



UNITED NATIONS  
UZBEKISTAN



# 2022 UN COUNTRY ANNUAL RESULTS REPORT UZBEKISTAN



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# Foreword by the UN Resident Coordinator

Dear partners, colleagues, and friends,

It gives me great pleasure to present the UN Uzbekistan Country Results Report for 2022. It showcases the collective work of the United Nations Country Team (UNCT), in partnership with the Government of Uzbekistan (Government of Uzbekistan), in supporting Uzbekistan's national priorities and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The report presents progress made against the deliverables outlined in the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2021-2025, which aim to help the people of Uzbekistan live longer, healthier and more prosperous and secure lives.

In 2022, the UNCT addressed emerging needs, while also sustaining support for national reforms in the priority areas of effective governance and justice for all; inclusive human capital development leading to health, well-being, and resilient prosperity; and sustainable, climate-responsible, and resilient development. This report features stories of how this work has impacted the lives of the people of Uzbekistan, notably women and girls, youth, and vulnerable people across all regions.

The results captured in this report could not have been achieved without the close collaboration between the UNCT and a wide range of partners to turn the aspirations of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development into concrete results for the people of Uzbekistan, with a focus on leaving no one behind. I am grateful for the effective collaboration of the Government of Uzbekistan, civil society, international financial institutions, and development partners. I would also like to extend my deepest appreciation to the more than 400 UN personnel in Uzbekistan working tirelessly to deliver on our commitments to the Government and people of Uzbekistan.

In conclusion, let me reaffirm the commitment of the United Nations family in Uzbekistan to working with the Government of Uzbekistan and partners to achieve the country's national vision for sustainable development. Together, we can build a more just, equal and resilient society for all.



**Consuelo Vidal Bruce**  
United Nations Resident Coordinator  
a.i. in Uzbekistan

# UN Country Team

UN agencies, funds and programmes with physical presence in the country:



Non-resident UN agencies, funds and programmes:



The United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in Uzbekistan consists of **25 UN agencies, funds and programmes (AFPs)**. The UNCT is led by the UN Resident Coordinator, who is the designated representative of the UN Secretary-General for development operations in Uzbekistan.

## Key development Partners of the UN Development System in the Country

The United Nations in Uzbekistan works in partnership with the Government of Uzbekistan (Government of Uzbekistan) to deliver the commitments articulated in the **United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2021-2025**. The Cooperation Framework is fully aligned with national priorities to support the Government of Uzbekistan in achieving the national Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The results showcased in this report would not have been possible without the financial support and/or strategic partnership of the following development partners.







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

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

On 28 January 2022, President Mirziyoyev launched the **New Uzbekistan Development Strategy for 2022-2026**, establishing clear targets for national SDGs on poverty reduction, social inclusion, the environment as well as promoting women empowerment and youth engagement. To transform Uzbekistan into an upper-middle income country by 2026, the strategy requires economic, governance, social and environmental reforms.

The **Russian invasion of Ukraine** in February 2022 and the subsequent economic fallout dampened Uzbekistan's efforts to accelerate its development priorities, albeit to a lesser extent than initially forecast. Remittances recovered quickly and in fact doubled compared to 2021 figures; the outflow of labor migrants from Russia reversed; and the exchange rate and inflation stabilized somewhat. According to the World Bank, Uzbekistan's GDP grew by 5.7 percent in 2022 (compared with 7.4 percent in 2021), outperforming previous estimates.

The public comment period for the **constitutional referendum** took place between June-August 2022. The first draft included changes that would have reduced the autonomy of the Republic of Karakalpakstan, triggering mass protests in Karakalpakstan on 1-2 July. Security forces were accused of using excessive force on mainly peaceful demonstrators<sup>1</sup>. The situation was stabilized after the President announced the withdrawal of proposed amendments pertaining to the status of Karakalpakstan. While enhancing various rights and freedoms, the referendum also expanded presidential terms<sup>2</sup>.

1 [Uzbekistan: Police Abuses in Autonomous Region Protests](#)

2 The final draft was shared prior to the April 2023 vote at which it was approved by 90 percent of voters.







On 25 July 2022, President Mirziyoyev approved the **National Social Protection Strategy**, aiming to create a minimum level of social protection for all citizens in line with ILO Recommendation No.202. It prioritizes expanding social assistance programs to deprived families, digitalizing mandatory social guarantees, and providing social services directly at mahalla level.

On 16 August 2022, Switzerland and Uzbekistan signed an **agreement on the restitution of assets** confiscated in criminal proceedings in connection with Gulnara Karimova. The assets will be used for the benefit of the population of Uzbekistan and channeled through the Uzbekistan Vision 2030 Fund (or Ishonch Fund). The UN inter-agency pooled fund aims at making a significant contribution to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development<sup>3</sup>.

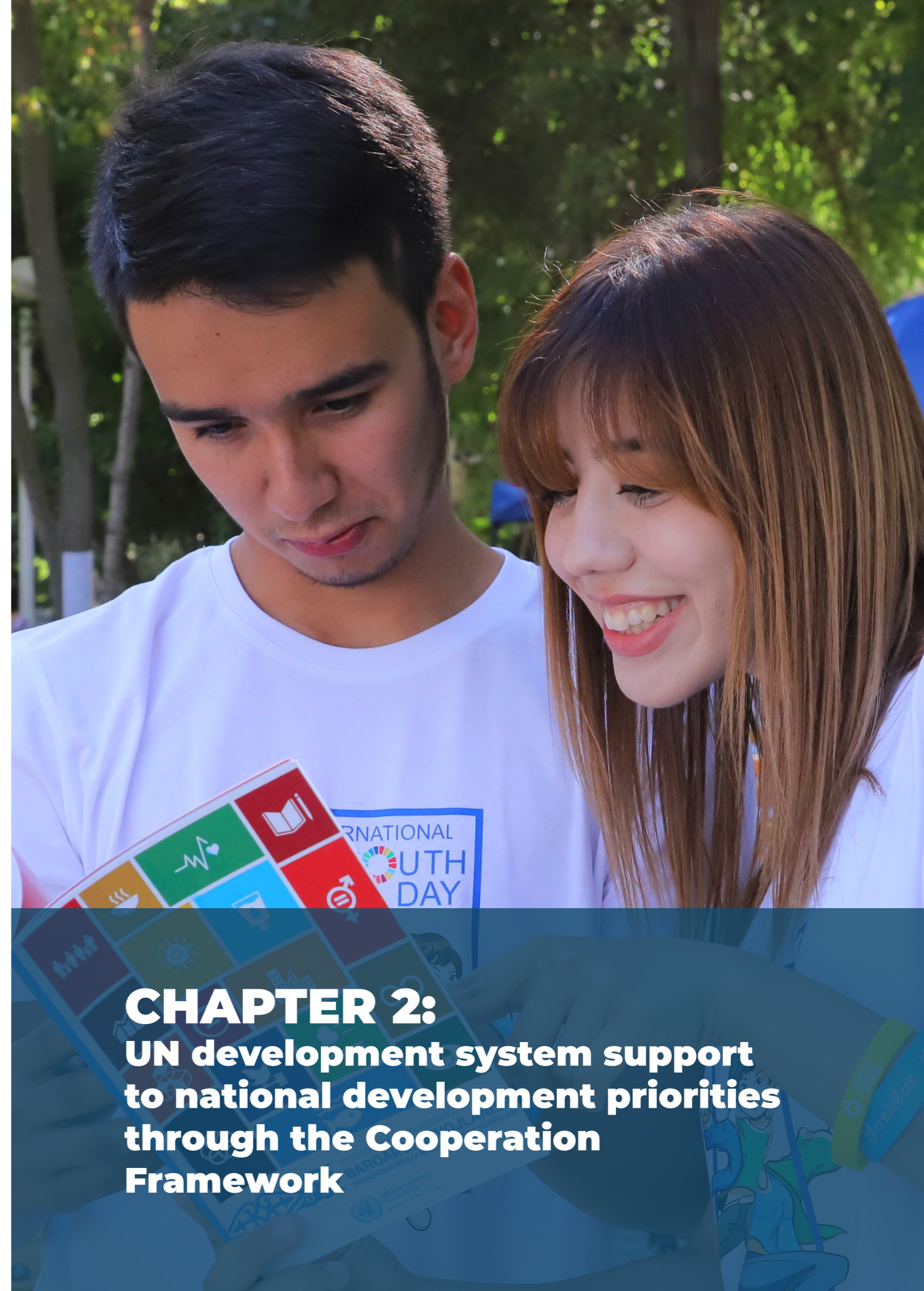
In December, the President adopted the **Plan of Action for Transitioning to a Green Economy and Ensuring Green Growth until 2030**,

which includes measures addressing the current environmental and economic challenges to achieve green, resilient, and inclusive development<sup>4</sup>.

President Mirziyoyev signed an **administrative reform** decree on 23 December, significantly reducing the number of government ministries and agencies from 61 to 28, with expected cuts in the number of staff by up to 30%. The aim is to cut red tape, improve government efficiency, and save public funds that can be reallocated to finance social priorities.

3 [Restitution of illicit assets: Switzerland and Uzbekistan sign agreement](#)

4 This is consistent with the Government of Uzbekistan's increased ambition on the environment and climate change. In 2021, Uzbekistan increased its commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by more than 300 percent in its 2nd Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) under the Paris Climate Agreement. It plans to reduce greenhouse gas emissions per unit of GDP by 35 percent of 2010 levels by 2030, compared to the 10 percent reduction stated in the first NDC.



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



## 2.1. Overview of Cooperation Framework Results

The launch of the **New Uzbekistan Development Strategy for 2022-2026** reinforced the commitment of the Government of Uzbekistan (Government) to the national SDGs. It also demonstrated the continued relevance of the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (Cooperation Framework), which by and large aligns with the priorities set forth in the new strategy. In response new emerging priorities, the UN Country Team (UNCT) in Uzbekistan have updated their Joint Work Plans to prioritize key areas of interventions in line with the strategy. These priorities were approved by the UN-Government Joint Steering Committee in August 2022<sup>5</sup>.

