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Country programme document

Uzbekistan

Summary

The country programme document (CPD) for Uzbekistan is presented to the Executive Board for discussion and approval at the present session, on a no-objection basis. The CPD includes a proposed aggregate indicative budget of \$16,375,000 from regular resources, subject to the availability of funds, and \$20,340,000 in other resources, subject to the availability of specific-purpose contributions, for the period 2021 to 2025.

* E/ICEF/2021/1.

Note: The present document was processed in its entirety by UNICEF.



Programme rationale

1. Uzbekistan is rich in natural resources and had average annual gross domestic product (GDP) growth of 5 per cent in the period 2017–2019. Since 2017, the country has undergone an unprecedented social, political and economic transformation. The Government has initiated ambitious reforms with the vision of transforming Uzbekistan into an industrialized, upper-middle-income country by 2030.¹ The development of social sectors and the rule of law are at the heart of the national development strategy for 2017–2021, which has a focus on children and youth and improving access to health care, education and social protection. The comprehensiveness of the reforms significantly redefines prospects for advancing children’s rights in Uzbekistan, an early “demographic-dividend” country where 45.5 per cent of the population is under 25 years of age.²

2. The coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic has disrupted the economy and severely impacted the most vulnerable people, including children. Growth is forecast to slow to 1.5 per cent of GDP in 2020, compared with 6.5 per cent in 2019. The World Bank estimates that 8.7 per cent of the population will live in poverty following the outbreak, compared with a projected 7.4 per cent pre-crisis, equivalent to 448,000 more people living in poverty.

3. With a tradition of investment in social sectors, which constitutes more than 55 per cent of total public expenditure,³ children in Uzbekistan have gradually realized many rights. The national averages for basic social development indicators are relatively good, but budgetary inefficiency and the decline in public investment in social sectors,⁴ combined with the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, are expected to significantly hamper outcomes for children. In 2017, Uzbekistan ranked 105th (out of 189 countries) in the Human Development Index and 59th (out of 189 countries) in the Gender Inequality Index.⁵ The United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women noted the progress of Uzbekistan in reducing gender inequality.⁶

4. Children are disproportionately affected by poverty: 30 per cent of children below the age of 9 years live in families in the lowest wealth quintile. Compared with other middle-income countries, investment in social protection in Uzbekistan is low,⁷ and coverage of child-specific allowances has decreased over time. Only 17 per cent of children live in households that receive any of the three available child allowances, and 75 per cent of eligible families do not receive any. Eligibility for cash assistance is too narrowly defined, and targeting methods exclude some of those for whom they are intended. The universal benefit for children with disability status reaches only half of those who are entitled to it. Entitlement to the child benefit ceases at the age

¹ Rakhmatullaev, Shavkat, Jusipbek Kazbekov and Iskandar Abdullaev, “Water-Energy-Food-Environmental Nexus in Central Asia: From transition to transformation” in Zhiltsov, Sergey et al., eds, *Water Resources in Central Asia: International Context* (Springer, Cham, Switzerland, 2017).

² State Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Statistics, *Distribution of the population by age, dataset*, 2019.

³ UNICEF, *The Pattern of Public Investment in Children in Uzbekistan: Current Status and Development Prospects* (Tashkent, 2018).

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ United Nations Development Programme, *Human Development Report 2019* (New York, 2019) p. 317.

⁶ United Nations, *Concluding observations on the fifth periodic report of Uzbekistan*, CEDAW/C/UZB/CO/5 (New York 2015) paragraph 4.

⁷ Asian Development Bank, *The Social Protection Indicator for Asia: Assessing Progress*, Manila, 2019.

of 14 years, leaving children aged 15–18 years without social protection.⁸ There is no provision for compensating carers of children with disabilities. Additionally, social protection programmes do not consider the higher vulnerability of people living in regions suffering from severe impacts of climate change and environmental disasters, such as the Aral Sea region.⁹

5. Uzbekistan scores well in survival and development indicators: the under-five mortality rate is estimated at 21 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2018, and the neonatal mortality rate at 11.6 per 1,000 live births. About 50 per cent of all under-five mortality occurs in the first 28 days of life.¹⁰ In all age groups, children still die from preventable causes. Outbreaks of measles and meningitis in 2019 revealed irregularities in the timeliness of follow-up vaccine doses¹¹ and reflect low rates of vaccination during the first days of a child's life. There is a missed opportunity to holistically assess risks to the well-being of young children and empower parents to provide nurturing care.

