



## UZBEKISTAN

### COUNTRY PROFILE

Uzbekistan is a vital U.S. partner in bolstering regional stability and cooperation. The country plays a pivotal role in forging regional stability, prosperity, and security in Central Asia and neighboring Afghanistan. Its natural resources, infrastructure, young and educated population, and reform-oriented government holds the potential to increase regional trade and bolster economic growth.

Since 1993, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has provided over \$500 million in assistance to diversify the country’s economy and increase regional trade, advance judicial reform, strengthen civil society, and modernize the basic educational system. USAID also addresses serious health threats, including COVID-19 and Tuberculosis (TB) to help build the government’s capacity to respond to the population’s needs. In partnership with the Government of Uzbekistan and its implementing partners, USAID’s assistance aligns with the priorities of both the Government of Uzbekistan and [the U.S. Strategy for Central Asia](#).

#### **DEMOCRACY, HUMAN RIGHTS AND GOVERNANCE**

Lack of effective rule of law mechanisms, coupled with limited government transparency and accountability, can contribute to weakening the public trust in Uzbek institutions, threatening their credibility and effectiveness. USAID helps to build trust between the government and civil society by facilitating dialogue on critical topics, improving access to public information, and promoting partnerships between civil society and the government. USAID also supports Uzbekistan’s efforts to strengthen adherence to the rule of law, build the capacity of legal professionals and training institutions, enhance citizens’ access to justice, improve the legal operating environment for civil society, promote gender equality and combat gender-based violence, and create a healthier investment climate. In addition, USAID assists in identifying and testing new methods for the

prevention of violent extremism in Uzbekistan, works to combat trafficking in persons, and promotes safe migration for prospective migrants and at-risk individuals.

### **ECONOMIC GROWTH**

Agriculture plays a crucial role in the Uzbek economy and is employing approximately more than a quarter of the workforce. USAID is partnering with the government and the private sector to diversify the agriculture sector toward higher-value commodities and to improve women and youth empowerment in rural areas. USAID also facilitates trade by helping domestic producers add value to their products and assists traders find new markets. USAID promotes tourism, helps coordinate regional power systems and renewable energy development, promotes sustainable transboundary water resources management, and addresses emerging environmental and climate challenges both locally and regionally.

### **EDUCATION**

USAID partners with the Ministry of Public Education to reform and modernize the education system with the goal of improving the learning outcomes and skills of Uzbekistan’s children and youth. USAID interventions strengthen the instruction of literacy, numeracy, English as a Foreign Language, and Information Technology in the public school system. New programming in 2022 will improve work readiness and employability skills of youth to better prepare them to transition to the job market once they graduate.

### **HEALTH**

USAID partners with the Government of Uzbekistan to improve prevention, care, and treatment services for drug-resistant types of TB, one of the most pressing challenges for the country's public health system. Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, the United States Government has supported the Government of Uzbekistan’s efforts to respond to COVID-19. As of December 2021, USAID has provided over \$14.8 million in direct assistance to fight COVID-19 in Uzbekistan. This assistance has come in the form of life-saving equipment and ventilators, laboratory and medical supplies, training for health care workers, technical assistance, and support for awareness-raising information campaigns.

Cross-cutting program themes: youth, gender equality, private sector engagement, and digital transformation.

## **CONTACTS**

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