To support the Government of Uzbekistan's ambitious target of **cutting poverty in half by 2026**, and in line with the Leave No One Behind principle, the UNCT reinforced its support for economic empowerment and productive engagement of youth, women and other vulnerable groups (including people with disabilities) into socio-economic life and decision making. Nearly 22,000 young people, women and people with disabilities benefited from skills development, job creation and income generation programmes in 2022. To enable better pro-poor policy formulation measures and improve social protection mechanisms, the UN also embarked on a joint initiative that established a national Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) for Uzbekistan in December 2022.

Recognizing social protection as a key accelerator for SDG attainment and poverty reduction, the Government of Uzbekistan adopted the first national **Social Protection Strategy until 2030**, which aims to increase the effectiveness and coverage of social protection system. Under a flagship UN Joint

Programme on Social Protection, the UN in partnership with the World Bank substantively supported the development of this strategy, which was adopted in July 2002. The Social Protection Single Registry was established with UN support and as of the end of 2022; it has resulted in an increase in the number of families receiving support **from 600 thousand up to 2.5 million**. The total number of low-income families receiving child benefits and material support has increased by 75 per cent, from 1.2 million in 2021 to **2.1 million including 4.6 million children** in 2022.

5 [Joint UN-Government Steering Committee and Partners' Meeting 2022](#)



The UNCT adopted the UN Uzbekistan's **Disability Inclusion Strategy** in 2022, outlining the UN's commitments to support the progressive implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). Through a Joint UN Programme launched in 2022, the UN has promoted the transformation of social service delivery for children, youth and women with disabilities and empowered organizations of persons of disabilities to participate meaningfully in disability related policy making. In December 2022, the Government approved the CRPD National Action Plan (NAP) for 2023-2025 prepared with UN support and with engagement of organizations of persons with disabilities (OPDs).

### Nationally Determined Contributions



The UN also continued supporting national efforts on economic transformation with a green approach and the Government of Uzbekistan's **increased ambition for the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)** under the Paris Agreement. The **Green Growth Strategic Framework (GGSF)** developed with support of UN and International Financial Institutions (IFIs) has been another significant milestone towards building a sustainable and inclusive economic growth up to 2030. At the community level, UN initiatives on climate adaptation and mitigations have reached out more than 41,000 people over the past two years in the most vulnerable regions, contributing to their strengthened resilience and well-being.







To promote evidence-based policy making for effective SDG implementation, based on the Leave No One Behind principle, the UNCT continued building national statistical capacity. Through 2021-2022, the UN extensively supported the Government of Uzbekistan to conduct the **Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS)**. The survey provides statistically sound and internationally comparable data for 28 national SDG indicators that are essential for monitoring and developing evidence-based policies and programmes.

In the lead-up to the Transforming Education Summit (TES) convened at the initiative of the UN Secretary General in September 2022, the UN supported Uzbekistan in conducting national consultations and assisted in preparing the National Commitment Statement on the Transformation of Education. With UN support, the Government launched the development of a **National Compact on Education** establishing national education priorities for 2023-2026.

With the support of the UN Peace Building Fund (PBF), and jointly with the UN team in Kyrgyzstan, the UNCT in Uzbekistan implemented a Joint Programme on **cross-border cooperation** between communities in border areas of Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan to strengthen mutual trust and enhance cross-border environmental and socio-economic cooperation.

The **UN Multi-Partner Human Security Trust Fund for the Aral Sea region** has continuously supported UN initiatives to tackle environmental, food, health, social and economic challenges of the people in the region through two Joint Programmes. The UN initiatives on developing rural communities, improving access to quality health care and nutrition to adolescents, as well as access to basic infrastructure such as clean drinking water, electricity and digitized services and empowering youth and women directly impacted the lives of **over 250,000 people in Karakalpakstan**.

## 2.2. Cooperation Framework priorities, outcomes and outputs

### Strategic Priority A: Effective governance and justice for all

#### OUTCOME 1

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

#### National SDGs:



#### Contributing agencies:



The UNCT assisted in enhancing legislative and institutional frameworks on anticorruption, efficiency and accessibility of inclusive public services, including the following laws and by-laws:

- The Law on Civil Service came into force in November 2022 to strengthen the integrity and accountability of civil servants working in the public interest
- The National Strategy for the Modernization and Accelerated Development of the Public Service Delivery System for 2022-2026 approved by the President in April 2022

- The Law on Conflict of Interest will promote transparency, accountability, and trust in decision-making processes in public sector, and prevent potential corruption<sup>6</sup>
- Draft Law Free Legal Aid will ensure access to justice for the vulnerable and marginalized people<sup>7</sup>

<sup>6</sup> Approved by the Senate of Oliy Majlis in June 2023

<sup>7</sup> Adopted in June 2023





Uzbekistan made strides in **tracking anti-corruption measures** and their impact. The Government of Uzbekistan launched a digital platform for monitoring anti-corruption measures<sup>8</sup> within government with UN support. Currently, 117 government agencies and local governments across Uzbekistan are linked into a single network that enables a rating system to be implemented for assessing the effectiveness of anti-corruption measures, in line with the President’s Decree No. 81 issued on 12 January 2022. The UN facilitated involvement of civil society the first National Anti-corruption Rating of state bodies and local authorities; this assessment was published in July 2022<sup>9</sup>. The National Anti-Corruption Council of Uzbekistan officially adopted methodology for calculating a national corruption index, which was developed with UN support.

**Public services are more efficient and accessible** to the population thanks to the following results achieved in 2022. The UN supported the reengineering and digitalization, including piloting blockchain technology, of **115 public services** covering civil registry, licensing, education, construction, and cadaster. The online platform [license.gov.uz](https://license.gov.uz)

gives faster and easier access to 94 licensing services for small and medium business. An inclusive Public Service Center was opened with UN support in Namangan region to become the 7th in the country. Public service centers operate across 7 regions<sup>10</sup> and serve **over 850,000 people, including over 13,000 people with disabilities**.

With UN support, the government completed establishment of **specialized anticorruption departments** in key ministries such as the Ministry of Health, Construction, School and Higher Education, Khokimiyats of Tashkent city and Tashkent region. An Anticorruption compliance department within government agencies is essential element of anticorruption architecture of public sector and plays a critical role in promoting transparency, preventing corruption, and ensuring that the

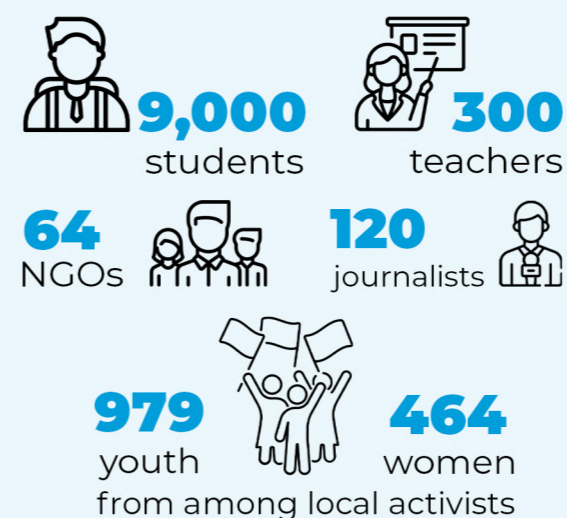
9 [Work on Rating the Effectiveness of Anti-corruption efforts in State bodies and Organizations is Completed](#) (in Russian)

10 Karakalpakstan, Jizzakh, Kashkadarya, Surkhandarya, Syrdarya, Tashkent and Namangan regions

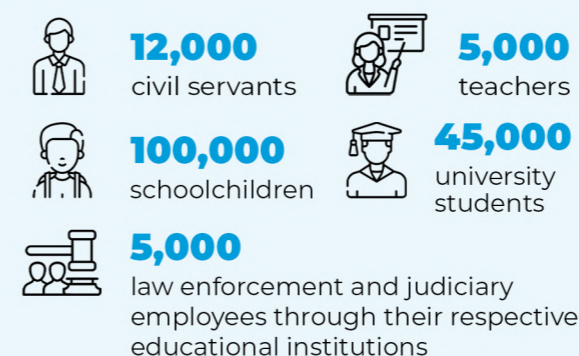
agency operates with integrity. It helps to build public trust, improve compliance, and foster a culture of ethical behavior within the agency.

The UN continued supporting the Anti-Corruption Alliance of CSOs and academia, providing **anti-corruption training** to 20 NGOs, 10 media outlets, and 160 journalists focusing on ecology, public administration and finance, and the empowerment of women and youth. The UN supported anti-corruption initiatives of 9 CSOs from the regions and rural areas through a small grants program.

These initiatives reached out to more than



The UN further promoted anticorruption education by designing anti-corruption curriculum that will be used to **train annually**



The UN leveraged collaboration with legislative bodies, human rights organizations and judiciary institutions to promote **people-oriented and gender-sensitive legislation, policy and practice** in line with international human rights and labor rights standards. The UN advocated for a strengthened National Mechanism of Multisectoral Response to Gender-Based Violence, and enhanced children’s access to justice. The first National Action Plan on GBV prevention and multisectoral response was drafted with UN support. The UN also supported the Inter-Sectoral Working Group under the Senate to review national laws for their compliance with international standards on protecting women and children from violence.



The UN presented legal analysis to support the Government of Uzbekistan’s plans to accede to the **1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol**<sup>11</sup>. Also, advocacy was conducted for interim arrangements and referral mechanisms for persons in need of international protection in Uzbekistan that

11 [Possibilities of acceding to the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees: NHRC and UNHCR present results of a legal study](#)





would allow refugees and asylum seekers – including Afghans in need of international protection stranded in the country – to access to basic rights.

Uzbekistan **granted or confirmed citizenship for 9,354 registered stateless individuals in 2022**. Uzbekistan has drastically reduced the total number of registered stateless persons within its borders from 93,950 in 2020 to 27,000 at the end of 2022, in line with the global #IBelong campaign to end statelessness by 2024. However, Uzbekistan still hosts the largest known stateless population in Central Asia. The UN actively addresses statelessness in Uzbekistan through the Central Asian Network on Statelessness, which engages stakeholders from civil society, academia, and human rights institutions to resolve statelessness in Central Asia.

