



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

Tashkent  
Office

**UNESCO Country Programming Document (UCPD)  
for the Republic of Uzbekistan  
(2014 – 2017)**



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## Abbreviations and acronyms

ASPAC	Asia and the Pacific countries
CA	Country Analysis
CONFINTEA	International Conference on Adult Education
DESD	UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development
DPG	Development Partner Group
DRR	disaster risk reduction
EFA	Education for All
EMIS	Education Management Information System
ESP	Education Sector Plan
ESD	Education for Sustainable Development
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GPE	Global Partnership of Education
HDI	Human Development Index
ICT	information and communication technology
IIEP	International Institute for Educational Planning
IHP	International Hydrological Programme
KRASS	Khorezm Rural Advisory Support Service
MAB	Man and the Biosphere programme
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
M&E	monitoring and evaluation
MIC	middle income country
MIL	media and information literacy
NGO	non-governmental organization
NSP	National Strategic Programme
NORBO	Network of Asian River Basin Organizations
STI	science, technology and innovation
SWITCH-in-Asia	Sustainable Water Management Improves Tomorrow's Cities Health
TVET	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
UBRAF	UNAIDS Unified Budget, Results and Accountability Framework
UCPD	UNESCO Country Programming Document
UIS	UNESCO Institute of Statistics
UIL	UNESCO Institute of Lifelong Learning
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNEP	United Nations Environmental Organization
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNESS	UNESCO National Education Support Strategy
UNEVOC	International Centre for Technical and Vocational Education and Training
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNTFHS	United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
WIS	Welfare Improvement Strategy
WHO	World Health Organization

## Introduction

UNESCO's intervention in Uzbekistan is planned and managed by the UNESCO Tashkent Office in close collaboration with the UNESCO Headquarters, regional offices in Bangkok and Jakarta, cluster office in Almaty and the National Commission of the Republic of Uzbekistan for UNESCO.

The government's priorities are defined in Uzbekistan's Welfare Improvement Strategy (WIS), which is based on the Millennium Declaration. In support of WIS and based on the lessons learned from the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2005-2009, the United Nations in Uzbekistan developed the UNDAF for 2010-2015 following a consultative process to define how the UN can most effectively respond to Uzbekistan's national priorities and needs.

Anchored in human rights norms and values, and the principles of gender mainstreaming and inclusiveness, the four priority areas for the UN action in Uzbekistan are: 1) economic well-being; 2) social services; 3) environment; and 4) governance.

The UNESCO Country Programming Document (UCPD 2014–17) for Uzbekistan articulates the Organization's multi-sectoral cooperation strategy and programme as a contribution to the priority areas defined in the UNDAF and in line with the UNESCO Medium-Term Strategy (37 C/4) for 2014-2021 and Programme and Budget (37 C/5) for 2014-2017.

## **PART I**

### **SITUATION ANALYSIS**

#### ***a) Basic facts about the country***

Located on the ancient Silk Road between Asia, the Middle East and Europe, Uzbekistan is the most populous country in Central Asia with *ca* 30 million citizens as of January 2013. The doubly landlocked country (447,400km<sup>2</sup>, i.e. the 56<sup>th</sup> largest in the world) occupies a strategic location, bordered by Kazakhstan to the north, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan to the east, and Turkmenistan and Afghanistan to the west and south. Uzbekistan's capital city Tashkent is the largest city in Central Asia with a population of over 2.5 million.

- ***Demographic profile***

80% of the country's population is of Uzbek origin with Russian, Tajik, Kazakh, Karakalpak, Tatar and other ethnic groups represented. The Uzbek language is the official State language, but Russian is also widely spoken. Uzbekistan provides primary and secondary education in seven languages of instruction: Uzbek, Russian, Karakalpak, Kazakh, Tajik, Turkmen and Kyrgyz.

The majority (88%) of the Uzbek population is Sunni Muslims, the second largest religious group is Orthodox Christians and other small religious groups are represented. Religion is separated from the state and legislation guarantees equal rights for people of all faiths.

48.9% of Uzbekistan's population resides in rural areas and 60 percent is under 30 years of age.

- ***Economy and employment***

Uzbekistan is experiencing a rapid increase in the working-age population due to high birth rates: the share of the working age population grew from 51.7% in 2001 to 60.1% in 2009. There were 671.6 thousand unemployed registered by the Labour Office in 2010. As of 2012, unemployment rate stands at 4.9%. The State Statistic Committee estimates this rate to stand between 4.08-4.9% by 2015. In 2008, the share of women among the total unemployed was 46.4%; the youth (aged between 16 and 30) constituted 54.6% and the majority of unemployed lived in rural areas (72.1%). The latest Welfare Improvement Strategy (WIS) 2013-2015 (see section b below) indicates the employment rate in the informal sector at 34% of the total employment in 2013.<sup>1</sup> This rate is expected to meet a slight decrease in the forthcoming years, with estimates standing at 32% for the year 2015.

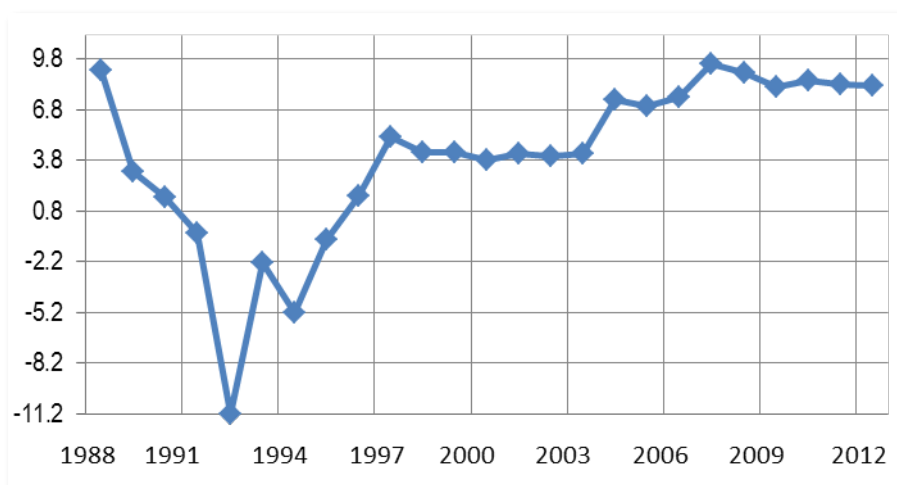
Uzbekistan is the world's seventh-largest gold producer, mining 80 tons per year, and holds the fourth largest reserves of gold in the world. Moreover, Uzbekistan is now the world's second-largest cotton exporter and the fifth largest producer. Although the global financial crisis affected some parts of the economy, favourable prices for natural gas allowed Uzbekistan to maintain GDP growth rate. The State Statistics Committee estimated a continuously high GDP growth rate amounting to 8.2% of the previous year. Consistent GDP growth is expected to be maintained at least until 2015.<sup>2</sup> In 2010 Uzbekistan was reclassified from a low income to lower middle-income category by the World Bank.

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<sup>1</sup>Welfare Improvement Strategy of the Republic of Uzbekistan for 2013-2015 (hereinafter WIS). Tashkent 2013.

<sup>2</sup>*id.*

### GDP growth rate in the Republic of Uzbekistan<sup>3</sup>



Source: State Statistics Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan

A decisive factor affecting the labour market and economic development is the rapidly growing labour migration. The number of labour migrants going abroad each year increased from 44,000 in 2001 to 2 million in 2010. Registered remittances, only from the Russian Federation, accounted for US\$4.3 billion<sup>4</sup> in 2010 and comprised almost 11% of GDP.

Uzbekistan's Human Development Index (HDI)<sup>5</sup> is estimated to improve from the average 0.55 in 2011 to 0.60 by the year 2015 and the country is ranked 114<sup>th</sup> out of 183 countries. UNDP's analysis of the HDI suggests that Uzbekistan has every possible prospect of being able to advance along a path of robust economic growth whilst obtaining significant human development gains. Good governance at all levels and the pursuit of the right policy choices are key to determining the future prospects for all the people of Uzbekistan.<sup>6</sup>

#### b) Existing country assessments

After the completion of the measures envisaged in Uzbekistan's **Welfare Improvement Strategy 2008-2010** (hereinafter WIS-I),<sup>7</sup> the Government of Uzbekistan developed the **Welfare Improvement Strategy for 2013-2015** (hereinafter WIS-II)<sup>8</sup> in order to ensure the continuity and sequence of on-going reforms.

By mainstreaming the MDGs, WIS-I has made a significant contribution towards maximizing Uzbekistan's commitment to achieving the MDGs by 2015 (see section c below). WIS-II further upholds these commitments by identifying priority areas of action and the most effective

<sup>3</sup> Definition: Annual percentage growth rate of GDP at market prices based on constant local currency. Aggregates are based on constant 2,000 U.S. dollars. GDP is the sum of gross value added by all resident producers in the economy plus any product taxes and minus any subsidies not included in the value of the products. It is calculated without making deductions for depreciation of fabricated assets or for depletion and degradation of natural resources. Source: World Bank national accounts data, and OECD National Accounts data files, as contained in <http://www.indexmundi.com/facts/uzbekistan/gdp-growth#NY.GDP.MKTP.KD.ZG>.

<sup>4</sup> Central Bank of Russian Federation [www.cbr.ru](http://www.cbr.ru)

<sup>5</sup> <http://hdrstats.undp.org/en/countries/profiles/UZB.html>

<sup>6</sup> UNDP Country Programme Action Plan 2010 - 2015

<sup>7</sup> Welfare Improvement Strategy (WIS) for 2008-2010, Tashkent 2007 available at [www.wis.uz](http://www.wis.uz)

<sup>8</sup> note 1 above

measures and socio-economic policy tools for achieving sustainable and quality growth of population welfare. In order to achieve this growth, Uzbekistan aims, *inter alia*, to implement new institutional and economic reforms able to form a modern, diversified national economy; to continue reforming the healthcare and education sectors; to work towards the rapid development of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and its increased role in the national economy; and to enhance activities in the area of environment and ecology.

Under WIS-II, the Government has further recognized the overarching need to reduce gender disparity, including by developing a **National Plan of Actions regarding the achievement of gender equality**. Ultimately, WIS-II identifies the key aspect of expected results as the need to reduce the level of Uzbekistan's low-income level populations from 17.7% in 2010 to 13.7% in 2016. The Government recognized the central importance of technical assistance and external advice in implementing both WIS. Uzbekistan's ownership of the process and its leadership role in developing and implementing WIS-II is exercised through the Inter-departmental Steering Council (ISC).

Other documents containing analysis of the country situation are included in Annex III.

### *c) Pertinent development issues*

The Government of Uzbekistan is a signatory to the 2000 United Nations Millennium Declaration and in 2006 "nationalized"<sup>9</sup> the global **Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)** so as to define the baseline against which the progress should be measured.

According to the 2006 MDG report for Uzbekistan, education and gender related targets are likely to be attained. Under WIS-II, it was established that improving the quality of primary and general secondary education, while ensuring general access to education, would be attained through a set of proposed measures aimed at maintaining and improving existing education coverage and standards. In regards to gender issues, the Government of Uzbekistan recognizes the need to adopt further measures to promote gender equality and expand rights and opportunities of women in Uzbekistan, such as continued improvement of related legislation in line with recommendations made by the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women. With regard to the goals related to the areas of infant and maternal mortality, environmental sustainability, and the containment and reversal of the spread of tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS, on the contrary, the 2006 report notes that they may not be fully achieved in time. Nonetheless, these targets remain listed as objectives of the Government's national agenda under WIS-II. In this regard, the Government of Uzbekistan has achieved some degree of progress in the period from 2000 to 2012 and plans to take further

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<sup>9</sup> Target 1: Reduce poverty by half by 2015

Target 2: Improve the quality of primary and basic secondary education while maintaining universal access

Target 3: Achieve gender equality in primary, basic secondary and vocational education by 2005<sup>[2005]</sup>

Target 4: Improve gender balance in higher education by 2015

Target 5: Reduce by two-thirds the under-5 mortality rate

Target 6: Reduce maternal mortality by one-third by 2015

Target 7: Have halted and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS by 2015

Target 8: Have halted and begun to reverse the incidence of tuberculosis and malaria by 2015

Target 9: Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources by 2015

Target 10: Increase the percentage of urban and rural population with access to an improved water source and sanitation by 2015.

Latest data regarding the above targets and the national actions and plans adopted for their realization can be found in WIS-II, note 1 above.

action at a legislative and policy level for consolidating past results and improving present conditions.

