



UZBEKISTAN

COUNTRY PROFILE

Uzbekistan plays a pivotal role in forging regional stability, prosperity and security in Central Asia including in neighboring Afghanistan. Its natural resources, infrastructure and reform-oriented government holds the potential to increase regional trade and bolster economic growth.

Uzbekistan is a vital U.S. partner in developing an independent, stable, prosperous, and democratic Central Asia. As Central Asia’s most populous country, Uzbekistan is a potential force for regional economic growth and stability. Our programs in Uzbekistan help mitigate pressure from Russia and China in the region and build the country’s capacity to plan, finance and implement its own development solutions.

OUR WORK

USAID partners with the people and Government of Uzbekistan to diversify the country’s economy and increase regional trade, advance judicial reform, strengthen civil society, promote an educational system that can produce graduates with the critical thinking, problem solving, language and practical skills that will enable them to succeed in a twenty-first century economy, address serious health threats – including COVID-19 – and build the government’s capacity to respond to the population’s needs.

DEMOCRACY, HUMAN RIGHTS AND GOVERNANCE

Ineffective rule of law, coupled with limited government transparency and accountability, weakens public trust in Uzbek institutions, threatening long-term resilience. USAID helps to build trust between government and civil society by facilitating dialogue on critical topics like human trafficking and labor migration, and by helping increase public participation, improving access to public information and promoting partnerships between civil society and government. For example, the USAID Rule of Law Partnership Program provided free legal aid to vulnerable citizens across the country during COVID-19 through the program's free legal clinic at the Tashkent State University of Law. Since the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic, more than 1,250 citizens have received free legal aid through the virtual clinic.

ECONOMIC GROWTH

Agriculture plays a crucial role in the Uzbek economy, employing approximately over a quarter of the workforce. For over a decade, USAID has partnered with the government and private sector to diversify the agriculture sector toward higher-value commodities. USAID also facilitates trade, helping domestic producers add value to their products and assisting traders to find new markets. For example, the USAID agricultural value-chain activity leveraged \$23 million in private sector investment in the agricultural sector and helped 11,800 producers improve their farming techniques for higher productivity and quality produce.

EDUCATION

The educational system in Uzbekistan remains entrenched in antiquated academic models, which severely limits graduates' readiness to work and Uzbekistan's human capital growth. USAID's assistance in the education sector restarted in 2019 to support the Ministry of Public Education's goal to modernize Uzbekistan's education system, specifically by improving reading, math, information and communication technology, and English skills of students in public schools.

HEALTH

USAID partners with the Government of Uzbekistan to improve prevention, care and treatment services for Tuberculosis (TB) and its drug-resistant types, one of the most pressing challenges for the country's public health. To combat TB, USAID introduced new anti-tuberculosis medicines, shorter treatment regimens and new diagnostic tools. In addition, since the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic, USAID has provided \$7.9 M to Uzbekistan to support efforts to prevent, detect and respond to COVID-19.

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