The Uzbekistan **Women Leaders Caucus**<sup>12</sup> was launched jointly by the Senate of Uzbekistan and the UN in June 2022 to promote women's empowerment, gender equality, women's leadership skills, public awareness on equality between men and women, and discussion on

## Story of Nozimakhon: Digitalization for better access to medical services

Nozimakhon Kazikhonova was able to win seed money grant from Startup-initiatives programme with her **"Online-Nurse" platform** allowing patients to digitally book a "mobile" medical service.

The platform also helps qualified nurses to get extra source of income.

Her success in the Startup-initiatives programme helped her to attain practical knowledge and experience, as well as a financial grant for the further improvement of her mobile project. She is currently planning to expand her project to all regions of Uzbekistan.

Read her story [here](#).



reforms under the National Gender Equality Strategy of Uzbekistan. The platform unites **185 women leaders from 14 regions** to drive transformational change for SDG acceleration.

To advance children's **access to justice**, the UN enhanced the capacity of **more than 1,300 justice professionals** - including lawyers, and social service providers - on application of children's rights and principles related to children's access to justice in practice. Legal aid was also provided to **329 children (53% girls)** through a partner NGO Istiqbolli Avlod.

Legal aid clinics opened in 2021 in Ferghana Valley with UN support continued providing free legal aid to **over 200 people on civil law**

**related issues** (marriage, business start-ups, real estate issues, etc).

UN widely promoted **youth participation** at national and local levels. Progress is visible as young people are increasingly invited to take part in youth conferences/forums through open calls rather than nominations and young people participate in high-level government events as speakers and moderators. The number of U-Reporters has reached **over 320,000 young people across all regions of Uzbekistan**. U-Report is a global messaging

12 [Uzbekistan Women Leaders Caucus is launched](#)



## 2.2. Cooperation Framework priorities, outcomes and outputs

tool designed to empower youth to engage with and speak out on issues. Uzbekistan remains the top U-Report country in Europe and Central Asia. The number of national partners regularly using U-Report is more than 35 and growing.

Youth Advisory Boards were established under local governments in 6 cities with UN support to facilitate dialogue between young people and local authorities and influence decision-making. The Youth Advisory Boards presented the opinions of almost **10,000 young people**<sup>13</sup> on city-level Action Plans during the meetings “Khokim va Yoshlar” (Local Governor and Youth) and presented Action Plans jointly with Governors to a Ministerial-level Steering Committee.

To promote a stigma-free environment, **young people living with HIV** were encouraged to talk openly about their stories through videos created with UN support that were broadcast to **more than 600,000 people**. The young people living with HIV were also engaged in peer-to-peer communication to raise HIV awareness, reaching around 1,000 students in six universities across the country. Through the U-Report messaging tool, the UN conducted a rapid assessment on HIV knowledge among **12,725 young people** in 2022, and the results will be used to improve the effectiveness of youth HIV awareness and prevention programmes in Uzbekistan.



In December 2022, the Government approved the **Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities National Action Plan (CRPD NAP)** for 2023-2025 prepared with UN support. UN agencies worked closely with 60 organizations of persons with disabilities (OPDs) and self-initiative parents’ groups (SIGs) which have been empowered to participate in disability-related policy making. Capacity building support was provided to 90 OPD and SIG representatives on equality, models of disability, principles of CRPD, the role and participation of NGOs in the implementation of the CRPD, active participation of OPDs in society and state programs, including monitoring and evaluation. Knowledge and skills of the national stakeholders and OPDs were improved on disability-inclusive budgeting and programming to ensure access to inclusive education, decent employment and social protection and quality healthcare.

## 2.2. Cooperation Framework priorities, outcomes and outputs

More results of UN-led capacity building initiatives:

- **USD 4.07 million in smuggling prevented** by national law enforcement bodies as a result of capacity building initiatives;
- **2,180 civil servants, law enforcement officers, and CSO representatives** have enhanced knowledge and skills on media and information literacy, prevention of violent extremism, conflict prevention, preventing and combatting organized crime, trafficking in persons, illicit drug trafficking, smuggling, and illicit financial flows;
- **2,500 public servants and NGO representatives** benefitted from training including on anticorruption;
- **435 women** empowered for effective participation in decision-making;
- **100 girls and boys, young women and men** engaged in a series of training and awareness events on the prevention of gender-based violence at schools and colleges;

- **300 community representatives**<sup>14</sup> reached through joint EU-UN activities<sup>15</sup> to improve inclusive decision-making and prevent/ counter violent extremism (P/CVE).

<sup>14</sup> Representatives reached across across 78 communities in Tashkent and the Ferghana Valley.

<sup>15</sup> Support provided through global project “Strengthening Resilience to Violent Extremism in Asia (STRIVE Asia),” a Joint EU-UN Partnership aimed at contributing to preventing and countering violent extremism (P/CVE) in Central, South and Southeast Asia.



## Combating stigma: Story of Elina

Elina is the first child diagnosed with HIV in Uzbekistan. She is also the first child abandoned for her HIV-status and the first child to receive antiretroviral therapy in Uzbekistan in 2006. Elina is an example of a powerful girl who has been trying to receive equal treatment from peers, teachers, and even employers without giving up.

She is now making efforts to help other children with HIV- status living in institutions. She visits them, talks, and gives them the motivation to live. She initiates training of childcare specialists on HIV/AIDS to transform their mindset and break the stigma.

Read her [full story](#).





## OUTCOME 2

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

### National SDGs:



### Contributing agencies:



In 2022, the UN reinforced work on promoting innovating financing solutions and evidence-based policy making for the SDG attainment. UN agencies continued work together to develop the Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF) and design measures to enhance coordination and streamline **financing towards the national SDGs**. An Integrated National Financing Strategy (INFS) for Uzbekistan has also been developed to support the Government of Uzbekistan in applying a coherent and integrated approach towards mobilization of public and private financial flows from domestic and external sources and combine financing policies to increase their overall impact. The INFS builds on Uzbekistan's Development Strategy 2022-2026, which is well aligned with the 2030 Agenda and the pledges to leave no one behind, promote decent work, ensure human rights, gender equality and empowerment, etc. In particular, the design of the INFS

incorporated gender equality proposals to empower women in Uzbekistan by providing new financing solutions to businesses owned or run by women. Furthermore, the UN strengthened national capacities on gender equality improvement for child-sensitive public spending on social sectors (health, education, and social protection).

The UN continued supporting the Government of Uzbekistan in scaling up **Participatory Budgeting (PB)**, which has reached unprecedented heights. The Government of Uzbekistan introduced the process in 2019 whereby citizens take part in decision-making to determine, how, where and in what priority public funds are spent.



In October 2020, the Government of Uzbekistan presented findings of the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS), which was conducted with extensive UN support over 2021-2022. The survey provided statistically sound and internationally comparable **data essential for SDG monitoring** and for developing evidence-based policies and programmes. Data was collected for 21 SDG indicators at full scale and for 7 SDG indicators with regards to children and women. For the first time, the MICS survey included Washington Group Short Set of Disability (WG) questions to inform evidence-based policy making on disability inclusion of children and youth with disabilities in Uzbekistan<sup>16</sup>.

In 2022, the UN team also continued strengthening national capacity to conduct the **Population and Housing Census**

in Uzbekistan to the Government in line with international best practice.

Along with national and international think-tanks, UN entities have launched a joint initiative to establish a **national Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI)** for Uzbekistan to enable better pro-poor policy formulation measures and improve social protection mechanisms. The UN also supported the government in establishing a national measurement of monetary poverty, which has been used for poverty statistics that have been published for public use<sup>17</sup>.

16 Uzbekistan, ECA, MICS6, 2021-2022, snapshot and survey findings available here.

17 Living Standards (stat.uz)

Funds allocated through the PB have more than tripled by



**3.2 times**

(from **UZS 2,5 trillion** to **UZS 8,0 trillion**)

**increase**

in the number of proposals submitted by citizens (from **28,704** to **69,700**)



in the number of selected projects for funding (from **1,102** to **2,354**)



in the number of citizens **voting on proposals** (from **87.7 thousand** to **6.7 million**)

Behind these numbers is a growing sense of ownership amongst citizens and a more inclusive approach to budget allocation that improves their quality of life.



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

### OUTCOME 3

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

#### National SDGs:



#### Contributing agencies:



In pursuit of achieving national goals on poverty eradication and halving poverty by 2030, the UN collaborated with national and local institutions to design and implement more effective poverty reduction policies, labour market policies, decent work and skills development programmes for youth and women.

Jointly with the World Bank the UN supported development of the **national Poverty Reduction Strategy**. Further, UN helped the Government to conceptualize development of the National strategy on Transition from Informal to Formal economy and conducted agender-responsive diagnosis of informal employment.

UN also built capacity of relevant government entities to measure employment in informal sector/ informal employment. Employment Support Centers have successfully integrated career development services through **400 specialists** trained with UN support.



With a longer-term vision to end discrimination against women, improve labor force participation and reduce the digital divide, the UN equipped **402 girls (including 70 girls with different disabilities)** with ICT/STEM<sup>19</sup> and digital literacy skills. In May 2022, the top 20 girls successfully launched a nanosatellite into the stratosphere in Uzbekistan; they used it to collect, analyze and present climate data to academics and the general public<sup>20</sup>.

With UN support, **90 young people from vulnerable groups**<sup>21</sup> gained entrepreneurship skills and started business projects, five of which have already generated revenue. Of these, the top two projects – lighting the crossroad using solar power<sup>22</sup> and producing high-nutritious feed for poultry<sup>23</sup> – participated in the Global Generation Unlimited Youth Challenge, and one of them was selected among the top 30 of 71 global projects.

The UN worked to improve the **enabling environment for micro-small and medium**

**businesses (MSMEs)** and to empower local communities for innovative business practices. It did so by fostering gender-responsive policy, legal, regulatory, and practical measures. The UN provided 16 gender-responsive recommendations on improving private sector development policies on digitalization, green and inclusive growth provided to the government. The UN also provided support to **1,947 MSMEs** (339 women-led and 1,155 youth-led) to address the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic.

