour Relations, Employers' and Workers' organizations (healthcare sector employees and education employees trade unions, professional associations). Partnerships with the IFIs (i.e., the World Bank, ADB, EBRD) - which have been substantially expanding their financial and technical support both to help implement the Government's reform agenda as well as to help recover from the COVID-19 health and socio-economic crisis - and other international development partners, will continue to play an integral role in the implementation of the health, education, and social services outcomes. The UN will also broaden its engagement with international health organizations such as Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) and the United States Center for Disease Control (US CDC) in addressing the most pressing health needs, especially in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.



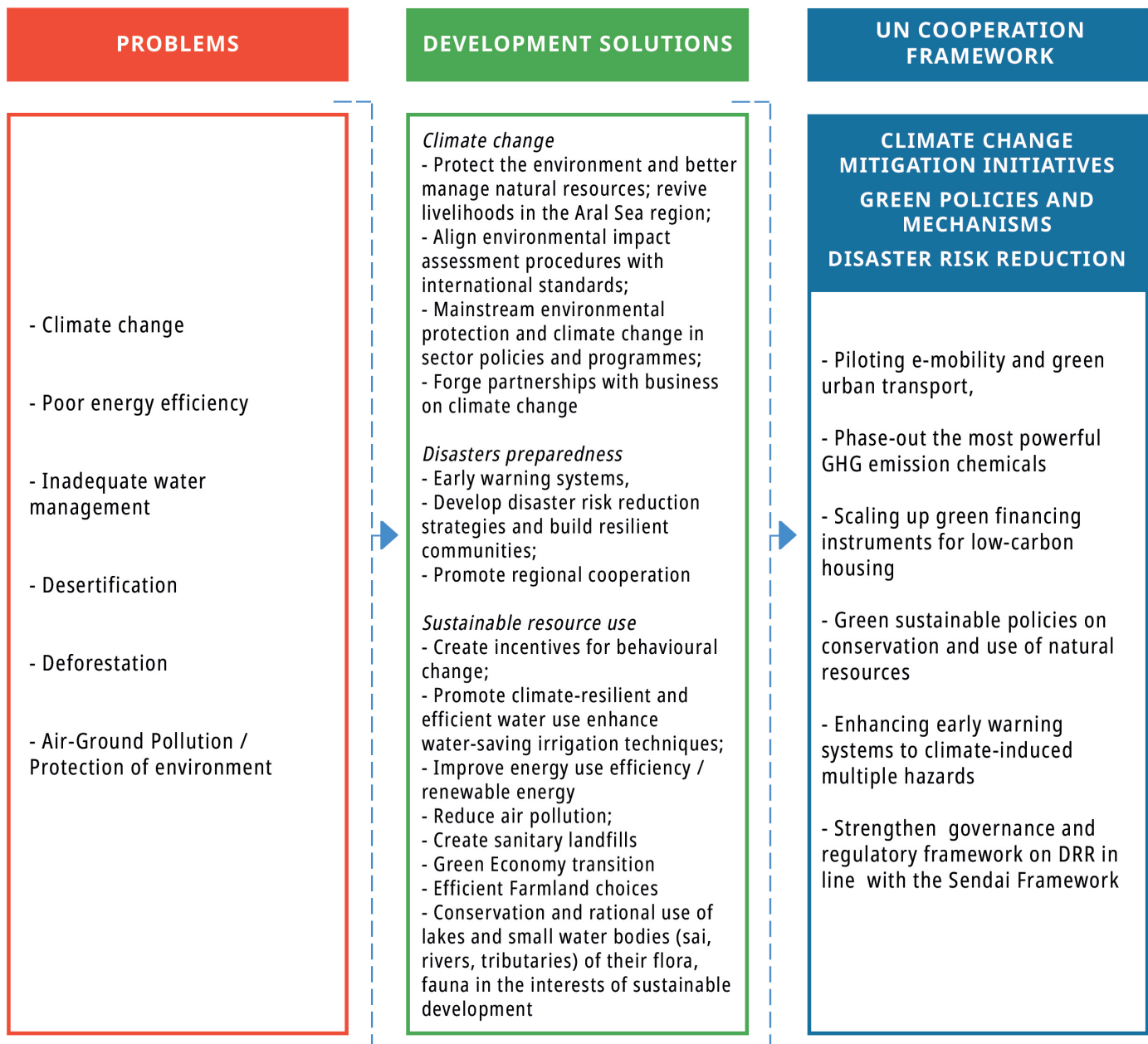
STRATEGIC PRIORITY C: Sustainable, climate responsible and resilient development

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.

Protecting the environment and resilience to climate change are a priority for Uzbekistan, and in 2018 the Government ratified the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. Under the agreement Uzbekistan has committed to a 10 per cent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions per unit of GDP by 2030, and to continue its efforts to enhance climate change adaptation capacities to reduce the risk of climate change. In 2019 the Government also adopted long-term strategies to transition to a green economy, on biodiversity and agricultural environmental protection concepts, on reinforcement of commitments that focus on climate change, life on land, water and sanitation, affordable energy, sustainable cities, and others. They particularly focus on the development of a “green economy”, rational use of natural resources and environmental protection, ensuring food security, rural development, through, inter alia, improved governance and data for risk reduction, introducing innovative technologies, and developing science and education, and increased engagement of civil society and the population in addressing environmental issues. As a signatory to the Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), the Government has also committed to improving the institutional framework and mechanisms on DRR. Measures on climate change adaptation and mitigation, sustainable and effective management of natural resources along with disaster risk reduction have been identified as key priorities by local and national participants of multi-stakeholder consultations and the 2020 ‘UN75’ campaign in Uzbekistan.



OUTCOME 5. PROBLEM TREE



OUTCOME 5. THEORY OF CHANGE

If innovative, sustainable and gender-responsive climate change adaptation and mitigation initiatives in agriculture, health, water, transport, energy production and building/housing sectors are designed and implemented at national and regional levels, with focus on at risk regions, including the Aral Sea region; **if** national and local capacities are enhanced to implement green sustainable policies on conservation and use of terrestrial and water ecosystems, environmentally sound management of chemicals and wastes in line with international obligations; and **if** 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; **then** 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.

To achieve this outcome the UN development system will:

a) Assist in developing initiatives and implement coherent policies to achieve positive change in climate action, disaster risk reduction, environmental protection, and natural resources management; provide support to identify climate change adaptation strategies under a National Climate Change Plan; support area-based green initiatives focused on climate change mitigation and adaptation, such as the development of drought monitoring and early warning systems, piloting e-mobility and green urban transport and improving road safety, phasing-out the most powerful greenhouse gas emission chemicals, inter alia, used in cooling and air conditioning infrastructure, providing support around all aspects of developing a safe, secure and sustainable nuclear power programme, as well as testing and scaling up green financing instruments for energy efficient housing; support national and sectoral climate change adaptation and DRR plans in agriculture, health, water and building sectors, as well as in the Aral Sea region through the Multi-Partner Trust Fund for the Aral Sea; promotion of systems innovations for integrated solutions in the Aral Sea region to contribute to implementation of the Government's Concept "Aral Sea region is a zone of ecological innovations and technologies"; strengthen institutional, functional and technical capacities at national and sub-national level for planning and budgeting climate change adaptation measures; improvement of the existing climate-related knowledge and evidence base to support more comprehensive, and holistic assessment of climate risks,

vulnerabilities and impacts, provide support in the implementation of the Sendai Framework for DRR through data, governance and regional cooperation; assist in strengthening the capacity to build local level resilience; facilitate the enhancement of the national disaster loss accounting systems; provide assistance in effective management and rational use of water resources, as well as modernization and digitalization of water resource facilities in Uzbekistan.

b) Develop national capacities to implement green policies and practices on conservation and sustainable use of mountain, desert and wetland ecosystems, as well as on environmentally sound management of chemicals and waste in line with the Government's environmentally focused green economy strategies; support to enhance capacities in water and land management, provide technical advice on policies that integrate incentives and mechanisms for efficient water and land use, as well as promoting farm-based improvements such as improved water-efficiency and technology; support efficient management of persistent organic pollutants, scale-up improvements in afforestation, forest landscape restoration in the extension of services and R&D to agriculture, and to develop an effective regulatory framework for efficient land and pasture use.

Strengthen integrated gender-responsive climate and disaster risk governance systems through enhanced multi-hazard early warning (MHEWS) and rapid recovery, tailing management facilities and dam safety, and the governance-human rights-environment nexus; capacity-building for disaster preparedness and response

and climate-induced multiple hazards at local and national levels, as well as for data collection, management and use, aiming to strengthen knowledge and risk assessment and to enhance evidence-based policies and decisions.

c) Support the protection of cultural heritage within the context of inclusive, resilient, safe and sustainable urban development by developing a regulatory framework and mechanisms for cultural heritage protection; promotion of policies for the sustainable development of tourism and effective use of natural and cultural heritage; support the reduction of women's vulnerability and improve their preparedness for disasters as well as promoting a women- inclusive approach to the development and implementation of the DRR actions; ensure integration of gender perspectives into the assessment, analysis and planning for response and recovery so that the needs of women, men, boys and girls in the affected population are effectively identified and addressed; ensure women and girls will be put at the center of DRR actions and support a shift from considering women as victims and beneficiaries to a full acknowledgment of their positions as resilient partners and agents of power.

d) Support to prevent and substantially reduce any pollution of lakes and transboundary rivers, and their tributaries, as well as to ensure the rational use and protection of small water bodies and lake ecosystems to prevent significant adverse impacts, including by increasing the resilience of these ecosystems; supporting digital monitoring of small water bodies and lake ecosystems, GIS for mapping

the pollution of these objects and monitoring the preservation of their flora and fauna, as well as ensuring the maximum ecologically rational and balanced capture of wild animals, taking into account the biological characteristics of these reserves.

KEY ASSUMPTIONS:

In order to achieve this outcome, it is assumed that the Government will: (i) ensure high level political coordination on climate change, and ensure the full cross-sectoral engagement of the economy; (ii) be open to apply a systems innovation and integration approach and to enhance the effectiveness of public finance through public participation in budgeting, greater involvement of the private

sector (through PPP) in provision of basic energy and utility services; (iii) work towards targeting vulnerable groups, in particular youth and women, to ensure resilience of communities; (iv) scale-up the improvement of its national infrastructure in the area of water, gas, energy and roads, both in terms of planning and implementation, and establish resource-saving and sustainable energy programmes; (v) establish a public oversight mechanism to oversee fund management and investment both in the energy sector and for urban planning.

PARTNERSHIPS:

The UN will seek to engage in mutually beneficial and collaborative partnerships to enhance coherence in

the development and implementation of activities that mobilize and scale-up climate actions. Cognizant of the role of various international climate coalitions, initiatives, and organizations, the UN will continue to build on partnerships that enhance knowledge, expertise, financing, access and outreach for a climate-resilient and disaster-proof Uzbekistan. In particular, the UN will build on its partnerships with IFIs to ensure delivery of infrastructural projects that minimize carbon emissions. Further, the UN will accelerate its efforts to help Uzbekistan to access available support from various global financing facilities to address climate change mitigation, adaptation, and disaster resilience.



2.5. SYNERGIES BETWEEN COOPERATION FRAMEWORK OUTCOMES

The Cooperation Framework takes into account the strong interlinkages between sustainability, resilience and peace as well as interconnections among the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. The UN system will ensure an integrated and multi-dimensional programming approach by mainstreaming core programming principles in a holistic manner across all outcomes to create synergies.

