

Empowered
LIVES
Resilient
NATIONS

FOREWORD



Stefan Priesner,
UNDP Resident Representative
and UN Resident Coordinator

This publication has been prepared to celebrate more than 20 years of the United Nations Development Programme's (UNDP) presence in the Republic of Uzbekistan. During these two decades, significant results have been achieved in cooperation with national partners and donors. In this publication we highlight some of the most important achievements, with an emphasis on how these initiatives have had a direct, positive influence on human development in Uzbekistan.

In the past twenty years, the Republic of Uzbekistan has established itself as a strong and influential state in the Central Asian region. The nation has overcome the difficulties faced during transition, weathered the international financial crisis, gradually improved its citizen's standard of living, mitigated the impacts of the Aral Sea Disaster, and can confidently look forward to future decades of sustainable growth and development.

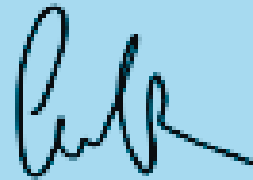
UNDP, working in cooperation with other United Nations agencies in Uzbekistan, has been a proud contributor to this rapid development.

In partnership with the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan, and in close collaboration with ministries, NGOs, academia and communities, we have provided the financial support and expertise needed to jointly undertake cost-effective, innovative and sustainable initiatives for development.

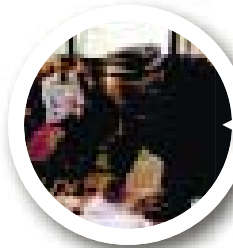
Throughout its work, the focus of UNDP has been to enhance people's opportunities and quality of life, thereby working to achieve human development. People are the true wealth of nations, and a nation's development should be measured by how the lives of its individual citizens have been sustainably improved. Consequently, we focus our efforts on three key areas of collaboration - economic well-being with a focus on the disadvantaged, democratic governance, and energy and environment.

UNDP looks forward to continuing and further strengthening its collaboration and creating new partnerships with the government and donors, to support development reforms and ensure the well-being of Uzbekistan's people.

We hope you will find this brochure interesting and we encourage you to visit our official website, to share your views on our social media pages, and to contribute to the dialogue for a better future in Uzbekistan.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. A.', located to the right of the text.

WHAT WE DO AT A GLANCE



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FOR COMMUNITIES

By involving people in the planning and undertaking of local development initiatives within communities, UNDP has ensured that the results are maintained by the people themselves.

EFFICIENT LOCAL GOVERNMENT THROUGH ICT

By promoting e-governance programmes and introducing information and communications technology, UNDP is supporting efficient local level administration.



A NEW APPROACH TO BUDGETING

UNDP is working with partners to ensure that the budget system works to meet the needs of each and every citizen.



A SALARY FOR TODAY, AND A FUTURE FOR TOMORROW

Through social enterprises, people that once faced marginalisation and dependence can now earn steady incomes, support their households and gain a stronger sense of self-worth.



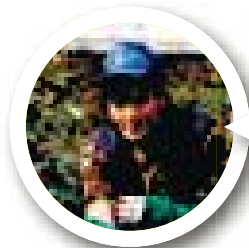
BETTER BUILDINGS, CLEANER ENVIRONMENT

Buildings have generated a vast majority of Uzbekistan's carbon emissions, so UNDP has made introducing energy efficient construction practices a national priority.

PARTNERING PUBLIC AND PRIVATE ENTITIES

Cooperation between communities, local government and inclusive businesses are a new, effective means of community-level development.





HOW WE SEE WOMEN AT WORK

UNDP has put the spotlight on women working in non-traditional professions, an example of how gender perception is changing in Uzbekistan.



KNOWLEDGE IS THE KEY TO HIV PREVENTION

Youth remain the most vulnerable to HIV infection, but they also hold the power to reverse the epidemic.



PRESERVING THE TUGAI FORESTS

By creating a balance between environment use and conservation, UNDP has ensured Uzbekistan's unique Tugai forests are protected for generations to come.



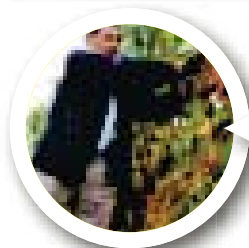
A COMMUNITY CONCERN WITH A COMMUNITY SOLUTION

Putting the power for change in the hands of ordinary people has helped maintain access to water in one of Uzbekistan's more vulnerable regions.



GARDENS IN THE DESERT

With the right knowledge, techniques and practices, UNDP has used household gardens as a model for effective agriculture on arid land.



INNOVATION TO IMPROVE DEGRADED LANDS

Farmers in Uzbekistan's driest region are using laser-levelling, a simple but effective technological solution, to improve the harvest of their land.

WHAT WE DO IN-DEPTH

What We Do

UNDP works in more than 177 countries, offering global perspective and local insights to help empower lives and build resilient nations. UNDP assists Uzbekistan in addressing many critical development issues, by combating environmental degradation, stopping and reversing the HIV/ AIDS spread, promoting good, inclusive governance, and supporting economic development.

Our Goals

Uzbekistan has achieved significant growth and during Uzbekistan's development, UNDP has remained an important partner of the government, NGOs and civil society, providing policy advice and technical assistance. Within the current United Nations' Development Assistance Framework, UNDP has continued and further expanded its activities, has advocated for the Millennium Development Goals, and coordinated donor activities.



TIMELINE OF PROJECTS

1994 | JANUARY | FEBRUARY | MARCH | APRIL | MAY | JUNE



JULY

AUGUST

SEPTEMBER

OCTOBER

NOVEMBER

DECEMBER

■ Macroeconomic Policy Analysis and Training



UNDP’s work to enhance economic development in the Republic of Uzbekistan comes at an important time, as the nation continues its gradual economic transition. UNDP is working to improve economic governance in Uzbekistan, while assisting civil society and the private sector to generate employment opportunities, improve rural livelihoods, introduce microfinance and business advisory services, facilitate cross-learning and encourage entrepreneurship.

Currently Uzbekistan is a lower middle-income country, which has had a period of rapid economic growth since 2005 (averaging over 8 per cent annually). The government has attributed this growth to the success of its gradual reforms during the country’s transition to a market economy.

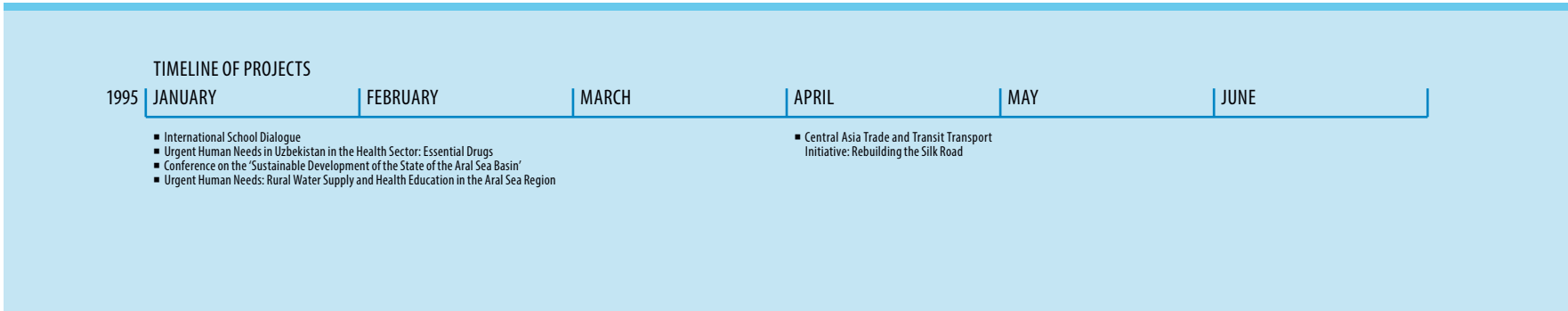
Rapid GDP growth has led to a decline in low income levels in recent years, but as Uzbekistan strives to become an industrialised, high middle-income country, its main challenge will be to not only sustain its GDP growth rate, but also to improve the welfare of its population by expanding economic and social development opportunities across all regions of the country.