The 2006 report also highlights the need to reshape the national statistical system, including methodologies, development strategies and legislation to further develop credible, timely data for monitoring progress so as to highlight disparities in income, health, education and other areas, by socioeconomic group, district, urban/rural divide, gender, disability and ethnic groups. While some of these needs have been successfully met through the implementation of WIS-I, the adoption of further significant actions has been proposed within the framework of WIS-II.

In follow-up to the September 2010 MDG Summit, Uzbekistan joined the Global Action Plan for accelerating MDG achievements and developed a National Action Plan on MDGs for 2011-2015<sup>10</sup> with a set of measures focused on the implementation and maintenance of achievements in reaching the MDGs.

The mission of the UN system<sup>11</sup> in Uzbekistan is to assist the Government in implementing development reforms, while providing support for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. The implementation of the UN programme as defined in the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) in Uzbekistan is coordinated through UN Theme Groups on Economic Wellbeing, Social Services, Environment and Governance. UNESCO chairs the Climate Change sub-group of the Environment Theme Group and the Education sub-group of the Social Services Theme Group.

## Education<sup>12</sup>

Since the country's independence in 1991, the Government of Uzbekistan has considered education as vital for the development of the country and made heavy investments in the sector. Major reforms<sup>13</sup> of the system have been launched and implemented and the annual spending on education has remained at a steadily high level of 8-10% of the GDP. Currently, an estimated 35% of the national budget goes to education expenditures.<sup>14</sup>

<b>Total expenditures for education – as % of total state budget expenditure</b>							
	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>
<b>Budget % of total state budget expenditure</b>	29.0	29.6	29.6	41.5	41.7	36.7	35.0 <sup>15</sup>

<sup>10</sup> A Decree "On additional measures to implement UN MDG in Uzbekistan" (January 2011) adopted by the Cabinet of Ministers.

<sup>11</sup> UNAIDS, UNDP, UNICEF, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNODC, UNRCCA, UN Women, WHO, the World Bank

<sup>12</sup> UNESCO National Education Support Strategy (UNESS) for 2012-2015 ([www.tashkent.unesco.org](http://www.tashkent.unesco.org), 2012)

<sup>13</sup> Between 1997 and 2009, two national education development programmes - the National Programme for Personnel Training (NPPT) and the Basic Education Development Programme – were conducted to improve school infrastructure and introduce compulsory three-year secondary specialized, technical and vocational education. Two ongoing reforms comprise the National Programme for Development of Children's Schools for Music and Arts (2009-2014) and the National Programme for Higher Education Development (2011-2015)

<sup>14</sup> World Bank, 2012

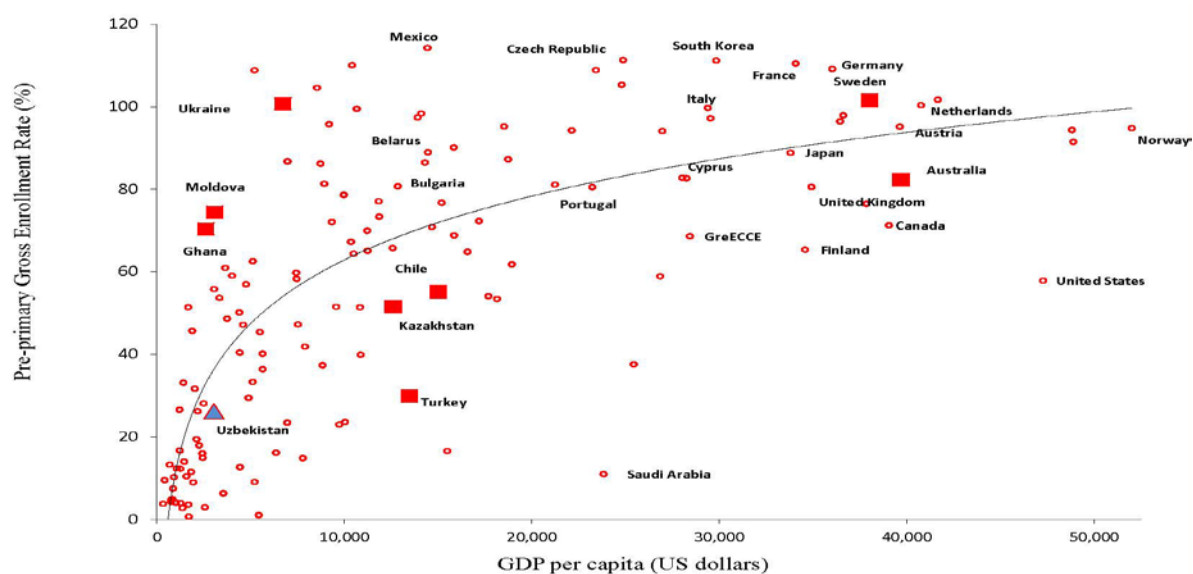


Uzbekistan has ratified the UN Conventions on the Rights of the Child and UNESCO Convention against Discrimination in Education, confirming the internationally recognized commitment to providing free primary education. The country is also state party to the UNESCO Convention on Technical and Vocational Education.

In 2003, Uzbekistan adopted a National Action Plan (NAP) on Education for All (EFA) to translate the Dakar Framework for Action into national priorities. The national educational priorities defined aim at increasing pre-schooling coverage, strengthening the quality of education at all levels and enhancing results-based management of the education system.

The free compulsory education system in Uzbekistan comprises nine years of general (4 years primary and 5 years secondary) education and three years of secondary specialized and vocational education in academic lyceums or professional colleges.

Enrolment in pre-schools in Uzbekistan decreased after the collapse of the Soviet regime (from 31% in 1991 to 18% in 1998, with a slight increase over the first half of the decade 2000-2010, reaching 20.2% in 2011). Pre-school education is not compulsory, but it is very important for successful start of schooling at primary level. The National Action Plan on Education for All envisaged an increase of total enrolment at pre-school level in 2010, in comparison to 2003. However, statistics from the Ministry of Public Education suggest that enrolment to kindergarten dropped in 2010 in comparison to the 2003 baseline data. Hence, access to pre-school education and entry-level preparedness remain one of the biggest issues in the current development of education system in Uzbekistan.



Source: “Воспитание и образование в Узбекистане» (Education and training in Uzbekistan). Navid Khasan. The World Bank

School enrolment and literacy rate in Uzbekistan ranges between 95-97%. Due to the extensive National Investment Programmes during the 2000-2010 period, basic school infrastructure is in relatively good condition. The main current challenge facing general education is related to quality, in particular curricula and textbooks, teacher skills as well as practical orientation of the educational processes to the needs of the labour market. Rural schools need particular

attention as they have a lower percentage of primary and secondary school teachers with higher education degree (66% in comparison to 77% in cities).<sup>16</sup>

The effective integration of children with disabilities into the mainstream education remains a challenge and the Government of Uzbekistan recognizes the importance of inclusive education.

Uzbekistan does not take part in international student assessment programmes, which does not allow comparing the quality of education in Uzbekistan in terms of student performance<sup>17</sup> with that in other countries and regions.

The new TVET system allows universal access to initial TVET for secondary school graduates. Also, over the recent years, the government has put much emphasis on the renovation and construction of TVET school buildings. However, further efforts are needed to equip the schools with practical training workshops and skilled vocational trainers. In addition, some challenges remain as regards access to secondary specialized professional education, such as the unavailability of professional colleges in the remote rural and mountain areas or the lack of dormitories in some professional colleges. A limited number of options exist for the socially disadvantaged, vulnerable and disabled youth. Also, quality, effectiveness and efficiency of the TVET system remain areas that need further attention. The training curricula offered by TVET institutions in Uzbekistan provide two or more specialities to the students upon their graduation.<sup>18</sup> New and emerging occupations, small business development, the informal labour market and the needs of the poorest segments of the population would need to be better reflected. Furthermore, legal opportunities for flexible formal TVET provision, such as part-time work-study, company-based training, apprenticeship, could be created.

The main issues for higher education are access and equity. Only around 10% of the secondary specialized professional education graduates have an opportunity to continue education at a higher educational institutions of Uzbekistan (i.e. some 60 000 students out of some 550 000 graduates annually). In addition, there is a considerable gender disparity with the share of girls studying in universities staying at less than 40% over the last decade.<sup>19</sup>

Gender equality in education is guaranteed by the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan. According to the Law on Education adopted in 1997, men and women have equal rights to receive education and choose a profession. Whereas there is no sign of gender disparity at the level of general secondary education and secondary specialized education, disparity can be observed in higher education and post-graduate studies (where the share of girls is 39.9% and 41.9% respectively).

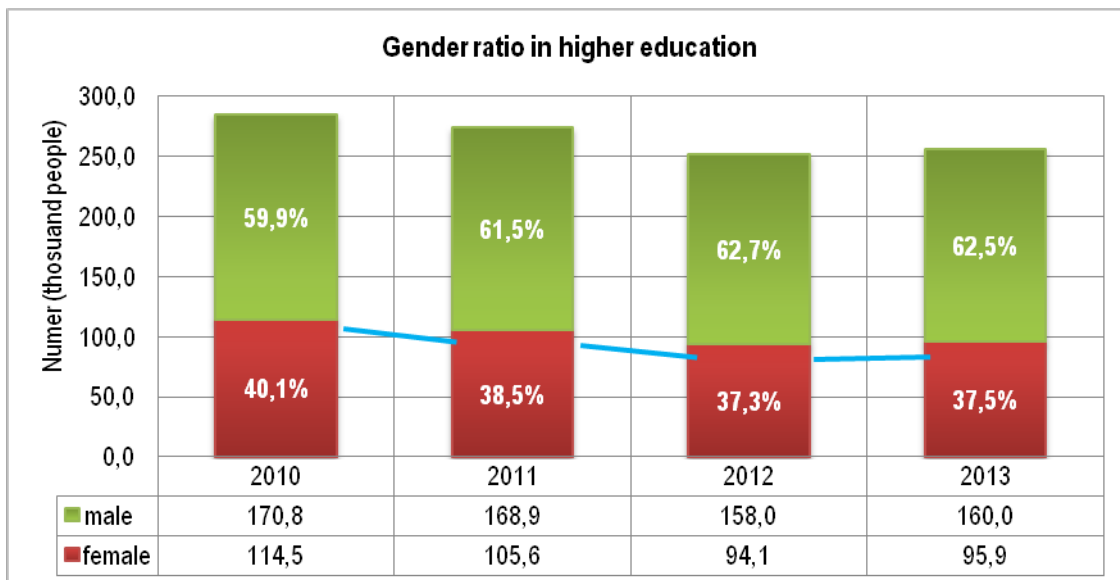
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<sup>16</sup> Main Educational Indicators 2010-2011, Ministry of Public Education

<sup>17</sup> Skills, not just Diplomas. World Bank. 2011

<sup>18</sup> Expanding Technical and Vocational Education and Training at the Secondary Education Level, UNESCO, 2011

<sup>19</sup> The World Bank



Source: MoHSSE, 2013

The real ratio of boys to girls by fields of study at higher education institutions indicates a disproportion. More than 80.7% of students of the study fields, such as transport and communications, industry and construction, agriculture, as well as economics and law, are men, the remaining 19.3% being represented by women. The majority of girls choose the specialties related to education (52.9%) and medicine (43.8%).<sup>20</sup>

Low enrolment in higher education creates a bottleneck not only for the higher education sub-sector but also for the education sector-wide development as a whole. The current needs for teachers with higher education at various levels of education (basic education: 116 000, secondary specialized professional: 10 000) exceeds considerably the number of graduates of higher educational institutions who could be considered as potential educators (ca 30 000 annually).

Moreover, existing higher education institutions provide full-time study programmes but limited options for people wanting to get additional education on a part-time or distance basis. Constant improvement of in-service teacher education curricula and methodologies, development of ICT-based teaching and learning resource materials, development of training programmes for teachers to equip school graduates with the 21<sup>st</sup> century skills and knowledge are sector priorities for improvement of the quality of education.

Non-formal education for adults is starting to develop in Uzbekistan. The continuous education concept is understood from the perspective of formal education primarily as a qualification upgrade or re-qualification. There are no mechanisms established as yet for the recognition of competencies between formal education and for those who attend private non-formal training. Provision of formal training courses for adults is limited to programmes of upgrading of qualifications and for the unemployed. Therefore, there are limited opportunities for further education for those adults, who could not enter higher education, or those, who would like to obtain new qualifications. Legal framework should be strengthened to allow for more non-formal education and development of useful skills for adults.