The five outcomes within the cooperation framework aim to address the cross-cutting and intersecting areas of the three sustainable development pillars. The three pillars represent a framework whereby focusing on one single pillar without sufficient attention to the other pillars results in trade-offs and increases the multidimensional risks. Outcomes 1 and 2 target the overarching and cross-cutting issues of accountable, transparent, inclusive governance systems and rule of law, as well as participatory, evidence-based and coherent policy making. By addressing issues of livelihoods, employment opportunities, and social services for all, Outcomes 3 and 4 aim to expand the social and economic nexus. Outcome 5 with its focus on resilience to climate change and disasters, and efficient use and management of natural resources, aims to address the social-environmental and environmental-economic nexuses.

2.5.1. SYNERGIES WITH REGIONAL FRAMEWORKS

Guided by UN General Assembly resolution (A/RES/72/283 from June

2018) on “Strengthening regional and international cooperation to ensure peace, stability and sustainable development in the Central Asian region”, the UN system will promote strengthened cooperation between Central Asian countries. In particular, the UN will support cooperative solutions in areas such as: the environment, water, energy and climate change; disaster risk reduction; human rights and rule of law; health, migration and human mobility; tourism, trade and connectivity; prevention of terrorism and violent extremism; human trafficking and transnational organized crimes; and youth engagement and gender equality.

Uzbekistan is also now a participant in the UN’s Special Programme for Central Asia Regional Cooperation (SPECA) on such issues as water, energy, environment, sustainable transport, transit and connectivity, trade, statistics, knowledge-based development and gender, drawing as required on the UN Regional Economic Commissions (UNECE and ESCAP) for sub-regional policy analysis, data and advisory services⁷. The country has also joined other Central Asian countries and Afghanistan in adopting the SPECA Strategy on Innovation for Sustainable Development. It calls for knowledge-sharing and cooperation to import and create innovative solutions to national and regional sustainable development challenges (SDG17.6).

The UN system will further support Uzbekistan to implement its regional commitments such as the Regional Environmental Programme for Sustainable Development in Central Asia, adopted by the Interstate Commission on Sustainable Development (ICSD) of the International Fund for Saving the

Aral Sea (IFAS). It will also support the country in its engagement with Central Asian countries to maintain the dialogue on the Aral Sea and transboundary water issues in line with the UN General Assembly Resolution A/RES/72/273 “Cooperation between the United Nations and the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea”⁸, and the UN Convention on use and protection of transboundary watercourses and international lakes.

In addition, the UN system will support a number of other regional initiatives which include: the Almaty Process which promotes sustained dialogue and exchange of information on migration issues and on refugee protection challenges⁹; the EU-funded Spotlight Initiative which aims to eliminate violence against women and girls and build the foundations for greater disaster and climate change resilience¹⁰; the STRIVE Asia Programme that contributes to preventing and countering violent extremism in Central, South and South-East Asia¹¹; the EU-funded “Ready 4 Trade” Central Asia initiative, supporting sustainable and economic inclusive development through intra-regional and global

7 <https://www.unece.org/speca/welcome.html>

8 <https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/72/273>

9 Almaty process see: <https://www.iom.int/almaty-process>

10 The Spotlight Initiative is a joint EU-UN initiative which aims to eliminate violence against women and girls <https://www.spotlightinitiative.org/>

11 The Strengthening Resilience Against Violent Extremism in Asia (STRIVE Asia) Programme, a joint EU-UN partnership. <https://www.un.org/counterterrorism/cct/strive-asia>

trade and other emerging regional programmes; the draft Regional Program for the rational use of water resources in Central Asia, initiated by the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan during the Summit of the Heads of the founding States of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea". The UN system will also continue strengthening the tourism industry through the organization of regional UNWTO meetings and relevant programmes and projects. Given Uzbekistan's centrality as one of the 35 countries participating in the Silk Road initiative, the UN system will also continue to strengthen responsible, sustainable and universally accessible tourism.

2.6. SUSTAINABILITY

Sustainability is at the heart of all the UNCT's planned results, and all activities will be implemented in a way that increases the resilience of communities, strengthens governance and institutional capacities, and reduces risks and vulnerabilities. This will require regular assessment of capacity gaps with government partners and corresponding programmes of action to support capacity development. The UN will also enhance engagement with the private sector and civil society, as key agents of social and economic change, to strengthen capacities and ensure that these groups become drivers of sustainable development in their own right. Finally, the UN will support the Government to ensure that internationally agreed conventions and United Nations General Assembly resolutions, for which sustainability is a central component, inform policy at all levels¹².

2.7. UN COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGE

Since 1992 the UN system in Uzbekistan has brought a wealth of technical and coordination capacity to support the Government's development agenda. As of July 2020, fourteen UN agencies, funds and programmes with mandates in sustainable development and/or human rights had a physical presence in Uzbekistan (FAO, ILO, IOM, ITC, OHCHR, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNDRR, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNICRI, UNODC, WHO) plus three UN Secretariat entities (RC Office, UN RCCA, UN DSS). Overall, there are 350 UN personnel in Uzbekistan, of which one-third directly support the Government from within line ministries. In addition, numerous UN agencies deliver projects and/or provide support to Uzbekistan remotely (IAEA, IFAD, UNCTAD, UNECE, UNEP, UNESCAP, UNHCR, UNIDO, UNOPS, UNWTO, UN-Habitat and UN Women). Together, these UN entities constitute the UN Country Team.

In 2019 a UN self-assessment and partnership survey conducted amongst 28 international organizations (embassies, IFIs, INGOs, others) were undertaken to determine the areas where the UN has a comparative advantage to support the Government's development agenda. These in turn were used to define the cooperation framework outputs and include:

- 1  HEALTH
- 2  GENDER EQUALITY
- 3  SOCIAL PROTECTION
- 4  ECONOMIC REFORMS
- 5  HUMAN RIGHTS RULE OF LAW
- 6  ENVIRONMENT CLIMATE CHANGE
- 7  AGRICULTURE AND WATER
- 8  LIVELIHOODS
- 9  GOVERNANCE PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION
- 10  EDUCATION
- 11  DATA AND STATISTICS
- 12  ENERGY

12 These include including the Paris Agreement, Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Quito Declaration on Sustainable Cities and Human Settlements for All, and the General Assembly resolution on Addressing Large Scale Movements of Refugees and Migrants.

Partners further highlighted that the UN is well positioned to support Uzbekistan to report on and achieve national SDGs, convene national and international partners to address critical development challenges, enabling strategic dialogue on mutual priorities and opportunities on the reform agenda, support monitoring and implementation of international norms and standards, and provide impartial policy advice, technical expertise, and good practices.

The partners thus see the UN's role as a convener and facilitator of a coordinated approach among partners and an honest broker. The key components of the UN's comparative advantage include its people-centered approach to development, ability to convene dialogue around sensitive human rights issues, access to global/regional knowledge and best practices, and its normative mandate and custody of values.

2.8. UNCT CONFIGURATION

The configuration of UNCT capacities has been determined and informed by the Cooperation Framework outcomes and outputs. It has been defined in consultation with the Government, facilitated by the RC, and subject to the mandates and budgetary appropriations by individual agencies, and in accordance with the principles of the Charter of the UN and United Nations norms and standards (A/Res/72/279 OP2 and OP3).

UNCT CONFIGURATION

PEACE	OUTCOME 1	<p>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.</p> <p>ILO, OHCHR, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNODC, WHO, <i>UNHCR, UN-Habitat, UNOPS, UN Women</i></p>
	OUTCOME 2	<p>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>UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNODC, WHO, <i>UNCTAD, UNESCAP, UN-Habitat, UN Women</i></p>
PEOPLE & PROSPERITY	OUTCOME 3	<p>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.</p> <p>FAO, ILO, IOM, ITC, ITU, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO <i>IFAD, UNECE, UNEP, UNESCAP, UN-Habitat, UNHCR, UNIDO, UNOPS</i></p>
	OUTCOME 4	<p>By 2025, the most vulnerable benefit from enhanced access to gender-sensitive quality health, education and social services.</p> <p>ILO, IOM, ITC, ITU, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNODC, WHO, <i>UN-Habitat, UNOPS, UN Women</i></p>
PLANET	OUTCOME 5	<p>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> <p>FAO, UNDP, UNDRR, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNICRI, WHO, <i>IFAD, UNECE, UNEP, UNESCAP, UN-Habitat, UNIDO, UNOPS</i></p>



CHAPTER 3: COOPERATION FRAMEWORK IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

The Cooperation Framework will be nationally executed under the overall co-ordination of the Ministry of Economic Development and Poverty Reduction, and will be operationalized through the development of joint work plan(s) (JWPs)¹³ and/or agency-specific work plans. To the extent possible, the UN system agencies will limit the number of UN strategy cooperation documents with the Government to the Cooperation Framework and signed joint or agency-specific work plans and project documents. However, as necessary and appropriate, project documents can be prepared using, inter alia, the relevant text from the Cooperation Framework and agency-specific work plans and/or project documents.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had devastating consequences around the world. In Uzbekistan, the UN family reoriented current and future programmes to both mitigate the health and socio-economic impact of the crisis as well as to ensure that a build back better approach is mainstreamed in pursuit of the 2030 Agenda and the national SDGs. This has required the UN to exercise its convening role to bring together a wide range of stakeholders to ensure complementarity, capitalize on strategic partnerships, and avoid gaps. To this end, the UN system partnered with six International Financial Institutions operating in Uzbekistan to present a consolidated multilateral socio-economic response and recovery offer to the Government in May 2020. Looking ahead, as recovery gets underway, the UN will also engage IFIs within the joint work-plans and thematic working groups, building on the positive collaboration established during the pandemic.

3.1. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY AND STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

The UN will facilitate strategic engagement within and between a wide range of partners from the Government and non-government actors at national and sub-national levels to ensure effective implementation of the cooperation framework. Partnerships are required: (a) within the UN family to derive synergies from multiple UN agencies working with the same sector(s) ministry(s) in the Government and/or other partners; (b) among development partners to avoid duplication, minimize gaps and present a united development response to government; and (c) between all development partners and the Government, sharing clear and unified development priorities aligned to national SDGs.

GOVERNMENT: At the political level, the UN will support the national SDG Coordination Council as a platform for development partner coordination and work closely with and support the national Parliamentary Commission on SDGs, recognizing the challenges and opportunities of the middle income status of Uzbekistan and seeking ways to support its further advancement in the country income category. At the sectoral level, the UN will work with relevant line ministries in areas such as health, social protection, labour reforms, environment, human rights, gender equality, advancing modernization of governance and public administration and digital transformation, as well as facilitating government engagement in related results groups and 'issue-based coalitions'. In addition to supporting implementation of the national

programmes for development of the Aral Sea Region, the UN will also continue its support to the Advisory Council on the Aral Sea region as a multi-stakeholder platform for ensuring coherence across both development partners and national stakeholders, and to the implementation of the concept to transform the region into a zone of innovation and new technologies.

CIVIL SOCIETY: Considering the vital role of civil society for ensuring SDG progress and leaving no one behind, the UN Country Team will make concerted efforts to promote and support genuine civic space in the country both at national and sub-national levels, by building civil society capacities (including a democratic and independent labour movement, as well as independent human rights defenders) for evidence-based dialogue and advocacy; fostering participation and social accountability, especially with youth; and protecting civic space in UN advocacy with government as well as supporting digital activism, given the country's digitalization ambition.