6. Micronutrient deficiency is widespread in Uzbekistan: 15 per cent of children suffer from anaemia, more than 50 per cent experience iron deficiency and 6 per cent have vitamin A deficiency. Chronic malnutrition affects 9 per cent of children. There are huge regional and wealth-related disparities in stunting. The highest levels of anaemia among children aged 6–59 months occur in the regions of Bukhara (23 per cent), Samarkand (18 per cent), Tashkent (18 per cent) and Andijon (16 per cent), and in the autonomous Republic of Karakalpakstan (17 per cent).¹²

7. Uzbekistan has the highest mortality rate of adolescents due to suicide and self-harm of countries in Central Asia. Youth aged 15–19 years account for around 74 per cent of the male and 80 per cent of the female mortality rate due to suicide and self-harm; the rate for this age group has almost tripled since 2010.¹³ This indicates a high prevalence of mental health issues among adolescents, which could potentially be exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. While vertical transmission of HIV from mothers to babies has fallen, HIV/AIDS is one of the morbidities that has increased most among children since 1990.¹⁴

8. Education is one of the main means of societal and economic transformation. Since 2017, the education sector has introduced ambitious reforms in all subsectors, closing gaps in access to early childhood education (ECE) and higher education. Although preschool education coverage has increased from less than 30 per cent before 2017 to 53 per cent in 2020,¹⁵ it remains low, especially in the regions of Kashkadarya (31 per cent), Surkhandarya (35 per cent) and Tashkent (39 per cent), while Tashkent city has the highest coverage (87 per cent). Children from the wealthiest quintile are nine times more likely to attend ECE programmes compared

⁸ UNICEF, *Building a National Social Protection System fit for Uzbekistan's Children and Youth* (Tashkent, 2019).

⁹ UNICEF, *Analysis of the situation of children in Uzbekistan*, unpublished, 2019.

¹⁰ United Nations Inter-Agency-group for Child Mortality Estimation, *Levels & Trends in Child Mortality: Report 2019*, UNICEF, 2019.

¹¹ Data submitted to UNICEF and WHO by the Ministry of Health in June 2019 as part of an update on the measles epidemiological situation.

¹² UNICEF, *Uzbekistan Nutrition Survey 2017*, Tashkent, 2019.

¹³ UNICEF, *Transformative Monitoring for Enhanced Equity (TransMonEE) database*, 2018.

¹⁴ Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation, *global burden of disease*, online information, 2019. Available at: www.healthdata.org/gbd/2019.

¹⁵ Uzbekistan, Ministry of Preschool Education, data set, 2020.

with those from the lowest quintile.¹⁶ Around 200 specialized preschools serve nearly 21,000 children with disabilities, leading to their further segregation.¹⁷

9. Uzbekistan has made significant progress in ensuring access to basic education. The general secondary education (GSE) cycle is compulsory and enrolment rates are consistently close to 100 per cent for both boys and girls.¹⁸ However, dropping out of school is a concern. The number of out-of-school children is estimated at 142,000, 60 per cent of whom are girls and a large majority of whom are believed to be children with disabilities. The regions with the highest proportions of out-of-school children are Syrdarya (4.5 per cent), Samarkand (4.4 per cent), Bukhara (4.3 per cent) and Tashkent (4.2 per cent) along with the autonomous Republic of Karakalpakstan (7.5 per cent).¹⁹ In the 2017–18 academic year, 19,858 children studied in special schools²⁰ and were deprived of an inclusive curriculum.

10. Current barriers to quality in GSE include the content-oriented curriculum, which is focused on direct transfer of knowledge rather than improving children's ability to learn and apply knowledge. While the pupil-teacher ratio in GSE is quite low (around 13:1 in 2018²¹), teacher shortages exist in some schools, regions and subjects. Mechanisms for teacher evaluation based on professional standards need to be improved. The preparation and professional development of school staff and managers must consider the needs of disadvantaged regions and schools.