<sup>20</sup> ESP of Uzbekistan for 2013-2017

In the context of Uzbekistan's application for membership in the Global Partnership for Education, the country developed its Education Sector Plan (ESP), the first sectoral plan of Uzbekistan. The directions of the ESP comply with priority lines set forth by the Government as the strategic directions for development:

- Development and support of services on early childhood development, expansion of the network of one-year programs for short-term stay of children, as well as methodic provisions for parents;
- Development of favorable conditions for teaching children at schools, increasing the quality of teaching and learning;
- Strengthening the level of coordination between the level of education and employment of youth, including the development of secondary special, vocational education in compliance with the labor market needs;
- Differentiation of the education programs on improving the qualification while taking the professional challenges and educational needs of teachers into account;
- Modernization of the higher education institutions' infrastructure and strengthening the learning process in them by improving technical means provision;
- Formation of the legal basis and expansion of the access for adult population to non-formal education;
- Expansion of the network and strengthening the infrastructure of the Barkamol Avlod centers in rural areas;
- Development and sustaining the system of inclusive education.

The appraisal of the Education Sector Plan conducted jointly by UNESCO and the European Union on behalf of the Development Partner Group (DPG) suggests that one of the areas for further improvement as far as the sectoral planning and management is concerned, is monitoring and evaluation. This depends on the availability of skills, quality data and the information and monitoring system that would allow for monitoring and evaluation of student learning, infrastructure, procurement, training, governance and administration, financial management etc. UNESCO has launched with the Ministry of Public Education the piloting of UNESCO's Open Education Management Information System (EMIS) so as to allow for quality data collection, sector analysis and strengthening of the monitoring and evaluation systems. The project would need to be scaled up to encompass the entire system of education.

The Eastern Europe and Central Asia region has the fastest growing HIV epidemic in the world, with Uzbekistan experiencing an increase in reported cases of HIV. According to the official statistics, 24,539 HIV infected persons were registered in the Republic of Uzbekistan as of November 2012.

While the number of people living with HIV makes the HIV epidemic in the country one of the largest in the Central Asian region, Uzbekistan has remained a low HIV prevalence country with a concentrated epidemic. HIV prevalence among injecting drug users (IDU), persons providing commercial sexual services, and men who have sex with men (MSM) was 8.4%, 2.2% and 0.7%

respectively in 2011. The predominant route of virus transmission was sexual transmission, which constituted 44.6% of all registered cases in 2012. Specific attention should be paid to children who constitute twenty per cent of the newly-infected population.

The national HIV response is organised within the framework of the National Strategic Programme on AIDS for 2013-2017. The existing legislation on HIV guarantees the right of people living with HIV/AIDS to equal access to education, employment, social protection and free care from government health organizations. However, stigma and discrimination remain concerns for people living with HIV/AIDS.

The education system of Uzbekistan has curricula and education programmes, which include HIV preventive education and reproductive health issues. However, due to other priorities in the curricula, the number of hours dedicated to preventive education has been reduced. The effectiveness of the existing curricula on HIV/AIDS prevention has not been evaluated, neither has a knowledge, attitude and practice study been carried out. This could be addressed through a review of the national curricula to ensure the alignment of education content with the international standards and recommendations.

Sport and physical education sector is strongly entrenched in Uzbekistan's efforts to provide opportunities to its population, and youth in particular. The country is engaged in the modernisation of its sport facilities within every educational institution and local community and the achievements of Uzbekistan's athletes in international sports concord with the national efforts to promote and develop physical education and sport among youth through annual three stage nation-wide sport competitions: "Umid nihollari" (for secondary schools), "Barkamol avlod" (for TVET institutions) and "Universiada" (for higher education institutions).

***Challenges and opportunities:***

- The high percentage of young people in Uzbekistan constitutes an enormous potential for economic growth on the condition that the education system matches the demands of the labour market and provides the young people with the necessary skills.
- Overall government priorities in education, as reflected in the National Programme for Personnel Training, pursue the creation of opportunities and conditions for education of a healthy, harmoniously developed generation; promoting the creative and intellectual potential of young people, and facilitating the upbringing of young women and men equipped with the skills and knowledge of the 21st century.<sup>21</sup>
- Uzbekistan's application for membership in the Global Partnership for Education provides a major opportunity as in this framework the country has developed its first sector plan for education and is hoped to obtain a GPE grant to support the implementation of the Plan. The Education Sector Plan for 2013 – 2017 has established priority areas for future development and the development partners in the country are to align their assistance in support of these areas so as to ensure that all Uzbek children achieve an education of good quality.
- Strengthening the vocational training system to respond to changes in qualified workforce needs, particularly in the regions, flexible and effective framework for lifelong learning, including higher and adult education, and the establishment of a

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<sup>21</sup> National Programme for Personnel Training, 1997

modern Education Management Information System (EMIS) for data collection to inform decision-making are areas in which UNESCO can bring to bear its expertise, drawing on its regional Office in Bangkok, the Education Sector at the Headquarters, the International Institute for Educational Planning in Paris, the UNESCO Institute for Information Technologies in Education in Moscow, the UNESCO Institute of Statistics in Montreal, the UNESCO Institute of Lifelong Learning (UIL) in Hamburg, the International Bureau of Education in Geneva and the International Centre for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (UNEVOC) in Bonn.

- In addition, UNESCO's support could be extended to promoting quality education, e.g. enhancing capacities of teachers, updating teacher education curricula and instructional materials for teachers in areas including health education (including HIV/AIDS preventive education); media and information literacy; education for sustainable development; science and engineering education; disaster risk reduction at all levels of education sector; the preparation of librarians, manuscript restorers, historical building restorers and museologists; as well as innovative approaches to education, such as the integration of ICTs, project-based learning.
- The education sub-group of the UNDAF Social Sector Thematic Group has to a certain extent improved coordination and information flow among the UN agencies and national partners. The Development Partner Group set up in the framework of Uzbekistan's application for membership in the Global Partnership for Education will facilitate the coordination among the development partners further, contributing to the elimination of duplication and overlaps. UNESCO can play a role both as a chair of the Education Sector sub-group and a member of the Development Partner Group in improving the coordination so as to define the existing needs and gaps and increase the impact of development partner action in support of Uzbekistan's education sector plan.

## Sciences

Uzbekistan has ratified the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development; the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC); the Kyoto Protocol; the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD); the Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD); the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer; the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal; the Convention on the Prohibition of Military or Any Other Hostile Use of Environmental Modification Techniques; as well as the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat. Uzbekistan participates in the Council of the Land in the work on projection Charter of the Land.

The Programme of Actions on Nature Protection of Uzbekistan for 2008–2012 provides the most recent framework for international environmental cooperation, which is closely linked to regional environmental protection. It aimed to meet the commitments contained in the ratified multilateral environmental agreements, to participate in international programmes and projects dealing with nature protection, and to foster inter-state cooperation aimed at minimizing the negative impacts generated by trans-boundary pollution and the development of mechanisms for the rational use of natural resources in border areas and water basins.

Uzbekistan has one biosphere reserve, "Chatkal Mountains", included to the World Network of Biosphere Reserves under the UNESCO's Man and Biosphere International Programme in 1978 (trans-boundary nomination with Kyrgyzstan). Mount Chatkal Biosphere Reserve (covering altitudes between 1,110 to 4,000 meters above sea level in the south-western end of the

*Chatkal'skiy* Range in the western Tien-Shan Mountains) comprises a high diversity of habitat and species. The site is also famous from an archaeological point of view since it hosts ancient rock drawings dating back to 1000-2000 B.C. The biosphere reserve is devoted to conservation and research and provides a research station, several field stations, museum facilities and a meteorological station. Another candidacy file, of the Lower Amu-Darya State Biosphere Reserve, is under preparation for submission to the UNESCO's World Network of Biosphere Reserves.

Uzbekistan, together with its neighbouring countries Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, is working on the preparation of a trans-boundary nomination of the Western Tian-Shan Mountains to the World Heritage List under the 1972 UNESCO Convention on the Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage.

Uzbekistan is located in an active seismic zone: the east and south-east regions of the country are affected by high seismic activity. The last significant earthquake to cause major damage was in 1966 when the centre of Tashkent was considerably destroyed. Earth tremors are experienced regularly to this day.

A major challenge in Uzbekistan concerns the Aral Sea. Since the 1960's, when the misuse of what used to be the fourth-largest inland sea on earth started, the Aral Sea has shrunk substantially. What is often called 'the biggest man made catastrophe' caused not only socio-economic problems, but also entailed climate change in the region. Environmental challenges beset virtually the entire country, but most acutely the north of Karakalpakstan – in Muynak, Shumanay and Kanlikul districts - where income poverty, growing salinization of land and water resources, lack of food security, exposure to dust storms, poor quality of drinking water, and the declining health status of the local population are forcing many to relocate or endure severe living conditions at home.

Uzbekistan is a water deficit country and the amount of precipitations is low. This is why the agriculture mostly relies on irrigation and artificial watering. Irrigation consumes 90 per cent of the total volume of water used. The problems related to water use, supply and quality, as well as the continuing degradation and salinization of arable land, are the most pressing and complex. How Uzbekistan allocates and distributes its limited water supplies is critical for sustainable development.

There is a need to further improve the management of groundwater resources, including key factors such as aquifer's storage capacity or its rate of renewability. The degradation of groundwater quality due to pollution is threatening groundwater resources and reduces the amount of readily usable water resources per capita. Climate variability and change are expected to have multiple and highly diverse effects on both quantity and quality of groundwater resources, thus adding to the challenge of sustainable management of groundwater resources.

The Government of Uzbekistan has developed and adopted a number of strategic documents to address environmental challenges. A positive development is the recent comprehensive Environmental Information System (UZ-EIMS) developed by the State Committee for Nature Protection, covering 91 environmental indicators. The system will be very useful in monitoring the achievements of the national MDG targets. The introduction of the environmental monitoring system will strengthen the national capacity in making administrative decisions in the area of environmental conservation and health of people. Through a number of projects

the UN system supports Uzbekistan's efforts to effectively manage and protect the environment and natural resources for sustainable development.

The Welfare Improvement Strategy aims for Uzbekistan to move towards a 'knowledge-based economy'<sup>22</sup> – investing in human capital and research and development to ensure higher value added production. In the recent years, the Government of Uzbekistan has acknowledged the need for invigorating the innovative activity as the main driver of sustainable growth declaring the development of innovative know-how and science a key government priority.<sup>23</sup> Attempts have been made to set up new institutions and a system of links and incentives to form an innovation infrastructure. Uzbekistan needs a full-scale medium-and long-term strategy of innovation development correlated with other strategic documents (such as the WIS-II). The 2008 Presidential Decree<sup>24</sup> includes short- and medium-term measures to support innovation and modernization of industries. This would need to be translated into medium/long-term goals with specific indicators to assess the impact induced by innovation on building up the competitive domestic economy or raising the level of human development, productivity and growth.

Uzbekistan has an impressive legacy in the sciences, particularly as regards astronomy, mathematics, medicine and philosophy. The country boasts great scientists, such as Ibn Sina, Al Khorezmi and Ulugh Beg. Uzbekistan inherited a solid system for scientific research: with 26000 researchers, the country has the third-biggest pool of researchers among the CIS countries after the Russian Federation and Ukraine. Just under one in ten researchers works at the Academy of Sciences. However, adapting this research capacity to the needs of an independent State and modern economy remains a challenge.

The quality of human resources in natural and applied sciences needs strengthening through the enhanced quality of education and training in innovation management. Changes to the system of higher education include the introduction of the Bachelor and Master's level degree in 1993, and PhD degree studies instead of previous two stage doctoral studies ("Candidate of Sciences" and "Doctor of Sciences") in 2013. There was decline in the number of students studying for the further 'candidate' and 'doctor' of science degrees (halving between 2000 and 2005) and with the effectiveness and completion rate of these degrees very low.<sup>25</sup> In 2009<sup>26</sup> the success rate of Doctors of Science was 22%, while that of Candidates of Science stood at 25.3%.

The government has recognized the importance and established a Committee for Coordination of Science and Technology Development under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan with the major purpose to coordinate activity of scientific research institutions and

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<sup>22</sup> Welfare Improvement Strategy, page 7

<sup>23</sup> President Islam Karimov's address to the convention dedicated to the 18-th anniversary of Republic of Uzbekistan's Constitution; President Decree PP-916 as of July 15, 2008, «On additional incentives for implementation of innovative projects and technologies»; President Decree PP-1072 as of March 12, 2009, «On the implementation program for major projects in the field of industrial modernization and technical and technological upgrading for 2009-2014»

<sup>24</sup> the Presidential decrees "On Measures for Improving Co-ordination and Management for the Development of Science and Technologies" (2006) and "On Additional Measures for Stimulating the Introduction of Innovation Projects and Technologies in Production" (2008)

<sup>25</sup> Uzbekistan National Human Development Report 2007/8, chapter 3

<sup>26</sup> Indicators of science, technologies and innovation activity of the Republic of Uzbekistan.P.1. Scientific capacity, Statistical review, Tashkent, 2009.



agencies using R&D standards and science, technology and innovation indicators and statistics. The Committee also defines priority directions for development of science and technologies; development of mutually beneficial international scientific and technical cooperation.