What Has Been Done

UNDP has been able to maintain its national relevance, and to engage with the government in a number of important areas. Two central initiatives have worked to support leading national think-tanks, including the Center for Economic Research and the Institute of Forecasting and Macroeconomic Research (IFMR).

The IFMR’s comprehensive, survey-based assessment of the national business environment has resulted in the government’s intention to improve Uzbekistan’s business climate. To further advancements in this field, UNDP has undertaken joint initiatives to attract international investors, support national entrepreneurs and promote women entrepreneurs, and develop a clear analysis of both the benefits and challenges that global trade can present for economic growth in the country.

In order to improve the transparency and efficiency of public expenditures in Uzbekistan, UNDP has developed and submitted for the government’s review a draft Budget Code and a new legislative proposal on public procurement. It has supported regional development strategies designed to improve the allocation of resources to vulnerable groups, especially women, has introduced the ‘single window’ approach for streamlining administrative procedures for exporters, and has established



Business Facilitation Centres in four regions of Uzbekistan to provide easily-accessible services to entrepreneurs.

UNDP Uzbekistan has worked towards the capacity building of local government authorities to advocate for gender sensitive policy formulation, implementation and service delivery. UNDP has also worked to incorporate the priorities and needs of women and young people into community development plans, and to collect sex-disaggregated data for informed policy-making and local planning.

In 2012, the first UN Joint Programme to focus on 'Sustaining the Livelihoods Affected by the Aral Sea Disaster' was launched in Uzbekistan. Bringing together the efforts of five UN agencies including UNDP, UNESCO, WHO, UNFPA and UNV, with funding from the UN Trust Fund for Human Security, the programme has provided a holistic approach to addressing the economic, health and environmental challenges faced by communities in Karakalpakstan. In addition, 200,000 people have benefitted from community-based Tuberculosis activities that work towards addressing stigma, prevention and treatment.



JULY

AUGUST

SEPTEMBER

OCTOBER

NOVEMBER

DECEMBER

■ Investment Promotion Service in Uzbekistan



UNDP Uzbekistan has worked to improve the capacity of Uzbekistan's government at all levels. It works to promote both the public administration system's decentralisation and government transparency, while enhancing parliamentary development. UNDP also works to ensure universal access to justice, raise awareness of international human rights principles, and encourage partnership between NGOs and government partners to address on-going social challenges, including youth engagement. It has also ensured the security of Uzbekistan's borders with neighbouring countries.

What Has Been Done

UNDP has cooperated with national partners to promote public administration reform and decentralise local government. The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs' report on the state of e-governance development has detailed Uzbekistan's fast progress towards full compliance with the international e-governance standards, as can be seen from the recently modified legislative acts on improvements of the governmental portals. This has resulted from UNDP's long term assistance in the e-governance field through providing best international expertise, and piloting innovative solutions. UNDP has assisted the introduction of the UN e-government index criteria for the assessment of the use of information and com-

munications technologies in public administration systems, while the agency has helped enhance the 'e-Hujjat' national e-document management system.

UNDP has worked to enhance access to justice and strengthen the rule of law. Through policy dialogue, analytical work and piloting initiatives, UNDP has evolved its work from providing technical assistance to helping set the agenda for reforms. Recently the government has clearly demonstrated its intention to strengthen the capacity of civil courts, and to increase their efficiency through several new legislative acts. Specifically, the concept of an 'e-court' case management system has been successfully tested and showcased at a pilot court for replication throughout the country. The new approach to case management can lead to streamlining case review and court management, reducing the workloads of judges, and introducing new criteria for judges' performance assessment.

The core functions of parliament (the Oliy Majlis) have been enhanced through better parliamentary journalism, stronger partnerships with NGOs, and specialised expertise in thematic areas. Parliamentary training programmes have improved both awareness of gender issues and the implementation of UN Conventions and MDGs, while a training centre has been established in the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis.

TIMELINE OF PROJECTS

1996	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Urgent Human Needs in Uzbekistan: Employment Generation ▪ Action Plan for the Sustainable Development of Tourism in Uzbekistan ▪ Creation of the Network of Business Incubators 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Technical Assistance to the Process of Privatisation and Private Sector Development (II) ▪ Preparatory Assistance Project: Nukus Green Shelterbelt 	

UNDP has improved inclusive governance by encouraging the involvement of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), women's and persons with disabilities' NGOs and members of the public in decision-making processes. UNDP Uzbekistan piloted ten work integration social enterprises for persons with disabilities and women in crisis situations, as well as five NGO-based social services for these groups. Social challenges have been addressed through improved 'Social Partnership' between CSOs and government bodies. A Public Council has helped improve participatory governance.

In order to help limit the HIV epidemic in Uzbekistan, UNDP has worked with national partners to ensure the availability of quality prevention, treatment and support services for most-at-risk groups and young people. The availability of anti-retroviral treatment has substantially increased.

Uzbekistan's youth have been mobilised through a new social innovation and volunteerism programme, launched together with UNV, to be a force for positive change in their communities.

The Border Management Programme in Central Asia has worked to maintain the security of regional borders, while facilitating legal trade.



JULY

AUGUST

- Cultural Tourism, Job Creation and Handicraft Development in Uzbekistan

SEPTEMBER

- Technical Assistance to the Government Institutions of Uzbekistan in Privatising Medium and Large Enterprises through Privatisation Investment Funds
- Human Development Report 1997
- Improvement of Uzbekistan Connectivity through Internet Services

OCTOBER

NOVEMBER

- National Biodiversity Strategy for Conservation and Action Plan
- Strengthening the Dept Management Capacity of the Government

DECEMBER



Uzbekistan's geographic and climatic features, combined with its growing population and economy, can increase the nation's vulnerability to environmental challenges. An on-going national objective has been to balance the effective management of existing environmental resources with the requirements of continued economic and industrial development.

In close cooperation with national and international partners, UNDP has worked with Uzbekistan's oil and gas industry to ensure that their work does not negatively influence vital regional wildlife.

What Has Been Done

Building national capacities to improve the quality of degraded land in Uzbekistan, especially in regions surrounding the Aral Sea, has been a key focus of our initiatives. Protecting fragile ecosystems from desertification and land degradation, while supporting integrated landscape management, are other important interventions. Other initiatives have worked to acknowledge the role of women in water management, and to ensure the best use of limited water resources in the Zarafshan River Basin. UNDP Uzbekistan promoted the inclusion of gender issues into key strategic documents regarding the improvement of the water management sector, to be recommended for government implementation.

One of the key national objectives is to promote the further deployment of renewable energy resources and energy efficiency across major sectors of the national economy. Initiatives to promote energy efficiency in public buildings in Uzbekistan, as well as to support the introduction of clean energy sources, are also at the core of our national operations.

Uzbekistan's natural environment contains unique and often-endangered flora and fauna. UNDP has worked with Uzbekistan's oil and gas industries to ensure that their work does not negatively influence vital regional wildlife. Efforts have also been made to protect biodiversity in Uzbekistan, through the support of the implementation of the Biological Diversity Strategic Plan in Uzbekistan from 2011 to 2020. Work is also being conducted to expand and strengthen the sustainability of Uzbekistan's National Protected Area System.

Uzbekistan is located in a highly-seismic region, and has experienced strong earthquakes in the past. Therefore, UNDP has worked to increase awareness of the population and relevant institutions of Uzbekistan in regards to the skills and knowledge they need to cope with natural disasters. Essential linkages between climate change impacts and disaster risk reduction have been highlighted through UNDP's flagship programme on climate risk management.