11. The quality of GSE and learning outcomes varies by region and school. At the end of primary education, students in Uzbekistan are able to identify or recall simple and more obvious information and do clear, uncomplicated tasks. However, students struggle to evaluate more complicated information, solve complex mathematical problems and respond to questions requiring reasoning and application.²² Challenges in education quality and low access to higher education make young people's transition to the labour market difficult. Approximately 42 per cent of 8.5 million young people aged 15–29 years are not in employment, education or training (for young women the rate is 66 per cent, compared with 34 per cent for men). For young people with disabilities, this rate is 77 per cent.²³ At 18 per cent, youth unemployment is twice as high as the overall unemployment rate.²⁴ A 2014 World Bank study on labour market skills revealed gaps between social-emotional skills desired by employers – such as self-discipline, empathy and creativity – and the skills of recent university graduates.²⁵

12. While the prevalence of violence, exploitation, abuse and neglect of children is not fully known, available data suggest that children are affected by violence in

¹⁶ UNICEF, Policy Review of Preschool Education in Uzbekistan (Tashkent, 2017).

¹⁷ Uzbekistan, education sector plan for 2019–2023, 2019.

¹⁸ UNESCO, *Global Education Monitoring Report 2017/18: Accountability in Education – Meeting our Commitments* (Paris, 2017).

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ UNICEF, Policy brief: Legislation and policy review of inclusive education in Uzbekistan, Tashkent, 2018, unpublished.

²¹ State Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Statistics, data provided July 2019.

²² UNICEF, *Student Learning at Primary Grades in Uzbekistan: Outcomes, Challenges, and Opportunities – A Summary of Uzbekistan National Learning Achievement Study, Grade IV, 2018* (Tashkent, 2019).

²³ UNICEF, *Building a National Social Protection System fit for Uzbekistan's Children and Youth*.

²⁴ Ibid.

²⁵ Ajwad, Mohamed Ihsan et al., *The Skills Road: Skills for Employability in Uzbekistan*, World Bank, Washington, DC, 2014.

various forms, including domestic violence²⁶ and bullying in schools.²⁷ There are also children living and working on the streets.²⁸ Uzbekistan has ended use of child labour during the cotton harvest, for which it had been internationally criticized.²⁹ Child marriage is declining but remains common: 4,787 children under the age of 18 years married in 2018, with girls in Samarkand accounting for 36 per cent of all child marriages in 2018.³⁰ These challenges are usually caused by vulnerability of families, including migration of parents and weak parental skills, along with little demand for and inadequate supply of services.

13. The institutionalization of children is common in Uzbekistan. In 2017, the rate of children in institutional care was 255 per 100,000 children, of whom 60 per cent were boys.³¹ The rate of children who are separated from their families for lack of adequate parental care is increasing; most children are aged 7–17 years, but an increasing proportion is below age 3. Children with disabilities accounted for 84 per cent of those in institutional care in 2017. Deprivation of liberty in closed educational institutions is common for children who are too young to be prosecuted or who are involved in behaviours considered socially unacceptable.³² Although legislation promotes child-friendly approaches towards children in contact with the law, implementation remains a challenge.³³ There is no separate juvenile justice system.³⁴ Social and child protection systems are not integrated. There is a lack of social services to complement limited cash benefits. And while progress has been made in social work education, this profession is underdeveloped.³⁵

14. A lesson learned from the previous country programme³⁶ is that making progress in realizing children's rights requires measuring the impact of national policies, plans and services on the most disadvantaged families and children. This requires disaggregated data, enhanced capacity for analysis and a culture of organizational learning and adaptability in the public sector. Stronger national monitoring capacity will help build the accountable systems needed to adjust to rapid changes, including in crisis situations such as the COVID-19 pandemic. Another lesson learned is the limited application of cross-sectoral approaches and lack of focus on comprehensive programming on disability and gender.

15. UNICEF has the comparative advantage of a good reputation in the country and being considered a trusted partner of the Government, civil society and development partners, with a clear mandate for monitoring of the CRC implementation and legitimacy to lead in its key programme areas.

²⁶ UNICEF, *Assessing and Reintegrating Girls from Closed Institutions in Uzbekistan Back into their Families and Communities* (Tashkent, 2019).

²⁷ UNICEF, *Student Learning at Primary Grades in Uzbekistan*.

²⁸ United Nations, Concluding observations on the combined third and fourth periodic reports of Uzbekistan, 2013.

²⁹ International Labour Organization, *Third party monitoring of child labour and forced labour during the 2018 cotton harvest in Uzbekistan* (Geneva, 2019).

³⁰ State Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Statistics, 2019.

³¹ UNICEF, TransMonEE Database, 2019.

³² UNICEF, *Justice for Children in Uzbekistan: Consolidated Report* (Tashkent, 2015).