- 19 Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)
- 20 [Uzbek girls launched their nanosatellite into the stratosphere](https://fb.watch/m8BSNENIHJ/?mibextid=Nif5oz)
- 21 Including youth with disabilities, in contact with the law or not in education, employment or training (NEET)
- 22 <https://fb.watch/m8BWpu7cOy/?mibextid=Nif5oz>
- 23 <https://fb.watch/m8BSNENIHJ/?mibextid=Nif5oz>



## 2.2. Cooperation Framework priorities, outcomes and outputs

In 2022 UN also built the capacity of workers' organizations on representing interests and protecting rights of informal workers. Workers' organizations of Uzbekistan improved their skills on foresight methods and gained tools to navigate change and uncertainty, as well as to support trade union revitalization.

The UN contributed to the development of the **digital economy and digital entrepreneurship ecosystem**. The "digitalpulse.uz" platform launched with participation of around **300 business entities**, supports business companies to improve utilization of digital tools for business expansion. The UN also supported the development of the E-commerce Strategy for Uzbekistan for 2023-2027, built capacity of local business in e-commerce and promoted Uzbekistan's engagement in international trade. Out of 40 Uzbek SMEs trained in e-commerce, 22 companies have collectively increased online sales by over USD 100,000 and have improved access to international marketplaces thanks to a training programme and advisory services.



## 2.2. Cooperation Framework priorities, outcomes and outputs

The UN actively supported Uzbekistan's **accession process to the World Trade Organization (WTO)** in 2022 by enhancing the capacities of public servants and the private sector (**1,659 people, 18% women**) on WTO accession regulations and procedures, as well as trade policy formulation and implementation. A national trade facilitation portal – the Uzbekistan Trade Info Platform (UzbTIP) – was developed and launched with UN support. It provides traders with product-specific information on cross-border trade procedures, and its implementation is an important step in Uzbekistan's efforts to become a member of the WTO.

The UN promoted **sustainable tourism for improved livelihoods** of local communities through the preservation of cultural heritage. **253 local craftspeople**, including women and youth, gained skills in traditional craftsmanship and entrepreneurship to enhance job and income-generating opportunities. Also, more than 600 people (of whom 90% women) have improved capacities, knowledge and skills on alternative income-generation opportunities.

## Uzbekistan's invigorated social system: a powerful buffer to support the most vulnerable

In Uzbekistan, when a low-income household applies for financial support, it is common practice for a Mahalla\* Commission – a self-governing body made up of 15 respected members of the community – to screen and review each individual application in person.

To help avoid this unnecessary distress and ensure households across Uzbekistan receive more targeted forms of support, the UN in Uzbekistan – led by UNICEF, ILO and UNDP have worked together with the government to launch UN Joint Programme on Strengthening Social Protection.

As part of this Joint Programme, the UN Country Team piloted a **new Social Protection Single Registry (SPSR)** – a digital and transparent system for applying, assigning, and paying social benefits to low-income families.

Over the past three years, the SPSR has provided social allowances to more than **1,600,000 families** across Uzbekistan, helping them overcome several challenges related to low income.

Read full story [here](#).





## 2.2. Cooperation Framework priorities, outcomes and outputs

UN agencies successfully promoted women entrepreneurship in rural and risk-exposed communities.



**749 (384 women)**

**smallholder farmers**, including women and youth, were provided with better access to markets, land, agricultural inputs, technologies, investment and advisory/extension services.

**33 self-help groups**

were created involving **180 women** from cross-border areas between Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan in the Ferghana valley. Women in border areas were also supported to establish cross-border business and cultural ties.



**500 entrepreneurs (including about 200 women)**

benefitted from a Cross-Border Trade Management Curriculum and Virtual Learning Space platform, officially launched in Uzbekistan in 2022, with UN support and a training programme on international trade.



**365 women in the Aral Sea region**

have enhanced their knowledge in home-based entrepreneurship through use of a motivational planner for beginner entrepreneurs and participation in skills-building initiatives. These measures have been instrumental in empowering women in rural communities and in generating additional monthly income of **UZS 1,200,000 – 2,500,000**<sup>24</sup>.

Through the UN Business Compact, the UN engaged with the private sector to promote Gender Equality at Workplaces. The first business dialogue “Gender Equality in Workplaces in Uzbekistan” facilitated discussions on the opportunities for the private sector to promote the empowerment of women based on the results of a survey conducted **among 23 companies and 1,303 employees**.

## 2.2. Cooperation Framework priorities, outcomes and outputs



To strengthen the **humanitarian-development nexus**, the UN also supported border communities in the Surkhandarya region, including Afghan people and host communities in Uzbekistan. Technical and vocational training as well as support for small business start-up benefitted **174 Afghan women and young people**. UN entities also partnered on climate action by engaging 448 Afghan citizens and 194 members from host communities in cash-for-work for participation in afforestation activities<sup>24</sup> to mitigate the impact of dust storms in regions bordering Afghanistan<sup>25</sup>.

24 UN Multi-Partner Human Security Trust Fund for the Aral Sea Region in Uzbekistan: [Annual Report 2022](#)

25 Whereas reforestation refers to planting native trees where tree populations have been decreasing, afforestation refers to planting trees in areas where there were not previously trees.

26 Regional Refugee Response Plan 2022 - [Final Report](#)



## UNHCR supports expanding livelihood opportunities for Afghan and Uzbek citizens

In 2022 UNHCR and NGO “Barqaror Hayot” launched a pilot project aimed at **developing employability skills of Afghan and Uzbek citizens in Surkhandarya region** to help them become self-sustainable and contribute to socio-economic development of their communities.

By the end of 2022, 146 participants had completed vocational training courses on hairdressing, manicure, sewing or confectionary. Six Afghan and four Uzbek women who completed the training were provided with equipment to support them to establish their own income-generating activities.

“

I am very thankful to this project. Within two months I learnt how to sew for myself and my family. Now I want to launch my sewing business at home. I am impressed that we not only learn and improve knowledge, but that we can demonstrate our skills in practice. I am simply happy that many opportunities are provided for women,

”

said of one participants of the sewing course.



### Education



**200** Afghan children supported to access primary education

### Health and Nutrition

**6 ambulances**



handed over districts bordering Afghanistan, each pre-installed with medical equipment

### Livelihoods and Resilience



**607** individuals supported with **business grants, cash for work** to establish their own businesses

**10** individuals received in **kind support** to establish their own businesses

**461**



Afghans and host community members reached with **vocational, and technical education and training programmes** in areas such as sewing, hairdressing, manicuring, ICT, tourism and agribusiness.

### Protection

**3,159** service provider staff capacitated on **GBV prevention**



**500**

education and psychosocial professionals trained to identify, respond to, and refer **child protection issues**

**400**



Afghans supported with **legal counselling, psychosocial support, social counselling**

**199** persons accessed **feedback and response mechanisms** (calls to hotline, messages to mailbox, or in-person approach)

**2** trainings on **psychosocial support** and **legal aid** to government authorities

**1**



**roundtable** meeting organized to support Uzbekistan's considerations to accede the **Refugee Convention and Protocol** and establish as asylum procedure

With the support of the Government of Uzbekistan, the International Multifunctional Transport and Logistics Hub in Termez was established to host the logistics and warehousing capacity of UN agencies<sup>27</sup>. Serving as the only logistics terminal in Central Asia near the border with Afghanistan,

the hub offers a full range of logistics services available to UN agencies to facilitate efficient humanitarian response operations in Afghanistan and beyond.

<sup>27</sup> UNHCR, UNICEF and WFP

## OUTCOME 4

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

### National SDGs:



### Contributing agencies:



### Health system improvement

In 2022, UN continued collaborating with the Government of Uzbekistan and other partners on health system strengthening to implement efficient and transparent, innovative and **inclusive Universal Health Coverage** through focused policies and programmes. **76,803 health specialists** were covered by UN

capacity building on various aspects of Universal Health Coverage.

The UN supported the Ministry of Health (MoH) in improving the **quality of infant and maternal healthcare services** in targeted perinatal centers that served **383,000 newborns**.





## 2.2. Cooperation Framework priorities, outcomes and outputs



The UN promoted the national scale-up of service quality standards by enhancing the capacity of **70 perinatal centers** to implement perinatal death audits (PDA). As a result, **28 of 227 maternities (12%)** fully implemented PDAs in 2022.



The UN supported development of eleven protocols on maternal health and **trained 225 health workers** from 46 district maternities.



The UN contributed to Government of Uzbekistan's efforts to **eliminate mother-to-child transmission of HIV and syphilis (MTCT)**;



**900,000 women**

received comprehensive MTCT preventive services

**National systems for delivering immunizations** were strengthened with UN support:



Infrastructure of **21 cold stores** across the country was enhanced.



A Vaccine Logistics Management Information System and electronic immunization registries were integrated into the national health management information system.



**96.8% children under one** received three doses of DPT<sup>28</sup> and **98.9%** received the measles vaccine.

The **HPV vaccine** was introduced among multi-cohort age groups of girls through teacher training, awareness raising campaigns and community engagement supported by the UN.



**94.4% of girls 12-14 years (about 806,376)** were vaccinated with two doses of the HPV vaccine.



**514,735 (100%) school workers** were engaged to promote HPV vaccination.



**56,000 women** underwent cervical cancer screening using an HPV test.



**13 million people** (47 per cent of the population between the age of 10-85+) were reached by a nation-wide communication campaign.

<sup>28</sup> The DPT vaccine is used to prevent diphtheria, tetanus and polio.

## 2.2. Cooperation Framework priorities, outcomes and outputs

Transforming the health system, the Ministry of Health has been introducing **health insurance mechanisms** with UN support. These mechanisms entail fundamental changes in health financing and service delivery systems as well as an increasing role of primary health care (PHC). The State Health Insurance Fund (SHIF)'s work as a single national pooling and purchasing agency was supported. A pilot project in the Syrdarya region was continued, with plans to scale up in Tashkent in 2023 and to other regions beginning in 2024.

The UN continued strengthening **national comprehensive responses to health emergencies**. Critical medical equipment was supplied to the healthcare system, enabling rapid and accurate diagnosis of the coronavirus infection and effective treatment.

