ISHONCH
UZBEKISTAN VISION 2030 FUND

ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT

Uzbekistan Vision 2030 Fund
for the period 01 July 2022 to 31 December 2024

Ishonch Fund Secretariat
United Nations Uzbekistan
GATEWAY: https://mptf.undp.org
Fund website: https://ishonch.org

May 2025

FOREWORD BY THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

We are pleased to the 2024 Annual Report of the Ishonch Fund. This year marks an important milestone—not just in the administration of restituted assets, but in the visible, measurable impact those assets are beginning to have on the lives of ordinary people across Uzbekistan.

For the first time, we are seeing tangible results that are recognized and felt by communities. From the provision of modern medical equipment and training in all 230 perinatal centres nationwide to targeted support for vulnerable groups and local infrastructure improvements, the Fund is now directly contributing to better health and education services for citizens in every province and district.

At the core of the Fund's work is the principle that the restituted assets must be brought back to the country in a manner that has a transformative and lasting positive impact on the quality of life for the people of Uzbekistan. Every decision made by the Management Committee is guided by this understanding, and we remain committed to the highest standards of accountability and transparency.

We continue to align our work with the principles and values of the United Nations but we have also integrated the principles of the Global Forum on Asset Recovery (GFAR)—in particular, transparency, accountability, participation, and the use of assets for the benefit of the population—into our operations. We draw on international best practices to ensure that restitution is not only principled but also practical, timely, and just.

We acknowledge and thank the Civil Society Advisory Council (CSAC), whose contributions are essential. Their expertise and engagement help ensure that restitution efforts respond to real needs on the ground, reflect diverse perspectives, and maintain the trust of the Uzbek people. Their role is vital in bridging state mechanisms and the voices of civil society.

The Ishonch Fund is no longer just a framework for managing returned assets—it is becoming a platform for impact. We recognize that trust must be earned continuously. We will remain steadfast in upholding transparency in every decision and partnership, and in ensuring that all restituted funds are used to benefit the people, especially the most vulnerable.

Looking ahead, we are aware of the challenges that remain. But we are equally motivated by the progress made and the potential that lies ahead. The Management Committee reaffirms its commitment to ensure that the resources entrusted to us result in lasting, equitable development for all people of Uzbekistan.

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INTRODUCTION

This third Annual Report of the Uzbekistan Vision 2030 Fund—also known as the "Ishonch Fund"—covers activities from 1 January to 31 December 2024. The Fund was established to return illegally acquired assets forfeited in the Swiss Confederation for the benefit of the people of Uzbekistan.

Through UN-led programmes, the Fund supports principled, transparent, and effective asset restitution aligned with Uzbekistan's national reform agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It prioritizes transformative investments in health and education, as jointly identified by the Government and the United Nations.

This report highlights the implementation of the flagship Joint Programme in the health sector and the launch of the first Joint Programme in education. It also outlines key institutional milestones that strengthen the Fund's operations and management.

Prepared by the Fund Secretariat, this consolidated report documents the substantive progress made in 2024. It is publicly available at the Fund's website and the Fund's Gateway page, reinforcing the Fund's commitment to transparency and accountability

(https://ishonch.org)
(https://mptf.undp.org/fund/uzb00)

1. 2024 KEY MILESTONES

In 2024, the Ishonch Fund continued to support the effective use of restituted assets to drive transformative change in Uzbekistan's education and health sectors. Key milestones include:

Strategic Programming: Since the approval of its first Resource Allocation Strategy in 2023, the Fund has allocated a total of $67 million to two major projects in the health and education sectors.

Health Outcomes: According to the Ministry of Health, newborn survival rates have improved. Survival for infants weighing 500–1,500 grams increased from 70% (2022) to 75% (2024), while those weighing 1,500–2,000 grams rose from 80% to 82%. The share of preventable maternal deaths also declined, from 77.3% in 2022 to 74.6% by December 2024.

Education Investment: In July, the Fund allocated $23.5 million to its second UN Joint Programme. This initiative aims to strengthen the Government's capacity to deliver inclusive, equitable, and quality education—particularly for girls and children in rural areas. It will pilot school-based models for digital learning, assistive technologies, and innovative teaching, with the goal of improving learning outcomes and preparing students with digital skills for the future.

Civil Society Engagement: The Civil Society Advisory Council (CSAC) continued to play an active role in shaping the Fund's direction [placeholder for specific example]. The CSAC also nominated two new members, endorsed by the Management Committee, to fill existing vacancies.