TIMELINE OF PROJECTS

1997 | JANUARY | FEBRUARY | MARCH | APRIL | MAY | JUNE

- Urgent Human Needs: Aral Sea Shore Rehabilitation and Capacity Development Programme
- Empowering Women in Uzbekistan Programme Cost-Sharing Account
- Managerial Support Services to the Executive Committee of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea
- Capacity Building of the Gender in Development Unit in Uzbekistan



JULY

- Support in the Formulation of the Programme “Growth, Jobs and Incomes” and the establishment of Social Transformation
- Uzbekistan Country Study on Climate Change

AUGUST

SEPTEMBER

OCTOBER

- Country Programme Support Project

NOVEMBER

- Democratisation, Human Rights and Governance in Uzbekistan

DECEMBER



OUR RESULTS IN NUMBERS



The Aral Sea

Laser-levelling equipment, an efficient water-saving technology, has been provided to farming enterprises in the Aral Sea area.

Men and women living in the Lower Amudarya State Biosphere Reserve use sustainable land management techniques.

Climate Change

We helped move the country towards a lower carbon footprint, reaching 3.5 million tons of Certified Emission Reductions.

With our support, the government crafted a biogas policy. Now 5000 farmers can make use of this alternative energy source. We are spearheading the use of energy efficient approaches in public buildings, to replace the use of natural gas, which can save up to \$2,6 billion a year.

Local Governance

Online governance systems, local government information centres and 'one-stop-shops' services improve transparency and communication with citizens, and allow wider access to information.

Water

More than 2 million men and women in various regions of Uzbekistan now have access to clean water.

TIMELINE OF PROJECTS

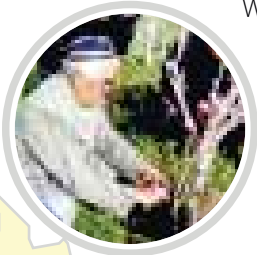
1998	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE
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- National Commission on Sustainable Development of the Republic of Uzbekistan
- Development of Postal Services/Support for Technical Services at the Project Level
- Management of Change: Rapid Skills Acquisition and Dissemination Programme (II)
- Cultural Tourism, Small-Medium Enterprises and Handicraft Development in Uzbekistan
- Center on Economic and Social Studies
- Establishment of Nuratau-Kyzylkum Biosphere Reserve as a Model for Biodiversity Conservation in Uzbekistan



Addressing HIV

40,500 men and women have received HIV prevention services. 70,000 young people are receiving HIV prevention services, which helps to avoid a spread into the general population. More than 8,000 men and women benefit from anti-retroviral therapy treatment.



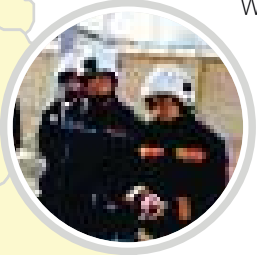
Land Degradation

We are improving vegetative cover for 6,000 hectares of rangeland and 1,000 hectares of forest cover, to prevent aridity. 50,000 people are adopting new approaches to land management, in order to cultivate land in a sustainable manner.



Business Services

The businessinfo.uz information portal was launched and info centres were established in several major regions of Uzbekistan, to keep entrepreneurs abreast of government rules and procedures. To simplify business registration procedures a draft resolution on electronic registration is being developed with the government.



Disaster Risk Reduction

We are raising population awareness on how to respond to disasters. Mobile applications have been created to provide information quickly in emergency situations.



JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initial Support to the National Action Programme Process in Uzbekistan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Removing Barriers to Energy Efficiency in Municipal Heat and Hot Water Supply 				

PARTNERSHIPS

The work of UNDP Uzbekistan is made possible by the personnel, financial, and professional commitments of its international and national partners. UNDP Uzbekistan actively engages in an array of development partnerships with all stakeholders, both national and international, working together in all phases of the development cycle. These phases include the design of programmes, their implementation, review and revision, and the incorporation of resulting lessons learned and best practices into future programmes.

UNDP is also active in its engagement with civil society, including NGOs, community-based organisations, Uzbekistan's robust academic community, and national and international media. Through many of its programmes, UNDP also works with the private sector while generating support for public-private partnerships.

Outreach and cooperation also extends to the international community. This cooperation includes work with various UN Agencies, as well as donors and other multilateral and bilateral development organisations operating in Uzbekistan. UNDP also enjoys various forms of technical and financial cooperation with international NGOs and foundations.

The work that UNDP undertakes in Uzbekistan would not be possible without the support of its donors. Since 2000, UNDP Uzbekistan has raised and delivered over \$190 million in funding, including \$105 million from cost-sharing initiatives and \$32 million from trust funds, to national projects. Our most important partner and donor has been

the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan, who has delivered \$52 million (over \$47 million through the World Bank) since 2000. The government's financial support is only one aspect of its partnership with UNDP that has been fundamentally important to the agency's success over the last two decades.

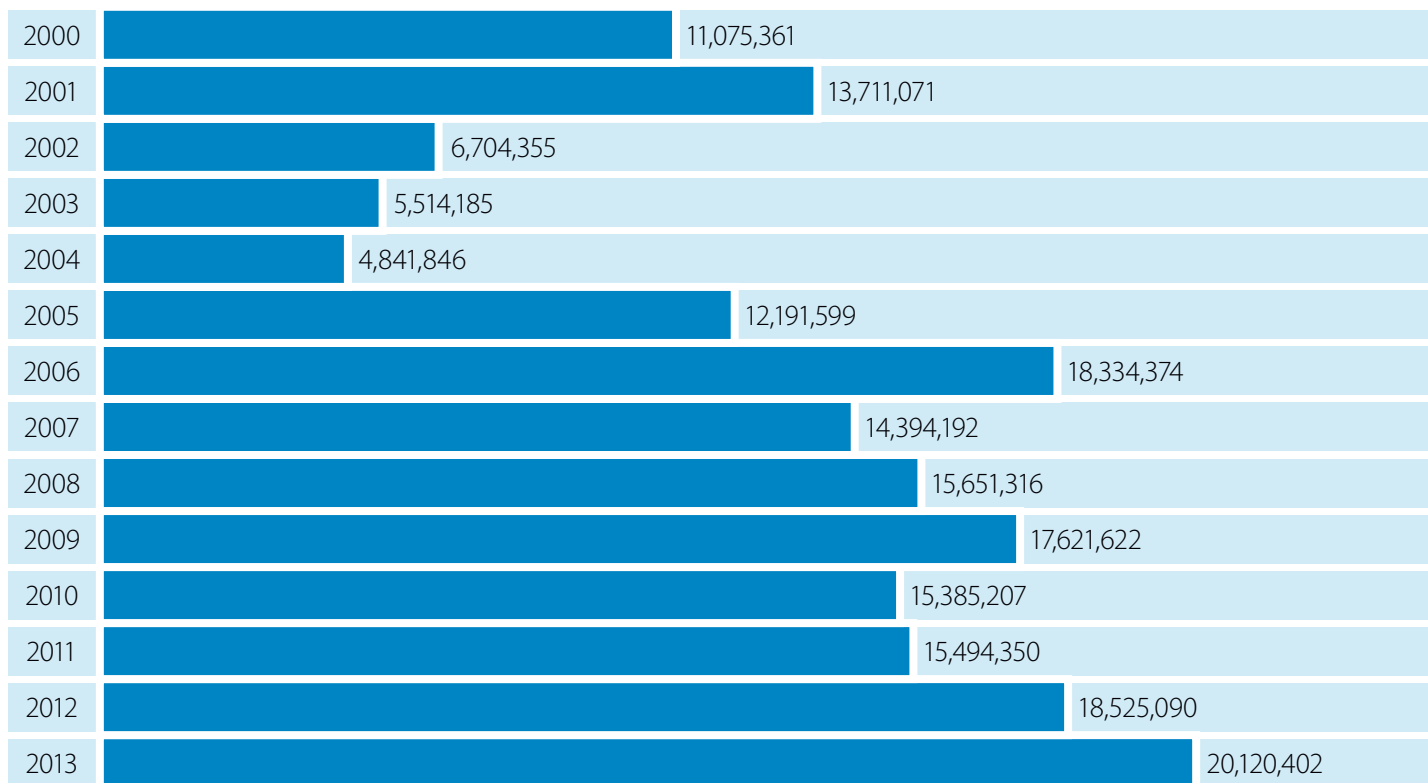
Four of UNDP's most important donors since 2000 have been the Global Fund on HIV/AIDS, the European Union, the Global Environmental Facility and the World Bank. The Global Fund on HIV/AIDS has been UNDP's major partner in its efforts to combat new infections and provide support and counselling to those living with HIV/AIDS, and has contributed over \$45 million since 2000. The Global Environmental Facility has also supported a variety of UNDP initiatives since 2000, through over \$10 million in funding, including work to promote energy efficiency in public buildings and to help establish national protected areas.