As a result of UN advocacy, the Government of Uzbekistan committed to further increase budget allocations for a lifesaving antiretroviral (ARV) treatment that, in 2023, will constitute 70% of the country's needs for HIV treatment of all in need. UN support in procurement and supply of ARVs resulted in a substantial increase in the number of people accessing lifesaving ARV treatment. In 2022, **36,765 adults and children living with HIV** (49% female) received antiretroviral therapy.

The UN supported Uzbekistan with the introduction of modified short treatment regimens (mSTR) for treatment of multi and rifampicin **drug resistant tuberculosis (MDR/RR-TB)** under operational research conditions. In 2022, 209 patients (184 male, 25 female) were enrolled for mSTR.

**72.5 million COVID-19 vaccines** were delivered (52.1 per cent of the general population fully vaccinated).

An unprecedented **18.5 million people** (77 per cent of the population above the age of 18) were reached through street ad campaigns that delivered lifesaving and behaviorally-informed messages on the COVID-19 vaccination. A further 5.4 million people were reached through social media.





## 2.2. Cooperation Framework priorities, outcomes and outputs



The UN supported the MoH in developing and finalizing the **National Multisector Adolescent Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2022-2026** to improve universal coverage of adolescent health. Over 5 million adolescents will benefit from the strategy's implementation in the coming five years. UN support to the integration of Health Literacy Curriculum has resulted in enhanced awareness of 6 million students (50 per cent girls) on road safety, maintaining physical and mental health, life skills, and the prevention and reduction of risky behaviors.

To promote **mental health and mental well-being**, the UN supported training of **13,864 school psychologists** on suicide awareness,

prevention, intervention, postvention, and providing psychosocial support. More than **75,000 parents** use the UN-supported Bebo mobile application to improve their knowledge and skills in parenting. The application helps promote responsive male involvement in child health and development.

The UN invested in **building resilience in the most deprived and risk-exposed regions**, and specifically in Karakalpakstan. With support of the Multi-Partner Human Security Trust Fund for the Aral Sea region, UN agencies jointly implemented a comprehensive programme to improve health, nutrition, water, sanitation, hygiene, and wellbeing of adolescents:

## 2.2. Cooperation Framework priorities, outcomes and outputs

- **131,000 adolescent girls** aged 10-17 in all districts of the Republic of Karakalpakstan **received iron and folic acid supplementation** (100 percent coverage), which helps prevent anaemia among adolescent girls.
- **40,000 school children in five districts** of the Republic of Karakalpakstan received **deworming support** through two rounds of a deworming campaign, which **reduced the incidence rate of intestinal helminthiases** among children from **12.6 percent** in 2021 to **1.7 percent** in 2022.
- **10,000 health care personnel and population of the three target districts** benefitted from improved telecommunication and telemedicine services. As a result, the overall population's satisfaction with health services has increased **from 41 percent to 70 percent**, and the referral rate to health care facilities has increased 20 percent from 2021 to 2022<sup>29</sup>.
- All **28 primary healthcare facilities and district hospitals** in three districts of the Republic of Karakalpakstan underwent a WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) Facility Improvement Assessment. The assessments informed interventions that improved basic WASH services in 20 healthcare facilities, benefitting **130,000 people, including 33,336 children and 10,000 healthcare workers**. Additionally, solar water heaters, lights, water treatment systems, medical waste management equipment, and three-step septic tanks were installed in three district hospitals, and 400 healthcare workers were trained.

- **27,000 school-aged children** benefitted from the construction of WASH facilities in 15 public schools/educational institutions in three districts.

<sup>29</sup> [UN Multi-Partner Human Security Trust Fund for the Aral Sea Region in Uzbekistan: Annual Report 2022](#)

The UN also supported the Government of Uzbekistan in improving **healthcare waste management**, which remains an issue for the country. The UN promoted development of a healthcare waste management strategy and urban and rural waste management models and standards. Six pilot district hospitals were equipped with waste sterilization equipment and consumables for one year of operation.





Safe, equitable, inclusive and quality education

In 2022, key results have been achieved in advancing foundational learning and education quality in pre-primary and basic education.

The Early Childhood Education enrollment reached

**69.4%** 3-6-year-olds **83.8%** 6-year-olds

**2 mln children** (grades 1-3 and 6) benefited from enhanced curriculum and new textbooks including competency-based, gender-transformative and inclusive approaches

**60,300 teachers** (almost 10% of total number of teachers) were trained in the new curriculum

**8,500 teachers** benefited from online teacher training tools on early childhood education

**10,104 schools** (99.6% of total number of schools) benefited from internet connectivity with increased access to digital learning materials in upgraded digital platforms

Despite progress, attendance gaps persist based on gender, rural and income disparities. Responding to these challenges, the UN focused on increasing the quality of pre-school education through further modelling **alternative multi-age and language playgroups**, focusing on marginalized children. Ten new alternative centers benefiting **400 children** were modelled in school premises and community centers. Building on this successful practice, the UN leveraged financing for early childhood education (ECE) with a new partnership of an additional US\$70 million between the Islamic Development Bank and the Ministry of Pre-School Education, approved in 2022 to scale up the established alternative models in most disadvantaged areas.

The UN further promoted the **Rule of Law** culture among school children through life skills and sport-based programmes. More than **22,000 students from 390 public schools** enhanced their knowledge on justice and anti-corruption and life skills to maximize protective factors related to crime, violence and drug use. The Rule of Law educational tools on promoting and teaching values such as integrity, respect and fairness were developed, adopted and included in primary curricula used for about **500,000 primary students annually**. The 'Zorbs' video series, which was integrated into the



primary education curricula in 2021, reached **500,000 primary school children** to enhance their basic knowledge of the Rule of Law.

Key results were achieved to **advance quality education** and evidence-based planning. A new Teacher Professional Development Model was launched, enabling teachers to access various professional courses flexibly and in a cost-effective manner. With UN support, a learning management platform ([onlinedu.uz](http://onlinedu.uz)) was further enriched and upgraded, optimizing the process of assimilating training materials. The review of the Education Management Information Systems (EMIS) at pre-school level informed the training of **33,000 pre-school staff**, while an evidence-based monitoring mechanism and evaluation information system was introduced to track the impact



of Teacher Professional Development on teachers' learning and students' academic achievement.

Innovative approaches for **addressing the digital divide** were introduced through real-time gigabyte monitoring of **10,132 schools** (close to 100 per cent of schools had internet access) and the school-based modeling of public-private partnerships for redistributing high speed connectivity to surrounding households.

The Government of Uzbekistan launched a **comprehensive prioritization exercise** of the education sector informed by sector analysis and a national consultation of the Transforming Education Summit (TES). The UN enabled participation of Uzbekistan in the TES Pre-Summit in Paris in July and the UN Summit on Education Transformation in New York in September. Both summits provided an inclusive and open forum for Uzbekistan to advance the preliminary outcomes of its national consultation and share its commitment to transform education.

Through the national consultations, the **National Statement of Uzbekistan** was developed together with the ministries, development partners, and stakeholders, articulating Uzbekistan's commitments towards achieving SDG4 targets by 2030. Commitments and actions to transform education included the Local Education Group (LEG) partnership framework agenda and the 2023 Education Sector Plan of Uzbekistan. With UN support, the Government of Uzbekistan launched the development of a National Compact, which is expected to identify national education priorities for 2023-2026 and increase coordination efforts and education financing from the government and development partners.



### Strengthened social protection system

Recognizing social protection as a key accelerator for SDG attainment, the Government of Uzbekistan adopted the **first national Social Protection Strategy until 2030** in July 2022, which aims at increasing the effectiveness and coverage of the social protection system. Under a flagship UN Joint Programme on Social Protection, the UNCT in partnership with the World Bank substantively supported the development of the Strategy. As part of this work, the **Social Protection Single Registry (SPSR)** - the management information system set up with support of the World Bank and UNICEF in Uzbekistan – was fully completed and handed over to the Ministry of Finance in March 2022. The SPSR ensures more comprehensive, effective, and efficient provision of support to children and their families, persons with disabilities, adults seeking social support, or employment support services.



- The SPSR rollout has resulted in an increase in the number of families receiving support from 600 thousand up to **2.5 million** as of October 2022 and covering **4.4 million children and 26%** of all families in Uzbekistan.
- The total number of low-income families receiving child benefits and material support increased **by 75 per cent**, from 1.2 million in 2021 to **2.1 million including 4.6 million children** in 2022.
- The Government of Uzbekistan introduced monthly cash benefits to caregivers of children with disabilities, benefiting **55,541 caregivers**. As a result of UN advocacy, disability assessment procedures were simplified to ease access and make the determination process more transparent for applicants.
- A partial compensation of maternity benefits for women working in the private sector was launched, with **2,418 recipients** registered in November 2022.



The **child benefit reform**, designed with UN contributions, was approved by the President of Uzbekistan and came into force on 1 September 2022. It is estimated that the reform resulted in a 50 percent increase of state allocations, benefitting an additional **550,000 children**.

In 2022, the UNCT adopted the **UN Uzbekistan's Disability Inclusion Strategy**, outlining UN commitments to support the progressive implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). The UN supported the ongoing process of transforming social service delivery for children, youth and women with disabilities. Technical support was provided to introduce a model of social services design and delivery based on human rights of children and adults with disabilities, including disability determination and assessment based on the social model of disability. Also, **64 service providers** including from organizations of

persons with disabilities (OPDs) from four sectors: healthcare, law enforcement, social and psychological services - have been capacitated to prevent and address violence against women with disabilities.

The UN supported the Government of Uzbekistan in the nationwide implementation and scale up of a **Multi-Sectoral Response to Gender-based violence (MSR to GBV)** that was developed with UN support in 2021 based on internationally recognized models, including for police, health care, and psychological and social service providers. The related Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) have become national policy documents, while practical instructions are assisting thousands of service providers at the grassroots level to take step-by-step interventions and apply internationally proven principles and approaches to work with GBV survivors. **1,146 hotline operators** have enhanced their skills on ethical standards and stress management.