PRIVATE SECTOR¹⁴: The UN is well positioned to present a strong business case for the domestic private sector to align their activities to Agenda 2030 and hence, accelerate achievement of the national SDGs. With ongoing reforms and policy measures to create enabling conditions for the private sector there are significant opportunities to engage with private sector organizations, especially in the

13 As per the UNDG Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for countries adopting the "Delivering as One" approach.

areas of sustainability, civic space, human rights, gender equality, labour rights, and human capital development. In addition to partnering with a coalition of business champions for the SDGs and promoting UN business principles, the UN will also explore community investment initiatives with local and international private sector actors.

Development partners: Development partners, including the international financial institutions (IFIs), are extensively engaged in supporting the ongoing reforms and the UN will scale up associated partnerships with IFIs in support to the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda¹⁵. In addition to the UN's ongoing development partner mapping and sectoral coordination efforts, the UNCT will systematically extend the UN-supported Thematic and Results Groups to include experts from the wider development ecosystem. This will ensure that the UN's engagement is firmly anchored in a deeper understanding both of possible gaps and duplications, plus opportunities for greater synergies. The UN will also continue its practice of sharing key messages, assessments, lesson learned with interested development partners on topics and themes of mutual interest (for example on human rights, civil society, rule of law, climate action), to reinforce advocacy impact and ensure coherence. These will be especially important given the impact of COVID-19 on the 2030 Agenda and the need for an all of society, and by extension all of development partner, approach.

Regional and sub-regional partnerships: Implementation of the Cooperation Framework will benefit from the regional UN Sustainable

Development Group including the issue-based coalitions, and the technical expertise of sub-regional UN offices in Central Asia (IOM, UNHCR, UNODC, UNDRR, UNFPA, OHCHR). The Cooperation Framework will also benefit from the co-location of the UN regional development coordination office in Turkey with the regional offices for Europe and Central Asia of FAO, UNDP, UNFPA, UNV, UN Women. The UN Regional Center for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia (UNRCCA), as a special political mission, will support the UN development system in generating political will and trust among different interlocutors to support a coherent and coordinated approach on promoting peace and prosperity in the region. The proposed establishment of the Europe and Central Asia Regional Knowledge Management Hub will create an online ecosystem for emerging issues in the region but also for a coherent distribution of information on UN Development System knowledge systems¹⁶.

14 All private partner partnerships will be subject to UN due diligence and vetting procedures.

15 https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/2051AAAA_Outcome.pdf

16 http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/RCM_Website/Item_2_Regional_UNDS_reform_implementation_plan_Europe_Central_Asia_6_November_2019_as_sent.pdf

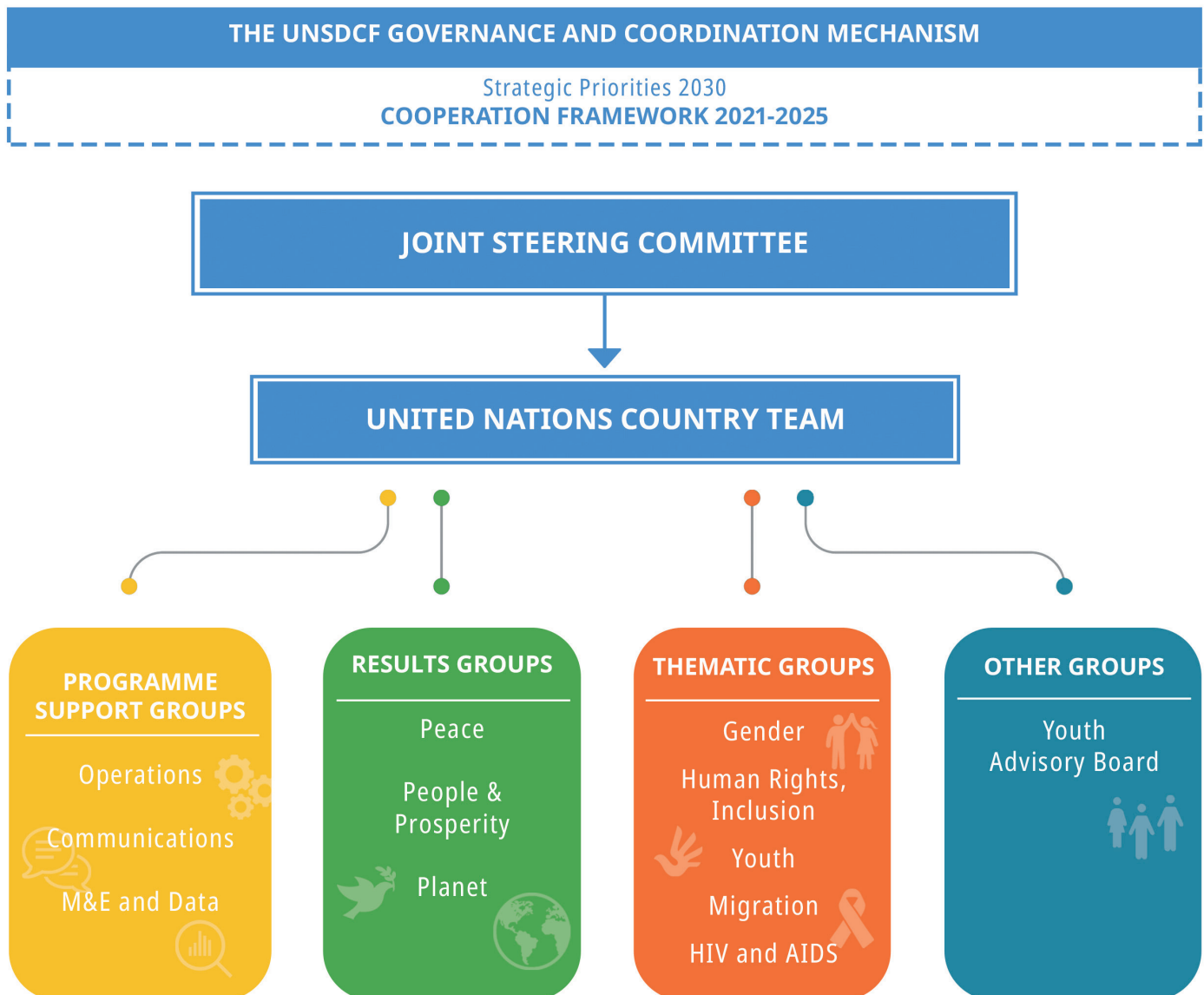
3.2. GOVERNANCE

Governance mechanisms for the implementation of the Cooperation Framework are in line with the UN Management Accountability Framework and UN Guiding principle on Accountability, as well as applicable Delivering as One standard operating procedures. To support national ownership, and in line with the reconfigured UNCT capacities, the following governance structures are established to operationalize the Cooperation Framework and ensure that support from the UN System delivered in a coherent way:

JOINT STEERING COMMITTEE (JSC):

The JSC ensures strategic direction and oversight of the Cooperation Framework, including: alignment with national, regional and international development processes, mechanisms and goals; monitoring of progress, challenges and opportunities, and steers the direction of implementation; reviews the One UN Country Results Report; supports resource mobilization and development financing opportunities; and, ensures and links with other processes such as the Voluntary National Reviews. The JSC is

co-chaired by the Minister of Economic Development and Poverty Reduction on behalf of the Government of Uzbekistan and the United Nations Resident Coordinator on behalf of the UN Country Team. The JSC's membership includes the UN Country Team and key national partners as agreed between the UN system and Government. A JSC review takes place at least once a year to consider the One Country Results Report, to review the updated CCA and assess implementation of the JWPs, and makes formal decision on amendments and/or revision.



UN COUNTRY TEAM (UNCT):

The UNCT consists of all UN entities delivering results under the Cooperation Framework. It is the main interagency mechanism in country for inter-agency coordination and decision-making. UNCT members actively support the Resident Coordinator within the context of the UN Cooperation Framework results framework, including in policy and technical support, and normative standards and human rights (including advocacy), as appropriate and within available means to achieve agreed UNCT results, and in analysis, planning, tracking and reporting processes, information management, communication and advocacy in the context of UN Cooperation Framework implementation and in support of the 2030 Agenda. UNCT members have two interrelated sets of accountabilities: firstly, to their respective entities on individual mandates; and, secondly, to the RC for results as defined in the UN Cooperation Framework and other inter-agency agreements of the UNCT.

UN RESULTS GROUPS (RGs):

RGs will provisionally be established for the three strategic priority areas of the Cooperation Framework and comprise all UN entities, and in line with the UNSDG Common Minimum Standards for Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships will incorporate stakeholders from government, civil society, youth, academia, and other international development partners. Results Groups are co-chaired at Heads of Agency level and by a relevant national counterpart from government¹⁷. Their prime responsibility is to develop UN joint work plans to operationalize the Cooperation Framework, identify opportunities for closer inter-agency

collaboration (e.g. through joint programmes), collectively monitor and report on progress towards joint outputs, and provide periodic inputs to update the UN CCA. In addition, results groups will ensure a coordinated approach to capacity assessments of relevant stakeholders. Results Groups may be complemented by UN-led sectoral working groups and task forces, as well as issue-based coalitions.

THEMATIC GROUPS:

Five thematic groups will be charged with mainstreaming the Cooperation Framework's Guiding Principles across the work of the Results Groups and integrating them into all stages of implementation: Gender Theme Group (GTG), Human Rights & Inclusion/ Disability Task Force (HRITF), Youth Task Force (YTF), the UN Migration Network and the Joint Task Force on AIDS. As mentioned above, ad-hoc thematic groups, issue-based coalitions, or task forces may be established during the implementation of the Cooperation Framework. This will be especially important in ensuring that the COVID-19 socio-economic response and recovery work is progressively merged into the Cooperation Framework through relevant task forces with broad partnerships (including the IFIs).

PROGRAMME SUPPORT GROUPS:

1. The Monitoring, Evaluation and Data Group (MEDG), made up of agency M&E experts, will support the UN Results Groups to ensure sound results-based management for the Cooperation Framework and to ensure coherence across UN support to enhancing data and statistics. The MEDG is responsible for preparing and executing the overall Coordination

Framework M&E plans, undertaking joint monitoring activities, updating progress on joint work plans through the UN INFO, preparing country results reports and ensuring a robust process for final evaluations.

2. The United Nations Joint Communications Group (UNCG)

will lead the design of joint UN campaigns on UNCT-agreed advocacy priorities, including Agenda 2030, the Decade of Action, Climate Action and Gender Equality. The UNCG also ensures coherence of messaging on the national SDGs, develops youth engagement campaigns (including through Model United Nations) and supports campaigns on joint UN observances.

3. The Operations Management Team (OMT)

is charged with developing, implementing and reporting on the Business Operations Strategy to ensure and improve efficacy of the UN system's operations and related priorities. This includes monitoring gender parity across the UNCT Entities as well as monitoring disability inclusion from a human resources perspective.

OTHER GROUPS:

With a view to aligning the Cooperation Framework with the global UN Youth Strategy, the UNCT **Youth Advisory Board (YAB)** will provide a channel for input and feedback from young people on UN work and advise on integration of youth voices and issues in the UN's strategies and programmes in Uzbekistan.

¹⁷ Additional results groups may be added depending on the workload of the provisional three results groups and at the discretion of the RC and UNCT.

The above 'Groups' are accountable to the RC/UNCT to deliver on responsibilities as set out in their Terms of Reference, and to report on progress in executing their annual plans. These groups will actively engage regionally based United Nations entities to ensure they can participate in and contribute actively to the coordination and delivery of the Cooperation Framework results.