Delivering over \$17 million in funding since 2004, the European Union has contributed to UNDP Uzbekistan's 'Enhancement of Living Standards' and 'Area-Based Development' programmes, to the Border Management Programme in Central Asia, and to disaster risk management initiatives. In addition to providing assistance to the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the World Bank has also contributed over one and a half million in 2010 and 2011 to AIDS prevention initiatives in Uzbekistan.

TIMELINE OF PROJECTS

1999	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Elimination of CFC's in the Manufacturing of Domestic Refrigerators at SINO ■ National Junior Professional System for Local Capacity Building ■ Anti-Theileriosis Vaccine for Long Horn Cattle in Central Asia ■ Vocational Training Needs Assessment ■ Microcredit Programme in Karakalpakstan ■ Non-Formal Education in the Karakalpakstan Autonomous Region ■ Promotion of a Multi-Sectoral Effective Response to HIV/AIDS, Drug Abuse and STDs in Uzbekistan 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Demonstrating Wetland Biodiversity Conservation in Uzbekistan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ NGO Capacity Building for Socioeconomic Development in Karshi 	

A Summary of UNDP Uzbekistan's Financing since 2000



JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support to Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) Development in Uzbekistan Development of the Network of Business Incubators in Uzbekistan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project Formulation Services for Strengthening the National Capacity to implement the IBRD Loan No. 4216-UZ Strengthening the National Capacity to Implement the International Finance Institutions Funded Project: Water Supply, Sanitation and Health 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water Supply, Sanitation and Health Project Project Formulation Services for Disaster Preparedness in Uzbekistan Cluster Evaluation of Environment Projects in Uzbekistan and Needs Assessment 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of a National Programme for the Recovery and Recycling of Refrigerants Management of Change: Rapid Skills Acquisition and Dissemination Programme (III) 	

THE WAY AHEAD

Uzbekistan has been able to overcome key challenges within two decades of independence, as highlighted in this brochure, and is now entering the ranks of the world's developed nations. UNDP's national focus has now shifted from promoting change to making sure that changes are sustainable.

In the field of public service, UNDP will continue to enhance the efficiency and transparency of the public finance system by reforming budgetary processes and public procurement, with a focus on achieving tangible results. The one-stop-shop initiative will also continue to be expanded, a concept note for the application of an e-billing system within public services will be presented, and the use of e-governance tools in the justice system will be strengthened.

Addressing the spread of HIV/AIDS in Uzbekistan will continue to be a national priority, while work in this regard will include the promotion of a comprehensive law on HIV and the piloting of a Tashkent-based HIV telephone hotline. UNDP will continue its work to improve social inclusion and participation in Uzbekistan, while promoting an institutionalised annual state employment programme and the outsourcing of social services to NGOs.

In coming decades UNDP will also continue to support its government partners in promoting the use of renewable energy resources, while it will continue to improve the effective management of fragile land and water resources available to vulnerable communities. UNDP will also maintain its focus on improving the abilities of communities to prepare for and mitigate the impact of natural disasters.

On a state level, UNDP will continue to help the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan in institutionalising economic diplomacy while improving the nation's international economic standing. UNDP will also support Uzbekistan in its accession to the World Trade Organisation. The strengthening of Uzbekistan's economy through these measures will have both direct and indirect positive influences on the national population.

In addition to ensuring that the concept of Human Development is present in and promoted through its national initiatives, UNDP Uzbekistan will also assist the nation's youth, professionals, leaders and figures of government in keeping the concept at the heart of their work. University level courses and summer schools will promote the Human Development concept, while publications and reports will continue to be published in order

TIMELINE OF PROJECTS

2000	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elimination of CFC's in the Manufacture of Domestic Refrigerators at SINO 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preparatory Assistance: Strengthening the National Capacity for Environmental Management Capacity Building for Internet Development and Promotion in Uzbekistan 				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project Formulation for the Development of a Trade and Export Promotion Telecommunication Network

to reach key members of the nation's business, government and civil society sectors.

In its national work, UNDP will also continue to maintain strong, professional and mutually-beneficial relationships, to ensure that projects and their results are owned by communities and beneficiaries. It will also strengthen its long-term partnerships with national and international donor organisations, thereby ensuring that its current projects can be sustained, while allowing the implementation of new, innovative solutions to on-going challenges.

With a record of significant achievements and a strong framework in place for future initiatives, UNDP Uzbekistan is looking forward to an additional two decades of success. The work to be undertaken in coming years will duplicate successful pilot initiatives to benefit populations nationwide, will continue modernisation processes, and will help every citizen to live fulfilling and productive lives.



JULY

- Establishment of Public Access Internet Points

AUGUST

SEPTEMBER

- Sustainable Income Generation Programme

OCTOBER

NOVEMBER

- Expedited Financing of Climate Change Enabling Activities

DECEMBER

- Emergency Actions to Mitigate the Consequences of the Drought in Uzbekistan



OUR STORIES



TIMELINE OF PROJECTS

2001	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE
		<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Government Development Support Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Human Resource Development for Change▪ Capacity Building for Sustainable Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Establishment of the Nuratau-Kyzylkum Biosphere Reserve as a Model for Biodiversity Conservation		<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ NGO Capacity Building for Provision of Access to Justice for the Poor



JULY

AUGUST

SEPTEMBER

OCTOBER

NOVEMBER

DECEMBER

■ Environmental Support Programme

■ Conservation of the Tugai Gallery Forest in the Southern Aral Sea Region of Uzbekistan



EFFICIENT LOCAL GOVERNMENT THROUGH ICT

One of UNDP's more important innovations in the information communication technology field has been the 'e-Hujjat' electronic document management system for local government. For senior officers in local government, such as Furqat Sanginov of Uzbekistan's Djizak region, the system has meant replacing an inefficient paperwork system with a unified electronic database accessible nationwide.

"A simple process that previously took hours now only takes mere minutes," said Mr. Sanginov, sitting at a table that was once covered by papers, but now only holds a few files and his desktop computer. "The speed with which we can now process information, and meet people's needs, has never been surpassed."

UNDP has successfully installed the 'e-Hujjat' electronic document Management system in 27 local government offices, which has allowed the instant transferal of documents not only from office to office, but also within the divisions of each office.

Necessary IT equipment, including multifunctional printers, document scanners, and local network items, ensure the

effective operation of the 'e-Hujjat' system. With its professional expertise and technical assistance, UNDP has also been involved in upgrading the inter-operable platform of the e-document management system. Meanwhile over 250 government employees, including Mr. Sanginov, have been trained to use the new software.

The introduction of the new IT system has resulted in considerable benefits for local hokimyats, including providing effective control over documentation and interaction within and among hokimyats, enhancing the transparency and accountability of local administrations, streamlining decision-making processes, and significantly reducing paperwork costs.