The Government of Uzbekistan finalized intersectoral **Standard Operational Procedures on child protection**, including in emergencies, with UN support. These SOPs are the first-ever guiding document on prevention of and response to violence, abuse and exploitation of children, with the aim of ensuring quality, consistency, and coordination in services. The SOPs have been rolled out in Surkhandarya region, including capacity-building of some **700 professionals**.

The UN also rolled out **social work case management** in 200 communities in Surkhandarya region to support the Government of Uzbekistan in establishing an efficient system of social services for families in need of social protection. A total of **681 women activists and district-level specialists** were trained in basic social work principles and case management, children's rights, and child protection.

The UN partnered with faith-based organizations and leaders to promote gender equality and address GBV and reproductive health issues within communities. **619 people** (of whom 567 women) from religious educational institutions in 11 regions were trained.

The rehabilitation and reintegration of women and children returning from conflict zones in Iraq, Syria and Afghanistan was facilitated by the UN in collaboration with relevant government entities and partner NGOs such as the Republican Centre for Social Adaptation of Children and the NGO 'Barqaror Hayot.' **192 children and 59 women** received reintegration assistance, including psychosocial support and legal assistance through 100 trained community activists and local specialists. 10 school-based centers were equipped with the resources needed to engage vulnerable children, including those repatriated from conflict zones, into after-school activities.

## Story of Ziynegul: Successful owner of a beauty salon

“

**That's me. I think I was 8 years old, and I was playing with my dolls, fixing their hair.**

”

Ziynegul's eyes light up as she carefully flips through her family album, pointing to a favorite photograph. Little did she know that this simple childhood pastime would one day lead her to become a successful business owner in the Bozatau district.

Ziynegul is one of the **winners of the competition of business projects** funded under the joint programme of UNDP, UNFPA

and FAO with the financial support of the UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund for Human Security for the Aral Sea region.

At the end of the trainings, Ziynegul's business plan was selected for funding. The UN Development Programme **donated equipment and accessories to her salon**, allowing her to expand and improve the range of services provided, attract more customers, and hire additional staff. Today the salon provides a range of services such as make-up, pedicures, manicures, and hairdressing, serving 10 to 12 clients a day, employing six women, with plans to expand even further.





### Strategic Priority C: Sustainable, climate responsible and resilient development

#### OUTCOME 5

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

National SDGs:



Contributing agencies:



The UNCT supported the Government of Uzbekistan in the implementation of its increased ambition for its **Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)** under the Paris Agreement and the Green Economy Transition Strategy. The key highlight of the year was the Government of Uzbekistan's adoption of the **Green Growth Strategic Framework (GGSF)** developed with the support of the UN and International Financial Institutions (IFIs). The GGSF is critical to guide the Government of Uzbekistan on a green development pathway. The UN further promoted climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies by strengthening regulatory frameworks, enhancing infrastructure, and promoting community-based adaptation measures.

At a policy level, the UN contributed to drafting of **key policy documents** including: the Strategy on climate change until 2030 of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the National Cooling Action plan for Uzbekistan, and the National Food Loss and Waste Strategy on Conservation Agriculture. To ensure **gender mainstreaming** at a policy level, the UN helped develop the Gender Action Plan for women empowerment towards access to climate smart technologies/approaches and the Gender Strategy for the Forestry Sector adopted by the Government.

The UN collaborated with the Government of Uzbekistan to introduce **energy efficiency measures** to reduce carbon and greenhouse

gas emissions in construction and transport sectors and to promote fossil fuel subsidy reforms towards scaling-up the renewable energy sector. The first ever Nearly Zero-emission building (NZEB) to be built in Uzbekistan was constructed in 2022, with the joint support of the Government of Uzbekistan and the UN<sup>30</sup>. The building demonstrates the potential for improved and affordable green living conditions for rural populations in Uzbekistan. The UN also helped the government explore options for reforming fossil fuel subsidies and increasing subsidies to scale-up renewable energy sector in Uzbekistan.

The UN worked with local communities, specialists and farmers to promote **climate change adaptation planning and innovative agrifood production**. About 33,000 people (of whom >15,000 women) gained skills,



30 [The first Nearly Zero-Energy building constructed in Uzbekistan](#)





knowledge and resources for health, food, water, and energy security in the most vulnerable regions, including the Aral Sea region, Ferghana Valley and Southern Uzbekistan. More than **15,000 people (including 8,200 women)** across Uzbekistan were equipped with tools and technologies for climate-smart and sustainable agriculture, access to markets, and land security. The UN collaborated with national authorities to establish **20 small agro-meteostations** in the Fergana Valley for better forecasting and access to agricultural data by farmers and households for evidence-based planning<sup>31</sup>.

The UN continued enhancing national and local capacities to implement green sustainable policies on the **conservation and use of terrestrial and water ecosystems**. 11,000 individuals (of whom 6,500 women) directly benefitted from initiatives for sustainable natural resources management (including water resources and services management; eco-systems services). The UN promoted integrated gender-sensitive water resource management (IWRM) by introducing relevant tools and methodology such as the Water Security Outlook to help adapt water security indicators to the territorial characteristics of water management and in line with national policies on agriculture, forestry, water, green economy.

The UN supported **national afforestation efforts** in the dried Aral Sea bed through crowdfunding as well as planning a science-based expedition to the dried sea bed. The findings of the expedition – which will cover **1.5 million hectares** of land – will inform the development and implementation of evidence-based projects. Moreover, UN agencies collaborated with the

## Story of Khusanboy: Green farming for recovery and the future

Khusanboy Boiboboev from a remote mountain village in Uzbekistan, breeds seedlings of fruit trees and fruit-bearing shrubs. Khusanboy is part of a movement to bring **green recovery** to this Namangan region. He breeds seedlings of rose hips, cherries and apple trees, and knows the health benefits of, and how to collect, store and sell these fruits.

With support from UNDP's "Towards Green Recovery in Uzbekistan" project, he uses a greenhouse with drip irrigation system and air heating system powered by solar energy. The project is an experimental sample site for other residents - and will hopefully encourage people to engage in greenhouse farming using alternative energy sources.

“

**Now with such a greenhouse,” he says enthusiastically, “I will be able to breed rose hips in enough quantities to supply my fellow villagers with seedlings. I have already explained to them that Rose hips are a useful plant, they contain a lot of vitamin C. You can stock them for your family and sell them to wholesale brokers.**

”

Read full story [here](#).



national government and local authorities in the Surkhandarya region to pilot an afforestation initiative that engaged Afghan people and host communities to plant trees on approximately 100 hectares of land.

Through capacity building trainings and national policy reviews, the UN supported the Government of Uzbekistan in the implementation of **environmental international conventions** as well as in accession to other international instruments, including the UNECE Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (Air Convention).

The UNCT supported the Government of Uzbekistan to effectively deliver on obligations under the Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) as well as in the area of natural/cultural heritage protection. The **Multi-hazard Early Warning System for Uzbekistan** was enhanced with innovative impact modelling, risk analysis, and effective community awareness activities supported by the UN. More than **25,000 people (of whom about 13,000 women)** from eight communities participated and benefited from community-based DRR initiatives. Area-specific mobile and SMS-applications were developed to deliver early warnings and information about mudflows, avalanches, landslides, and flooding risks to end users living in the disaster-prone areas.

The UN also supported the **conservation and restoration of historic buildings** in Itchan Kala, a World Heritage Property. The development of the Tourism Development Strategy for Itchan Kala, Khiva was also supported by the UN.

31 [“Climate resilient livelihoods of horticultural producers in Fergana Valley in Uzbekistan” project updates](#)



## 2.3. Support to Partnerships and Financing the 2030 Agenda

In the pursuit of the SDGs, the United Nations in Uzbekistan has recognized the need to broaden its **partnership** base beyond traditional alliances. Embracing a forward-thinking approach, the UN has actively sought to establish meaningful collaborations with civil society, academia and the private sector, aiming to leverage their expertise, resources, and innovation to drive positive change.

A new era of collaboration with the private sector is emerging – one characterized by mutual trust, shared values, and a collective commitment to shaping a sustainable future. The partnership with the private sector not only brings new resources to the table (human, financial, and technical, among other) but also facilitates knowledge exchange and fosters a culture of efficiency and sustainability. The UN joined forces with business champions in 2022 to organize the inaugural **Forum on Championing Business Sustainability** – a forum by businesses for businesses that sought to harness the power of businesses as catalysts for sustainable development<sup>32</sup>.

# Championing Business Sustainability and North-South Cooperation



After the forum, one of the UN's private sector partners, Artel, teamed up with the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) on a public information campaign against gender-based violence. For two years in a row, Artel has turned "orange"<sup>33</sup> in support of the elimination of gender-based violence particularly in the workplace<sup>34</sup>. This example shows that by working together, the UN and the private sector can amplify the impact of sustainable development initiatives, drive inclusive growth, and foster positive societal change.

The UN in Uzbekistan hosted a significant milestone in advancing **North-South partnership and cooperation** – a transformative learning visit by the UN Foundation. This visit served as a catalyst for knowledge exchange, collaboration, and capacity building, fostering a stronger partnership between diverse actors committed to sustainable development. Through engaging discussions, workshops, and site visits, participants delved into a range of topics, including sustainable development, human rights, gender equality, and climate action.

This collaborative initiative provided an invaluable opportunity for Uzbekistan to showcase its achievements, share lessons learned, and highlight its commitment to sustainable development. The UN Foundation gained firsthand insights into the unique



<sup>32</sup> [Forum on Championing Business Sustainability in Uzbekistan](#)

<sup>33</sup> [16 days of activism against gender-based violence](#)

<sup>34</sup> [Uzbekistan's Artel joins UN's 'Orange The World' campaign against gender-based violence](#)





challenges and opportunities faced by Uzbekistan, enabling them to better align their support and resources with the country's specific needs. The learning visit reinforced the commitment of the UN in Uzbekistan to fostering North-South cooperation while laying the groundwork for future collaborative endeavors.