3.3 JOINT WORKPLANS

The signed Cooperation Framework is implemented through the country programme instruments of the UN development system entities, which are derived from the Cooperation Framework. They come together in Joint Work Plans which reflect the Cooperation Framework outputs. UN Results Groups will prepare the Joint Work Plans (JWPs) to reflect Cooperation Framework outputs, all related key UN development contributions delivered jointly or by individual entities, with a view to maximizing synergies and avoiding duplication, and resources that are required and available as well as funding gaps. The JWPs will be developed on a multi-year basis reflecting the planned programmatic interventions and resource contributions of each UN entity. JWPs should reduce fragmentation, avoid duplication, and ensure coherence of the UN system, and provide measurable outputs for which UN entities will be accountable and responsible. Where Results Groups are aligned with national mechanisms, relevant government ministries may sign on to the joint work plan. The JWPs will be aligned with national SDG development programmes, strategies and plans,

while upholding international norms, including the UN System Wide Action Plan on Gender Equality, the UN Disability Strategy, the UN Youth 2030 Strategy, and other social and environmental standards. Finally, the JWP will serve as an important joint resource mobilization framework the Cooperation Framework.

The JWPs will undergo an annual review to examine progress and inform the UN Country Team on amendments to outputs and activities required to remain relevant and responsive to emerging needs while maintaining accountability to partners. While Cooperation Framework outcomes are expected to remain stable for the duration of the cycle, outputs and activities are indicative and may need correction to remain relevant, while maintaining accountability to partners. The annual review will therefore also enable the UN System to reflect on its capacity to deliver the Cooperation Framework outputs and review the UN Country Team configuration accordingly. Finally, JWPs will be recorded and digitalized in the global UN INFO online platform for online planning, monitoring and reporting. UN INFO will ensure enhanced transparency and financial and programmatic accountability for results, to national stakeholders, donors, and development partners.

3.4. OPERATIONAL FRAMEWORK

The UN system will support cooperating partners, including non-governmental organizations and civil society groups¹⁸, through technical knowledge transfers, financial assistance¹⁹, supplies, commodities and equipment, procurement services, transport, funds

for advocacy, research and studies, consultancies, programme development, monitoring and evaluation, training activities, access to information systems, and staff support. Subject to annual reviews, the UN system agencies' funds will be distributed by calendar year, and by mutual consent between the Government and the UN development system entities funds not earmarked by donors to UN development system agencies for specific activities may be re-allocated to other programmes. The Government will support the UN to raise funds for the Cooperation Framework and will cooperate with the UN system by: cost-sharing UN projects and programmes where possible; encourage donor governments to finance the cooperation framework; support to the UN to raise funds from other sources, including the private sector; permit tax exempt contributions from individuals, corporations and foundations in Uzbekistan as per national laws.

18 Cash transfer to government and non-governmental Implementation Partners (IPs) is governed by the Harmonized Cash Transfers (HACT) framework (see annex).

19 Cash assistance for travel, stipends, honoraria and other costs shall be set at rates commensurate with those applied in the country, but not higher than those applicable to the United Nations system (as stated in the ICSC circulars).



CHAPTER 4: MONITORING AND EVALUATION PLAN

4.1. MONITORING PLAN

The national SDG indicator framework, aligned with the global SDG indicators, is the basis for establishing the Cooperation Framework outcome and output indicators. The indicators at Tier I for which metadata and data are available and at Tier II for which metadata are available but not collected will be used to establish key performance indicators, baselines, and targets²⁰. Given that the outcome indicators are drawn from the national SDG indicator framework, the outcome performance monitoring will be conducted in close coordination with the inter-agency working group on national SDG indicators set up by government under the Roadmap on the national SDG implementation.

Data collection instruments and sources expected to be used for measuring progress at outcome level will include UN Common Country Analysis, government-commissioned data generation activities (including census, surveys, the SDG Voluntary National Reviews), national reports to Human Rights mechanisms (Treaty Bodies, UPR, updates on follow up to the recommendations of the Special Procedures that visited the country), recommendations and concluding observations of the UN Treaty Bodies, UPR Working Group reports and reports of the UN Special Procedures, and other assessments done by UN agencies and partners.

Monitoring of the Cooperation Framework will take place throughout the entire implementation phase and serve as an action-learning process to ensure continuous testing, learning, and adaptation. To this end, the MEDG, in coordination with the RGs, will

actively track progress towards planned results, monitor changes, and identify emerging opportunities and risks. Refinements and adjustments will then be made based on learning done through the implementation phase.

Key mechanisms for monitoring of the Cooperation Framework will include:

- Cooperation Framework Annual review and reporting.
- UN entity monitoring and evaluation activities.
- UN entities' joint monitoring of joint programmes and projects.
- Quarterly meetings of the UN Results Groups, with engagement of the MEDG.

4.1.1. RISKS AND OPPORTUNITIES

As Uzbekistan continues to go through its widespread and positive transformation there are many opportunities which can serve as a catalyst for achieving the SDGs, including: expansion of civic space and greater freedom of speech, which allows citizens a greater role in decision making and potential to access meaningful recourse/grievance mechanisms; increased substantive engagement of labour rights, gender equality, and human rights issues, which allows the UNCT to constructively advocate for the adoption of international human rights and labour rights standards; improved relations with neighbouring countries, which creates the possibility for increased cooperation to tackle common challenges and leverage opportunities; a demographic window with a large population of youth, which can help make the country wealthy before it gets old; diversification and opening of the

economy, which can increase economic growth, create jobs, and reduce the country's reliance on commodity exports; increased access to borrowing opportunities from international financial institutions for the ongoing reforms, which can finance many of the reforms in line with national SDGs.

Nevertheless, a range of internal and external risks may impede the country's trajectory towards achieving the SDGs, including: weak policy coherence and weak integration of the SDG agenda which could render reforms ineffective, unequal, and leave the most vulnerable behind; fast-paced and complex reforms that could be derailed if they lack citizen engagement and popular support; limited administrative capacity, frequent reorganisations of ministries and departments, high staff turnover, and weak internal coordination; corruption and internal resistance where those who benefited under the existing systems stand to lose under the new reforms; reversal or stagnation of progress on human rights which disempowers rights holders to hold duty bearers accountable; lack of financial flows, exacerbated by low trust in the banking sector, stock market, and the national currency, impacting the ability of the Government to finance the national SDGs; prevailing cultural norms, patriarchy, stereotypes and prejudices which limit the full participation of large parts of society, including women and the most vulnerable, in socio-economic life; inadequate statistical capacity which will limit the analysis of progress on SDGs and allow for efficient use of limited resources; natural and

man-made disasters exacerbated by climate change and environmental degradation; public health crises, including pandemics, which impact human capital and have widespread socio-economic consequences.

Fundamental to achieve the outcomes of this Cooperation Framework, and by extension the national SDGs, the UN will continue to leverage the opportunities (both current and new) while mitigating the internal and external risks. This will be done via continuing analysis of the socio-economic and political situation, through the yearly CCA update and the regular meetings of the coordination mechanisms, to ensure that interventions are adapted based on the changing context in the country. Additionally, all UN programmes will have in-built risk-informed strategies in project planning, implementation, and monitoring based on thematic, geographical, or other specific risks. Finally, the UN will ensure that its interventions are in line with the “do-no harm” principle, are conflict-sensitive, and promote stability.

4.1.2 COOPERATION FRAMEWORK REVIEW AND REPORTING

A yearly UN Country Results Report will be submitted to the JSC. The report will focus on the progress in achieving the Cooperation Framework’s priorities, outcomes, and outputs, through collection and analysis of data by the MEDG and UN RGs. Furthermore, it will examine new opportunities or changes in the external context that might require expansion or contraction of the UN’s priorities/programmes. It will also assess the overall implementation quality, operational delivery, resource

mobilization performance, and partnerships that are critical in delivering on the Cooperation Framework.

An annual review meeting will take place by the Joint Steering Committee where the UN Resident Coordinator, on behalf of the UN Country Team, will present the Country Results Report to Government and stakeholders. The annual review meeting can be extended to invite representatives of development partners, civil society, and youth to ensure the widest possible engagement the joint UN and Government cooperation for development. During the review, the JSC co-chairs will determine if formal revisions of the Cooperation Framework are required and recommend changes to be made.

The Common Country Analysis will be updated yearly to feed into the annual review. To this end, the UN Data and Analysis Repository established will provide data and source material for more frequent analytical products. It will combine various UN and open-source analytical resources that will be regularly updated and made available online. The repository will also be used to update the CCA annually. The UNCT Data and Analysis Repository will also include SDG data.

4.2. EVALUATION PLAN

An independent evaluation, which contributes to system-wide oversight, transparency, accountability, and collective learning, should be completed in the penultimate year of the Cooperation Framework. The evaluation will adhere to the United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG) Norms and Standards and aim to reflect

the evaluation indicators in the Funding Compact, the UN-SWAP and the United Nation Disability Inclusion Strategy. Linkages should be made with individual and joint UN agency-level evaluations as well as National Voluntary Reviews of SDGs to maximize complementarities. Moreover, using the UN CCA as a benchmark, the evaluation should also assess whether expected results were achieved, if other unintended results are observed, and whether the Cooperation Framework made a worthwhile, coherent, durable, and cost-efficient contribution to national development priorities.

The evaluation will be conducted in an inclusive manner and promote national ownership through meaningful engagement of national partners (including the Government, civil society, youth) and other development partners (including IFIs). Based on the findings and recommendations, an evaluation management response and action plan will be prepared by the UN Country Team. The final evaluation will be publicly disclosed and inform the visioning exercise, theories of change, and the strategic prioritization of subsequent Cooperation Frameworks.

4.3. RESULTS FRAMEWORK

Vision (impact): By 2030 significant progress towards 'more just, equal and resilient society' is made and the national SDGs are achieved in Uzbekistan

National development priorities:

Action Strategy 2017-2021:

- Improving state and social construction, aimed at further strengthening the role of parliament and political parties in deepening democratic reforms and modernizing the country, reforming the public administration system, developing the organizational and legal foundations of public service, improving the e-government system, improving the quality and efficiency of public services, practical implementation of public control mechanisms, strengthening the role of civil society institutions and mass media
- Ensuring the rule of law and further reforming the judicial system aimed at strengthening the true independence of the judiciary and guarantees reliable protection of the rights and freedoms of citizens, improving administrative, criminal, civil and economic legislation, increasing the effectiveness of the system of combating crime and preventing crime, the full implementation of the principle of competition in litigation, improving the system of providing legal assistance and legal services;

Address of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan to the Parliament of Uzbekistan (2019): full independence of the court; prevention of and fighting corruption; strengthening the role and accountability of local executive and representative authorities in public administration; engagement of civil society in decision making and expanding social partnership

Concept of Administrative Reforms (2017): Improving the institutional and legal framework of executive bodies; functional review, setting up mechanisms for their implementation and areas of responsibility of executive authorities, improvement of coordination and interaction processes; improving the mechanisms of the vertical management system and the interaction of executive authorities; introduction of modern forms of strategic planning, innovative ideas, developments and technologies into the public administration system; formation of an effective system of professional civil service, the introduction of effective anti-corruption mechanisms in the system of executive bodies.