"In 2012 the consumption of paper decreased by two to three times," the Head of the Administrative Department of the Djizak Regional Government Vakhob Alimkulov said. "We can pass these savings to other budgets—for example those for the drinking water supply, the installation of pipelines, urban improvement and the handling of other urgent issues."

TIMELINE OF PROJECTS

2002 | JANUARY | FEBRUARY | MARCH | APRIL | MAY | JUNE

- Advisory Services to the Government of Uzbekistan for Drought Prevention
- Microcredit Development for Income Generation and Job Creation in the Kashkadarya Region
- Integrated Preventive Strategy to Support Human Security in Western and Central Asia



JULY

AUGUST

SEPTEMBER

OCTOBER

NOVEMBER

DECEMBER

■ Digital Development Initiative Programme



PARTNERING PUBLIC AND PRIVATE ENTITIES

“The main idea behind our enterprise is to encourage the socialisation and social inclusion of young women by teaching them basic handicraft skills,” manager of the ‘Urgench Milliy Tikuvchilik’ enterprise Farogat Sadullaeva said. “We hope that this will help them to start their own businesses, and thereby help to overcome the unemployment problem faced in our city.”

Ms. Sadullaeva’s social enterprise has taken 45 women, previously unemployed and separated from society, trained them in traditional handicrafts, and provided them with fulfilling jobs, incomes, and a sense of inclusion in their communities. With additional finances, the enterprise will expand its operations to support students from a local school for citizens with hearing impairments.

UNDP is utilising coordination between the private and public sectors, or public-private partnerships, as a means to improve livelihoods and well-being within communities. The ‘Chashmai Safed’ milk collection centre, of the Namangan region, is another business supporting the well-being of small-scale livestock owners. Each day the centre purchases

4,000 litres of milk at a standard price from 200 surrounding households, returning \$2,000 to the community daily. The milk is then sold to commercial buyers, or delivered back into the community through markets, schools, kindergartens and hospitals. A new business model has been created as a result of the milk collection centre, with another planned for the Yangiyul district of the Tashkent region.

“Running the milk collection centre makes it easier for us to collect milk from people – we now collect an average 4.5 tons of milk every day from neighbouring villages, in addition to 3.5 tons of milk from our farm. This allows us to utilise fully our milk processing factory’s capacity of 8 tons of milk a day,” Farm owner Khomidkhon Moyiddinkhodjayev said. “Most importantly, however, we can now help people live better lives.”

The success of these inclusive businesses have shown that public-private partnerships are an effective and important means for sustainable community development, one that can be repeated throughout Uzbekistan for years to come.

TIMELINE OF PROJECTS

2003 | JANUARY | FEBRUARY | MARCH | APRIL | MAY | JUNE

- Clean Energy for Rural Communities in Karakalpakstan
- National Drug Information Network



JULY

- Transfer of Technology for the Local Production of Solar Panels for Water Heating
- Development of an HIV/AIDS Prevention Programme in the Armed Forces

AUGUST

SEPTEMBER

OCTOBER

NOVEMBER

DECEMBER

- Promotion of ICT Business Units in Rural Areas to Foster Small and Micro-Enterprise Development
- Umbrella Project for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights

A NEW APPROACH TO BUDGETING

If you ask the head of the Djizak Regional Department of the Treasury of the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Uzbekistan Botir Pardaev what performance-based budgeting is, he will reply that it is an innovative approach to the planning and execution of budgets where the goal is not just to spend funds, but also to achieve ultimate outcomes and results.

The advantage of this method lies in the fact that planning and budget allocation is undertaken not by considering and allocating types of expenditures, but by selecting programmes based on their goals, objectives, and measurable indicators. The on-going introduction of the performance-based budgeting approach in Uzbekistan will help to ensure the results orientation of budget allocations.

A basis for performance-based budgeting was established in the nation's first Budget Code, which is a legal framework which defines the functioning of a national budget system. It regulates the procedures for state budget formulation, deliberation, execution, accounting, reporting, and other processes. In addition to promoting key elements of performance-based budgeting, it is expected that the Budget Code will help to ensure that the needs of different social groups and stratas of society are met.

The Budget Code, that will be ratified in 2014, and then enter a testing mode during the following two years, is a key example of how initiatives on a legislative level can have a significant, direct influence on a nation's citizens.

TIMELINE OF PROJECTS

2004	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhancement of Living standards 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Capacity Needs Self-Assessment for Global Environmental Management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of a Waste Management Strategy 2000–2004/2005–2009 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capacity Building of Civil Society Groups Sustainable Income Generation Achieving Ecosystem Stability on the Exposed Aral Seabed and the Kyzylkum Desert 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promotion of the Rights of Disabled Individuals through Sport Activities Environmental Indicators to Monitor the State of the Environment in Uzbekistan 	



JULY

AUGUST

SEPTEMBER

OCTOBER

NOVEMBER

DECEMBER

- GHG Emission Reduction Demonstration Projects component of CTP
- Conservation of Kugitang Mountains Biodiversity in Uzbekistan

- GFATM—fiduciary support



A SALARY FOR TODAY, AND A FUTURE FOR TOMORROW

For Jamshid Sa'dullaev, crafting high-quality shoes and developing his leatherworking skills not only means a regular income, but also greater self-esteem and confidence, a better quality of life, and a stronger sense of place within society.

Mr. Sa'dullaev is just one of over a dozen permanent employees of the 'TopMen Shoes' social enterprise in Samarkand. The enterprise provides its employees, most of who are living with a disability, opportunities to learn new skills, obtain a regular income, and plan for the future.

Employing 20 workers, and 60 interns-in-training, 'TopMen Shoes' is just one of 10 social enterprises that have been established with UNDP's support throughout Uzbekistan.

Enterprise director Ibragim Juraev has said that while 'TopMen Shoes' has become a commercially-viable business, it has never lost track of its goal of improving the lives of its employees.

"The example of our social enterprise has shown that people living with disabilities want to and are able to work, and can play active roles in society," Mr. Juraev said.

"There are a number of former students who have become trainers in the college and our enterprise, while some former graduates who had worked for us are now planning to open their own businesses in the near future."

Social enterprises like 'TopMen Shoes' not only play crucial roles in promoting equal employment and social inclusion for vulnerable populations in Uzbekistan, but have also encouraged change on a legislative level.

At the policy level, the lessons learnt and information gathered through these initiatives will lead to the preparation of policy recommendations, the formulation of a National Model of Social Entrepreneurship introducing tax benefits and incentives, and the development of proposals for improving existing or creating new legislation in this sphere.

TIMELINE OF PROJECTS

2005	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capacity Building for MDG Support and CPAP Implementation ELS in Karakalpakstan ELS in the Fergana Valley Empowerment of People Living with HIV in Decision-Making Processes and Establishment of a Network 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving Public Sector Management Skills through Building the Training and Research Capacity of the Higher School of Business under the State Academy for State and Public Construction under the President of Uzbekistan Achieving the MDGs through Advisory Services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enabling Activity (II): Assessment of Priority National Capacity Development Needs for the Implementation of the BSAP and the Establishment of CHM Structures Reforming the Tax System and Developing a New Revision of the Tax Code 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support to the Implementation of the Environment and Energy Programme Area Interventions of the Country Programme Action Plan Enhancing Capacity and Interaction of Government and Civil Society in the Human Rights Area Capacity Building of the Women's Committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Achieving Ecosystem Stability on the Exposed Aral Seabed and Kyzylkum Desert Enhancing the Capacity of the UWED to Support the Foreign Policy of Uzbekistan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capacity Building and Strengthening Foreign Trade and Investment Institutions in Uzbekistan Improving Public Sector Management Skills through Building the Training and Research Capacity of the State Academy for State and Public Construction under the President of Uzbekistan