Transparency and Reporting: The Fund published its first full annual report, along with detailed six-month and project-level reports. These were translated into Uzbek and made available on the Fund's new bilingual website, ishonch.org, which complements the UN's MPTFO Gateway platform for public access to financial and programmatic data.

2. FUND GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

High-Level Strategic Committee (HLSC)
The HLSC facilitates high-level political dialogue on asset restitution. It advises on the Fund's overall strategic direction and provides oversight.

- **Patric Franzen**, Deputy State Secretary of Switzerland

- **Jamshid Kuchkarov**, Minister of Economy and Finance and Deputy Prime Minister of Uzbekistan

Management Committee
The Management Committee is the primary decision-making body of the Fund. It is co-chaired by its voting members: one representative from the Government of Uzbekistan, one from the Government of Switzerland, and the UN Resident Coordinator in Uzbekistan. The representative of the Administrative Agent (UNDP MPTFO) serves as a non-voting, ex-officio member, providing technical advice on fund management and administration.

- **Konstantin Obolensky**, Ambassador of Switzerland to Uzbekistan

- **Ilkhom Norkulov**, First Deputy Minister of Economy and Finance of Uzbekistan

- **Sabine Machl**, UN Resident Coordinator in Uzbekistan

Secretariat
The Secretariat supports both the Management Committee and the HLSC, providing day-to-day operational and administrative assistance. It coordinates with all Fund stakeholders—including the Governments of Uzbekistan and Switzerland, the UN, international financial institutions, and civil society—to ensure compliance with Fund procedures. The Secretariat is based in the office of the UN Resident Coordinator in Tashkent.

Administrative Agent
The UNDP Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (MPTFO) serves as the Administrative Agent of the Fund. It is responsible for receiving, managing, and disbursing funds in line with the decisions of the Management Committee.

Implementing Organizations
Projects and programmes funded by the Ishonch Fund are implemented by designated organizations. These include 22 Participating UN Organizations (PUNOs) and the World Bank, all acting as Implementing Organizations.

Civil Society Advisory Council (CSAC)
The CSAC is composed of 19 members representing national and international civil society organizations and academia. It plays a consultative role, ensuring that civil society perspectives are reflected in the Fund's decisions and activities, and strengthening the link between the Fund and the public.

- **Sayyora Khodjaeva**, CSAC Chair, Director of NGO "Institute for Democracy and Human Rights"
- **Patrick Mutzenberg**, CSAC Vice-Chair, Director of the "Centre of Civil and Political Rights"
- **Oybek Isakov,** Chairperson, Association of People with Disabilities
- **Kobil Khidirov**, Journalist and blogger, Davletov UZ
- **Nodira Karimova,** Director of NGO "Istiqbolli Avlod"
- **Irina Matvienko,** Founder of Nemolchi.uz
- **Liliana Sin**, Director of NGO "KRASS", Khorezm region
- **Oliya Ilmuradova**, Chairman of International Socio-Enlightenment Center, NGO "Barqaror hayot"
- **Shamil Asyanov**, Director of NGO "Center for the Study of Legal Problems"
- **Nazifa Kamalova**, Director of NGO "Istiqlol avlodi"
- **Kamola Alieva**, women's rights activist
- **Sanjar Yuldashev**, Director of the NGO branch "Barqaror hayot" in Tashkent
- **Yuliy Yusupov,** Founder of Center for Economic Development
- **Isa Khamedov**, Professor of the Department of "Theory of Law and Public Administration"
- **Muslim Mirzajonov**, Chief editor of migrant.uz
- **Timur Karpov,** Photographer, Founder of 139 Documentary Center
- **Sergey Uchayev**, Chairman of the Republican NGO "Ishonch va Hayot"
- **Dilmurad Yusupov**, Head of NGO "Sharoit Plus"
- **Jackson Oldfield**, Co-Founder, CiFAR – Civil Forum for Asset Recovery

3. PORTFOLIO PROGRESS

This chapter presents highlights of the fund's achievements, as well as some of the challenges faced. For more detailed updates on specific projects, see Annexes 3 and 4.

Portfolio Highlights

1. **Title**: "Every Mother and Child Survives and Thrives: Reducing Preventable Maternal and Newborn Deaths in 227 Perinatal Centres of Uzbekistan"

Duration: September 20, 2023 – March 26, 2026
Budget: $43.5 million
Implementing Organizations: UNICEF (Lead), UNFPA, WHO
Key Goal: Improve maternal and neonatal health services and reduce preventable deaths.