A key proposal in Uzbekistan's Welfare Improvement Strategy is the establishment of innovation institutions capable of providing impetus to the development of a 'knowledge-based economy'. With a view to establishing a closer alignment between scientific output and the changing needs of the economy and society as a whole, the development of innovation institutions needs to be complemented by strengthening the post-graduate education system to train researchers able to address the development challenges, both within the natural sciences and social sciences.

***Challenges and opportunities:***

- Providing sustainable solutions to the Aral Sea disaster requires a holistic approach, combining technology, policy and institutional options developed in cooperation with local and international stakeholders. UNESCO's past long-term cooperation with the Urgench University has established a solid basis for its further engagement in this area, both in the framework of the UN Joint Programme as well as through activities supported from extra-budgetary resources.
- Given that Uzbekistan has over 300 sunny days annually UNESCO has supported the use of solar energy through its projects. Solar energy constitutes a good alternative source of energy and UNESCO will continue to advocate for greater investments and wider use of renewable energy sources, including solar energy.
- UNESCO shall further develop the regional dimension in its science-related programme by integrating the country into some regional activities conducted by the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Sciences in Asia and the Pacific based in Jakarta, such as the Network of Asian River Basin Organizations (NORBO) or SWITCH-in-Asia (Sustainable Water Management Improves Tomorrow's Cities Health).
- Regional cooperation in Central Asia, especially on trans-boundary waters, shall be strengthened and focused more on environmental protection and the rational use of natural resources. Efforts should focus on building capacities in managing the groundwater resources, establishing cooperation among countries sharing the aquifer and developing a long-term national and regional strategy for the monitoring and governance of the trans-boundary aquifers.
- The quality of human resources in natural and applied sciences could be addressed by increased attention to the quality of the secondary specialized and the tertiary education system and students and specialists participation in international educational programmes.
- Further support is needed in building national capacities in disaster risk reduction and management, notably as regards educational institutions, early warning systems and cultural heritage sites and institutions.

**Culture**

The cultural heritage of Uzbekistan constitutes a source of national identity and pride and its preservation and promotion enjoys great attention from the government.

Uzbekistan has ratified four out of the five main culture-related UNESCO Conventions (i.e. Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict; Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property; Convention on Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage; Convention on Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage) and has integrated them into national legislation.

Legislation<sup>27</sup> on the preservation and utilization of cultural heritage properties of Uzbekistan reflects the general requirements of the 1972 Convention and its Operational Guidelines as regards the protection of the World Heritage properties. An amendment to the 2001 law was introduced and the “Guidelines for the implementation of preservation, conservation utilization and management of the World Heritage properties” developed. This document includes special procedures for the preservation, conservation and utilization of the World Heritage properties. However, there is a need to develop more specific legislative frameworks for the World Heritage properties in order for the boundaries and buffer zones to be clearly reflected, and their Outstanding Universal Value preserved.

Uzbekistan has four cultural sites included in the World Heritage List:

- Itchan Kala (1990)
- Historic Centre of Bukhara (1993)
- Historic Centre of Shakhrisyabz (2000)
- Samarkand – Crossroad of Cultures (2001)

A number of State programmes and projects have been developed in order to protect and promote Uzbekistan’s cultural heritage, in particular as regards the restoration and conservation of the monuments and sites located on the territory of the World Heritage properties, the development of cultural tourism, as well as the promotion of intangible cultural heritage.

Uzbekistan participates in regular reporting on its four World Heritage properties both at the regional (i.e. The Asia Pacific Periodic Reporting) and global levels.

The absence of management plans of the World Heritage properties may have caused some of the problems highlighted in relation to the preservation of the sites, such as inadequate restoration interventions, the challenges faced in controlling changes, particularly the construction of modern buildings, and the modernization of private properties that have affected the authenticity of Samarkand.<sup>28</sup> UNESCO has assisted the authorities in the development of a management plan for Samarkand; management plans for the three other World Heritage-listed sites are yet to be prepared.

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<sup>27</sup> Laws “On the preservation and utilization of cultural heritage properties” (№ 269-II 20.08.2001) and “On the preservation and utilization of archaeological heritage properties” (№ 42 16.06.2009)

<sup>28</sup> OUV of Samarkand

In addition to the need to develop appropriate management plans specifying how the Outstanding Universal Value of the properties should be preserved, there is also a need to raise awareness about and strengthen national capacities in the implementation of the 1972 Convention.

With regard to the 2003 Convention, the national law<sup>29</sup> concerned was revised to reflect the general provisions of the Convention. Continued efforts are needed towards the implementation of the 2003 Convention at the national level, through the improvement of legislation, strengthening institutional and human capacities at all levels, and promoting international cooperation.

Uzbekistan has four elements inscribed on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity:

- Katta Ashula (2009),
- Novruz, Nowrouz, Nooruz, Navruz, Nauroz, Nevruz (jointly with Azerbaijan; India; Islamic Republic of Iran; Kyrgyzstan; Pakistan; Turkey, 2009),
- Cultural Space of Boysun District (2008),
- Shashmaqom Music (jointly with Tajikistan, 2008),

The nomination file of Askiya was submitted in March 2013 for a possible inscription in 2014 on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, as was a nomination to extend the Navruz inscription to include additional countries.

Considering the important role that museums play in providing access to knowledge about cultures and serving as platforms for formal and non-formal education, the government of Uzbekistan has taken steps towards the development of museums in the country. The Legislation on museums<sup>30</sup> includes the requirements of the 1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property. A computerized system “SKM-MUZEY” has been developed for collecting the data on museums, their collection and storages to unify them into one system so as to improve the management of movable heritage of the country.

With some notable exceptions, museums have limited human and financial resources and lack the technical knowledge that meets international professional standards. Further support is therefore needed to strengthen national capacities in exhibition design and management, storage, education and education outreach, policies and procedures, data collection and analysis, management, the preservation and restoration of movable cultural heritage, and the use and benefits of site museums.

Uzbekistan boasts a rich documentary heritage, with the Holy Koran Mushaf of Othman and the Collection of the Al-Beruni Institute of Oriental Studies inscribed on UNESCO’s Memory of the World Register. Whereas numerous research work and studies are conducted on documentary

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<sup>29</sup> “On the preservation and utilization of objects of cultural heritage” (№ 269-II 20.08.2001)

<sup>30</sup> Laws № 37-38, 28.08.2008 and Resolution of Cabinet of Ministries № 68, 12.04.2010

heritage, less attention has been paid on the conservation and restoration of the collections, and the provision of public access to them. Most of the institutions possessing documentary heritage collections have limited capacities and facilities for conservation, storage, reading and exhibition, as well as security.

***Challenges and opportunities:***

- UNESCO is the only UN agency with a specific mandate in the field of culture. Given its programmatic presence in the country since 1994 and its role as the repository of culture-related normative instruments, as far as World Heritage and intangible cultural heritage are concerned, UNESCO is well placed to provide policy and technical advice and play a more active role in coordinating the action of development partners in the country so as to avoid overlaps, define priorities and gaps and ensure that the resources are channelled to the areas most in need of support.
- Capacity-building and awareness-raising activities concerning the 1972 Convention and its instruments have to be pursued so as to avoid inappropriate actions as regards the management and maintenance of the World Heritage properties in Uzbekistan. Also, local capacities in preparing management plans, monitoring of and reporting on the World Heritage properties are limited. UNESCO needs to continue its support through awareness-raising, capacity-building and improved communication activities, targeting the various stakeholders from decision-makers and legislators to local specialists and communities.
- The same challenges concern the safeguarding and promotion of Uzbekistan's intangible cultural heritage. There is a need to promote further the 2003 Convention through capacity-building activities, awareness-raising campaigns and greater involvement of communities and NGOs in the safeguarding of the intangible heritage of Uzbekistan.
- As key actors in safeguarding and transmitting the intangible cultural heritage from one generation to another, women and youth are important partners to engage with and empower. It is important to ensure that younger generations have a good knowledge of their culture and history and have opportunities to explore their cultural heritage first hand. The regional project entitled "Promoting intangible cultural heritage for educators to reinforce education for sustainable development in the Asia-Pacific Region" launched in 2013 will help develop modules and materials for teachers to incorporate intangible cultural heritage into teaching and learning in order to reinforce cultural diversity as a core part of sustainability.
- Uzbekistan has not as yet ratified the 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions. Further efforts are needed to raise awareness about and encourage the ratification of this Convention that complements the other culture-related normative instruments.
- Uzbekistan possesses a rich documentary heritage and numerous museums. UNESCO needs to sustain its support in building expertise and capacities, sharing international best practices and standards, developing strategies and policies and supporting the preservation and access to documents as well as the development of museums.
- Uzbekistan has ratified the 1970 UNESCO Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property.

However, there is a need to increase the country's capacities regarding the preventive action and the fight against the illicit trafficking of cultural property, and public awareness regarding the need to protect cultural heritage must be reinforced. In order to complement the 1970 Convention, consideration should be given to the ratification of the UNIDROIT 1995 Convention on Stolen or Illegally Exported Cultural Objects.

- Cultural tourism is an area with a big potential to contribute to the economic development of Uzbekistan and to generate income. UNESCO has worked on promoting cultural tourism in the regions of Khorezm and Karakalpakstan. The scope of cultural tourism could be widened and diversified to promote visits not only to the major World Heritage-listed sites but also other areas, which often have a rich tradition of tangible and intangible cultural heritage. UNESCO should promote sustainable tourism development, both as regards the World Heritage-listed sites as well as the contribution of intangible cultural heritage (ceramics, embroidery, traditional music), including museums, to the promotion of tourism.
- Uzbekistan has yet to become a party to the first 1954 Protocol to the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, as well as the 1999 Second Protocol. The ratification of these instruments would notably reinforce the protection of cultural property during hostilities from administrative, legal, military and technical aspects.
- Uzbekistan has not yet ratified the 2001 Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage. Together with the other culture-related conventions, the 2001 Convention would ensure the protection of the submerged heritage, including that of the riverbeds of Uzbekistan. Efforts to increase awareness, to promote the Convention's ratification and to create capacities in underwater archaeology and underwater cultural heritage management are thus needed.

## **Communication and Information**

Since the country's independence in 1991, the development of the media and information/communication sector has been one of the Government priorities. Uzbekistan recognizes the need to become an 'information rich society'<sup>31</sup> to enable further economic growth and promote sustainable development. This implies greater flows of information and the development of communication infrastructure.

Much progress has been made. Over the last two decades, the number of written media providers has increased 1.5 times and the electronic media 7 times. Today, 1 250 media sources exist in the seven languages spoken in Uzbekistan as well as in English. Also, many information portals, news websites, social media platforms and non-governmental TV and radio stations have been established on the Internet.

According to the official statistics, there are 9 815 million internet-users (including mobile users) in Uzbekistan and the country has close to 100% TV and radio coverage. The 2012 Broadband Commission<sup>32</sup> report suggests that 30.2% of individuals use the Internet, 7.8% of

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<sup>31</sup> Welfare Improvement Strategy', page 7

<sup>32</sup> 'Measuring the Information Society 2012' The State of Broadband 2012: Achieving Digital Inclusion for All

households have Internet connections and 18.4% of inhabitants have active mobile broadband subscriptions.

The non-governmental media sector has developed swiftly since 2000, including through the establishment of the Public Fund to Support the Development of Independent Print Media and Information Agencies, which contribute to the formulation of media policy and self-regulation measures.

The Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan guarantees freedom of expression and information<sup>33</sup> and the right to access information.<sup>34</sup> Moreover, Uzbekistan has a separate freedom of information law.<sup>35</sup> Censorship is prohibited<sup>36</sup>, however self-censorship is not rare. The Law on Mass Media (as amended in 2007) requires foreign mass media representatives to be accredited by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in order to operate within Uzbekistan and for the media outlets to have a licence. The recent update of the law defines mass media as including “websites and the social media”, which put the same legislative implications on the Internet and social media as on the traditional media. Uzbekistan has wide-ranging legislature, which deals with defamation and libel, both of which are criminalized. In 2011, the government adopted ‘additional measures to improve monitoring systems in the field of communications’ to closely monitor and restrict internet sites seen as conducting threatening activities.

In addition to the infrastructure, there is a need to develop information content and improve the quality of reporting. The national media in Uzbekistan tends to focus on a news and events-based approach with a limited number of analytical and well-documented reports.