JULY

- Community Development and Livelihoods Support within the Territory of the Nuratau-Kyzylkum Biosphere Reserve
- An Assessment of the National and International Efforts Undertaken in the Aral Sea Region
- Establishment of the Monitoring and Evaluation System of the National Response to HIV/AIDS

AUGUST

- Conservation of the Tugai Forest and Strengthening the Protected Areas System in the Amudarya Delta of Karakalpakstan
- Support to Reform Processes
- Business Forum of Uzbekistan

SEPTEMBER

- Enhancing Legislative and Institutional Capacities of the Parliament
- Increasing the Involvement of PLWHA in the Education of Public Health Workers on HIV/AIDS Related Issues, in Preventing the Stigma and Discrimination of PLWHA, and in Establishing of Network of PLWHA

OCTOBER

NOVEMBER

- Assisting the Government of Uzbekistan in the Formulation and Implementation of a ICT for Development Policy
- Enhancing the Capacity of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to Better Respond to the Emerging Issues of the New Millennium

DECEMBER

- Improving Tax Administration in Uzbekistan
- Assistance to the UN Theme Group on HIV/AIDS in its Efforts to Mobilise and Support the Coordinated National Response to HIV/AIDS
- Clean Energy for Rural Communities in Karakalpakstan (II)

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FOR COMMUNITIES

“Please see my beautiful ceramic pot— it is handmade and one of a kind,” says Ibrohim, a local potter in the Fergana region. In the Karakalpakstan region on the other side of Uzbekistan, Suleyma is cooking a pot of the ‘Plov’ national rice dish on her stove. Although these two citizens may never meet, together they are protecting the environment for both today’s and tomorrow’s generations.

UNDP Uzbekistan and its partners have worked with Ibrohim, Suleyma and over 2 million people in 300 communities to improve their access to water, gas and electricity, and to rehabilitate basic infrastructure including schools, kindergartens and rural medical clinics.

For citizens living in communities throughout Uzbekistan, a limited access to natural gas meant having to cut and burn trees as firewood for heating and cooking. The introduction of consistent natural gas connections in communities has helped the rural populations to increase their earnings by starting greenhouses, pottery shops like Ibrohim’s and other

small business ventures, thereby improving their lives while helping protect natural environments.

The provision of basic services to the beneficiaries has made a world of difference in their lives. We actively empower all groups within communities, to help them use and manage natural resources in a sustainable way, and to help them find better approaches to improving their living standards.

In addition to playing a central role in initiative planning, beneficiary communities also covered part of the costs of each initiative, either financially or through contributed labour, equipment and skills. This approach allowed communities to have a sense of ownership for the initiatives being undertaken, and to help them to recognise their own capacities for development.

Ibrohim’s pottery business has grown consistently with an improved gas connection, while Suleyma has continued to provide a comfortable home for her family. These improvements will be sustained for years to come.

TIMELINE OF PROJECTS

2006	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of the Capacities of National Human Rights Institutions in Uzbekistan Strengthening Multi-Sectoral, Cross-Institutional Coordination in Rio Convention Implementation through targeted Institutional Strengthening and Professional Development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support to Uzbekistan’s Welfare Improvement Strategy Assisting the Development of Biogas Technology in Uzbekistan Legal Aid and Legal Literacy for Better Access to Justice ELS in Karakalpakstan and in the Fergana Valley 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promotion of Renewable Energy Sector Development in Uzbekistan Area-Based Development Programme Strengthening Decision-Making Processes of the Ministry of Economy for Efficiency and Effectiveness ELS in the Fergana Region 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gender and Development Statistical Capacity Building for MDG Monitoring and Reporting Enhancement of the Environmental Indicators Database, with GIS Application, to Monitor the State of the Environment in Uzbekistan 		



JULY

AUGUST

- Business Forum of Uzbekistan
- Supporting the Investment Process for National Development
- Capacity Development of UNDP Uzbekistan Staff to Better Address Gender Needs through their Programming

SEPTEMBER

OCTOBER

- Strengthening the Partnership between Local Authorities and Civil Society in a Joint Response to HIV/AIDS, with a Special Role of the PLWH, within the Framework of the National Strategic Communication Plan

NOVEMBER

- Improving the System of Customs Administration

DECEMBER



GOOD FOR PATIENTS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Recognising that the quality of services provided by Uzbekistan's rural health clinics can only be as strong as their access to regular energy supplies, UNDP has ensured four target facilities have the resources needed to overcome power and gas shortages in an effective and environmentally-friendly way.

Extensive work has been carried out at one rural health clinic in the Republic of Karakalpakstan and three in the Tashkent region, to make sure that they can continue to operate even when there are power shortages. A particular focus has been placed on the use of renewable and independent power sources.

An example is the installation of solar panels and back-up power systems in clinics. These have ensured that even during long-term power cuts, essential medical and support equipment will continue to operate, medical tests will proceed uninterrupted, equipment can be sterilised, and medications and vaccines will be stored at required temperatures.

Another UNDP focus has been to address irregularities in natural gas supplies, especially during winter months. Solar water heating systems have helped reduce clinic reliance on main-

stream gas supplies, while gas use has been better regulated through improved burners. This not only results in better services, but also financial savings through a reduced reliance on traditional fuels.

Maintaining constant internal building temperatures has been another challenge overcome by UNDP Uzbekistan, especially in rural areas that experience extreme seasonal changes. Like in other pilot clinics, the 'Baymukhamedov' facility in the Tashkent region has benefited from better-insulated doors, windows and ceilings, and a remodelled entrance.

It is recognised that Uzbekistan's public buildings, including rural health clinics, use 20 to 40 per cent more energy than is actually required to maintain internal temperatures. The use of proper insulation measures, like those at the 'Baymukhamedov' health clinic, will help limit this discrepancy.

UNDP's work in this field has shown how better energy use can enhance the quality of medical services available at clinics, give facilities smaller carbon footprints while helping limit national greenhouse gas emissions, and reduce operating costs related to electric and thermal energy use.

TIMELINE OF PROJECTS

2007	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Country Programme Effectiveness Development Improving Power and Heat Supply in Rural Health Clinics of Uzbekistan UNDP Interim Strategy for the Enhancement of Living Standards in Karakalpakstan in 2007 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Achieving Ecosystem Stability on Degraded Land in Karakalpakstan and the Kyzylkum Desert Public Finance Reform in Uzbekistan Support for the Sustainable Development of Livestock Breeding in Uzbekistan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promotion of the Rights of Women Migrant Workers Legislative and Institutional Capacity Development for Women's Empowerment in Uzbekistan Strengthening the Capacity of the Uzbek PLWH Network and Supporting the Involvement of PLWH at all Levels of Decision Making 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhancement of the National Legal Information System in Support of the Reform Process in Uzbekistan Capacity Building for CDM in Uzbekistan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Integrated Water Resources Management Plan for Uzbekistan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use of ICT for the Medical Diagnosis of Poor Rural People in Remote Areas Area-Based Development Programme



JULY

AUGUST

SEPTEMBER

OCTOBER

NOVEMBER

DECEMBER

- ELS in the Andijan and Namangan Regions
- Strengthening the Joint UN Team on AIDS and supporting the Universal Access process in Uzbekistan



GARDENS IN THE DESERT

For Navruzhon Alanova, her garden is almost a miracle. What was before a block of dry, loose sand, is now a fertile plot producing fresh fruits and vegetables for her family.

The Kazakhdarya village, where Ms. Alanova lives, is one of many that once based their economies on the fish in the Aral Sea, but since the shore receded this bountiful industry has been replaced by hectares of loose sand, blown in the wind and impacting the health, livelihoods and well-being of local residents. To help mitigate these problems, we joined with local communities to help hold back encroaching desert sands, preserve biodiversity, and create health and socioeconomic benefits for the region's population.