Presidential Decree on Anti-corruption Measures (2019): Raising legal awareness and legal culture of the population, creating intolerant attitudes towards corruption in society; implementation of measures to prevent corruption in all spheres of life of the state and society; timely detection, suppression of corruption offenses, elimination of their consequences, causes and conditions conducive to them, ensuring the principle of the inevitability of responsibility for committing corruption offenses

Presidential Resolution on "Additional measures to secure the rule of the Constitution and law, strengthening public control in this area, and increasing legal culture in the society" (13 December 2019): securing the rule of the Constitution and law, compliance of government authorities' decisions and actions with the laws, effective implementation of the laws; improving legal awareness and the legal culture in the society, strengthening mechanisms of public control, supporting independent and unbiased mass media, developing further the civil society institutes; improving further the system of justice, raising the prestige and securing the authentic independence of judges; strengthening the principles of transparency and publicity in state and public administration; further strengthening as the highest human value life, freedom, honour, dignity and other essential rights.

Draft Gender Strategy: Ensuring equal rights and opportunities for women and men to participate in public and political life; ensuring gender equality and freedom from violence for all women and girls; prevention of human trafficking; ensuring widespread media coverage of gender issues and the development of gender-sensitive public perceptions; ensuring the development of national gender statistics, gender-responsive planning and budgeting.

Related National SDG Targets: SDG 1 No Poverty (1a; 1b), SDG 5 Gender Equality (5.5; 5a; 5b; 5c), SDG 10 Reduced inequalities (10.2 and 10.3), SDG 16 Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions (16.3; 16.5; 16.6; 16.7; 16.10), SDG 17 Partnership (17.1; 17.4; 17.6; 17.8; 17.9)

Strategic Priority 1: Effective governance and justice for all							
Results	Performance Indicators (disaggregated)	Baseline (year)	Target (2025)	Source/ MoV	Assumption Statements	Partners	
<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 violence</p>	Rating of the Republic of Uzbekistan in the Order and Security Index "World Justice Project" (NSDG 16.1.4.2)	94 out of 126 (2019)	TBD	World Justice Project	Judicial and legal reforms remain a priority of the reform agenda, and aim at implementation of recommendations of UN human rights mechanisms; Government remains strongly committed to implementing National Anti-Corruption Programmes and the Law on Anti-corruption, recommendations of OECD/ACN monitoring missions as well as UNCAC requirements, and other instruments preventing corruption;	<p>Main National Partners: Chambers (2) of Oliy Majlis Presidential Administration, Cabinet of Ministers, General Prosecutor Office, Supreme Court, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Interior, Ministry for support of Mahalla and Family, Ministry of Employment and Labour relations, Ministry of ICT, Ministry of Innovation Development Agency for development of civil service under the President of Uzbekistan Academy of Public Administration, Agency for Public Services Youth Union, Yuksalish Movement, Khokimiyats</p> <p>State Statistics Committee, Local Councils of People's Deputies, Khokimiyats</p> <p>National Human Rights Center Parliamentary Human Rights Commissioner / Ombudsperson, Civil society activists/ CSOs, media, Trade unions and employers' organizations Women's organisations</p> <p>International: World Bank Asian Development Bank, European Union, USAID, Inter-Parliamentary Union</p> <p>Participating UN Entities: ILO, OHCHR, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNODC, UNOPS, UN Habitat, UN Women and WHO</p>	
	Rating of Uzbekistan on the corruption perception index Transparency International (NSDG 16.5.1.3)	153 out of 180 (2019)	TBD	Transparency International			
	Proportions of certain categories of citizens (women, persons older than working age, youth) in public institutions (NSDG 16.7.1)	Women: 59,5% persons older than working age: 2.5% youth (under 30): 29.4	TBD	TBD	Goskomstat		
	Proportion of seats held by women: a) in the Chambers of the Oliy Majlis (%); b) in the Kengash (Council of People's Deputies) of regions, cities and districts (NSDG 5.5.1)	a) 16.0% (2018.) b) 32.0% (2018)	TBD	TBD	Ministry on Makhalla and Family Support		Political commitment to expand on-going reforms for human rights, gender equality and labour rights protection is made, inter alia focusing on the ratification of the pending international conventions, and enhancing normative frameworks to create conducive environment for civil society, media, academia and other independent bodies, including the Ombudsperson
	Proportion of women in managerial positions (NSDG 5.5.2)	In managerial positions – 27% (2018)	TBD	TBD	Goskomstat		
Proportion of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to physical, sexual or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by form of violence and by age (NSDG 5.2.1)	the indicator will be added to the list of National SDG indicators	TBD	TBD	Ministry on Makhalla and Family Support Ministry of Interior (according to Presidential Resolution #4235 of 7 Mar 2019)			
Proportion of women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to sexual violence by persons other than an intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by age and place of occurrence (NSDG 5.2.2)	TBD	TBD	TBD	Ministry of Interior (according to Presidential Resolution #4235 of 7 Mar 2019)			

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
Output 1.2. Capacities of the Legislature and other constitutional bodies, human rights institutions, and justice and law enforcement actors are strengthened to implement improved people-oriented and gender-sensitive legislation, policy and practice in line with international human rights and labour rights standards
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 1.4. Population groups at risk ²¹ of being left behind are empowered to effectively participate in decision making processes at all levels

Results	Performance Indicators (disaggregated)	Baseline (year)	Target (2025)	Source/ MoV	Assumption Statements	Partners
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	Primary government expenditures as a proportion of original approved budget, by sector (or by budget codes or similar) (NSDG 16.6.1)	128.3% in 2018	TBD	Ministry of Finance	Government takes a more coherent and systematic approach to integrating the national SDG framework into the ongoing and new national and local programmes and strategies and sectorial plans;	Main national partners: Parliament, Presidential Administration, Cabinet of Ministers, GPO, Ministry of Economic Development and Poverty Reduction, State Committee on Statistics, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of ICT, Capital Market Development Agency, National Agency for Project Management, Goscomcadatr, State Committee for Tourism Development, Academy of Public Administration, Agency for Public Services, Youth Union, Yuksalish Movement, Khokimiyats CSOs and media International: World Bank, ADB, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) UNSDSN Participating UN Entities: UNCTAD, UNDP, UNESCAP, UNFPA, UN Habitat, UNICEF, UNODC, UN Women, WHO
	Availability of methodology and mechanism for tracking of government programs on gender equality and empowerment of women and promulgation of this data [NSDG 5.c.1]	TBD	TBD	Ministry of Finance Ministry on Makhalla and Family Support	Public spending is made more efficient, transparent, accountable, results-oriented, and with strong internal and external control mechanisms, and sufficient public oversight;	
	Proportion of resources allocated by the Government directly to poverty reduction programmes (NSDG 1.a.1)	TBD	TBD	Ministry of Finance	Government invests in strengthening its national statistics system (NSS) to generate relevant, accurate, and disaggregated data and use them to inform policy-making.	
	Existence of national statistical legislation consistent with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics (NSDG 17.18. 2)	No	Yes	Goskomstat		
The country (a) has conducted at least one population and housing census in the last 10 years; and (b) has achieved 100 per cent birth registration and 80 per cent death registration (NSDG 17.19.2)		a) No b) No	a) Yes b) Yes	Goskomstat		
	Statistical Capacity Indicators	54.4/100 (2018)	TBD	World Bank		

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
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
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 and gender-sensitive policies and strategies on poverty reduction

21 These groups include youth, PWDs, women and victims of violence.

National development priorities

Action Strategy 2017-2021: Development of the social sphere, aimed at a consistent increase in employment and real incomes of the population, improvement of the system of social protection and protection of the health of citizens, increase in the socio-political activity of women, the implementation of targeted programmes for the construction of affordable housing, the development and modernization of road transport, communications and social infrastructures, the development of education, culture, science, literature, art and sports, the improvement of state youth policy;

Address of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan to the Parliament of Uzbekistan (2019): ensuring high economic growth, improving fiscal policy, developing industries, energy, transport, agriculture, housing and communal services; improving the well-being of people and strengthening their social protection; implementing entrepreneurial initiatives that contribute to solving local social problems, especially supporting entrepreneurship among youth and women; development of the health care system, improving the quality of medical care; continuing systematic work to support youth and women; further developing the state youth policy through Concept on "Youth of Uzbekistan 2025"

President's Decree #5975 "On measures to radically update state policy in the field of economic development and poverty reduction": introducing a system for implementing an optimal state policy for poverty reduction through effective macroeconomic policies, as well as ensuring stable economic growth and improving the business environment

Presidential Resolution #4235 (2019) "On measures to further strengthen labor rights guarantees and support women's entrepreneurship": strengthen guarantees for the protection of women's labour rights, further support their entrepreneurial initiatives, stimulate work and increase access to justice

Agriculture Development Strategy of Uzbekistan for 2020-2030: development of rural areas; creating a favorable agribusiness environment and added value chains; decreasing state involvement in sector management and enhancement of investment attractiveness; gradual diversification of state expenditures on sector support.

Strategy on Innovation Development of the Republic of Uzbekistan 2019-2021: developing human capital as the main factor determining the level of a country's competitiveness and innovative progress at global level, improving the quality and coverage of education at all levels, developing a continuing education system, ensuring flexibility of the training system, based on the needs of the economy; ensuring protection of property rights, creating competitive markets and equal conditions for doing business, developing public-private partnerships, creating sustainable social and economic infrastructure.

Concept on health development of the Republic of Uzbekistan 2019-2025: Improving the efficiency, quality and accessibility of medical care, supporting a healthy lifestyle and preventing diseases, improving the maternal and child health system, improving the financing of health care by introducing mandatory health insurance schemes, and mobilizing public-private partnerships, to increase life expectancy, reduce and prevent maternal and child mortality, HIV/AIDS infection, morbidity due to non-communicable diseases, disabilities, and improve reproductive health by 2030

Concept of Pre-school Education until 2030: increasing coverage and ensuring equal access for children to quality preschool education, creation of conditions for the comprehensive development of children of preschool age

Concept of Public Education Development until 2030: creation of opportunities for obtaining high-quality knowledge in accordance with international best practices and the modern requirements of society, innovative development of the economy in the comprehensive education system; development of human capital as the main factor determining the level of student competitiveness in the labour market

Concept of Tertiary Education Development until 2030: increasing coverage by tertiary education by more than 50 per cent through PPP in the regions; transformation of the country's higher education system into a hub for the implementation of international educational programmes in Central Asia;

President's Meeting (21 November 2019) on social protection: improving the efficiency of and access to social protection programmes and services, developing a comprehensive social protection strategy up to 2030, introducing a single registry of social benefit recipients, reforming social insurance and pension systems

Draft Concept of social and economic development until 2030: ensuring macroeconomic stability and sustainability of economic growth; increasing the competitiveness and investment and export potential of various industries; creating an enabling environment for the development and protection of entrepreneurship; reducing tension in the labour market; growing population income and downsizing low-income population groups

Draft Gender Strategy: Ensuring gender equality in the economy, employment and protection of the rights of labour migrants; ensuring equitable quality education for all throughout life, including increasing access to higher education for girls, especially from rural areas and vulnerable groups; providing social protection, a healthy lifestyle for all women and men, including from vulnerable groups.