#### **Challenges and opportunities:**

- The challenge of the media and communication sector is to continue to improve the quality and diversity of media content, particularly addressing the problem of self-censorship, which is recognized as a major challenge to quality reporting. Strengthened capacities in investigative journalism could be a powerful means to improve the quality of reporting on the current social issues of public interest, such as the environment, gender equality or non-discriminatory reporting on HIV and AIDS. Improved professional standards would enable the media to exercise their important role in promoting democracy, dialogue and development. UNESCO will focus on working with journalism training/education institutions to reach UNESCO’s criteria of excellence and thus contribute to the diversification of the media content, improvement of the quality and increasing the number of content on pertinent social issues.
- The empowerment of people through Media and Information Literacy (MIL) is an important prerequisite to fostering equitable access to information and knowledge and promoting free, independent and pluralistic media and information systems. Based on the UNESCO model curriculum, media and information literacy should be introduced in the school curriculum so that young people would be equipped to contribute to the building of democratic societies, decision-making and the production of information. Media education provides critical knowledge and analytical tools, empowering media

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<sup>33</sup> Article 29 of the Constitution

<sup>34</sup> Article 30 of the Constitution

<sup>35</sup> *the Principles of and Guarantees for the Freedom of Information*

<sup>36</sup> 2002 amendment to Article 67 of the Constitution

consumers to function as autonomous and rational citizens, and enabling them to critically use the media.

- Despite the commitment to free speech at the highest level in Uzbekistan, there are a number of ways for it to be undermined in practice. UNESCO should therefore continue its advocacy work and provision of policy advice as regards the media legislation. Some of the media laws are currently under review or preparation and UNESCO has provided expertise in their elaboration, sharing the best international standards.
- The absence of the professional and ethical code of journalists has also an impact on the quality of media content. The majority of the media institutions and associations are not aware about media ethics' issues. UNESCO should continue promoting the development of professional standards in addition to the strengthening of journalism training and formal education curricula.
- UNDAF Uzbekistan does not fully recognize the power of the media to influence societal change and development. UNESCO should promote the development of media and communication/information-related activities as part of the UN joint action in the country.

## **PART II**

### **PAST AND PRESENT COOPERATION - LESSONS LEARNED**

#### **Education**

UNESCO's assistance in the field of education has focused on promoting international and regional cooperation, providing policy advice and building capacities.

UNESCO has been supporting the Government of Uzbekistan in monitoring the implementation of the EFA National Action Plan and participating in the EFA process at the sub-regional level.<sup>37</sup> The national EFA Mid-Decade Assessments and reports for 2008 and 2010 reviewed the entire education system and defined the emerging needs and gaps.

In 2009, Uzbekistan adopted the National Concept of Inclusive Education, which articulates the needs for providing all children with quality education despite their social, physical and intellectual conditions. In line with this National Concept, UNESCO has supported the organization of sensitization and capacity-building activities, and the development of the teaching and learning resources and toolkits, for children, parents and teachers for special needs education. In partnership with the private sector, UNESCO initiated a programme on the introduction of ICTs to expand learning opportunities for children with special needs.

UNESCO has supported teacher training to improve teaching effectiveness, help teachers integrate technology into their lessons and promote students' problem-solving, critical thinking and collaboration skills. A number of resource materials and digital tools were adapted for ICT-based teaching and learning. In cooperation with the Ministry of Public Education, a series of teacher training activities have been carried out for the ICT integration in teaching math, physics, chemistry, biology, languages and other subjects in schools.

UNESCO has promoted HIV/AIDS preventive education, through policy advice and capacity-building activities.

UNESCO has provided assistance in the assessment of the National Strategic Programme (NSP) to fight against HIV in Uzbekistan for 2007-2011 and the development of NSP for 2012-2017; the elaboration of national recommendations on HIV positive learners within the education system; the development, in cooperation with the Republican AIDS Centre and UNAIDS, of an information portal on HIV and AIDS prevention, treatment, care and support.

On the basis of two needs assessment workshops organized in cooperation with UNFPA, capacity-building workshops in the field of HIV preventive education were developed for youth and media workers. A national contest was launched for the best media content on HIV and AIDS, to support and encourage quality reporting in this field and constitute a pool of "health education journalists" to be regularly trained on non-discriminatory approaches on HIV and AIDS reporting.

In the framework of the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (DESD) 2005-2014, UNESCO supported the official launching of the Decade in the country in partnership with

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<sup>37</sup> Central Asia Republics and Kazakhstan (CARK) Education Forum



the National Commission of Uzbekistan for UNESCO and the National University of Uzbekistan. The Coordination Council for Environmental Education and Education for Sustainable Development was established, comprising various Ministries and NGOs. Roundtables and workshops were organized to introduce the concept of ESD. UNESCO's Multimedia Professional Development Programme on Teaching and Learning for a Sustainable Future was translated into Uzbek and adapted for local use, and a manual for teachers produced. Capacity-building activities for curriculum developers and educators were held to introduce the concept of ESD for secondary school curriculum. The National ESD Concept was adopted in 2011.

UNESCO conducted a study on the Secondary Specialized and Professional Education System (TVET) in Uzbekistan and initiated the development and adoption of Adult Education concept in Uzbekistan in follow-up to the CONFINTEA VI Belém Framework of Action. During this National Forum on Adult Education and Learning (November 2011), several recommendations were elaborated to strengthen the legal framework, quality assurances recognition and validation of non-formal adult learning in Uzbekistan.

UNESCO has assisted the Ministry of Public Education in the introduction of the Education Management Information System (EMIS) in Uzbekistan. The Russian version of the software has been piloted in five schools in different regions of the country. A full roll-out would facilitate prompt quality data collection and sector analysis, as well as strengthen the monitoring and evaluation systems.

***Lessons learned:***

- UNESCO's past areas of intervention in the field of education include a number of critical areas for the country, such as the Education for Sustainable Development, inclusive education, improvement of the quality of education, preventive education against HIV/AIDS, integration of ICT in teaching and learning, strengthening the results-based education management and planning.
- The UNESCO Office in Tashkent has established good working relations with local stakeholders, in particular the Ministries of Public Education and Higher and Secondary Specialized Education, as well as development partners active in the field of education. The Office has been able to draw on the expertise available at and resources developed by the Regional Office in Bangkok, thus bringing to bear the full range of the organization's expertise in the field of education. The close collaboration with UNESCO's education-related institutes and offices should be maintained and further strengthened.
- In order to increase the impact and visibility of UNESCO's action, the emphasis should be placed on more long-term institutional capacities rather than individual trainings, and on building partnerships so as to enhance impact. There is a need to define a clearer strategy to define the areas of intervention and for a clearer monitoring and evaluation of the impact of interventions.

## Sciences

In the field of sciences, UNESCO's focus has been on addressing the environmental challenges faced by Uzbekistan through awareness-raising, research (e.g. investigating the potential for using spring water and developing an Atlas of Underground Waters of Uzbekistan as well as mapping cultural and natural resources as part of an interdisciplinary project in the Aral Sea basin) and capacity-building efforts.

UNESCO has established close cooperation with the Ecological Movement of Uzbekistan on issues related to sustainable use of water resources. In the framework of a series of seminars, recommendations on the formulation of new strategies for sustainable development have been put forward.

In cooperation with the Center for Development Research (ZEF) of the University of Bonn and with funding from Germany (totalling 10 million Euros), a research project on land and water management in the Aral Sea region was conducted between 2002 and 2010. In the framework of the project, 50 PhD and 70 MSc students at the Urgench University conducted research on the various aspects of the project. Different varieties of innovative and salt-resistant crops, plants and trees were tested at a nursery. Capacities of NGO Khorezm Rural Advisory Support Service (KRASS) were developed to provide information and extension services to farmers as regards the introduction of innovative salt-resistant crops and tree varieties in Karakalpakstan.

Building on the UNESCO/ZEF project, a series of interventions is foreseen to support the local communities in the framework of the UN Joint Programme for Sustaining Livelihoods Affected by the Aral Sea Disaster (2012– 2014) that aims to improve economic, food, health and environmental security of the population of Karakalpakstan. Furthermore, a UNESCO Chair on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) established at the Urgench State University contributes to the promotion of an integrated system of research, training, information and documentation in the field of education for sustainable development. It has also promoted contacts between high-level, internationally recognized researchers and teaching staff of the Urgench University and other institutions in Uzbekistan within the framework of train-the-trainers module on education for sustainable development in Central Asia and beyond.

The UNESCO Institute of Statistics has promoted the use of science, technology and innovation (STI) indicators to support evidence-based S&T policy making through regional meetings organized for the CIS countries. The meetings have promoted the development and adoption of a common set of indicators so as to develop, adjust and implement STI policies that support innovation; and to monitor global and sub -regional technological trends.

### ***Lessons learned:***

- Regional and international cooperation in the field of sciences could be further promoted through regional programmes in thematic areas of interest and relevance to Uzbekistan, such as trans-boundary waters, science and technology education or sciences' linkages through UNESCO chairs and category-2 centres in other ASPAC countries.

- UNESCO could draw on its regional science office in Jakarta and the intergovernmental programmes to further promote international cooperation, the sharing of best practices and build capacities in areas related to the environment and sustainable development.

## **Culture**

Over the past years, UNESCO's action in the field of culture has focused on: (1) culture and development, (2) tangible cultural heritage, (3) intangible cultural heritage, (4) movable heritage, museums and documentary heritage.

- **Culture and development**

The UNESCO Office in Tashkent has worked to raise awareness about the role of culture in sustainable development by promoting the integration of culture into government's development policies and programmes, and advocating the role of tourism and creative industries in promoting inclusive growth, sustainable livelihoods and the empowerment of women and young people.

UNESCO established Crafts Centers in different regions of Uzbekistan - Boysun, Margilan, Bukhara and Khiva - so as to revive, develop, promote and transmit to next generations the traditional knowledge and skills in textile and carpet weaving, block printing, embroidery, natural dyeing, metal works, wood carving. Through this, UNESCO supported the creation of job opportunities and sustaining artisans' livelihoods. Moreover, through its regional programme "UNESCO Award of Excellence for Handicrafts" UNESCO has encouraged craft-workers to use traditional skills and materials to ensure the perpetuation of traditional knowledge while acknowledging the importance of innovative and marketable designs. By setting quality standards for handicrafts, raising international awareness and promoting innovations to keep the products relevant and competitive, the Award aims to strengthen the interest for these crafts.

Recent projects promoting the importance of culture in sustainable development include a Korean Funds-in-Trust project on Strengthening the Sustainability of Crafts Industry in Uzbekistan (US\$101,700). It ensured the continuation of traditional knowledge and skills through the organization of a number of trainings for local craftsmen, as well as increased sustainability and competitiveness of crafts markets, through capacity-building and promotional activities as well as the establishment of a new workshop of making traditional musical instruments in Nukus and printing publications on traditional handicrafts of Uzbekistan.

The annual festival of traditional culture "Asrlar Sadosi" (The Echo of Ages) organized by the Fund Forum under the patronage of the UNESCO Tashkent Office promotes intangible cultural heritage through the presentation of the diversity of national traditions, customs and handicrafts.

UNESCO has contributed to the promotion of effective management of Karakalpakstan's natural and cultural heritage through a more efficient use of water and natural resources and the development of sustainable tourism based on the discovery of the ancient Khorezm civilization. The project promoted tourism itineraries, overnight accommodation, production and sale of handicrafts, development of guidebooks and capacity-building of tourism

professionals. One feature was the development of yurt camps demonstrating effective energy use via solar panels and innovative water purification techniques.

Within the UN Joint Programme on Sustaining Livelihoods Affected by the Aral Sea Disaster (with a total budget of US\$347, 322) UNESCO contributes to improving the economic and social well-being of the communities through the development of tourism and creative industries in Karakalpakstan.

- **Tangible cultural heritage**

In cooperation with the Ministry of Culture and Sports, UNESCO has supported the conservation, preservation and promotion of cultural heritage by enhancing local capacities and providing technical expertise. In the framework of a project on the preservation of the ruins of archaeological site Fayaz-tepa (2002-2007) funded by Japan (US\$ 730, 000) local traditional building and conservation techniques were strengthened in southern Uzbekistan. The capacities of more than 100 local artisans were built in using traditional earthen techniques in conservation and preservation of archaeological sites.

UNESCO has actively supported the building of national capacities in the implementation of the 1972 Convention. During the past biennium, UNESCO, in cooperation with International Institute for Central Asian Studies (UNESCO category 2 institute based in Samarkand) assisted the authorities in the preparation of the nomination file of the World Heritage Silk Roads Serial Transnational Nomination entitled Silk Roads: Penjikent-Samarkand-Poykent Corridor. Assistance was also provided in the preparation of the management plan for Samarkand-Crossroad of Cultures with funding from Spain (US\$ 50, 000) and the World Heritage Centre (US\$ 29, 000).