³³ Uzbekistan, Law No. ZRU-139 of 7 January 2008 on Child's Rights Guarantees and Law No. ZRU-365 of 20 January 2014 to Amend and Supplement Several Legal Acts.

³⁴ UNICEF, *Analysis of the compliance of national legislation with international justice for children standards*, 2015.

³⁵ Columbia University School of Social Work, *The social service workforce (SSW) in Uzbekistan: Strengths, challenges, and ways forward*, report submitted to UNICEF, 2019.

³⁶ Evaluation, UNICEF country programme, 2016–2020, unpublished, 2020.

Programme priorities and partnerships

16. In line with the Government's national development plans, sectoral priorities and the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF), 2021–2025, the new UNICEF country programme has a stronger focus on exclusion and inequalities. The programme will explicitly support and seize opportunities created by reforms initiated by the Government since 2017. The programme will help to mitigate the immediate and long-term risks of increasing inequalities and socioeconomic vulnerability of children due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The country programme results (which are integral to the UNSDCF) will make a significant contribution to the country's reform agenda, which is aligned with and contributes to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

17. All programme components will support systems strengthening by engaging public finance and modelling services that reduce disparities among regions, urban/rural areas, boys and girls and marginalized groups, including children with disabilities. The country programme will increase the use of innovative approaches to include voices of children and young people in policy reform. It will focus more on mitigating vulnerabilities and risks related to climate change and natural disasters. Addressing social norms that hinder achievement of sustainable results will be a strategy in all areas of programming.

18. Children with disabilities are one of the most vulnerable groups in Uzbekistan and face multiple deprivations and discrimination. UNICEF will design cross-sectoral interventions to assist these children to become equal members of society. UNICEF will promote stronger emphasis on early identification and intervention, preventing institutionalization, supporting inclusive education and expanding social protection measures for children with disabilities.

19. Gender-responsive programming will be a cross-cutting priority in line with the UNICEF Gender Action Plan, 2018–2021. Activities will focus on empowering adolescent girls through skills development and supporting the efforts of other United Nations agencies to address harmful gender norms and gender-based violence.

20. The country programme will implement a communication and public advocacy strategy that positions UNICEF as a leading voice driving results for children. Evidence-based advocacy will leverage partnerships and public and policy discourse to put children's rights at the centre of decision-making. Partnerships with donors and international financial institutions will increase allocations and actions for fulfilling the child rights agenda. Building on the growing role of the private sector and civil society in Uzbekistan, the country programme will proactively engage these actors in initiating and testing innovative approaches, including through using technology for development.

Enabling environment and social inclusion

21. The long-term vision for change in this area is that, by 2025, the most vulnerable children and youth benefit from policy coherence and evidence-based and inclusive decision-making, along with financing for social development in line with the national Sustainable Development Goals and international standards. This area of work directly contributes to achieving UNSDCF priority 1 (effective governance and justice for all, namely outcomes 1 and 2); and priority 2 (inclusive human capital development leading to health, well-being and resilient prosperity, namely social protection under outcome 4).

22. To achieve this, UNICEF will focus on enhancing the Government's capacity to: (a) design, budget, monitor and implement evidence-based age-, gender- and disability-sensitive policies and programmes (including data use and strengthening

inclusive planning, budgeting, monitoring and evaluation); (b) systematically measure child poverty in line with international definitions to inform policies, programmes and budgets; (c) operationalize an integrated social protection system that is child-sensitive and shock- and gender-responsive (by scenario-costing, articulating operating procedures, creating action plans and developing tools for poverty measurement, monitoring and management information systems); and (d) create opportunities for the most disadvantaged young people, especially women and those with disabilities, to acquire competencies for effective participation in decision-making processes and making informed choices about their future.

23. UNICEF will underpin these efforts with policy advocacy and local interventions for and with young people, including in cross-border areas. Complementing this will be cultivation of partnerships among the Government, civil society organizations and the private sector to test social innovation and social entrepreneurship, volunteering programmes and internship and apprenticeship programmes.

Children survive and thrive

24. The vision for change in health is that, by 2025, girls and boys, especially those who are marginalized (children from disadvantaged regions and low-income families, those with disabilities and girls and women of reproductive age) benefit from equitable, evidence-based, quality and gender-responsive services. These include neonatal, child and adolescent health, nutrition and development interventions. The ambition of this pillar reaches beyond improving child survival through ending preventable deaths of young children to attaining the growth and developmental potential and well-being of all children and adolescents. This area of work will directly contribute to achieving the health component of UNSDCF outcome 4; it also integrates the climate change and emergency preparedness elements enshrined in outcome 5.