Related National SDG Targets: SDG 1 No Poverty (1.1; 1.2; 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 1a, 1b); SDG 2 Food Security and Nutrition (2.1; 2.2.), SDG 3 Health and Well-being (3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 3.6, 3.7, 3.8, 3c, 3d), SDG 4 Quality Education (4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4, 4.5, 4.7, 4a, 4c), SDG 5 Gender Equality (5.1, 5.2, 5.4, 5.5, 5.6, 5a, 5b, 5c); SDG 8 Decent Work and Economic Growth (8.3, 8.5, 8.6, 8.7, 8.8, 8.9, 8b); SDG 9 Resilient infrastructure, industrialization, innovations (9.1, 9.3), SDG 10 Reduced Inequalities (10.1, 10.2, 10.3, 10.4, 10.7), SDG 11 Sustainable Cities (11.1, 11.2, 11.3, 11.4, 11.5), SDG 16 Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions (16.2)

Strategic Priority 2 Inclusive human capital development leading to health, well-being and resilient prosperity

Results	Performance Indicators (disaggregated)	Baseline (year)	Target (2025)	Source/ MoV	Assumption Statements	Partners
<p>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.</p>	Proportion of youth (aged 16–24 years) not in training or employment (disaggregated by sex) (NSDG 8.6.1)	21.80% (2018)	TBD	Goskomstat	<p>Government continues economic liberalization and structural reform policies along with sound and adequate COVID-19-related anti-crisis measures, paying due attention to the generation of decent jobs in rural and urban areas; continues to focus on improving the business environment and competition and promoting more vibrant SME sector, entrepreneurship, and private investments; and targets youth and women's wellbeing and expands the economic opportunities of vulnerable groups to ensure that they benefit from the reforms.</p>	<p>Main National Partners: Ministry of Economic Development and Poverty Reduction, Ministry of Investments and Foreign Trade, Ministry of Employment and Labour Relations, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry for support to Mahalla and Family, State Committee on Statistics, Ministry of ICT, Ministry of Innovation Development; Chamber of Industry and Commerce, Employers and Workers' organizations (CCIU/CoE and Federation of Trade Unions of Uzbekistan), Youth Union Local governments; CSOs and women's organisations International development partners: World Bank, ADB, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) European Union, International Youth Parliament, Global Fund for Women, International Organization of Employers Participating UN Entities: FAO, IFAD, ILO, IOM, ITC, ITU, UNDP, UNECE, UNIDO, UNEP UNESCAP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UN-Habitat, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNOPS, WHO</p>
	Unemployment rate by sex (NSDG 8.5.2) (including by age and persons with disabilities)	Total – 9% (2019) Female – 12.8% Male – 6.1%	Total – 7.5% (by 2025) Female – 10% Male – 5.5%	Goskomstat		
	Proportion of informal employment in non-agricultural sectors, disaggregated by sex (NSDG 8.3.1) (including by age and persons with disabilities)	Total – 38.4% (2019) Female – 21.5% Male – 47.5%	Total – 30% (by 2025) Female – 19% Male – 32%	Ministry of Employment and Labour Relations		
	Poverty level (by regions and geographical location (urban/rural) (NSDG 1.2.1)	Total – 11.4% (2018) Urban – 8.4 % Rural – 14.3 %	TBD	Goskomstat Ministry of Agriculture		
	Increase in number of enterprises managed by females in rural areas (from Agriculture Development Strategy for 2020-2030, Indicator Framework (Annex 2), Rural development, indicator 8.3)	5,648 (2018)	By 20%	Ministry of Agriculture		
	Increase in youth-led enterprises in rural areas (from Agriculture Development Strategy for 2020-2030, Indicator Framework (Annex 2), Rural development, indicator 8.4)	11,543 (2018)	By 20%	Ministry of Agriculture		
	Percentage difference between average monthly earnings of female and male employees to the average monthly earnings of male employees (NSDG 8.5.1)	38.6% (2018)	TBD	Goskomstat		

	Growth rates of household expenditures and income per capita among the bottom 40 per cent of the population and the total population (NSDG 10.1.1)	Income growth among the bottom 40% - 118.5% Among the total population - 127.1% (2018)		Goskomstat	
	Suicide mortality rate, disaggregated by sex and age (NSDG 3.4.2)	Total – 6.9% (2018) Disaggregation	TBD	Goskomstat	
	Proportion of extreme poverty based on the international poverty line (NSDG 1.1.1) (Tier II)	Not available	TBD	Goskomstat Ministry of Economic Development and Poverty Reduction	
	Proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to the national definitions (NSDG 1.2.2) (Tier II)	Not available	TBD	Goskomstat Ministry of Economic Development and Poverty Reduction	
	Proportion of population living in well-maintained housing (NSDG 1.4.1)	Total 57.1% (2018)	TBD	Goskomstat	
	Death rate due to road traffic accidents per 100 thousands (NSDG 3.6.1)	3.6	TBD	Ministry of Interiors, Goskomstat	
<p>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 and reduced regional inequalities</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 3.3. By 2025, enabling conditions are promoted to ensure equal and inclusive access to sustainable livelihoods²² 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</p>					

22

Sustainable Livelihoods (SL): can be defined as the capabilities, assets (including both material and social resources) and activities required for a means of living. These capabilities and assets can be divided into five types of capital.

- Human capital: Characterized among other things by good health, diet, education and knowledge.
- Social capital: Networks and connections between individuals with shared interests, forms of social participation, and relationships based on trust and reciprocity.
- Natural capital: The natural resources which benefit livelihood.
- Physical capital: The infrastructure and equipment that meet the basic, productive needs of the population.
- Financial capital: The financial resources that populations use to achieve their livelihood aims.

<p>Outcome 4. By 2025, the most vulnerable benefit from enhanced access to gender-sensitive quality health, education and social services.</p>	<p>Proportion of public spending on education, health and social protection in total government spending (NSDG 1.a.2)</p> <p>Share of the population receiving social benefits in the total population (benefits for persons with disabilities under 16 years of age, on the occasion of the loss of the family breadwinner) (NSDG 1.3.1.2)</p>	<p>In total: 41.7% (2018)</p> <p>On education - 15.4%</p> <p>On health - 15.4%</p> <p>On social protection - TBD</p> <p>Total - 1%</p> <p>On Disability under 16 - 0.3% (2018)</p>	<p>On education - 15.4%</p> <p>On health - 15.4%</p> <p>On social protection - TBD</p>	<p>Ministry of Finance</p> <p>Extra-budgetary Pension Fund Goskomstat</p>	<p>Government ensures that health remains a cross-sectorial priority reform based on people-centered and human rights-based approaches, backed by adequate state resources; the education system is prioritized with adequate resources dedicated to implementing educational strategies, and existing and/or new partnerships are nurtured to support education modernization and development; and commitments to bring the social protection system in line with international standards and best practice, coupled with sufficient financial and human resources, are maintained.</p>	<p>Main national partners:</p> <p>Parliament, Office of Ombudsman, General Prosecutor Office, Cabinet of Ministers, Ministry of Economic Development & Poverty Reduction, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Employment and Labour Relations, Ministry of Health, Ministries of Pre-school, Public and Higher and Secondary Education, Ministry for support to Mahalla and Family, Ministry of sport, Ministry of transport, State Committee on Statistics, Chamber of Industry and Commerce, Employers and Workers' organizations (CCIU/CoE and Federation of Trade Unions of Uzbekistan) and Professional associations Local governments, WIUT and NAPM, National chamber for innovative health care, Youth Union, Universities: NUU and SSU CSOs and women's organisations</p> <p>International: MSF, USAID, US CDC, Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, Global Fund for Children</p> <p>Participating UN Entities:</p> <p>IOM, ILO, ITC, ITU, UNCHR, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF, UN-Habitat, UNODC, UNOPS, UN Women, WHO</p>
<p>Incidence of anaemia (per 100,000): a) all population b) children under 5 years of age; c) pregnant women (NSDG 2.1.2)</p>	<p>a) all population - 5,439 (2020)</p> <p>b) children under 5 years of age - 11099.4</p> <p>c) pregnant women - 2761.8 (2018)</p>	<p>a) all population - 4,587.8</p> <p>b) children under 5 years of age -</p> <p>c) pregnant women -</p>	<p>Ministry of Health Goskomstat</p>	<p>Government ensures that health remains a cross-sectorial priority reform based on people-centered and human rights-based approaches, backed by adequate state resources; the education system is prioritized with adequate resources dedicated to implementing educational strategies, and existing and/or new partnerships are nurtured to support education modernization and development; and commitments to bring the social protection system in line with international standards and best practice, coupled with sufficient financial and human resources, are maintained.</p>	<p>Ministry of Health Goskomstat</p>	
<p>Mortality among mothers and children under 5</p> <p>(a) Maternal mortality ratio per 100,000 live births (NSDG 3.1.1)</p> <p>(b) Under-5 mortality rate (NSDG 3.2.1)</p>	<p>(a) Maternal Mortality Ratio - 17.8 (2020)</p> <p>(b) Under 5 - 13.1% (2018)</p>	<p>(a) Maternal - 15</p> <p>(b) Under 5 - 9.8</p>	<p>Goskomstat</p>	<p>Government ensures that health remains a cross-sectorial priority reform based on people-centered and human rights-based approaches, backed by adequate state resources; the education system is prioritized with adequate resources dedicated to implementing educational strategies, and existing and/or new partnerships are nurtured to support education modernization and development; and commitments to bring the social protection system in line with international standards and best practice, coupled with sufficient financial and human resources, are maintained.</p>	<p>Ministry of Health Goskomstat</p>	
<p>Communicable disease prevalence:</p> <p>(a) Number of new HIV infections per 100,000 uninfected population, by sex and age (NSDG 3.3.1)</p> <p>(b) Tuberculosis incidence per 100,000 population (3.3.2.1)</p>	<p>(a) Number of new HIV infections per 1000 uninfected population - 0.132</p> <p>Male: 0.144</p> <p>Female: 0.120</p> <p>0-17 age: 0.051</p> <p>18+ age: 0.172 (2018)</p> <p>(b) Tuberculosis incidence per 100,000 population - 43</p> <p>Male: 46.4</p> <p>Female: 39.5</p> <p>0-14 age: 21.0</p> <p>15-17 age: 22.4</p> <p>18+ age: 53.9 (2018)</p>	<p>(a) Number of new HIV infections per 1000 uninfected population - 0,1</p> <p>(b) Tuberculosis incidence per 100,000 population - 37</p>	<p>Ministry of Health Goskomstat</p>	<p>Government ensures that health remains a cross-sectorial priority reform based on people-centered and human rights-based approaches, backed by adequate state resources; the education system is prioritized with adequate resources dedicated to implementing educational strategies, and existing and/or new partnerships are nurtured to support education modernization and development; and commitments to bring the social protection system in line with international standards and best practice, coupled with sufficient financial and human resources, are maintained.</p>	<p>Ministry of Health Goskomstat</p>	

	Level of primary incidence of drug dependence per 100,000 population (NSDG 3.5.1).	(2018) (a) drug abuse – 2.6 (b) alcoholism – 19.3 (c) substance abuse – 0.1	(a) drug abuse - (b) alcoholism – (c) substance abuse – TBD	Ministry of Health Goskomstat,		
	Age-standardized mortality rate among the population aged 30-69 years attributed to cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes or chronic respiratory disease (NSDG 3.4.1.)	264,9 (2018)	TBD	Goskomstat,		
	Proportion of women of reproductive age (aged 15–49 years) who have their need for modern contraception fully met (NSDG 3.7.1.)	51% (2018)	55% (2025)	Ministry of Health		
	Coverage of essential health services (defined as the average coverage of essential services based on tracer interventions that include reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health, infectious diseases, non-communicable diseases and service capacity and access, among the general and the most disadvantaged population) (NSDG 3.8.1.1)	TBD	TBD	Ministry of Health		
	Proportion of population with large household expenditures on health as a share of total household expenditure (a) more than 10 per cent and (b) more than 25 per cent (NSDG 3.8.2)	(a) more than 10% - 13.8% (b) more than 25% - 3% (2018)	TBD	Goskomstat		
	Percentage of children covered by vaccines according to the national immunization calendar (diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, measles, rubella, mumps, meningococcal infection, tuberculosis, rotavirus, hepatitis B, poliomyelitis, pneumococcal infection, papilloma virus) (NSDG 3.b.1)	99,8 % (2018)	100%	Ministry of Health		

	Proportion of children from 3 to 6 years of age covered by the pre-school education system (NSDG 4.2.1.2)	32% (2018)	70% (TBC)	Ministry of Pre-school Education, Goskomstat	
	Participation rate in organized learning (one year before the official primary school entry age) by sex (NSDG 4.2.2)	40.6% (2018) 60% (2019)	70% (TBC)	Ministry of Pre-school Education, Goskomstat	
	Parity indices by sex, rural/urban, level of well-being, in the education system (NSDG 4.5.1)	0.93 (2018)	TBD	Goskomstat	
	Proportion of schools with access to (d) adapted infrastructure and materials for students with disabilities (NSDG 4.a.1)	26.5 (2018)		Goskomstat	
<p>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.</p>					
<p>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.</p>					
<p>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 services, and inclusive multi-sector response to vulnerabilities and gender-based violence in line with international standards.</p>					

National development priorities

Uzbekistan ratified the Paris Agreement on climate change on 27 September 2018 through the adoption of the Law “On Paris Agreement Ratification”. Uzbekistan had earlier signed on to the Paris Agreement on 19 April 2017. Uzbekistan’s national commitments under the agreement are as follows:

- ✓ The national mitigation objective is to achieve by 2030 a 10 per cent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions per unit of GDP against the baseline level of 2010.
- ✓ Uzbekistan will also continue its efforts to enhance climate change adaptation capacities to reduce the risk of climate change adverse impacts on various sectors of economy, social sector and the Aral Sea region.