UNESCO is currently creating a Geographic Information System (GIS) database of urban fabric of the Historic Centre of Bukhara that will support the future preparation of the Management Plan for this World Heritage property. Uzbekistan's participation in the 2<sup>nd</sup> cycle of Periodic Reporting on World Heritage properties contributed to raising awareness among decision-makers, local authorities, conservation and restoration specialists, as well as the site managers.

- **Intangible Cultural Heritage**

The UNESCO Office in Tashkent has implemented projects in the field of intangible cultural heritage with financial support from Japan. The projects "Safeguarding the Cultural Space of Boysun District" (US\$148, 671), "Blue of Samarkand: Traditional Ceramics of Uzbekistan" (US\$197, 323) and "Safeguarding the Classical Music – Shashmaqom" (US\$218, 456) greatly contributed to the safeguarding and promotion of this heritage at the national level.

Within UNESCO's Global Capacity Building Strategy, Uzbekistan is currently part of a project covering four Central Asian countries (supported by the ICH Fund through a contribution from Norway for a total amount of US\$395,362 of which US\$110,000 for Uzbekistan), which focuses on strengthening national capacities in safeguarding intangible cultural heritage through the effective implementation of the UNESCO 2003 Convention. Efforts aim at enhancing national capacities for reinforcing institutional infrastructures catering to the needs of intangible cultural heritage safeguarding, revising inventory methods and systems, involving all stakeholders, enhancing knowledge and skills required to request international assistance or submit nominations to the Convention's lists and encouraging sub-regional cooperation. The

beneficiaries of the project in Uzbekistan include decision-makers, specialist in intangible cultural heritage, NGOs and local communities, including women and youth.

UNESCO promotes the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage in Uzbekistan by raising awareness among the stakeholders in charge of safeguarding and promoting this heritage. A pilot project on inventory-making of living heritage of the Republic of Karakalpakstan aimed at improving national capacities in drawing up an inventory of musical living heritage, and strengthening partnerships between communities, governmental and international organizations. As a result, a CD with Traditional Karakalpak Music was issued in cooperation with the French Embassy in Uzbekistan in 2012.

Another forum for awareness-raising is the International Music Festival “Sharq Taronalari” (Melodies of the Orient) initiated in 1997 by the President of Uzbekistan and held every two years in Samarkand under the patronage of UNESCO. The festival aims to promote and preserve musical traditions, to encourage talents in the field of music and singing, and to foster international cooperation in this field.

- **Movable heritage and museums**

UNESCO has supported the government in strengthening the preservation of and access to movable heritage, and promoting museums as centres of education and tourism.

Another area of work concerns the improvement of maintenance and preservation system of museum collections. From 2008 to 2013, a number of training workshops in the field of museum management, education in museum, museum marketing and communication, inventory and documentary system was conducted with the participation of international experts from Italy, Austria, Russia, Kazakhstan and the USA. These trainings contributed to the enhancement of the capacities of museum specialists from the regions of Uzbekistan. Moreover, a series of publications of the UNESCO/ICOM Museum Training Package on Running a Museum and Cultural Heritage Protection Handbooks were published in Russian and Uzbek and distributed to relevant institutions in Uzbekistan.

From 2010 to 2012, a project on the Preservation of the Manuscripts Collection of the Beruni Institute of Oriental Studies under the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan was implemented with support from Saudi Arabia (US\$361,769). The knowledge and skills of the staff of the Beruni Institute in manuscripts’ care, conservation and handling were strengthened and the conservation conditions (i.e. premises, equipment and materials) improved.

***Lessons learned:***

- Building institutional capacities is an important way to enhance the sustainability of interventions. It is important to build on this, maintain the level of capacities and skills so they correspond to international standards and use the institution in which the capacities were built as a basis for further work, as a centre of excellence, allowing for other similar institutions to benefit from this experience. This also promotes networking among the institutions in the country and abroad.
- There is a need for a better coordination of development partners’ interventions in the field of culture and increased dialogue with national partners so as to better define the

needs, priorities and gap areas and ensure that the assistance is provided to areas most in need.

- Outside factors (e.g. change of officials, bad weather conditions that prevent outside works) may impact the timely programme delivery. It is therefore important to take such risk factors into consideration in project design.

## **Communication and Information**

- **Promotion freedom of expression and information**

UNESCO has provided expertise and contributed to discussions on the existing media laws and the development of new media-related laws, such as those on TV Broadcasting and the Guarantees of State Support to the Mass Media. UNESCO advocated for the importance of harmonizing national laws with international standards and in ensuring that Uzbekistan has a clear and specific legislative framework in place that allows the media to exercise its crucial democratic functions. Another new law on Transparency of State Institutions to the Mass Media is hoped to improve good governance practice and civil society participation in decision-making.

The World Press Freedom Day offers an opportunity to organize awareness-raising events on the importance of freedom of expression. In 2012, the Office supported the awarding of a national prize Oltin Qalam (Golden Pencil), which enjoys wide media coverage and thus offers an opportunity for UNESCO to do its advocacy work on press freedom issues.

Also, UNESCO has supported the organization of Media Days, including the youth media forum on 'Mechanisms of motivation for further development of youth journalism through building inter-institutional communication' and the Festival "*Jurnalistlar Bahori*" (Spring of Journalists).

- **Strengthening free, independent and pluralistic media, civic participation and gender-responsive communication for sustainable development**

In support of the Conception of the Further Deepening Democratic Reforms, which foresees reforms in the field of media, UNESCO supported national efforts to improve the capacities of journalism institutions to offer high quality, multi-disciplinary journalism education, and for media organizations to address the challenges of reporting on complex issues. Workshops have been conducted for media practitioners in the Karakalpakstan and Khorezm regions to assist local radio stations to produce news and current affairs programmes that engage the local population in addressing these key social issues.

UNESCO cooperated with the national media associations, the Ecological Movement of Uzbekistan, the NGO EcoForum and the Republican AIDS centre. UNESCO's publication entitled "Media as partners in education for sustainable development: A training and Resource Kit" was adapted in Uzbek and Russian and workshops for young journalists with post-production of diverse media content on sustainable development issues organized.

Within the national Summer Media Camp 2012, journalists were trained on quality coverage of sustainable development issues. Produced content was aired at the regional and nation-wide media channels.

UNESCO has promoted standard-setting and curricula development for pre-service journalism education. Recommendations on the improvement of journalism curricula in the field of sustainable development were formulated. As a follow-up, development of the curricula on sustainable development/ecology for the MA in Journalism was supported. UNESCO reviewed journalism education in Uzbekistan jointly with the National University of Uzbekistan on the basis of the Model Curricula on Journalism Education.

UNESCO contributed to strengthening the capacities of the national media on accurate, culturally and gender sensitive, non-discriminatory reporting on HIV and AIDS issues through UBRAF (US\$ 40, 500) project. 40 national media professionals were trained on the coverage of HIV and AIDS issues and the quality of media content improved.

Building on the Central Asian traditions of story-telling, UNESCO has also supported, jointly with UNFPA, the development of educational entertainment programmes to deliver key messages on social issues through the use of radio soap operas. The City Stops radio soap operas aired nationally has about one million listeners according to the latest survey. In the framework of this programme, a team of media professionals has been trained on the production of non-formal educational media content.

- **Fostering information and communication capacities for universal access to knowledge to bridge the digital divide**

UNESCO has promoted the innovative use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) in education, the sciences and culture.

UNESCO's action in the area has focused on the protection of national documentary heritage, fostering awareness and measures at the technical level for long-term preservation and digitization. UNESCO has provided technical expertise to museums in Tashkent and in the regions to support their efforts to improve the quality of, and access to the content of cultural/scientific value to meet digital challenges. Collections of glass negatives stored at the Samarkand Regional Museum Reserve and the State Museum of History of Uzbekistan were fully digitized. UNESCO has also provided technical assistance to the Regional Museums in Khiva and Bukhara to digitize glass negative collections.

***Lessons learned:***

- As the only agency of the United Nations with the mandate to promote freedom of expression and press freedom, UNESCO needs to maintain its presence and assistance to the national partners in Uzbekistan so as to create favourable conditions for freedom of expression and information and fostering information and communication capacities for universal access to knowledge.
- UNESCO's technical expertise and policy advice have been solicited in the framework of discussions on the revision of old and the development of new media laws. In addition, efforts should be made to enhance cooperation with policy- and decision-makers with a view to establishing a more permanent dialogue with them.

- In order to achieve a bigger impact and sustainability of UNESCO's interventions, capacity-building interventions should be targeting both the pre-service and in-service journalists' institutions rather than individuals.
- Specific areas that need further capacity-building support include quality reporting on sustainable development and environmental issues, accurate and non-discriminatory reporting on HIV and AIDS, access to public information and preservation of media archives.



### **PART III – PROPOSED COOPERATION FRAMEWORK**

UNESCO's action in Uzbekistan is guided by its mission statement, which states that “as a specialized agency of the UN system, UNESCO contributes to the building of peace, the alleviation of poverty, sustainable development and intercultural dialogue through education, the sciences, culture, communication and information.”

The broad goals and concrete objectives of the international community – as set out in the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) – underpin all UNESCO's strategies and activities. UNESCO's unique competencies in education, the sciences, culture, and communication and information contribute towards the realization of those goals.

The UNESCO Office in Tashkent represents the Organization in Uzbekistan and brings to bear UNESCO's expertise in its areas of competence in support of the country's national development efforts. Given the small size of the UNESCO country office in Uzbekistan, the Office relies on the expertise and support of UNESCO's headquarters, specialized institutes, regional and cluster offices. UNESCO pursues its work as a member of the United Nations Country Team in Uzbekistan and by building partnerships with other multilateral and bilateral development actors in the country, including the National Commission of the Republic of Uzbekistan for UNESCO.

The proposed cooperation framework is guided by UNESCO's Medium-Term Strategy for 2014-2021 and Programme and Budget for 2014-2017 documents and contributes to the priorities defined in the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) for the Republic of Uzbekistan.

UNESCO's cooperation and technical assistance framework promote inter-sectoral approaches in formulating responses to the complex development issues within UNESCO's five core functions: a laboratory of ideas, a standard setter, a clearing house, capacity-builder and catalyst for international cooperation.

The key areas and priorities for future action by the UNESCO Office in Tashkent contribute to the four outcomes of the UNDAF.

**Uzbekistan UNDAF Outcome 1: Economic Wellbeing<sup>38</sup> - “Economic well-being of vulnerable groups is improved (residents of economically underdeveloped, mainly rural areas, women, particularly home-based workers, labour migrants and their families, children, particularly most-at-risk adolescents, the elderly, HIV positive people, people with disabilities)”**

UNESCO will support the strengthening of national capacities to collect, analyse and use statistical data, including data disaggregated by gender, for better monitoring and evaluation of progress towards the achievement of internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. The two areas of focus for the support in the development of

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<sup>38</sup> The outputs listed hereafter are updated during the Mid-Term review of the UNDAF Uzbekistan in 2012, and are appear with their original numbering as in UNDAF Uzbekistan document.

quality data and statistical information will be the fields of education and the sciences, in particular the data related to science, technology and innovation (STI), and aquifers.

In the framework of the UN joint programme “Sustaining Livelihoods Affected by the Aral Sea Disaster” (funded by the UNTFHS), UNESCO will promote the sustainable development of the region of Karakalpakstan. The activities will aim at promoting the region’s cultural and natural heritage; sustaining livelihoods of farmers and rural communities; creating income-generating opportunities through promoting tourism and handicrafts, in particular for women and the youth; and safeguarding the traditional knowledge and techniques of handicrafts so as to ensure their transmission to future generations.

**Uzbekistan UNDAF Outcome 2: Social Services – “Enhanced access to and utilization of relevant, quality essential social services (education, health, nutrition, Sexually Transmitted Infection - STI/HIV/drug use prevention, social protection of children and early childhood development)”**

UNESCO’s contribution to the Social services outcome will focus on the support for the sector of education, in particular:

- Support the implementation of the Education Sector Plan of Uzbekistan (2013-2017), in particular as regards planning, monitoring, evaluation, and developing of financial projections, as well as enhancing the capacities in evidence-based policy-making through modern tools;
- Promote quality education, including teacher training and curricula, and in specific areas, such as health and HIV/AIDS preventive education, and media and information literacy;
- Foster quality technical and vocational education and training (TVET), adult education and life-long learning;
- Promote inclusive education; gender equity and equality; the integration of the concept of ESD and the use of ICTs at all levels of the education system.