25. To achieve this, UNICEF will focus on: (a) improving quality of neonatal and maternal health to accelerate the reduction of newborn and stillbirth mortality based on a redefined basic benefits package for maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health and mandatory health insurance (with United Nations partners); (b) strengthening the health-care system to sustain immunization coverage and provide nurturing care by investing in supply and logistics systems, improved data quality, analysis and policies and sustainable financing; (c) reducing micronutrient deficiency and malnutrition in children, adolescent girls and pregnant women (by empowering communities to practice healthy and nutritious diets and promoting a multisectoral response to malnutrition, anaemia and low breastfeeding levels); and (d) improving adolescent health, with special attention to road safety and mental health issues (by helping the Government to create a strategy addressing existing challenges, including mental health issues).

Education, early learning and development

26. The vision for change for this area is that, by 2025, children and adolescents, particularly the most marginalized (children from rural areas, those with disabilities and out-of-school girls and boys) increasingly benefit from inclusive and gender-responsive quality education and learning opportunities, including early learning and development. This area of work will directly contribute to achieving the education component of UNSDCF outcome 4, and it also integrates climate change and disaster risk reduction elements under outcome 5.

27. To achieve this outcome, UNICEF will focus on developing capacities in Uzbekistan to: (a) develop policies to promote early child development and quality learning for all children (through quality assurance and by generating evidence and

tracking learning outcomes); (b) enhance the curriculum to assess systems and pedagogical models and facilitate a competency-based, lifelong learning perspective (including developing guidebooks and training materials to roll out a new preschool curriculum and implement early learning development standards, and through measuring child development milestones and school readiness indicators); and (c) implement programmes to enhance teachers' and managers' competencies and skills (by assisting relevant institutions to revise the curriculum through a competency-based approach as well as designing appropriate alternative and complementary pedagogical approaches and teaching and learning materials). UNICEF will support these efforts by promoting innovation, cross-sectoral linkages and behaviour change and will complement them by promoting child-friendly, inclusive and non-violent learning environments that also improve children's resilience to shocks.

Child protection

28. The long-term vision for change in this area is that, by 2025, the most vulnerable children (including children from disadvantaged and low-income families, very young children and those with disabilities) benefit from a protective environment that prevents separation of children from families and deprivation of liberty, and effectively responds to violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect. This result will directly contribute to UNSDCF priority 1 (effective governance and justice for all, namely outcome 1).

29. To achieve this, UNICEF will support the Government to: (a) ensure intersectoral coordination to prevent unnecessary family separation and to shift from large institutional care to family and community-based care (by supporting systems strengthening, data collection, modelling family support and alternative care services, and the transformation of institutions); (b) strengthen a dedicated social service workforce that applies a case management approach by supporting development of specialized services and social service workforce training, strengthening identification and referral of high-risk cases related to violence and other vulnerabilities and addressing harmful gender norms and practices (including child marriage) that exacerbate violence; and (c) apply child-friendly and gender-sensitive procedures, diversion and alternatives to deprivation of liberty (by strengthening the current justice for children system and ensuring that children in contact with the law are better served and protected by introducing practices of alternatives to detention, such as diversion and probation, as well as a restorative justice approach).

Summary budget table

<i>Programme component</i>	<i>(In thousands of United States dollars)</i>		
	<i>Regular resources</i>	<i>Other resources</i>	<i>Total</i>
Enabling environment and social inclusion	3 400	4 000	7 400
Children survive and thrive	4 300	8 200	12 500
Education and early learning and development	3 375	4 500	7 875
Child protection	3 000	2 740	5 740
Programme effectiveness	2 300	900	3 200
Total	16 375	20 340	36 715

Programme and risk management

30. The country programme outlines UNICEF contributions to national results. It serves as the primary unit of accountability to the Executive Board for the resources assigned for programming in Uzbekistan. The programme will be coordinated within the UNSDCF, under the coordination of the relevant Steering Committees. Each area of work will be coordinated with relevant sectoral ministries.