The **"Every Mother and Child Survives and Thrives"** project under the Ishonch Fund has made significant improvements in maternal and neonatal healthcare, strengthened healthcare workforce capacity, and enhanced governance structures. However, infrastructure readiness and data quality remain areas requiring focused attention.

Completion Status by Components (As of December 2024)

The programme is **on track** across all major components, with varying degrees of progress in different areas. Below is a breakdown of the completion status by component.

1. Maternal and Neonatal Health Outcomes

✅ **On Track**

- **Newborn survival rates improved**:
    - 500–1,500g: 70% (2022) → 75% (2024) (Target: 85% by 2026)
    - 1,500–2,000g: 80% (2022) → 82% (2024) (Target: 95% by 2026)
- **Preventable maternal deaths reduced**:
    - 77.3% (2022) → 74.6% (2024) (Target: 45% by 2026)

Why It Matters: These improvements reflect enhanced medical care, better-trained healthcare workers, and improved maternal health services.

2. Healthcare Workforce Capacity Building

✅ **On Track**

- **11,141 healthcare workers trained**:
    - 3,093 perinatal specialists
    - 8,048 primary healthcare workers
    - 486 trained in interpersonal communication
- **305 master trainers trained** for cascading training sessions.

Why It Matters: Skilled healthcare workers improve the quality of maternal and newborn care, reducing complications and deaths.

3. Strengthening Health Governance and Policy

✅ **On Track**

- **23 obstetrics & gynecology protocols and 6 newborn care protocols updated**.
- **Perinatal Death Audits (PDAs) scaled up**:
    - 30% (2022) → 44.5% (2024) (Target: 70% by 2026).
- **All perinatal centres now conduct NMCRs** for maternal complications.

Why It Matters:

- Strengthening health governance ensures sustainable improvements in maternal and newborn care.
- Identifying causes of neonatal and maternal deaths helps improve care quality and prevent future deaths.
- More women and newborns now have access to high-quality, standardized maternal and neonatal care.

4. Procurement, delivery and installation of equipment

⚠️ **Moderate Progress – Procurement, delivery and installation of equipment**

- **230 perinatal centres assessed for readiness**.
- **Medical equipment procurement completed** for 23 types of life-saving devices.
- **Equipment distribution in progress**:
  - 70% of centres have completed electrical upgrades.
  - 36% of centres fully meet engineering recommendations.

Why It Matters: Upgrading medical equipment ensures better healthcare delivery for mothers and newborns.

5. Community Engagement and Social Behaviour Change

✅ **On Track (Implementation Starting in 2025)**

- **Target: Reach 10 million people** with awareness campaigns.
- **Technical Working Group on Social Behaviour Change established**.
- **Training of 486 health workers in interpersonal communication completed**.
- **Community engagement plan ready for rollout in Q1 & Q2 2025**.

Why It Matters: Increasing awareness and demand for RMNCAH services encourages women to seek timely healthcare.

Challenges Identified

1. **Equipment Supply and Installation Delays**: Some facilities received equipment from other sources, requiring adjustments in distribution.
2. **Staff Turnover and Coordination Issues**: Frequent changes in personnel impacted project continuity.
3. **Facility Readiness**: Infrastructure renovations are progressing slowly (70% completed).
4. **Training Gaps**: Some trainers lacked the required expertise, leading to lower participation in training programs.
5. **Data and Reporting Issues**: Need for improved consistency and reliability in Ministry of Health (MoH) reporting.

Programme Overall progress

Component	Status	Key Achievements	Pending Actions
Maternal & Neonatal Health Outcomes	✅ On Track	Reduced maternal & neonatal deaths	Further reduce preventable deaths
Healthcare Workforce Training	✅ On Track	11,141 professionals trained	Expand training to 50,000 workers
Health Governance & Policy	✅ On Track	23 updated protocols, expanded audits	Strengthen corruption prevention
Procurement, delivery and installation of equipment	⚠️ Moderate Progress	Procurement process completed	Delivery and installation of equipment
Community Engagement	✅ On Track	Behavior change strategy ready	Mass media & community outreach in 2025

2. **Title** "Empowering Education in Uzbekistan: Leveraging ICT and Digital Learning"

Duration: August 1, 2024 – July 31, 2027
Budget: $23.5 million
Implementing Organizations: UNESCO (Lead), UNICEF
Key Goal: To create inclusive, equitable and quality lifelong learning opportunities for children in selected regions of Uzbekistan, especially the most disadvantaged.