The UN in Uzbekistan is taking significant strides to enhance financing of sustainable development initiatives through an expanded partnership base. Among notable endeavors is the deepening collaboration across the UNCT through various **Joint Programmes**, with a particular emphasis on those operating under the **Aral Sea Trust Fund** (Multi-Partner Human Security Trust Fund for the Aral Sea Region in Uzbekistan). These partnerships extend beyond traditional realms and embrace an inclusive approach that welcomes participation from governments, civil society, and academia.

Academia plays a pivotal role in driving progress towards the SDGs in Uzbekistan as a whole, with a particular focus on the Aral Region. In 2022, the Aral Sea Trust Fund established significant partnerships with

renowned institutions, namely the University College London, Department of Political Science, the Wageningen University's Social Sciences Group (Environmental Economics and Natural Resources), and the Global Green Growth Institute Office in Uzbekistan. These partnerships were solidified through the signing of **Declarations of Intent**, fostering collaboration in pursuit of the 2030 agenda for Sustainable Development in Uzbekistan, specifically within the Aral Sea region. The aim of the Declarations of Intent is to leverage the expertise and resources of the UNCT and academic institutions, with a shared commitment to advancing development efforts. Within the framework of these Declarations, several key strategic activities include facilitating the exchange of data and knowledge pertaining to green growth and sustainable development; conducting joint information, education, and communication campaigns, including the possibility of co-hosting events and leveraging available expertise, and expanding partnerships and investments to promote the **sustainable development of the Aral Sea Region** in Uzbekistan, potentially involving other United Nations organizations and agencies operating within the region.

In a display of support for both partnership and financing for the Aral Sea Region, the **Government of the Federal Republic of Germany** joined the **Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan** that made its fourth tranche of contribution of **USD 1.5 million** to the Aral Sea Trust Fund in 2022. Germany stepped forward to address the challenges faced by local communities by making a contribution of **USD 743,000** to the Aral Sea Trust Fund. Germany's leadership in investing in the Aral Sea Trust Fund on climate change issues sets an example for others to follow. Their commitment, together with the previous contributions of the **Governments of Norway, the European Union, Finland, Republic of Korea, and the Alwaleed Philanthropies**, not only strengthens partnerships but also provides much-needed financing to drive sustainable development in the Aral Sea region.

In support of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, a new United Nations Multi-Partner Trust Fund – the Uzbekistan Vision 2030 Fund (or Ishonch Fund) – was established in 2022 in line with a restitution agreement signed

between Switzerland and Uzbekistan. The Fund's capital is derived from a contribution representing a return of assets that have been definitively forfeited in criminal proceedings in Switzerland. The Fund will support transformative interventions aimed at accelerating the national SDGs and reform agenda, and hence will become an innovative vehicle to channel the restituted assets to the SDGs.

The Fund leverages the UNSDCF Implementation Architecture. Aligned with the strategic priorities of the UNSDCF, the Fund's Management Committee has approved the first Resource Allocation Strategy allocating USD 87 million of a total of USD 131 million in committed funds against two strategic priorities: i) reduced maternal and infant mortality and ii) inclusive and equitable quality education. A strong anti-corruption component will be incorporated across all programs and projects. Under the guidance of the UN Resident Coordinator, the UNCT in Uzbekistan is currently in the process of formulating project proposals in alignment with the identified priorities.







Through 2021-2022, the UNCT collaborated closely with the Government of Uzbekistan to develop the **Integrated National Financing Strategy (INFS)** that provides a new integrated approach to managing public funds and private financing flows needed to achieve national development priorities and SDGs in Uzbekistan. The novelty of this approach lies in its integrated nature, by suggesting **a)** how to enhance coherence of existing policies to increase overall impact, and **b)** how to mobilize more private and public financing from domestic and external sources. This helped to develop joint planning and monitoring system and advance integrated thinking around the SDG financing as an enabler of development. The INFS also focuses on how to get more development results from the resources that are already available, including by improving the sufficiency, effectiveness, efficiency,

transparency, and equitability of the public expenditures, which allows evidence-based and strategic planning of the interventions where public funds can be catalytic and leverage more private resources. It provides a rational framework to align specific instruments with the broader financing strategy, to avoid fragmented decision-making, better aligned efforts, and to identify gaps and opportunities for resource mobilization. In general, the strategy can be used to promote coherence by centralizing the otherwise sectoral and siloed focus on financing approaches into one overarching policy framework and incentivizing collaboration. The INFS also comes with a roadmap for its operationalization. The Government intends to coordinate its implementation with the policy advice and technical support from development partners and donor community.

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

The UNCT continued to make efforts to work more coherently, effectively, and efficiently together. The UNSDCF governance and implementation mechanisms – including **UN Results Groups, Thematic Groups and Programme Support Groups** chaired at the level of Heads of Agencies and accountable to the RC and UNCT – have been instrumental to ensure coherence and synergy in delivering on the joint priorities of the Cooperation Framework.

Acknowledging the role of the UNSDCF in implementation of the national SDGs, the Government in its 2022 Resolution on SDG acceleration has decided to **integrate the National SDG Council with the UN-Government Joint Steering Committee**, and further proposed to align the government’s SDG Thematic Groups with the UN Results Groups. This integration is instrumental to enhance the alignment of the UN delivery with the national priorities on the SDGs and ensure closer engagement with the relevant national counterparts.

Chairing arrangements of Results Groups were reconfigured during the year, with more agencies stepping up to lead or co-lead the groups. Moreover, two of the co-chairs are now non-resident agencies (NRAs), ILO and UNECE, which has allowed the inclusion of NRAs in strategic positioning and implementation of the UNSDCF. A total of six UNCT members lead or co-lead results groups and four members lead or co-lead thematic or programmatic groups, demonstrating a high level of engagement from UNCT members in the UN’s collective work.

In 2022, the UNCT launched **four new Joint Programmes** and continued running other six JPs. All these Joint Programmes allowed for better coordination and collaboration among UN agencies, avoiding duplication of effort and promoting integrated solutions to development challenges, consistent with the interrelated nature of the SDGs. Besides these, the UN entities have teamed up to undertake a range of joint programmatic actions and advocacy actions by the Gender Theme Group and HIV/AIDS Task Force. These include the afforestation project in Surkhandarya region, establishing a national Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI), policy advice on the implementation of the national Gender strategy and advocacy to ensure compliance of the medical examination, including HIV testing, with international human rights standards.

### List of new UN Joint Programmes in 2022:

- **Joint SDG Fund:** Multi-faceted response to the food and energy emergency in Uzbekistan (FAO, ILO, and UNICEF);
- **Peace Building Fund:** Shared Prosperity through Cooperation in Border Regions in Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan (FAO and UNFPA);
- **Aral Sea Trust Fund:** Empowering Youth through Green and Innovative Development (FAO, UNDP, and UNICEF);
- **Aral Sea Trust Fund:** Climate-resilient primary health care and water, sanitation and hygiene practices (FAO, UNFPA, and UNICEF).



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



Through the **UN Communication team**, the UNCT delivered consistent and coherent messaging and advocacy on the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs and the international normative agenda while ensuring unified UN branding in the country. It jointly observed and commemorated various **key UN observances days and weeks** together with national and international partners, including International Women’s Day, UN Day, the 16 Days Campaign, International Youth Day, Anticorruption Day, Human Rights Day, etc.

With the aim of bringing people of Uzbekistan closer to the United Nations, 14 “SDG dialogues” and “Leave No One Behind” sessions were conducted in 6 regions of Uzbekistan with more than 1,230 participants: students, youth leaders, civic activists, bloggers, members of the Parliament medical workers, military personnel, and police officers.



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

For the first time in Uzbekistan, the UNCT organized an **“Arts for SDGs”** event in October 2022, exhibiting more than 90 works of arts of students from 16 universities and schools of Uzbekistan<sup>35</sup>. It included paintings, visual installations, and photographs dedicated to global and national sustainable goals, such as climate change, securing peace and safeguarding nature, urban pollution, gender equality, and food security.

<sup>35</sup> [Art for SDGs](#)





## 2.5. Financial Overview and Resource Mobilization

**\$81,349,989**

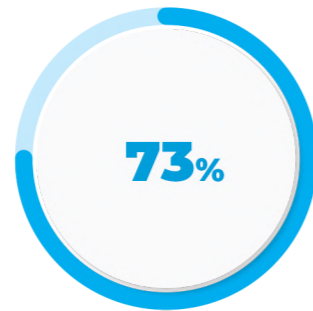
Total required resources

**\$65,455,086**

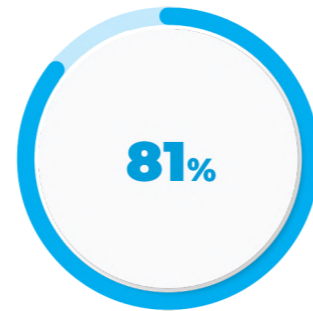
Total available resources

**\$47,425,710**

Total expenditure



**Delivery Rate**  
(expenditure vs available)



**Resource Mobilization Rate**  
(available vs required)

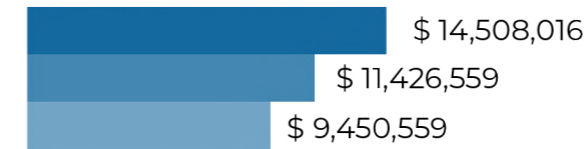
### Expenditure by SDG



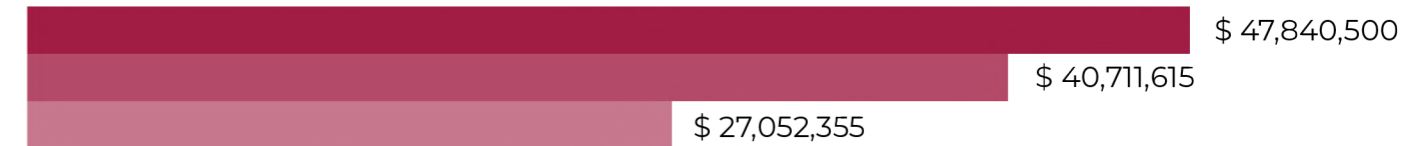
## 2.5. Financial Overview and Resource Mobilization