UNESCO will also endeavour to: (i) coordinate the education interventions of the UN agencies in Uzbekistan to assess and to respond to the emerging needs, and to support the creation of an enabling environment for all for quality education and lifelong learning, through the provision of technical advice and capacity-building; (ii) facilitate Uzbekistan’s participation in global movements, such as EFA and ESD, and to contribute to and benefit from the international cooperation and sharing of best practices. Both tasks will be undertaken in close coordination with the Education Sector at the UNESCO Headquarters and the Regional Bureau for Education in Bangkok, as well as the organization’s specialized institutions concerned.

UNESCO will promote education that empowers learners to understand societal challenges and to develop effective and creative responses to them to contribute to the promotion of sustainable societies based on the principles of respect for human rights, gender equality, diversity and the environment. This will be achieved through supporting Uzbekistan to ensure that learning content, environments, practices and processes foster the acquisition of relevant competencies to tackle local and global challenges in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, such as critical thinking, creativity, understanding of the ethical dimensions of human development, and active and

responsible global citizenship.

UNESCO will strengthen its support to Uzbekistan to deliver health education, which imparts the skills to lead healthy lifestyles, and promotes safe and equitable learning environments that enhance the overall well-being of learners and are conducive to improved learning achievements.

**Uzbekistan UNDAF Outcome 3: Environment – “Principles of sustainable development integrated into country policies and programs.”**

UNESCO will promote the sustainable use of natural resources, including by promoting research on, and building capacities in, water management, land degradation mitigation and clean and renewable energy.

In the framework of the Groundwater Resource Governance in Trans-boundary Aquifers project funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, UNESCO will promote cooperation between Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan on managing Pre-Tashkent cross-border aquifer by promoting dialogue and cooperation, developing shared management tools, and facilitating governance reforms focused on improving livelihoods, economic development and environmental sustainability. The UNESCO action will aim to promote strengthened political commitment to cooperate and implement priority actions for the protection and equitable utilisation of the aquifers.

UNESCO will aim to build capacities in managing and safeguarding Uzbekistan’s tangible and intangible cultural heritage. Action will be conducted in the framework of UNESCO’s culture-related Conventions, in particular as regards the implementation of the 1972 and 2003 Conventions. UNESCO will support national capacity-building in the preparation of inventories and management and safeguarding of the country’s tangible and intangible cultural heritage, as well as in the preparation for, and response to, natural and man-made disasters. In particular, UNESCO will support the Principal Department for Preservation and Utilization of Objects of Cultural Heritage of the Ministry of Culture and Sports to better protect and manage the cultural properties along the Silk Roads. This will include activities for documentation, conservation, and enhancing management mechanisms at the site and national levels.

UNESCO will focus on the sustainable development of Uzbekistan’s World Heritage sites through activities such as preservation of their urban fabric. The objective is to improve economic wellbeing of the local community; encourage them to improve their living conditions with the respect of centuries-old traditions, providing them with capacities to restore historic houses and use them for income-generating activities. Moreover, UNESCO will aim to create awareness, improve social cohesion and stimulate the rehabilitation of traditions and crafts enabling local economic development through cultural tourism. An adequate protection will be ensured through the development of a management plan of World Heritage sites, which will cover all aspects of development within the boundaries of the sites.

Building on the successful past experience, UNESCO will seek to further support the preservation of and access to the documentary heritage in the country by building capacities in preservation and restoration of documentary heritage and digitization of manuscript collections.

UNESCO will also sensitize decision-makers and other stakeholders, including rural communities, about the importance of cultural diversity as an essential dimension for sustainable development.

Activities will promote the engagement of local communities as the key actors contributing to a sustainable use of natural resources, the development of cultural diversity and the establishment of related policies and programmes. Capacity-building activities will be essential to create a pool of competent specialists, who could develop principles of sustainable development and integrate them into country policies and programmes.

UNESCO will support the capacity-building of the media and journalists' training institutions in reporting on sustainable development issues, including climate change, water management, renewable energy and ecology, as well as health education and the HIV/AIDS prevention.

**Uzbekistan UNDAF Outcome 4: Governance – “Effectiveness, inclusiveness and accountability of governance at the central and local levels enhanced.”**

UNESCO's activities will focus on strengthening the systems of governance through raising awareness about and supporting the implementation of UNESCO's normative instruments.

Support will be provided in the implementation, monitoring and reporting on UNESCO's Conventions, such as the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage, the 1972 Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, the 1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property, and the Convention against Doping in Sport.

UNESCO will continue its advocacy work and the provision of technical assistance in the development and revision of laws and practices in line with international standards on freedom of expression and cultural diversity. Freedom of expression will be promoted as a human right, as well as a key to the attainment of the internationally agreed development goals.

UNESCO will promote the ratification of the 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expression by raising awareness and providing support in the harmonization of the national legislation with the provisions of this Convention.

UNESCO will provide assistance through policy advice and technical support in promoting universal access to information and knowledge, in particular through ICT, and by building capacities of journalists on analytical and well-informed reporting.

UNESCO will promote youth participation in decision-making, youth leadership, entrepreneurship and social innovation to promote employability, sustainable livelihoods and to address social inequalities, reduce poverty, prevent conflict and encourage the participation of young people in building and consolidating peace.

## PART IV – PARTNERSHIPS

Given the current scarcity of financial resources, UNESCO needs to increase its programmatic focus and concentrate its efforts around fewer, better defined areas, where it has a comparative advantage. UNESCO can achieve a greater impact, and increase its relevance and effectiveness by building on synergies, avoiding overlaps and forging partnerships.

In this regard, UNESCO's ability to work in partnership with other UN agencies and development partners is a vital component of its country level delivery.

The UNESCO Office in Tashkent participates actively in the work of the UN Country Team to ensure that its action contributes to the priorities defined in the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) for Uzbekistan. Also, the Office seeks to establish concrete operational partnerships with other UN agencies on issues of joint interest.

In the framework of UNESCO's global partnership strategy, the Office is stepping up its partnerships with public and private partners. The National Commission of the Republic of Uzbekistan for UNESCO remains an important ally in this regard.

Since Uzbekistan has been classified as a middle-income country, the development partner resources available in Uzbekistan are limited. The Office has conducted a mapping of developing partners active in the country to improve coordination, avoid overlaps and identify partners for joint action in UNESCO's areas of competence.

Furthermore, the potential of self-benefitting modality for addressing development challenges in Uzbekistan needs to be explored.

Non-governmental organizations constitute important partners for UNESCO as platforms for civil engagement and guarantors of sustainability of programme delivery.

Regular contacts are maintained and information shared with the National Commission of the Republic of Uzbekistan for UNESCO, chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister, so as to seek synergies and complementarity of action.

The table below reflects a number of partners with which the Office currently cooperates:

National partners	National Commission of the Republic of Uzbekistan for UNESCO; Ministry of Public Education; Ministry of Higher and Secondary Specialized Education; Ministry of Culture and Sports; Ministry of Health; the Academy of Sciences; Legislative Chamber of Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan; Republican Center for Social Adaptation of Children; Republican Education Center; Uzbektourism National Company; National Association of Electronic Mass Media of Uzbekistan; the Creative Union of Journalist of Uzbekistan; National
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	TV and Radio Company of Uzbekistan; Public Fund of Support of Independent Press and News Agencies of Uzbekistan; State Committee for Communication, Informatization and Telecommunication Technologies; Academy of Arts; "Uzbekmuseum" Foundation; the local authorities of Bukhara, Samarkand, Shakhryyabz, Khiva, Fergana valley and the Republic of Karakalpakstan; Committee for Coordination of Science and Technology Development (CCSTD); State Committee on Nature Protection; Republican Inspection for Protection and Rational Use of Flora, Fauna and Reservations; Scientific Hydrology Institute; Astronomical Institute; National Committee of "Man and Biosphere" Programme; Tashkent Institute of Irrigation and Agricultural and Mechanization Engineers (TIIM); Institute of Water Problems; Ecological Movement of Uzbekistan; Aral Gene Pool Protection Fund;
International partners	UN agencies; OSCE; DVV International; GIZ; Embassy of the Republic of France; Embassy of Israel; Embassy of Japan; Embassy of Switzerland; Center of Development Research, University of Bonn; International Fund for Saving Aral Sea; GEF; Konrad Adenauer Foundation.
Civil society	NGO Khorezm Rural Advisory Support Service (KRASS); "Ishonch va Hayot" NGO; International In-service Training Center of Journalists; Republic Craft Association "Khunarmand"; Social Initiatives Support Fund; Fund "Forum of Culture and Art of Uzbekistan" (Fund Forum); Association of Business Women of Uzbekistan "Tadbirkorayol"
Academic Partners	Centre for Economic Research; Centre for Social Research; State Pedagogical University of Uzbekistan; Central Teacher Training Institute named after A. Avloniy National University of Uzbekistan named after Ulugbek; Urgench State University; Tashkent State Institute of Architecture and Construction; Scientific-Research Institute of Fine Arts; Beruni Scientific-Research Institute of Oriental studies; Westminster International University in Tashkent
Private Sector Partners	Intel

## ANNEX I: UCPD Results matrix

### UNESCO Activities within UNDAF Uzbekistan

UNDAF OUTPUT	UNESCO ACTIVITY EXPECTED RESULTS	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS AND BENCHMARKS	ESTIMATED BUDGET
<b>Uzbekistan UNDAF Outcome 1: Economic Wellbeing<sup>39</sup> - “Economic well-being of vulnerable groups is improved (residents of economically underdeveloped, mainly rural areas, women, particularly home-based workers, labour migrants and their families, children, particularly most-at-risk adolescents, the elderly, HIV positive people, people with disabilities)”</b>			
1.1.3. National capacities strengthened to collect, analyse and use statistical data, including data disaggregated by gender, for better monitoring and evaluation of progress towards the achievement of the MDGs.	National capacities to collect, analyze and use statistical data in the fields of education and the sciences strengthened.	<i>Performance Indicator:</i> Availability of education and science-related data disaggregated by gender, specific population groups and regions  <i>Benchmark:</i> education and STI indicators from censuses and surveys are disseminated.	US\$ 50,000
1.2.3 “Jobs created and skills enhanced in traditional crafts and tourism, in particular for women in less developed regions and young people, including with disabilities.	The livelihoods of rural communities, in particular farmers, women and young people in Karakalpakstan, improved by building capacities in raising salt-resistant crops,	<i>Performance Indicator:</i> Number of income-generating opportunities established  Number of capacity-building	US\$ 150,000

<sup>39</sup> The outputs listed hereafter are updated during the Mid-term review of the UNDAF Uzbekistan in 2012, and appear with their original numbering as in UNDAF Uzbekistan document.

	traditional crafts and sustainable tourism development.	activities organized for farmers, women and vulnerable groups  <i>Benchmark: 1 workshop established and 4 trainings conducted, 100 artisans and 100 farmers trained, of whom 50% women.</i>	
<b>Uzbekistan UNDAF Outcome 2: Social Services – “Enhanced access to and utilization of relevant, quality essential social services (education, health, nutrition, Sexually Transmitted Infection - STI/HIV/drug use prevention, social protection of children and early childhood development)”</b>			
2.1.1 “Government capacity strengthened to revise, plan and develop a modern comprehensive education and preschool education policy in line with recent achievements in science and the economy.”	UNESCO’s Open Education Management Information System (EMIS) introduced as an effective means to collect and analyze education-related data in policy-making	<i>Performance Indicator:</i> Number of schools applying localized OpenEMIS software;  <i>Benchmark:</i> 300	US\$ 80,000
2.1.2 “Capacity of the basic education system management at all levels (Heads of Department for Ministry of Public Education, Heads of Departments of Education at Regional, District and City branches) strengthened to implement, monitor and evaluate education policy.”	National capacities to apply modern tools for education data collection and analysis, effective implementation of evidence-based policy and monitoring strengthened.	<i>Performance Indicator:</i> Number of education administrators using advanced/automated data collection and data analysis tool for evidence-based policy making and monitoring  <i>Benchmark:</i> 100	US\$ 150,000
2.2.1 “The education system’s capacity to provide inclusive	Access to quality education for children with special needs	<i>Performance Indicator:</i> Number of teachers trained	US\$ 150,000



education and the users' ability to demand it are strengthened."	improved through Information and Communication Technologies.	in applying ICT based one-on-one learning environment children with special needs  <i>Benchmark: 100</i>	
2.2.4 "Support provided for the enhancement of technical (including ICT) and vocational education to equip youth and adults with knowledge, competencies and skills for the job market."	Quality, effectiveness and efficiency of technical and vocational education and training, in particular as concerns engineering, improved.	<i>Performance Indicator:</i> Number of advanced teacher education curriculum for TVET system is introduced  <i>Benchmark: 1</i>	US\$250,000
2.2.5 "The Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), human development and gender concepts are introduced into existing curricular, teaching programs, courses and its significance is acknowledged among academia, civil servants, business community and young people."	Teaching materials and resources for scaling-up education for sustainable development developed and adapted.	<i>Performance Indicator:</i> Number of general, secondary specialized and higher institutions' teachers trained.  <i>Benchmark: 100 teachers</i>	US\$ 20,000
2.7.2 "Capacity of national institutions strengthened to provide quality gender-sensitive information, life & parenting skills education, & youth friendly services to prevent drug use, HIV/STI and to understand sexual & reproductive health in school & community settings."	School curricula on HIV and AIDS preventive education and health education improved on the basis of the best international practices.  b. Number of campaigns organized for disseminating customized and	<i>Performance Indicator:</i> Number of teacher trainers, school curriculum planners and social workers trained educational content of HIV curricula according to international standards  <i>Benchmark: 75</i>	US\$ 120,000

	culturally sensitive messages to the population	teacher trainers trained	
		<p><i>Performance Indicator:</i> Number of educational and learning materials on HIV preventive education developed, adopted, published and disseminated among school settings.</p> <p><i>Benchmark:</i> 2 educational materials on HIV prevention developed</p> <p><i>Performance Indicator:</i> Number of community campaigns in selected regions organized for disseminating customized and culturally sensitive messages to the population</p> <p><i>Benchmark:</i> 5 media campaigns supported</p>	
<b>Uzbekistan UNDAF Outcome 3: Environment – “Principles of sustainable development integrated into country policies and programs.”</b>			
3.1.1	“Concrete interventions on sustainable use of natural resources, complemented with environment education / training	Sustainable water management improved through research, knowledge transfer and capacity-building.	US\$ 150,000
		<p><i>Performance Indicators:</i> Number of researches/studies /databases on</p>	