Completion Status by Components (As of February 2025)

The **ICT for Education** project under the Ishonch Fund is on track across all major components. Below is the detailed progress by component:

1. Expanding Access to Quality and Inclusive Digital Learning

✅ **On Track**

- **50 project schools selected and assessed** using the Digital Readiness Framework.
- **Digital Readiness Framework developed** with 120 indicators; tested with 14,000 respondents.
- **School infrastructure upgrades planned** with a focus on accessibility and STEM labs.
- **26 schools replaced** from the original list to ensure equitable representation of rural, semi-rural, and urban areas.
- **Partnership with Microsoft secured**, allowing up to 50% discounted licenses for digital education devices.
- **International Classification Functioning (ICF) tool** introduced to assess 201 children's needs for assistive technologies.

Why It Matters: These efforts lay the foundation for modern, digitally equipped schools, making education more inclusive and equitable.

2. Teacher Training and Pedagogical Excellence

✅ **On Track**

- **3 Teacher Training Centers (TTCs)** selected in Surkhandarya, Fergana, and Bukhara to become Pedagogical Centers of Excellence.
- **Digital Competency Framework for teachers developed**; a nationwide survey of 3,500 teachers informed its design.
- **Comprehensive teacher training plans developed**, emphasizing STEM, digital pedagogy, and AI literacy.
- **400 teachers, educators, and therapists trained** in inclusive education methodologies.

Why It Matters: These initiatives equip teachers with the necessary digital skills, ensuring that ICT-based learning is effectively integrated into Uzbekistan's classrooms.

3. School Infrastructure Modernization and Accessibility

⚠️ **Moderate Progress (Delays in Coordination & Procurement)**

- **School infrastructure assessment completed**; designs for school renovations finalized.
- **Assistive technology needs identified** through the ICF-based school assessments.
- **Engineering master plans developed** for teacher training centers and resource schools.
- **Construction tenders initiated** for Bukhara and Surkhandarya TTCs.

Why It Matters: The upgrades will create modern, accessible, and digitally equipped schools and training centers, fostering equitable education opportunities for all students.

4. Community Engagement and Policy Development

✅ **On Track**

- **Youth Advisory Group established** with 20 young people with disabilities to provide input on inclusive education solutions.
- **New licensing agreements with Microsoft signed**, securing discounted software for education-related ICT.
- **Consultations are held with national agencies** to integrate inclusive digital education standards into national policies.

Why It Matters: These partnerships and policy efforts will ensure long-term sustainability, cost-effectiveness, and alignment with global education standards.

🔷 **Challenges Identified**

- **Uncoordinated local renovations at Fergana TTC**, requiring reassessment of plans.
- **Procurement delays** due to the absence of national standards for digital learning devices.
- **Infrastructure limitations in rural areas** pose barriers to full digital transformation.

Programme Overall progress

Component	Status	Key Achievements	Pending Actions
Expanding Digital Learning Access	✅ On Track	50 schools selected, digital readiness framework developed, assistive tech plan created	Deploy digital learning solutions, finalize assistive technology rollout
Teacher Training & Pedagogical Excellence	✅ On Track	3 TTCs selected, teacher survey completed, digital competency framework drafted	Implement teacher training modules, develop assessment tools
Infrastructure & Accessibility	⚠️ Moderate Progress	Assessments completed; renovation tenders initiated	Address Fergana TTC delays, finalize procurement of devices, start construction
Community Engagement & Policy	✅ On Track	Youth Advisory Group established, licensing agreement with Microsoft secured	Scale up outreach efforts, finalize ICT education policies

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Uzbekistan Vision 2030 Fund

Annexes to Narrative Report

Annex 1. Fund Monitoring Framework

The Uzbekistan Vision 2030 MPTF Monitoring Framework serves as a tool for strategic portfolio management by providing a clear picture of Fund-level results and performance. The Monitoring Framework is designed to allow transparent tracking of results and operational performance, including transparency, against the backdrop of SDG outcomes; to enhance coordination and programmatic complementarities across the portfolio; and to inform dialogue amongst Fund stakeholders. It is adapted over time and in line with the evolution of the portfolio. As new projects/programmes are approved, the framework will be updated to reflect new areas/sectors of engagement and relevant country-level outcomes against which these investments are expected to make contributions.