31. The Government's ongoing commitment to reforming the health, education, social and child protection sectors, the existing demographic dividend and the focus on human capital development offer a unique opportunity for UNICEF to promote ambitious goals and help ensure that no child is left behind. The major risk to the achievement of these goals is the fiscal constraint expected in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. Through fiscal analysis and strengthened work on public finance for children, UNICEF will advise the Government on the areas where efficiency gains can be made and on how to prioritize and divert resources to critical areas. UNICEF will also explore leveraging resources from international financial institutions and development partners and helping to develop innovative financing of social sectors with contributions from the private sector.

32. Uzbekistan is highly vulnerable to climatic shocks and prone to natural disasters. These impose additional risks to achievement of the proposed country programme and, most importantly, could result in significant deprivations for children. UNICEF will apply risk-informed programming to ensure sustainable age- and gender-responsive disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation and mitigation initiatives in social sectors, with a focus on at-risk areas, including the Aral Sea region.

33. The country programme has been developed on the assumption that the Government will continue to support, politically and financially, the implementation of sectoral reforms and will remain open to addressing structural barriers with the help of partners.

34. The business operations strategy of the United Nations funds and programmes will harmonize and reduce operating costs in the context of United Nations development system reform. UNICEF will continue to invest in the effectiveness of internal governance and management systems, stewardship of financial resources and management of human resources. UNICEF will also strengthen management of the harmonized approach to cash transfers to mitigate risks associated with programme implementation.

Monitoring and evaluation

35. UNICEF will monitor the results of the country programme through annual and mid-term reviews that appraise progress, identify key strategic, programmatic, operational and financial risks and define appropriate mitigation measures, and this will inform work planning. Progress towards planned results will be monitored using the results and resources framework and annual workplans. UNICEF will work with the State Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Statistics and other United Nations funds and programmes to monitor progress towards national and international goals and track inequities.

36. The UNICEF country programme contributes to the results matrix of the UNSDCF, which serves as the overall cooperation framework for monitoring the joint outcomes of the United Nations in Uzbekistan.

37. Independent evaluations of programme components and joint United Nations initiatives will contribute to national and global evidence. These evaluations will assess progress against expected results, validate good practices and establish lessons learned. UNICEF will continue supporting thematic studies and surveys that are needed to inform policy development and implementation.

38. UNICEF will evaluate approaches to assessing programme relevance, effectiveness, efficiency and impact. It will prioritize periodic household surveys, such as the multiple indicator cluster survey (MICS) in 2021 and 2025, to provide updated data and to monitor progress towards Sustainable Development Goals. The data will inform evidence-based advocacy, policy dialogue and planning.

Annex

Results and resources framework

Uzbekistan – UNICEF country programme of cooperation, 2021–2025

Convention on the Rights of the Child: 2, 5–7, 12, 18–20, 23, 24, 26, 28, 29, 32, 33, 36, 37, 39

National priorities: Sustainable Development Goals: 1–5, 8–11, 13, 17; Strategy of action on five priority areas of development for the Republic of Uzbekistan 2017–2021

United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework outcomes involving UNICEF:

1. By 2025, all people and groups in Uzbekistan, especially the most vulnerable, demand and benefit from enhanced accountable, transparent, inclusive and gender responsive governance systems and rule of law institutions for a life free from discrimination and violence
2. By 2025, the population of Uzbekistan benefits from more harmonized and integrated implementation of the reform agenda due to strengthened policy coherence, evidence-based and inclusive decision-making and financing for development, mainstreamed in line with national Sustainable Development Goals
3. By 2025, youth, women and vulnerable groups benefit from improved access to livelihoods, decent work and expanded opportunities generated by inclusive and equitable economic growth
4. By 2025, the most vulnerable benefit from enhanced access to gender-sensitive quality health, education and social services
5. By 2025, the most at risk regions and communities of Uzbekistan are more resilient to climate change and disasters, and benefit from increasingly sustainable and gender-sensitive efficient management of natural resources and infrastructure, robust climate action, inclusive environmental governance and protection

UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2018–2021 Goal Areas: 1–3, 5

UNICEF outcomes	Key progress indicators, baselines (B) and targets (T)	Means of verification	Indicative country programme outputs	Major partners, partnership frameworks	Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)		
					RR	OR	Total
1. By 2025, the most vulnerable children and youth benefit from policy coherence, evidence-	Status of selected Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) recommendations B: CRC recommendations in 2021 T: ≥50% achieved (2025)	Government/ UNICEF reports	1.1. Child rights decision-making bodies and independent institutions have required knowledge and skills to design, budget,	National human rights institutions; non-governmental organizations (NGOs); the State	3 400	4 000	7 400