### Financial Overview by Outcome

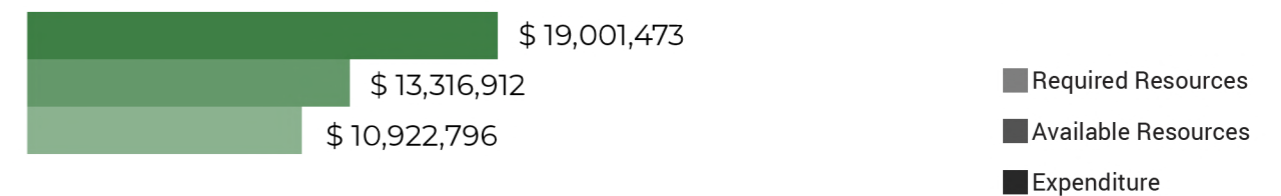
#### Strategic priority A: Effective governance and justice for all



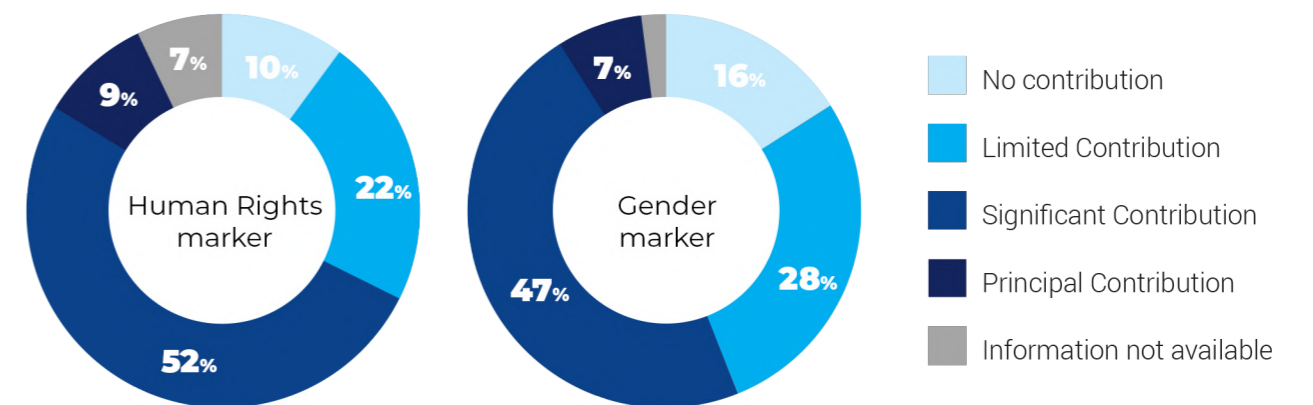
#### Strategic priority B: Inclusive human capital development leading to health, well-being and resilient prosperity



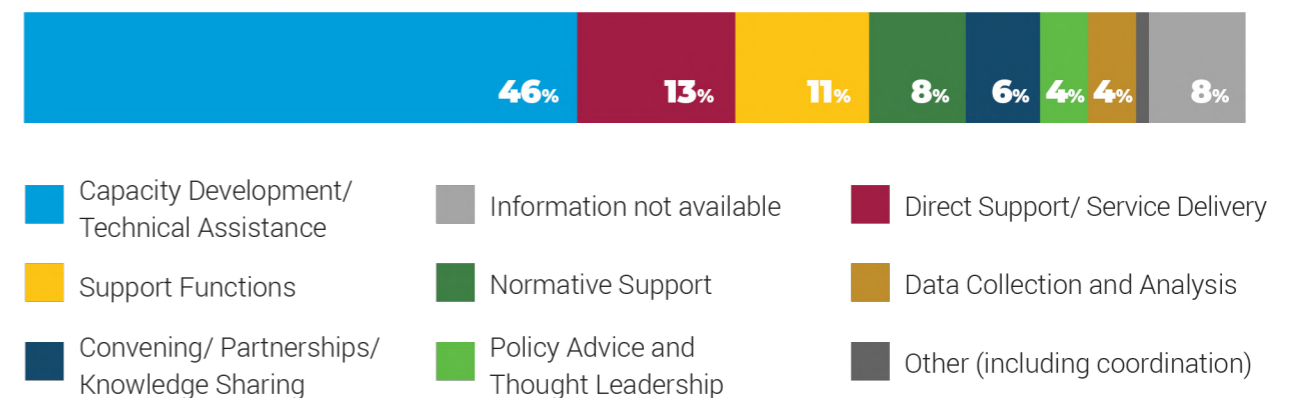
#### Strategic priority C: Sustainable, climate responsible and resilient development



### Expenditures towards gender equality and human rights



### Expenditures by type of function





## 2.5. Financial Overview and Resource Mobilization

### 2.5.2. Resource mobilization and quality of funding

Effective resource mobilization is crucial to ensure that the United Nations in Uzbekistan can successfully drive its initiatives and achieve meaningful results.

Diversifying the mix of funding partners is essential for sustainable development efforts. Collaborating with a range of partners, including governments, philanthropic organizations, private sector entities, and civil society, fosters a robust financial ecosystem that can support a variety of projects and programs.

Understanding the composition of funding sources is crucial for effective resource allocation. Striking a balance between core and non-core funding enables flexibility in addressing emerging needs, while earmarked and unearmarked funding should be carefully managed to ensure alignment with strategic priorities and to maintain flexibility for targeted interventions. The Government of the Federal Republic of Germany, for instance, provided resources to the Aral Sea Trust Fund earmarked to address environmental security issues including climate change. Earmarking at a thematic level – as opposed to the project level – enables more effective management of pooled funding mechanisms, while still ensuring funds are spent for the purpose intended by contributing donors.

Identifying funding gaps and addressing them proactively is essential for achieving desired outcomes. Recognizing the implications of such gaps on programme implementation and results is critical to ensure efficient utilization of resources and maximize the impact of UN initiatives in Uzbekistan. Together with understanding the funding gap, identifying key opportunities for resource mobilization can unlock new avenues for funding and partnerships. Embracing innovative approaches, leveraging emerging trends, and fostering collaborative efforts with diverse stakeholders can create new opportunities to secure resources. The Uzbekistan **Vision 2030 Fund (or Ishonch Fund)** – which was established to use restituted assets for the benefit of the population of Uzbekistan – is an example of how the UN in Uzbekistan is unlocking unconventional approaches to meet the funding gap and address national priorities to advance the SDGs.

Challenges such as changing donor priorities, economic uncertainties, and competition for funding also need to be navigated effectively. By addressing these areas thoughtfully, the United Nations in Uzbekistan can optimize resource mobilization efforts, harnessing the power of diverse funding sources and forging sustainable partnerships. This strategic approach will enable the UN to deliver impactful results, drive sustainable development, and positively transform the lives of the people in Uzbekistan.



## CHAPTER 3: UNCT key focus for next year

In August 2022, the Joint UN-Government Steering Committee agreed on **UN thematic priorities** of further collaboration of UN with Government and other development partners for 2023-2025 under the Cooperation Framework that will be operationalized through the UN Joint Workplans.

As the development context changes and new challenges and opportunities emerge, the UN Country Team through annual Performance Review has strived to ensure the plans are adapted to new reality and that UN work remains relevant and fit for purpose.



## Effective Governance and Justice for all

- Support Inclusive Transformation of Local Governance, as well as incorporation and full alignment of the **Anti-Corruption System and Inclusive Digitalisation** into the broader administrative reforms;
- Promotion of human rights, gender equality and civic engagement through **Justice and Law Enforcement Sectors Reform**, support to implementation of **National Gender Equality Strategy and Media Sector Reform**;
- Expanding the Financing for Development and evidence-based policy making through implementation of the **National Financing Strategy and Developing the System for Reliable Statistics** in support of SDGs.

## Inclusive human capital development leading to health, wellbeing and resilient

### Livelihoods

- Ensuring support for productive engagement of youth, women and vulnerable groups **into socio-economic life and decision making**
- Supporting **crisis response programmes** and building socio-economic resilience of the country to global and regional economic instabilities and insecurities
- Supporting **green economic transition**
- **Strengthening regional development** through the integrated area-based development approach
- Economic empowerment disadvantaged groups
- **Skilled and safe migration**

### Education

- **System-wide Education Policy Support**, including EMIS and Quality Assurance Systems
- **Curriculum and textbook reform**
- **Teachers' professional development**

### Social protection

- **Social Protection Institutional reform** and financing;
- **Access** to services, guarantee and service provision;
- Social Protection of children and adults with **Disabilities-CRPD implementation**;

### Health

- **Addressing inequities** in health service coverage and outcomes;
- Strengthening health systems with a focus on **primary care/PHC**;
- Strengthening **emergency and response health preparedness**;
- Promote integrated, multi-sectoral **policies and programmes for health**;

## Sustainable, climate responsible and resilient development

- **Green Growth**: development and implementation of the Green Growth Strategic Framework (GGSF) up to 2030, and the Low Carbon Development Strategy until 2050;
- **Climate Finance**: Promoting establishment of the climate change financing framework to support the implementation of the GGSF;
- Promoting the **zero-carbon energy systems transformation** to minimize negative social impacts from energy decarbonization policies and to ensure a just energy transition;
- **Zero-carbon and sustainable mobility**. Strengthening public transport infrastructure, promoting transport electrification, and direct integration of renewable energy;
- **Afforestation/Yashil Makon** - support in implementation of the Green Nation State Programme;
- Promoting **Integrated Water Resource Management** with focus on policy, strategy and capacity-building for sustainable water resources management;
- **Water-energy-food-environment** (WEFE) nexus, including agriculture and food security;
- Adoption and support implementation of a **National Adaptation Plan** in 5 focus areas (agriculture, water resources, health, housing, and emergency management), continuing geographical expansion;
- **Biodiversity/ecosystem management** and **biodiversity finance**;
- Implementation of the **Integrated Roadmap** for the sustainable development of the Aral Sea region to transform the Aral Sea region into a zone of ecological innovations and technologies environment innovations and technologies;
- Support on the **climate-smart waste management** in Uzbekistan, through reducing greenhouse gas emissions through composting and recycling;
- Enhance the efficiency and coverage of **multi-hazard early warning system** and strengthening a national capacity for effective delivery of obligations under the **Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction** (DRR).