Multi-level Monitoring
Three different levels of monitoring and evaluation (M&E) are relevant for the Ishonch Fund: SDG outcome, fund- and project-level. The fund-level monitoring framework is informed by project/programme-level M&E and strives to be aligned with national SDGs and UNSDCF M&E.

Figure 2. Differentiating levels of M&E used for the Ishonch Fund
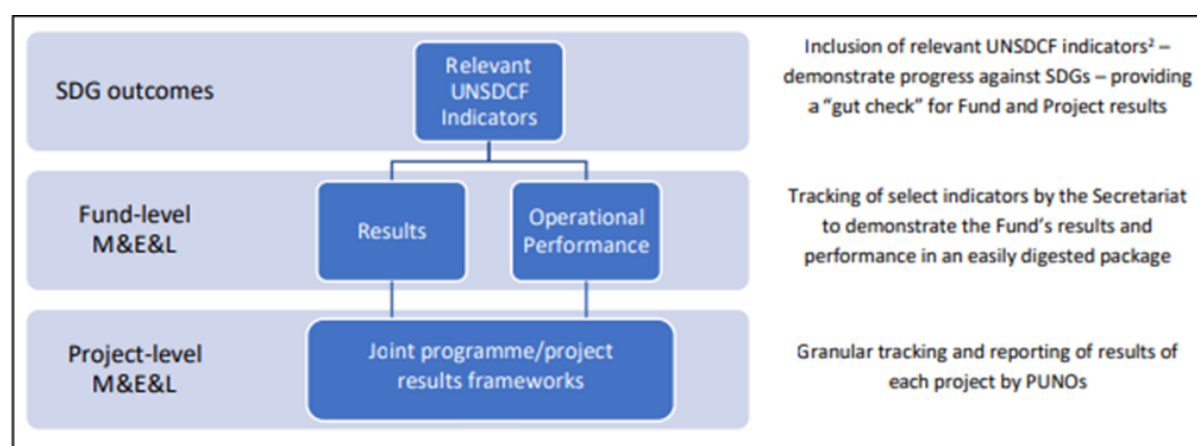
[1] UNSDCF indicators relevant for approved projects / programmes.

An integrated framework for assessing results and performance
The Ishonch Fund's monitoring framework is structured around fund-level results and performance. Results are measured through output and outcome indicators informed by the project-level monitoring. A limited number of indicators drawn from project monitoring are selected on a rolling basis to illustrate and highlight priority area results with direct links to portfolio activities. Progress is monitored using a color-coded rating system indicating if targets are on track, flagged as potentially off-track (watch), off track, or immeasurable due to insufficient data. Performance is measured through indicators measuring operational and organizational efficiency and effectiveness. Whereas results indicators will regularly be updated as the portfolio evolves, operational performance indicators will remain relatively fixed, as they draw on common indicators used to monitor pooled funds internationally.

Fund Results

Thematic priorities[1]	Indicators[2]	Baseline	Targets	Achieved	Status – 2024	Source
Health Sector: Reduced maternal and infant mortality	Percentage of survival of low-birthweight newborns in 227 perinatal centres, (%) a) 500-1500 grams b) 1500-2000 grams	(2022) a) 50% b) 80%	(March 2026) a) 85% b) 95%	On track	 75% 82%	Health flagship based on Ministry of Health data
	Preventable maternal deaths (%)	(2022) 77.3%	(March 2026) 45%	On track	74.6%	Health flagship based on Ministry of Health data
	Number of Neonates, Women, and Adolescents Benefited from UN Supported High-Quality Inclusive RMNCAH Services in 227 Perinatal Centers Disaggregation: a) Age, b) gender, c) rural/urban, d) regional disaggregation, e) humanitarian context a) N/A b) 20,000 women c) N/A d) 20,000 Republic of Karakalpakstan e) No	(2022) 20,000 a) N/A b) 20,000 women c) N/A d) 20,000 Republic of Karakalpakstan e) No	(March 2026) 1,200,000 a) 600,000 women 15-49; 600,000 neonates b) 600,000 women	On track	1,825,310 people (890,529 women and 934,781 newborns) a) 934,781 neonates b) 890,529 women c) N/A d) Republic of Karakalpakstan - 101,140; Andijan - 172,552; Bukhara - 91,739; Jizzakh - 75,984; Kashkadarya - 201,202; Navoi - 51,957; Namangan - 157,731; Samarkand - 208,131; Syrdarya - 42,689; Surkhandarya - 156,332; Tashkent Region - 139,298; Fergana -	Health flagship based on Ministry of Health data