<p>component.”</p>		<p>(ground) water management, soil degradation and clean energy carried out</p> <p>Benchmark: 2 scientific studies conducted</p> <p>Number of trainings conducted on sustainable use of water, soil and energy</p> <p>Benchmark: capacities of 50 experts strengthened</p>	
<p>3.1.4 “Government capacity to manage tangible and intangible cultural heritage increased.”</p>	<p>Awareness raised about and capacities strengthened in the implementation of UNESCO’s 1972 and 2003 Conventions, in particular as regards the preparation of management plans of World Heritage-listed properties and the elaboration of inventories of intangible cultural heritage</p>	<p><i>Performance Indicator:</i> Number of information materials produced and disseminated among cultural heritage institutions in the country</p> <p><i>Benchmark:</i> one management plan for the World Heritage property prepared</p> <p><i>Performance Indicator:</i> Number of experts trained in view of establishing a pool of resource persons in the</p>	<p>US\$ 200,000</p>

		<p>sector of cultural heritage</p> <p><i>Benchmark:</i> 50 experts trained in the field of tangible and intangible cultural heritage</p> <p><i>Performance Indicator:</i> Number of intangible cultural heritage inventories completed</p> <p><i>Benchmark:</i> 1 inventory established</p>	
<p>3.2.1 “Cultural diversity and environmental sustainability aspects integrated by the government into community related policies and activities.”</p>	<p>Awareness raised about and capacities strengthened in the integration of cultural diversity and environmental sustainability into community related policies and activities.</p>	<p><i>Performance Indicator:</i> Number of activities organized conducive to sustainable development</p> <p><i>Benchmark:</i> 5 festivals organized/co-organized with national stakeholders</p>	<p>US\$ 50,000</p>
<p>3.3.1 The capacity of respective national stakeholders enhanced to prepare for and respond to major natural and manmade disaster risks in Tashkent city and other regions, including those exposed to high trans-boundary risks.</p>	<p>Capacities of managers of cultural heritage properties in risk management planning enhanced and DRR plans developed for cultural heritage sites</p> <p>Awareness raised and policy guidelines</p>	<p><i>Performance Indicator:</i> Number of managers of sites, museums or heritage buildings trained in disaster risk management</p> <p><i>Benchmark:</i> 50 managers trained</p>	<p>US\$ 50,000</p>

	<p>developed about early warning systems for geo-hazards.</p> <p>Proposals developed within the common country programming framework of UN country team to infuse disaster risk reduction approaches into UNDAF documents in cooperation with Institute of Seismology of the Academy of science.</p>	<p><i>Performance Indicator:</i> Number of schools adopting the plan and families receiving information material</p>	
<b>Uzbekistan UNDAF Outcome 4: Governance – “Effectiveness, inclusiveness and accountability of governance at the central and local levels enhanced.”</b>			
<p>4.3.1 “Skills of the legislators and parliamentary staff improved in drafting and proposing legislation in line with international best practices.”</p>	<p>Legislators’ awareness about the international best practices in creating enabling environment for free, independent and pluralistic media raised.</p>	<p><i>Performance indicator:</i> Number of laws in the field of culture preservation and media reviewed and developed according to international standards</p> <p><i>Benchmark:</i> 4 laws in the field of media and culture are developed in compliance with the international standards</p>	<p>US\$ 30,000</p>
<p>4.4.1 “Ratification process advanced in Convention on Rights of People with Disabilities, Convention 2005 on Cultural Diversity, UN Convention on Labor Migrants and their Families, and Stockholm</p>	<p>Awareness about UNESCO’s 2005 Convention raised and the provisions of the Convention reflected in the national legislation in view of the ratification of the</p>	<p><i>Performance Indicator:</i> Ratification Status</p> <p><i>Benchmark:</i> 2 activities organized to promote the ratification of the</p>	<p>US\$ 20,000</p>

Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants.”	Convention.	2005 Convention	
4.4.2 “National capacities strengthened in implementation/monitoring/reporting on UN treaties/standards/norms already adopted by Uzbekistan, such as Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), Human Rights Conventions, Conventions on drug control and against organized crime/corruption/Children, International health Regulations, in addition to 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage, 1972 Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, 1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property, and Convention Against Doping in Sport.”	Institutional capacities in the implementation of UNESCO’s 1970, 1972 and 2003 Conventions strengthened.	<p><i>Performance indicator:</i> Number of specialists trained</p> <p><i>Benchmark:</i>50 experts/stakeholders trained</p>	US\$ 50,000
4.5.3 “Awareness of women, youths and civil society on relevant development issues and availability of opportunities for their more active civic engagement increased.”	The capacities of the media to prepare analytical and well-documented reports on issues of public interest, including the environment, and HIV and AIDS, improved.	<p><i>Performance indicator:</i> Number of media campaigns for youth and civil society on development issues organized</p>	US\$ 150,000

		<i>Benchmark:</i> 4 media campaigns is organised on development issues	
4.5.4 “Promotion of increased use of ICT tools, to improve efficiency, transparency and accountability of the work of public institutions at all levels and fostering dialog with civil society.”	Public access to collections of documentary heritage in museums improved and the institutional storage, conservation and restoration capacities strengthened.	<i>Performance Indicator:</i> Number of establishments assisted in building capacities in storage, conservation, restoration  <i>Benchmark:</i> One platform established with digitized content	US\$ 150,000

## ANNEX II

### Basic facts and figures about the Uzbekistan/UNESCO cooperation

Uzbekistan joined UNESCO on 26 October 1993.

Uzbekistan has ratified the following **UNESCO Conventions**:

<i>Convention</i>	<i>Date of deposit</i>	<i>Type of deposit</i>
Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage. Paris, 16 November 1972.	13/01/1993	Notification of succession
Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict with Regulations for the Execution of the Convention. The Hague, 14 May 1954.	21/02/1996	Accession
Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property. Paris, 14 November 1970.	15/03/1996	Ratification
Convention against Discrimination in Education. Paris, 14 December 1960.	08/12/1997	Ratification
Convention on Technical and Vocational Education. Paris, 10 November 1989.	08/12/1997	Accession
Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat. Ramsar, 2 February 1971.	08/10/2001	Accession
Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage. Paris, 17 October 2003.	29/01/2008	Ratification
International Convention against Doping in Sport. Paris, 19 October 2005	29/04/2011	Ratification

Uzbekistan has 46 **Associated Schools**, which belong to the UNESCO global network of 9566 schools working in support of international understanding, peace, intercultural dialogue, sustainable development and quality education in practice.

Uzbekistan has 11 **UNESCO Chairs** participating in the UNITWIN/UNESCO Chairs Programme that promotes international inter-university cooperation and networking to enhance institutional capacities through knowledge sharing and collaborative work:

- UNESCO Chair in Physics and Astronomy, established in 1998 at Tashkent State University
- UNESCO Chair in Human Rights, Peace, Democracy, Tolerance and International Understanding, established in 1998 at the University of World Economy and Diplomacy
- UNESCO Chair on Civic and Values Education, established in 1999 at Tashkent State Pedagogical University
- UNESCO Chair in Automated Information Technologies, established in 1999 at Samarkand Cooperative Institute



- UNESCO Chair in the Comparative Study of World Religions, established in 1999 at Tashkent Islamic University
- UNESCO Chair in Traditional Medicine, established in 2000 at Bukhara State Medical Institute
- UNESCO Chair in Green Chemistry, established in 2003 at the Uzbekistan National University
- UNESCO Chair in Arts Management and Marketing, established in 2004 at the Uzbekistan National Institute of Arts and Design, Tashkent
- UNESCO Chair in Knowledge Economy, established in 2006 at the Westminster International University of Tashkent
- UNESCO Chair in the Preservation and Management of Historic Centres, established in 1999 at Samarkand State Architectural and Civil Engineering Institute Mirzo Ulugbek
- UNESCO Chair on Education for Sustainable Development, established in 2011 at Urgench State University

Uzbekistan has 1 **Biosphere Reserve** - Mount Chatkal (1978)- recognized under UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme to promote sustainable development based on local community efforts and sound science.

Uzbekistan has 4 **World Heritage Sites** included in UNESCO's World Heritage List of 981 properties worldwide forming part of the cultural and natural heritage considered as having outstanding universal value:

- Itchan Kala (1990)
- Historic Centre of Bukhara (1993);
- Historic Centre of Shakhrisyabz (2000);
- Samarkand – Crossroad of Cultures (2001)

Uzbekistan has 4 elements on the **Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity** made up of those intangible heritage elements - traditions or living expressions inherited from our ancestors and passed on to our descendants - that help demonstrate the diversity of this heritage and raise awareness about its importance:

- Shashmaqom music (2008)
- Cultural space of Boysun District (2008)
- Novruz, Nowrouz, Nooruz, Navruz, Nauroz, Nevruz (2009)
- Katta Ashula (2009)

Uzbekistan has 2 elements on the **Memory of the World Registry** that includes documentary heritage of world significance and outstanding universal value:

- Holy Koran Mushaf of Othman (1997)
- The Collection of the Al-Beruni Institute of Oriental Studies (1997)

The **International Institute for Central Asian Studies (IICAS)** is a UNESCO category 2 centre working under UNESCO's auspices in Samarkand since August 1995 to strengthen collaboration between Central Asian academics and their colleagues abroad through multidisciplinary study of the region.

## **ANNEX III:**

### **Reference documents on country situation analysis**

- **Living Standards Strategy (LSS)** for 2004-2006, prepared with technical assistance from the Asian Development Bank and based on two major studies: (i) **Living Standards Assessment** (World Bank) and (ii) **Macroeconomic Policies and Poverty in Uzbekistan** (UNDP and the Centre for Economic Research);
- **MDG Report for Uzbekistan** (2006);
- **National Human Development Reports** for Uzbekistan focusing on in-depth assessments of the situation in the priority national development areas of education (2007) and health (2006);
- **Situation of Children of Uzbekistan** (UNICEF, 2007);
- **Proposed Strategy for Growth, Employment and Poverty Reduction in Uzbekistan** (UNDP, 2007), which provides a macroeconomic analysis of the country;
- The **Country Gender Assessment** (Asian Development Bank, 2005);
- The 2008 **Country Analysis (CA) for Uzbekistan**, which served as a basis for identifying the priorities of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) for Uzbekistan for 2010-2015, namely: (i) economic well-being; (ii) social services; (iii) environment; and (iv) governance;
- **National EFA Mid-Decade Assessment Report** (2010), which revisits National EFA commitments and assesses the achievements of national educational goals towards EFA;
- **Expanding Technical and Vocational Education and Training at the Secondary Education Level** (UNESCO, 2011);
- **UNESCO National Education Support Strategy (UNESS)** for 2012-2015 (UNESCO, 2012) provides detailed analysis of the education sector in Uzbekistan
- **UNDP Country Programme Action Plan 2010 - 2015**
- **Welfare Improvement Strategy of the Republic of Uzbekistan for 2013-2015 (WIS)**. Tashkent 2013