UNICEF outcomes	Key progress indicators, baselines (B) and targets (T)	Means of verification	Indicative country programme outputs	Major partners, partnership frameworks	Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)		
					RR	OR	Total
based and inclusive decision-making and financing for social development in line with the national Sustainable Development Goals and international standards (contributing to UNSDCF outcomes 1–3).	Percentage of 44 child-related Sustainable Development Goals indicators with disaggregation B: 27% (2020) T: ≥60% (2025)	Nationalized Sustainable Development Goals database	monitor and implement evidence-based age-, gender- and disability-sensitive policies and programmes. 1.2. The Government has the capacity to operationalize an integrated child-sensitive and shock-responsive social protection system. 1.3. The Government has the knowledge and tools to systematically and regularly measure child poverty, in line with international definitions, to inform policies, programmes and budgets. 1. 4. The Government, private sector and civil society organizations can create opportunities for the most disadvantaged young people, especially women and those with disabilities, to acquire competencies for effective participation in decision-making processes and making informed choices about their future.	Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Statistics; Ministries of Finance, Mahalla and Family Support and Economic Development and Poverty Reduction; Youth Affairs Agency; local authorities; Youth Union			
	Number of reports of national human rights institutions supported by UNICEF reflecting quality monitoring on child rights B: 0 specialized reports T: 3 specialized reports	Reports of national human rights institutions					
	Number of children living in poverty according to national monetary poverty lines B: 2.66 million children T: 1.8 million children	UNICEF reports; official sources					
	Number of children covered by the social protection system B: 1.7 million (no disaggregation available) (2019) T: 3.0 million (disaggregated by age, gender and disability) (2025)	Nationwide survey					
	Number of adolescent girls and boys, young women and young men who participate in or lead civic engagement initiatives B: 116: 53 boys, 63 girls (2019) T: 10,000: 4,500 boys and young men, 5,500 girls and young women (2025)	UNICEF/partner reports					
2. By 2025, girls and boys and their caregivers, especially the most vulnerable, benefit	Percentage of children under age 1 who receive measles vaccine B: 96% (2019) T: ≥96% (2025)	Ministry of Health statistics	2.1. The Government and partners are able to deliver quality perinatal health services by strengthening the health system.	Ministries of: Health, Finance, Economic Development and Poverty Reduction,	4 300	8 200	12 500

UNICEF outcomes	Key progress indicators, baselines (B) and targets (T)	Means of verification	Indicative country programme outputs	Major partners, partnership frameworks	Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)		
					RR	OR	Total
from enhanced equitable, evidence-based, quality and gender-sensitive neonatal, child and adolescent health, nutrition and development interventions (contributing to UNSDCF outcomes 4 and 5).	[UNSDCF outcome indicator, Sustainable Development Goals indicator]		<p>2.2. National and subnational actors have increased capacity to deliver child health and nurturing care services to very young children within primary health care.</p> <p>2.3. The Government and partners are able to deliver multisectoral nutrition services for young children, adolescent girls and pregnant women.</p> <p>2.4. State and non-state service providers have the capacity to provide gender-responsive adolescent health services.</p>	Agriculture and Water Resources; National Chamber of Innovative Healthcare; Chamber of Commerce and Industry; universities and research institutes, NGOs and media; local health departments; United Nations agencies			
	Percentage of children under 5 years of age who have developmental risk, delay or disabilities who receive standard early intervention services (boys; girls) B: 0%; boys - 0%; girls - 0% (2020) T: 30%; boys - 30%; girls - 30% (2025)	UNICEF/partner reports					
	Percentage of children aged 6–23 months fed four or more food groups (boys; girls) B: boys - 30%; girls - 30% (2020) T: boys - 50%; girls - 50% (2025)	Endline survey					
	Availability and implementation status of national policy framework on adolescents' health and well-being B: No policy available (2020) T: Policy is available and implemented (2025)	Government decision implementation reports					
3. By 2025, more children, especially the most vulnerable, benefit from inclusive and equitable early childhood education, quality basic education and improved learning outcomes (contributing to UNSDCF outcomes 4 and 5).	Net enrolment rate in pre-primary education, by sex B: boys - 53.6%; girls - 50.6% (2020) T: boys - 70%; girls - 70% (2025)	Preschool Education Management Information Systems (EMIS)	<p>3.1. The Government has enhanced capacity to develop evidence- and risk-informed, gender-responsive and inclusive policies promoting an integrated life-cycle approach to early childhood development, quality learning and skills development.</p> <p>3.2. The Government has improved capacity to design and implement competency-based curricula and</p>	Ministries of: Preschool Education; Public Education; State Inspectorate for the Supervision of Quality in Education; United Nations agencies; international financial institutions; development partners; civil society	3 375	4 500	7 875
	[UNSDCF outcome indicator, Sustainable Development Goals indicator]	Preschool EMIS					
	Participation rate in organized learning one year before the official age of school entry, by sex B: boys - 64.3%; girls - 60.6% (2020) T: boys - 75%; girls - 75% (2025)						