					206,856; Khorezm - 91,981; Tashkent City: 127,718 e) No	
	Number of People Reached through Direct Community Consultations	(2022) 0	(March 2026) 20,000	On track	0 *Face-to-face consultations in remote areas will start in February and March 2025 to address local barriers. These sessions, supported by trained facilitators, will gather community feedback to improve health services in underserved regions.*	
Education Sector:	Proportion of schools offering basic services, by type of service Dissagregation: a.) The internet for education purposes b.) Computers for education purposes c.) Adapted infrastructure and materials for students with disabilities	(2023) a) 94%b) 47%c) 3%	(2026) a) 99% b) 85%c) 20%	On track	a) 94% b) 47% c) 3%	Education flagship
	% of teachers applying digital technologies and pedagogical innovations in teaching and learning Disaggregation: Rural/Urban	(2023) 60% urban; 25% rural teachers have basic ICT skills	(2026) 80% urban; 45% rural teachers have basic ICT skills	On track	60% urban; 25% rural teachers have basic ICT skills	Education flagship

Fund Operational Performance

Indicators	Annual target	Status	Source
Governance			
# of annual Management Committee Meetings	4	6	MC minutes
# of annual CSAC Meetings	4	17	CSAC minutes
% of active projects with an anti-corruption capacity development component in accordance with the RAS	100%	100%	Project Documents
% of MPTF projects consulted on with relevant RG/TGs during design	100%	100%	RG/TG minutes
% of MPTF projects consulted on with CSAC during design	100%	100%	CSAC minutes
Delivery rate of approved projects against established thresholds, %	85%		Gateway
Share of proposals reviewed by PAC with comments shared with UNCT, CSAC and the MC, %	100%	100%[1]	PAC minutes
Alignment with the UNSDCF principles			
% of active projects with a gender marker of GEM-3: GEWE is a significant objective of the key activity[2]	50%	0%	Gateway
% of direct Ishonch Fund beneficiaries who are women and girls	TBD by funded projects 1) 75% for Perinatal Health project 2) 50% for ICT in Education project	75% 50%	Project/ programme reports
MEL and Accountability			
Annual progress reports publicly accessible on the Gateway	100%	100%	Gateway
% of projects/programmes for which reporting submitted in line with schedule	100%	100%	Gateway
% of projects/programmes providing clear evidence of tangible results and impact for the people of Uzbekistan	100%	100%	Gateway

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[2] In line with the original approved monitoring framework. The Fund is for the benefit of all people in Uzbekistan, not only women and girls. The project "Every Mother and Child Survives and Thrives: Reducing Preventable Maternal and Newborn Deaths in 227 Perinatal Centres of Uzbekistan" naturally has significant impact on women but was nonetheless rated GEM-2. The Fund will pay particular attention to this indicator going forward.

Annex 2. "Every Mother and Child Survives and Thrives: Reducing Preventable Maternal and Newborn Deaths in 227 Perinatal Centres of Uzbekistan" Project/ Programme Annual Narrative Report

Project/programme title (short):	Window A. Every Mother and Child Survives and Thrives: Reducing Preventable Maternal and Newborn Deaths in 227 Perinatal Centres of Uzbekistan
MPTFO Project ID:	MPTF_00243: Uzbekistan Vision 2030 Fund
Start date:	20/September/2023
Planned end date:	26/March/2026
Total budget as per ProDoc:	US$ 43,500,000
Implementing organizations:	**UNICEF: Lead Implementing Organization/Convening Agent** UNFPA: Implementing WHO: Implementing

	Implementing Organization:	Report approved by:	Position/Title	Signature
1.	UNICEF [Lead/convening agent]	Regina M Castillo	Representative	
2.	UNFPA	Nigina Abaszade	Resident Representative	
3.	WHO	Asheena Khalakdina	Representative, Head of Country Office	

Highlights

1. According to Ministry of Health (MOH) data, newborn survival rates have improved, with rates for those weighing 500 to 1,500 g increasing from 70 per cent in 2022 to 75 per cent in 2024, and rates for those weighing 1,500 to 2,000 g rising from 80 to 82 per cent over the same period. Preventable maternal deaths have also decreased, gradually reducing from 77.3 per cent in 2022 to 74.6 per cent in December 2024.