Action Strategy 2017-2021: Mitigate the negative impact of global climate change and the drying up of the Aral Sea on the development of agriculture and the life of the population; prevention of environmental problems that damage the environment, health and the gene pool of the population;

Address of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan to the Parliament of Uzbekistan (2019): increasing attention to environmental issues and improving the environmental situation in the country; continuing large-scale work to mitigate the consequences of the Aral Sea tragedy; improving the environmental control system; preventing the negative impact of industrial development on the environment; ensuring rational and efficient use of water resources; introducing drip irrigation systems and other water-saving technologies in at least 30 per cent of irrigated land; maintaining water balance; increasing electricity generation, of which at least 20 per cent is from renewable energy sources

Strategy on implementation of the Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction: increasing knowledge of disaster risk; improving the institutional framework for disaster risk management; investing in disaster risk reduction activities; increasing disaster preparedness; creating effective and efficient mechanisms for disaster risk reduction, early prevention and prevention of threats to life, health and property of citizens; increasing emergency response capacities, introducing modern methods and tools for managing and interacting with government bodies, civil society and the private sector;

Strategy for the transition of the Republic of Uzbekistan to the green economy for 2019-2030: improvement of energy efficiency in the basic sectors of the economy; diversification of consumption of energy resources and development of renewable energy sources; adaptation and mitigation of impacts of climate change, improvement of the efficiency of use of natural resources and conservation of natural ecosystems; development of financial and non-financial arrangements for support to the green economy;

Agriculture Development Strategy of Uzbekistan for 2020-2030: ensuring the food security of the population; ensuring the rational use of natural resources and environmental protection; development of modern public administration systems; development of science, education, systems of information and advisory services in agriculture; development of a transparent system of industry statistics;

Environment Protection Concept until 2030: ensuring the favourable state of environment as a necessary condition for improving the living standards and health of the population; sustainable economic development through the introduction of innovative technologies to reduce a negative impact on the environment and public health; ensuring the rational use of environmental objects and the reproduction of biological resources; mitigating negative consequences of the Aral tragedy; protection of land and water resources, and air; improvement of waste management; engagement of civil society and the population in addressing environmental issues;

Draft National Gender Strategy: Involving the participation of women and men in ensuring a safe environment for all.

Concept for the development of the water economy of the Republic of Uzbekistan for 2020-2030: creating conditions necessary to meet the constantly growing needs of the population, economic sectors and the environment in water, ensuring reliable and safe operation of water facilities, as well as effective management and rational use of water resources, improvement of the ameliorative state of irrigated lands, the achievement of water security in the context of an increasing shortage of water resources and global climate change.

Related National SDG Target (s): SDG 1 No Poverty (1.5), SDG 2 Food Security, Nutrition and Sustainable Agriculture (2.3, 2.4, 2.5), SDG 5 Gender Equality (5.5), SDG 6 Clean Water and Sanitation (6.1, 6.3, 6.4, 6.5, 6.6), SDG 7 Affordable and clean Energy (7.1, 7.2, 7.3), SDG 8 Decent Work and Economic Growth (8.4),

SDG 9. Resilient infrastructure, industrialization and innovations 9.2, 9.4), Innovation, SDG 11 Sustainable Cities (11.4, 11.5, 11.6), SDG 12 Responsible Consumption and Production (12.4, 12.8, 12b), SDG 13 Climate Action (13.2, 13.3), SDG 15 Life on Land (15.1, 15.2, 15.3, 15.4, 15.5, 15.9, 15a)

Strategic Priority 3 Sustainable, climate-responsible and resilient development						
Results	Performance Indicators (disaggregated)	Baseline (year)	Target (2025)	Source/ MoV	Assumption Statement	Partners
<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>	Number of deaths, missing persons and injured directly as a result of disasters per 100,000 population disaggregated by regions, sex and age (NSDG 1.5.1 and 11.5.1)	2.7% in 2018	TBD	Ministry of Emergency Situations	<p>Government ensures high level political coordination on climate change, and the full cross-sectoral engagement of the economy;</p> <p>Government is open to applying a systems innovation and integration approach and to enhancing the effectiveness of public finance through public participation in budgeting, greater involvement of private sector (through PPP) in provision of basic energy, and utility services;</p> <p>Government works towards targeting vulnerable groups, in particular youth and women, to ensure resilience of communities;</p> <p>Government scales-up the improvement of its national infrastructure in the area of water, gas, energy and roads both in terms of planning and implementation and establish resource-saving and sustainable energy programs;</p> <p>A public oversight mechanism is established to oversee fund management and investment both in the energy sector and for urban planning.</p>	<p>Main National Partners: Ministry of Economic Development and Poverty Reduction, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Water Resources, Ministry of Agriculture, State Committee for Ecology and Environment Protection, State Committee on Land Resources, Geodesy, Cartography and State Cadastre, State Forestry Committee, Ministry of Culture, State Committee on Statistics, Ministry for support to Mahalla and Family: local governments, State Committee on Industrial Safety, UZATOM</p> <p>International: World Bank, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), CAREC, IRENA, GGGI</p> <p>Participating UN Entities: FAO, IFAD, UNDP, UNDRR, UNECE, UNICEF, UNEP, UNESCO, UNESCAP, UNFPA, UN-Habitat, UNICRI, UNIDO, UNOPS, WHO</p>
	Direct economic losses due to disasters as percentage of GDP (NSDG 1.5.2 and 11.5.2)	0.005% (2018)	TBD	Ministry of Emergency Situations		
	Water Pollution Index (NSDG 6.3.2.)	1.54 (2018)	TBD	Hydrometeo service Center under the CoM		
	Proportion of electricity generated from renewable energy sources in total electricity generation (NSDG 7.2.1)	9.4% (2018)	20% (2025)	Goskomstat		
	Share of solar and wind energy in the total volume of electricity production	0.001% (2018)	5% (2025);	Goskomstat		
	Energy intensity measured in terms of primary energy and GDP (NSDG 7.3.1)	0.164 (2018)	0.105 (2025)	Goskomstat		
	Proportion of protected mountain ecosystems in their total area (NSDG 15.4.1)	1.8% (2018)	TBD	State Committee for Ecology and Environment Protection		
	Proportion of population experiencing food shortage (Agriculture Development Strategy 2020-2030, Key Target and Indicator Framework (Annex 1), Target 4) disaggregated by regions, gender and age	6.3% (2018)	3%	Ministry of Agriculture		
	Provision of apartments (houses) with water supply (in% of the total number of apartments (houses)), by region	75.3% (2018)	TBD	Goskomstat http://web.stat.uz/open_data/ru/21.1.%20D_access_to_water_rus.pdf		
	Provision of apartments (houses) with sewerage (as% of the total number of apartments (houses)), by region	35.7% (2018)	TBD	Goskomstat http://web.stat.uz/open_data/ru/21.2.%20D_access_to_sanitation_rus.pdf		

Proportion of agricultural land with water-saving technologies introduced (from Agriculture Development Strategy 2020-2030, Indicator Framework (Annex 2), Ensuring sustainable natural resource management and environmental protection indicator 4.3) disaggregated by regions		1.7% (2018)	20%	Ministry of Agriculture					
Proportion of degraded land (irrigated and not irrigated) in total land area (NSDG 15.3.1)	TBD	TBD	TBD	State Committee for Land Resources, Geodesy, Cartography and State Cadastre, State Committee for Ecology and Environmental Protection					
Proportion of land with high salinity (Agriculture Development Strategy 2020-2030, Indicator Framework (Annex 2), Ensuring sustainable natural resource management and environmental protection indicator 4.4) disaggregated by regions	45% (2018)	41%	Ministry of Agriculture						
Extension of forest cover (Agriculture Development Strategy 2020-2030, Indicator Framework (Annex 2), Ensuring sustainable natural resource management and environmental protection indicator 4.5)	3.2 million ha (2018)	By 25%	Ministry of Agriculture						
Reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture sources (Agriculture Development Strategy for 2020-2030, Key Target and Indicator Framework (Annex 1), Target 6)	15,740 gigagrams (2016)	By 30%	Ministry of Agriculture						
Degree of integrated water resources management implementation (0–100) (NSDG 6.5.1)	Estimate 45.15 (2019)	TBD	Ministry of Water Resources, State Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan for Geology and Mineral Resources, State Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Ecology and Environmental Protection						

<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 5.2. By 2025, national and local capacities are enhanced to 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</p>
<p>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</p>

LEGAL ANNEX

This Legal Annex refers to the cooperation or assistance agreements or other agreements that are the already existing legal basis for the relationship between the **Government of Uzbekistan** and each UN organization supporting the country to deliver on the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (2021-2025).