The awareness-raising programmes and trainings regarding the best methods of gardening, conducted by UNDP, have now begun to bear fruit. A few years ago only seven out of 400 households had any greenery in their yards, but now the number of 'green households' with water-efficient gardens and significant crops have totalled to over 80. These model

households are growing apples, peaches, apricots, tomatoes, beetroots, topinambour, and other produce.

Before gardening was almost impossible in the region, due to a lack of agricultural knowledge and experience, and an absence of water. These problems have been solved through the arrangement of practical training courses and the installing of effective water pumps. The resulting household gardens have helped ensure that fresh food is always available, that diets are varied, that additional income can be earned, and that village microclimates can be improved. The economic well-being and health of local residents has been enhanced as a result.

Ms. Alanova's mother has said that her daughter's efforts have already yielded results. "Our yard is now full of trees, and in a few years we will be able to enjoy their produce," she said. "I am very glad that my daughter is learning to garden. Our children and grandchildren will inherit this land, and it is our responsibility to improve the environment of our village, and to pass experience onto future generations."

TIMELINE OF PROJECTS

2008	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Supporting the Effective Launching and Establishment of the GEF Small Grants Programme Operations in Uzbekistan ▪ Enabling Environment for PRSP Implementation ▪ Piloting Energy Efficient and Renewable Energy Solutions in Rural Health Clinics of Uzbekistan ▪ Promotion of the Rights of Women Migrant Workers (II) ▪ Aral Sea Region: Impact on the Gene Pool, Flora, Fauna and International Cooperation for Mitigating Consequences ▪ Supporting the Development of Arbitration Courts and other Alternative Methods of Dispute Settlement 				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Capacity Building of the National Land Reclamation Fund ▪ Introducing and Advancing the Potential of Educational Establishments for Teaching the Human Development Approach 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Strengthening Sustainability of the National Protected Area System by Focusing on Strictly Protected Areas



JULY

AUGUST

SEPTEMBER

OCTOBER

NOVEMBER

DECEMBER

- Strengthening National Capacity for Earthquake Risk Management in Tashkent
- Promoting Accessibility, Civic Consciousness, Employment and Social Support for People Living with Disabilities

- Support to the Development of Valuation Methodology and Practice

- Enhancement of the Living Standards Programme in the Fergana Valley



PRESERVING THE TUGAI FORESTS

Uzbekistan's 'Tugai' forests, located in the Amudarya Delta south of the Aral Sea, are some of the nation's most unique and rapidly-disappearing ecosystems. Containing reeds, river-side gallery forests, and drought-resistant bushes and grasses, only 10 per cent of the woody forests have survived excessive land use, reduced water access, and forest fires.

UNDP Uzbekistan helped to conserve these remaining forests, ensuring that their resources can be managed sustainably by neighbouring communities. The agency has worked to preserve the Tugai forests and include them in Uzbekistan's protected areas system. It has also helped in demonstrating a multi-zoned approach to protected area planning, raising awareness of the value of Tugai forests, and involving communities in conservation efforts. These efforts resulted in an established biosphere reserve in 2011.

To ensure that local communities could continue to thrive, despite limited access to the Tugai forest resources, a number of grassroots development initiatives were undertaken. As local residents had previously used the Tugai forests as a source of

firewood, the project established six gas dissemination points to provide an improved alternative fuel source to 86 households, 26 of which did not previously have gas supplies. Better gas access has helped conserve 16 hectares of forest for each heating season, which in the region includes late autumn, winter and early spring.

We also supported local farmers in generating alternative forms of income by restoring degraded lands. In four districts, 21 tenant farmers have rented 91 hectares of degraded land in order to restore the forests and use the land to generate income. Between planted forest trees the tenants have used the available land to grow food to meet their families' needs.

By encouraging such sustainable agricultural techniques, we restored 80 hectares of forest. Families have been supported in using insulation to prevent heat loss and limit required fuel consumption, while the management of grazing animals has been improved and the efficiency of sustainable agriculture has increased.

TIMELINE OF PROJECTS

2009	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthening National Capacities for Technology Transfer Empowering Communities through Local Volunteerism to address Poverty and Tuberculosis in Karakalpakstan Strengthening the Partnership and Participation of Civil Society, including People Living with HIV, in the National Scale-Up towards Universal Access to HIV Prevention, Treatment, Care and Support 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capacity Building for Economic Forecasting and Planning at National and Local Levels Strengthening National Capacity in Rio Convention Implementation through Targeted Institutional Strengthening and Professional Development 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mainstreaming Biodiversity into Uzbekistan's Oil-and-Gas Sector Policies and Operations Capacity Building and Strengthening of Development Aid Coordination Institutions in Uzbekistan



JULY

- Support to the Development of the Micro-finance Sector
- Development of Capacities of the National Human Rights Institutions in Uzbekistan

AUGUST

- Support to Project Formulation of Joint Initiatives with the Parliament on Institutional and Legislative Capacity Development

SEPTEMBER

- National Irrigated Land Reclamation Fund Capacity Development Project
- Enhancing the Legislative and Institutional Environment for Equal Employment Opportunities for Women and Men of Uzbekistan
- Promoting Energy Efficiency in Public Buildings in Uzbekistan

OCTOBER

NOVEMBER

DECEMBER



A COMMUNITY CONCERN WITH A COMMUNITY SOLUTION

Tozagul Qasimova of the village of Kanal-Yoqa in the dry western region of Uzbekistan wears 'two pairs of hats'. On one hand she is a respected teacher and community leader, but she is also a wife, mother and head of a household. Like all her neighbours, Ms. Qasimova faces the daily mission of sourcing clean, potable water, but she also plays a central role in a village organisation that works to overcome this problem through its own initiative.

UNDP has helped establish a rural water supply system in the area surrounding the village. Now completed, the initiative has had a resounding impact on Kanal-Yoqa and other rural communities. "We have taken the power to solve our village's water problems into our own hands," said Ms. Qasimova.

The residents of Kanal-Yoqa have made good use of both financial and technical support and their own skills and dedication, digging a safe well, installing a new pumping system, and creating an efficient network of pipes and street taps. Community leaders like Ms. Qasimova have also travelled to nearby villages to share ideas in regards to enhan-

cing sanitation systems, a process which can reduce illnesses caused by poor water sanitation by 25 to 30 per cent.

160 households are contributing what they can to making their dream of a healthy and prosperous community a reality. The village's new water system includes a 150 meter well and an adjoining bactericidal facility, capable of providing each of the villages' 840 residents with 50 litres of water daily. To take advantage of the better water supply, local teachers will be trained in water supply sanitation and hygiene practices which they will then share with their students.

UNDP is also helping to develop water legislation at the national level, through the formulation of a draft Water Code. This code includes new norms related to public involvement and the central role women play in decision-making regarding enhancing water supplies in rural areas. The Water Code in particular recognises the important role played by rural women in ensuring safe drinking water supplies for households.

TIMELINE OF PROJECTS





JULY

AUGUST

SEPTEMBER

OCTOBER

NOVEMBER

DECEMBER

- Strengthening Disaster Risk Management Capacities in Uzbekistan
- Parliamentary Development Assistance

- Mainstreaming Biodiversity into Uzbekistan's Oil-and-Gas Sector Policies and Operations



BETTER BUILDINGS, CLEANER ENVIRONMENT

UNDP and its partners have worked ceaselessly to reduce both energy consumption and the associated greenhouse gas emissions of Uzbekistan's public buildings.

This initiative is particularly important considering that Uzbekistan's public buildings have accounted for almost half of the country's total energy consumption, as a result of building codes that have previously not adhered to internationally-accepted energy efficiency requirements. The importance of ensuring that new buildings and buildings undergoing reconstruction are made energy efficient has been recognised.

The buildings that have received particular attention include those in the education and healthcare sectors, such as schools and rural health clinics. Focusing on these buildings has helped to demonstrate the advantages of integrated building designs, and to train local specialists in regards to the construction and maintenance of energy efficient buildings.