2. A total of 11,141 healthcare professionals, including 3,093 specialists at perinatal centres (20.1 per cent of target) and 8,048 primary healthcare workers (32.1 per cent of target) enhanced their knowledge and skills with support from participating United Nations organizations (PUNOs). These professionals are now better equipped to deliver enhanced care for pregnant women, newborns and adolescents, addressing complications, managing pregnancies and responding to emergencies with greater effectiveness.

3. Through evidence-based interventions and the joint efforts of PUNOs and the Ministry of Health (MoH), 890,529 women and 934,781 newborns benefited from essential maternal and neonatal health care, including skilled management of pregnancy complications, family planning services, antenatal and postnatal care, life-saving interventions at birth, breastfeeding support and comprehensive newborn care to ensure healthy development.

Progress update by component/outcome

Progress rating: On track

Outcome: By March 2026, the most vulnerable neonates, adolescents and women will benefit from gender-responsive quality reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health (RMNCAH) services. (max 1,000 words)

Key achievements

The Uzbekistan Vision 2030 Fund's maternal and perinatal care programme has made great progress in improving maternal and neonatal health outcomes in the 15 months of its implementation. The programme has enhanced the

survival rates of low-birthweight newborns, reduced preventable maternal deaths and improved access to healthcare services. This progress reflects the Government's strong commitment to and close collaboration with PUNOs to enhance neonatal and maternal care, improve clinical practices, ensure access to essential resources and consistently implement evidence-based interventions.

According to Ministry of Health (MOH) data, for newborns weighing between 500 and 1,500 g, survival rates increased from 70 per cent in 2022 to 75 per cent in 2024 For newborns weighing between 1,500 and 2,000 g, survival rates rose from 80 per cent in 2022 to 82 per cent in December 2024 [1].

Preventable maternal deaths have also seen a gradual reduction, decreasing from 77.3 per cent in 2022 to 74.6 per cent in December 2024.

In the 15 months of programme implementation, PUNOs have achieved remarkable progress, laying a strong foundation for further implementation. PUNOs implementing evidence-based interventions proven to reduce maternal and newborn mortality[2]. Specifically, PUNOs streamlined RMNCAH services to make them more equitable and responsive, updating 23 national obstetric and gynecology protocols and six newborn care protocols, including high-impact areas such as skilled birth attendance, neonatal resuscitation, and essential newborn care. Training was a cornerstone of this approach—11,141 healthcare workers, including 3,093 perinatal specialists and 8,048 primary healthcare workers, were trained, strengthening their ability to manage complications, respond to emergencies, and provide quality care. Additionally, 486 health workers received training in interpersonal communication, improving patient engagement and trust.

To maintain this momentum, PUNOs will build on the cascade training sessions for healthcare workers, ensuring they are equipped with up-to-date knowledge and skills to handle complex neonatal and maternal cases effectively. Additionally, the delivery of modern medical equipment in Q1 and Q2 of 2025 to perinatal centres will be pivotal in improving care for vulnerable newborns and mothers. The programme will also prioritize the proper installation, maintenance and use of this equipment, supported by training sessions to ensure its long-term impact.

Output 1. By March 2026, the MoH and the 227 supported perinatal centres have strengthened governance mechanisms (including intersectoral and multi-partner coordination), policies, guidelines and clinical protocols to deliver transparent and inclusive RMNCAH services[3].

PUNOs have standardized the delivery of maternal and newborn care, aligning with World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines and international best practices. The policies, guidelines and clinical protocols they developed have streamlined the delivery of transparent and inclusive RMNCAH services. As a result, services have become more coordinated, equitable and responsive to the needs of mothers and newborns. In 2024, PUNOs provided technical assistance to the MoH in developing the Health Strategy for 2030 and a biannual action plan, focusing on maternal, newborn and child health. PUNOs also supported updating and translating 23 national obstetrics and gynaecology protocols and 6 newborn care protocols into Uzbek and Russian, making them accessible to healthcare providers across the country. Additionally, PUNOs developed training programmes for the updated protocols that are being used in capacity development interventions.

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[1] The Ministry of Health monitors newborn survival through two systems: the national reporting system and the Babies Matrix. The national system collects paper-based data annually from health facilities, covering newborn survival rates in the 500g–1,500g and 1,500g–2,000g weight brackets, with validated data available each March. The Babies Matrix enables monthly electronic reporting by perinatal centres, offering more timely data for newborns in the 500g–1,500g and 1,500g–2,500g weight brackets. Due to differing reporting cycles, interim data provided to the Management Committee and Fund Reports are based on ad-hoc, paper-based reports, which may have discrepancies pending validation. The Ministry has requested a revision of the outcome indicator's disaggregation (November 2024) to align to the Babies Matrix, but the Management Committee has deferred a decision. Validated data will be available in March 2025, with ongoing support from PUNOS to enhance reporting accuracy and consistency.