Whereas the **Government of Uzbekistan** (hereinafter referred to as “the Government”) has entered into the following relationships:

UNDP	With United Nations Development Programme (hereinafter referred to as UNDP) have entered into a basic agreement to govern UNDP’s assistance to the country (Standard Basic Assistance Agreement (SBAA)), which was signed by both parties on 10 June 1993. Based on Article I, paragraph 2 of the SBAA, UNDP’s assistance to the Government shall be made available to the Government and shall be furnished and received in accordance with the relevant and applicable resolutions and decisions of the competent UNDP organs, and subject to the availability of the necessary funds to the UNDP. In particular, decision 2005/1 of 28 January 2005 of UNDP’s Executive Board approved the new Financial Regulations and Rules and along with them the new definitions of ‘execution’ and ‘implementation’ enabling UNDP to fully implement the new Common Country Programming Procedures resulting from the UNDG simplification and harmonization initiative. In light of this decision this UNSDCF together with a work plan (which shall form part of this UNSDCF and is incorporated herein by reference) concluded hereunder constitute together a project document as referred to in the SBAA. The United Nations Volunteers programme (hereinafter referred to as UNV) is administered by UNDP and covered by SBAA.
UNICEF	With the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) a Basic Cooperation Agreement (BCA) concluded on 19 December 1994 between the Government of Uzbekistan and UNICEF.
UNFPA	With the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the Basic Agreement concluded between the Government and the United Nations Development Programme on 10 June 1993 (the “Basic Agreement”) mutatis mutandis applies to the activities and personnel of UNFPA, in accordance with the agreement [concluded by an exchange of letters] between UNFPA and the Government which entered into force on 7 April 2005. This UNSDCF together with any work plan concluded hereunder, which shall form part of this UNSDCF and is incorporated herein by reference, constitutes the Project Document as referred to in the Basic Agreement.”
UNIDO	With the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the provisions of the Standard Basic Assistance Agreement between the United Nations Development Programme and the Government, signed and entered into force on 10 June 1993, shall be applied, mutatis mutandis, to UNIDO projects and programmes in Uzbekistan.
FAO	With the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) the Government entered into an Agreement for the establishment of the FAO Representation in the Republic of Uzbekistan on 5 June 2014.
IFAD	With the International Fund for Agricultural Development, during its thirty-fourth session (19-20 February 2011) the Governing Council approved Uzbekistan as a new member of IFAD (List C). IFAD approved the first Result Based Country Strategic Opportunities 2016-2021 for Uzbekistan during the 2017 April session of the Executive Board.
ILO	With the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies and its Annex I concerning the ILO, to which Uzbekistan is a party since 18 February 1997.
IOM	With the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the Government notified IOM of its acceptance of the IOM Constitution and became a Member State on 15 March 2019
UN Women	The Basic Agreement concluded between the Government and the United Nations Development Programme on 10 June 1993 (the “Basic Agreement”) mutatis mutandis applies to the activities and personnel of UN WOMEN. Assistance to the Government shall be made available and shall be furnished and received in accordance with the relevant and applicable resolutions and decisions of UN Women’s governing structures.
UNAIDS	The provisions of the SBAA signed by UNDP and the government of Uzbekistan on 10 June 1993 (the “Basic Agreement”) mutatis mutandis applies to the activities and personnel of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS).

UNESCO	With the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (this Agreement concerns the establishment of an office in Tashkent) signed in Paris on 23 April 1996.
UNICRI	The United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) and the Government of Uzbekistan signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 18 May 2015 for the establishment and functioning of the Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) Centres of Excellence (CoE) Regional Secretariat for Central Asia in Tashkent, the Republic of Uzbekistan. The MoU was signed within the framework of the EU CBRN CoE initiative.
UNODC	With the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime operates in Uzbekistan based on the Standard Basic Assistance Agreement (SBAA) between the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan and UNDP, that applies mutatis mutandis, to UNODC. Whereas, UNODC has several agreements at regional level, where Uzbekistan is also signatory, i.e. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Sub-regional Drug Control Cooperation of 1996, there are also several bilateral MOUs signed between UNODC the Government Agencies, i.e. General Prosecutor's Office.
WHO	With the World Health Organization (WHO) a Basic Agreement for the establishment of technical advisory cooperation relations concluded between the Government and WHO on 1 December 1994.
For all UN agencies including ITC, ITU, OHCHR, UNCTAD, UNDRR, UNECE, UNEP, UNESCAP, UN-Habitat, UNHCR, UNOPS : assistance to the government shall be made available and shall be furnished and received in accordance with the relevant and applicable resolutions and decisions of the competent UN system agency's governing structures.	

The **COOPERATION FRAMEWORK** will, in respect of each of the United Nations system agencies signing, be read, interpreted, and implemented in accordance with and in a manner, that is consistent with the basic agreement between such United Nations system agency and the Host Government.

The Government will honour its commitments in accordance with the provisions of the cooperation and assistance agreements outlined in paragraph on the Basis of the Relationship.

Without prejudice to these agreements, the Government shall apply the respective provisions of the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations (the "General Convention") or the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies (the "Specialized Agencies Convention") to the Agencies' property, funds, and assets and to their officials and experts on mission. The Government shall also accord to the Agencies and their officials and to other persons performing services on behalf of the Agencies, the privileges, immunities and facilities as set out in the cooperation and assistance agreements between the Agencies and the Government. In addition, it is understood that all United Nations Volunteers shall be assimilated to officials of the Agencies, entitled to the privileges and immunities accorded to such officials under the General Convention or the Specialized Agencies Convention. The Government will be responsible for dealing with any claims, which may be brought by third parties against any of the Agencies and their officials, experts on mission or other persons performing services on their behalf and shall hold them harmless

in respect of any claims and liabilities resulting from operations under the cooperation and assistance agreements, except where it is any claims and liabilities resulting from operations under the cooperation and assistance agreements, except where it is mutually agreed by Government and a particular Agency that such claims and liabilities arise from gross negligence or misconduct of that Agency, or its officials, advisors or persons performing services.

Without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, the Government shall insure or indemnify the Agencies from civil liability under the law of the country in respect of vehicles provided by the Agencies but under the control of or use by the Government.

(a) "Nothing in this Agreement shall imply a waiver by the UN or any of its Agencies or Organizations of any privileges or immunities enjoyed by them or their acceptance of the jurisdiction of the courts of any country over disputes arising of this Agreement".

(b) Nothing in or relating to this document will be deemed a waiver, expressed or implied, of the privileges and immunities of the United Nations and its subsidiary organs, including WFP, whether under the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations of 13th February 1946, the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies of 21st November 1947, as applicable, and no provisions of this document or any Institutional Contract or any Undertaking will be interpreted or applied in a manner, or to an extent, inconsistent with such privileges and immunities.

ANNEX

Harmonized Cash Transfers (HACT)

The HACT framework represents a common operational (harmonized) framework for transferring cash to government and non-governmental Implementation Partners (IPs), irrespective of whether these partnHACTers work with one or multiple United Nation agencies. The objective of the HACT framework is to support a closer alignment of development aid with national priorities and to strengthen national capacities for management and accountability, with the ultimate objective of gradually shifting to national systems. It is understood that 'harmonized' in the context of the HACT framework refers to agencies implementing a common operational framework using the same, consistent, standardized approach and tools to manage financial risks in a coordinated fashion.

The Harmonized Cash Transfer (HACT)-specific mechanisms apply only to those UN system agencies that follow HACT procedures.

All cash transfers to an Implementing Partner are based on the Work Plans (WPs) agreed between the Implementing Partner and the UN system agencies.

Cash transfers for activities detailed in work plans (WPs²³) can be made by the UN system agencies using the following modalities:

1. Cash transferred directly to the Implementing Partner:

a. Prior to the start of activities (direct cash transfer), or

b. After activities have been completed (reimbursement);

2. Direct payment to vendors or third parties for obligations incurred by the Implementing Partners on the basis of requests signed by the designated official of the Implementing Partner;

3. Direct payments to vendors or third parties for obligations incurred by UN system agencies in support of activities agreed with Implementing Partners.

Where cash transfers are made to the **State Treasury**, the **State Treasury** shall transfer such cash promptly to the implementing partner.

Direct cash transfers shall be requested and released for programme implementation periods not exceeding three months. Reimbursements of previously authorized expenditures shall be requested and released quarterly or after the completion of activities. The UN system agencies shall not be obligated to reimburse expenditure made by the Implementing Partner over and above the authorized amounts. Following the completion of any activity, any balance of funds shall be refunded or programmed by mutual agreement between the Implementing Partner and the UN system agencies.

Cash transfer modalities, the size of disbursements, and the scope and frequency of assurance activities may depend on the findings of a review of the public financial management capacity in the case of a Government Implementing Partner, and of an assessment of the financial management capacity of the non-UN²⁴ Implementing Partner. A qualified consultant, such as a public accounting firm, selected by the UN system agencies may conduct such an

assessment, in which the Implementing Partner shall participate. The Implementing Partner may participate in the selection of the consultant.

Cash transfer modalities, the size of disbursements, and the scope and frequency of assurance activities may be revised in the course of programme implementation based on the findings of programme monitoring, expenditure monitoring and reporting, and audits.

In case of direct cash transfer or reimbursement, the UN system agencies shall notify the Implementing Partner of the amount approved by the UN system agencies and shall disburse funds to the Implementing Partner in **30 days**.

In case of direct payment to vendors or third parties for obligations incurred by the Implementing Partners on the basis of requests signed by the designated official of the Implementing Partner; or to vendors or third parties for obligations incurred by the UN system agencies in support of activities agreed with Implementing Partners, the UN system agencies shall proceed with the payment within **30 days**.

The UN system agencies shall not have any direct liability under the contractual arrangements concluded between the Implementing Partner and a third-party vendor.

23 Refers to Results Groups' or agency specific annual, bi-annual or multiyear work plans

24 For the purposes of these clauses, "the UN" includes the IFIs.

Where the UN system agencies and other UN system agency provide cash to the same Implementing Partner, programme monitoring, financial monitoring and auditing will be undertaken jointly or coordinated with those UN system agencies.

A standard Fund Authorization and Certificate of Expenditures (FACE) report, reflecting the activity lines of the work plan (WP), will be used by Implementing Partners to request the release of funds, or to secure the agreement that the UN system Agency (UNDP, UNICEF or UNFPA) will reimburse or directly pay for planned expenditure. The Implementing Partners will use the FACE to report on the utilization of cash received. The Implementing Partner shall identify the designated official(s) authorized to provide the account details, request and certify the use of cash. The FACE will be certified by the designated official(s) of the Implementing Partner.

Cash transferred to Implementing Partners should be spent for the purpose of activities and within the timeframe as agreed in the work plans (WPs) only.

Cash received by the Government and national NGO Implementing Partners shall be used in accordance with established national regulations, policies and procedures consistent with international standards, in particular ensuring that cash is expended for activities as agreed in the work plans (WPs), and ensuring that reports on the utilization of all received cash are submitted to the UN system Agency (UNDP, UNICEF or UNFPA). within six months after receipt of the funds. Where any of the national regulations, policies and procedures are not consistent with international standards,

the UN system agency financial and other related rules and system agency regulations, policies and procedures will apply.

In the case of international NGO/CSO and IGO Implementing Partners cash received shall be used in accordance with international standards in particular ensuring that cash is expended for activities as agreed in the work plans (WPs), and ensuring that reports on the full utilization of all received cash are submitted to the UN system Agency (UNDP, UNICEF or UNFPA) within six months after receipt of the funds.

To facilitate scheduled and special audits, each Implementing Partner receiving cash from a UN system Agency (UNDP, UNICEF or UNFPA) will provide UN system agency or its representative with timely access to:

- all financial records which establish the transactional record of the cash transfers provided by the UN system Agency (UNDP, UNICEF or UNFPA) together with relevant documentation;
- all relevant documentation and personnel associated with the functioning of the Implementing Partner's internal control structure through which the cash transfers have passed.

The findings of each audit will be reported to the Implementing Partner and UN system Agency (UNDP, UNICEF or UNFPA). Each Implementing Partner will furthermore:

- Receive and review the audit report issued by the auditors.
- Provide a timely statement of the acceptance or rejection of any audit

recommendation to the UN system Agency (UNDP, UNICEF or UNFPA). that provided cash (and where the SAI has been identified to conduct the audits, to the SAI) so that the auditors include these statements in their final audit report before submitting it to the UN system Agency (UNDP, UNICEF or UNFPA).

- Undertake timely actions to address the accepted audit recommendations.

Report on the actions taken to implement accepted recommendations to the UN system (and where the SAI has been identified to conduct the audits, to the SAI), on a quarterly basis (or as locally agreed). The audits will be commissioned by the UN system agencies and undertaken by private audit services.



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