UNICEF outcomes	Key progress indicators, baselines (B) and targets (T)	Means of verification	Indicative country programme outputs	Major partners, partnership frameworks	Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)		
					RR	OR	Total
	[UNSDCF outcome indicator, Sustainable Development Goals indicator]		assessment at the preschool and basic education levels.				
	Number of girls and boys of primary and lower secondary-school age who are out of school B: girls - 69,000; boys - 42,834 (2018) T: girls - 25,000; boys - 15,000 (2025)	United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization Institute for Statistics	3.3. Government partners have improved capacity to develop and implement programmes that enhance teachers' and managers' competencies and skills to provide efficient, effective, gender-responsive and inclusive quality instruction, in early childhood education and general secondary education.				
	Average learning outcomes in core subjects/children at the end of primary level (Grade 4) achieving at least a minimum proficiency in core subjects B: Item response theory (IRT) scale scores in language/reading: total/boys/girls; rural/urban): 501/493/507; 502/505 (2019) IRT scale scores in mathematics/numeracy: total/boys/girls; rural/urban: 500/500/500; 490/504 (2019) T: IRT scale scores in language/reading: total/boys/ girls; rural/urban): 522/520/525; 525/525 (2025) IRT scale scores in mathematics/numeracy: total/boys/girls; rural/urban: 525/525/525; 522/525 (2025)	National Achievement Survey; early grade reading assessment, early grade math assessment					
	Proportion of children with disabilities enrolled in preschools and general secondary (GS) schools B: preschools - 34.9%; GS schools - 77.8% (2019) T: preschools: 50%; GS schools: 90% (2025)	EMIS					

UNICEF outcomes	Key progress indicators, baselines (B) and targets (T)	Means of verification	Indicative country programme outputs	Major partners, partnership frameworks	Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)		
					RR	OR	Total
	[UNSDCF outcome indicator, Sustainable Development Goals indicator]						
4. By 2025, the most vulnerable children benefit from a gender-responsive and functional child protection system that prevents and responds to separation, deprivation, violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect (contributing to UNSDCF outcome 1).	Rate of children in residential care institutions B: 255/100,000 child population (2019) T: 200/100,000 child population (2025)	Data from Supreme Court, office of the Prosecutor General, Ministry of Public Education, Ministry of Mahalla and Family Support, UNICEF reports	4.1. The Government has improved multisectoral prevention and response measures to prevent unnecessary family separation and foster a shift from large institutions to family/community-based care for boys and girls.	Ministries of: Mahalla and Family Support; Interior; Public Education; office of the Prosecutor General; Supreme Court; High Judicial Council; NGOs	3 000	2 740	5 740
	Percentage of children aged 1–14 years who experienced any physical punishment and/or psychological aggression by caregivers in the past month B: MICS 6 (2021) T: Reduction by ≥10% (2025)	Multiple indicator cluster surveys	4.2. The social service workforce has the capacity to apply an integrated case management system and practice social work functions to prevent and respond to separation, violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect of children.				
	Percentage of girls and boys in conflict with the law who are subject to a diversion order or alternative measure as opposed to a custodial sentence B: 0 T: 20%	Reports from MoI and office of the Prosecutor General	4.3. Justice professionals have increased capacity to apply child-friendly and gender-sensitive procedures, diversion and alternatives to deprivation of liberty for children.				
5. Enhanced programme effectiveness.	Standard performance indicators	UNICEF Results Assessment Module	Programme coordination; communication, advocacy, partnerships; evaluation.		2 300	900	3 200
Total resources					16 375	20 340	36 715