Our results have also included the revision and approval of ten selected building codes, as related to social, residential, new and reconstructed buildings.

Other revised codes have related to heat engineering, heating ventilation and air conditioning, roof construction, architectural-construction terminology, and the procedures for the development, agreement on and approval of design documentation for the construction of buildings and facilities. Fifty-three new terms related to energy efficiency have been introduced in the national construction industry, while the energy use of six pilot buildings is being monitored, and a guide to Integrated Building Design has also been developed.

The benefits of energy efficient buildings not only include a decreased carbon footprint and a minimised impact on the environment, but also better conditions for those who use the buildings in their daily lives. By supporting better construction practices on a legislative level, and by encouraging their use in the field, we are establishing better buildings and a cleaner environment for tomorrow's Uzbekistan.

TIMELINE OF PROJECTS





JULY

AUGUST

SEPTEMBER

OCTOBER

NOVEMBER

DECEMBER



KNOWLEDGE IS THE KEY TO HIV PREVENTION

As a young adult, Zebiniso Muhsinova conducts her HIV awareness mini-sessions for students of colleges, lyceums and universities, as well as street children over 15, with the confidence and flair of a veteran trainer. "The active participation of young people, and their eagerness to learn about and secure themselves against HIV, sexually transmitted diseases and drug abuse, is amazing," Ms. Muhsinova said.

Hundreds of youth activists, trainers and volunteers from all across the country have shown their determination to stop the spread of HIV, by joining UNDP and doing their best to reach out to young people in order to empower them against this epidemic. "Practice shows that our students are generally aware of these conditions," Ms. Muhsinova said. "However, what they lack is an in-depth understanding of their consequences, their impact on the human body, and how best to avoid them. I strive to fill these gaps, and I feel truly rewarded by the student's reactions to my sessions."

To date, UNDP has provided over 70,000 young people with HIV prevention services. It is a small portion of the approximate 15 million people living in Uzbekistan aged 15 to 24, but the lessons are slowly spreading. Training for peer educa-

tors, mini-sessions in schools and colleges, the distribution of information, education and communication materials and the dedication of volunteers have all helped to ensure the success of preventive interventions for Uzbek youth.

Ms. Muhsinova's fellow 20-year-old trainer Rasul Karimov has been impressed with his students' social consciousness, and their interest in sharing the information they have learnt with others. "The young people we educate not only learn the information themselves, but also engage their friends and peers. Often after a session I am approached by participants who want to further share what they have learnt," Mr. Karimov said.

"They try to fully master all the knowledge and skills we provide, and later conduct their own sessions among their friends, peers and family members."

HIV prevention activities among the young people of Uzbekistan, who represent approximately 50 per cent of the nation's population, continue throughout all parts of Uzbekistan. Many young people have shared the enthusiasm of Zebiniso and Rasul to further spread the word, and to enhance the HIV awareness of youth in Uzbekistan.

TIMELINE OF PROJECTS

2012	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuing Scale Up of the Response to HIV in Uzbekistan, with Particular Focus on Most-at-Risk Populations and Strengthening System and Capacity for Universal Access to HIV Prevention, Diagnosis, Treatment and Care 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sustaining Livelihoods Affected by the Aral Sea Disaster 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reducing Pressures on Natural Resources from Competing Land Use in Non-Irrigated Arid Mountain, Semi-Desert and Desert Landscapes of Uzbekistan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support to Partnership Building between Communities and Governing Bodies through GEF Small Grants Programme Operations in Uzbekistan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Civil Justice Reform: Effective Court Management Social Innovation and Volunteerism in Uzbekistan



JULY

- Strengthening Efficiency and Sustainability of the Newly Established Lower Amudarya State Biosphere Reserve

AUGUST

SEPTEMBER

- National Biodiversity Planning to Support the Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity 2011–2020 Strategic Plan in Uzbekistan

OCTOBER

NOVEMBER

DECEMBER

- Strengthening National Capacities to Address Emerging Challenges to Halt the Spread of AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria



INNOVATION TO IMPROVE DEGRADED LANDS

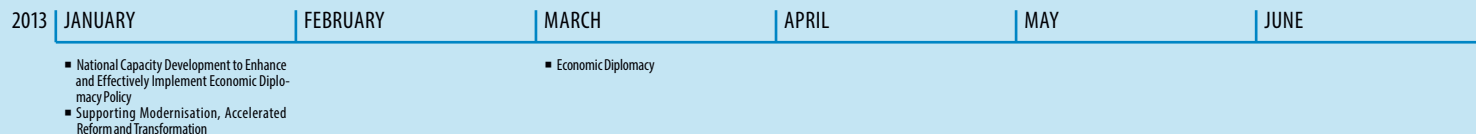
Self-sufficient, environmentally-appropriate and productive agriculture in areas of degraded land requires sustainable irrigation practices. Introducing tried-and-tested laser-levelling techniques can help ensure that limited irrigation water is used as effectively as possible, obtaining the best possible outputs while guaranteeing the land's continued fertility.

An on-going water shortage remains one of the most pressing issues in Karakalpakstan, where the Aral Sea environmental crisis and high land salinity have threatened irrigation effectiveness and agricultural output. In addition to climatic and environmental factors, this water shortage has been caused by the inefficient use of water by farmers, meaning that new, effective and accessible water-saving technologies are needed.

78 farmers from Karakalpakstan's Kanlikul, Shumanay and Muynak districts have been trained in the use of laser equipment to ensure that their fields are as level as possible, thus aiding the equal distribution of irrigation water and allowing for a higher degree of agricultural output. Participating farmers have learnt how to prepare land for laser-levelling, familiarised themselves with the technology, practiced measuring the relief of fields, and used the methods involved in laser-levelling in practical situations.

The use of effective irrigation methods on agricultural land has played a crucial role in supporting Uzbekistan's economy and the well-being of its population, as irrigated farming provides 90 percent of Uzbekistan's gross agricultural production.

TIMELINE OF PROJECTS





JULY

AUGUST

SEPTEMBER

OCTOBER

NOVEMBER

DECEMBER

- Initial Implementation of Accelerated HCFC Phase Out in the CEIT Region



HOW WE SEE WOMEN AT WORK

Bonu Atadjanova's working day is just one example of how the role of women in Uzbekistan's workplace is changing. By driving a tram from dawn to dusk in the capital of Tashkent, she is earning enough to support her two children, and takes great pride in providing a service to her city's residents.

There are still many stereotypes about women and men that limit our personal and professional choices, and influence our work environments. That is why changing minds and winning hearts is critical so that each girl and boy, woman and man, can fully exercise their capacities and realise their dreams.

Bonu's story is one example of how women are making strong inroads into what might be considered non-traditional professions in Uzbekistan. Her case is still relatively unusual, but with assistance from UNDP and its national partners, more and more women are following her path. Through fulfilling paid employment, women from all sectors of society can benefit from an independent income.

While working to boost women's employment, UNDP has made particular efforts to bring women into the nation's small business sector. In this regard, it has made sure that the training

and information services needed to establish successful and independent businesses are readily available to both women and men.

Specialised initiatives, social enterprises and inclusive businesses have also been established to make sure that vulnerable women from difficult backgrounds and women-headed households can benefit from a better standard of life. While the gradual entrance of women into the small business sphere is just an early step towards greater gender balance and equity in the workplace, it is still a sign of positive change.

UNDP has recommended that the more balanced and equal employment of women can be achieved through raising awareness of the value of professional education for women among the population, and conducting training programmes on gender sensitivity for educational institution professionals.

It was also recommended that targeted enrolment, quotas and scholarships should be provided to women for acquiring traditional 'male' occupations, and that both women's and men's needs should be taken into account during the development of employment programmes.

TIMELINE OF PROJECTS





JULY

AUGUST

SEPTEMBER

OCTOBER

NOVEMBER

DECEMBER