[2] The Lancet 2014 Newborn Series shows that skilled birth attendance can reduce neonatal mortality by up to 40%, neonatal resuscitation can prevent 30% of intrapartum-related deaths, and essential newborn care—including early breastfeeding and thermal care—can lower neonatal deaths by 10-20%.

[3] The number of perinatal facilities increased following the adoption of the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Measures to Protect the Health of Mothers and Children and Strengthen the Reproductive Health of the Population, No. PQ-296, dated 8 September 2023.

Perinatal death audits (PDAs) have contributed to identifying the underlying causes and systemic factors behind perinatal deaths, including stillbirths and neonatal deaths and to the development of perinatal centres action plans based on the PDA findings. Through in-depth analysis of care quality in a no-blame, interdisciplinary setting, PDAs have led to improvements in emergency response systems and clinical practices. The percentage of perinatal deaths audited increased from 30 per cent in 2022 to 44.5 per cent in December 2024 (63.5 per cent of target), and 100 per cent of perinatal centres are conducting PDAs. Additionally, from August to November 2024, UNICEF supported the MoH to conduct supportive supervision visits, further improving healthcare workers' ability to apply PDA practices, identify preventable factors and implement better care practices.

The review of maternal complications has brought meaningful improvements to the care of pregnant women. The percentage of complicated cases reviewed increased from 13.3 per cent in 2022 to 15 per cent in December 2024 (21.4 per cent of target), enabling healthcare workers to provide more timely and effective care to women experiencing complications. A quality assurance process was established, which includes regular reporting by maternity facilities to regional coordinators, continuous monitoring of the effectiveness of recommendations, and consolidation of results at the national level. Based on MOH data, all maternity facilities now conduct near-miss case reviews (NMCRs) on a regular basis, while regional coordinators of MoH oversee the quality of the recommendations and evaluate their effectiveness to ensure improved outcomes.

In November 2024, WHO conducted/finalized health sector assessment focusing on issues of corruption, transparency and accountability to identify risks and vulnerabilities in the system. These findings (expected to be available by April 2025) will help guide the development of recommendations for anti-corruption efforts, contributing to a more equitable and effective healthcare system for mothers and newborns.

Output 2. By March 2026, 227 perinatal centres have improved capacity to provide quality and inclusive RMNCAH services.

As a result of PUNOs and MoH consolidated and continuous efforts, 1,825,310 people (890,529 women and 934,781 newborns) have benefited from high-quality RMNCAH services provided at 230 perinatal centres (152 per cent of target). Women received skilled care to prevent and manage complications, support family planning and improve their overall health through counselling. Newborns were provided with vital care during their most vulnerable stages, including life-saving interventions at birth, breastfeeding support and essential newborn care.

PUNOs made significant progress in enhancing the capacity of 230 perinatal centres[4] (101 per cent of target) to deliver high-quality and inclusive RMNCAH services. Through ongoing efforts and close coordination with the MoH and the Ministry of Economy and Finance (MEF), the Joint Programme generated evidence to leverage domestic funds for the improvement of the infrastructure of perinatal centres, increased the availability and quality of services, and strengthened the skills of healthcare providers.

In January 2024, PUNOs completed the assessment of all 230 targeted facilities to evaluate equipment availability, identify needs and determine readiness for receiving perinatal equipment procured through the programme.[5] Based on the findings, two detailed reports – one medical and one engineering – were prepared, with recommendations for addressing gaps and improving the facilities' preparedness, and submitted to the MoH to support further actions. As part of this process, 18 experts (16 healthcare workers and 2 engineers) were trained in facility assessment and equipped with a tailored assessment tool developed specifically for Uzbekistan. Additionally, the assessment generated previously unavailable data on the current state of perinatal centres, especially in rural areas, bringing to the fore the urgent need for prioritization of perinatal care, leveraging domestic funding for upgrading infrastructure and enhancing government sectoral planning. As a result, the Ministry of Health established a working group to monitor the implementation of the engineer recommendations, UNFPA and UNICEF engaged an international and two national engineers to monitor the progress of renovations and preparatory work at perinatal centres ahead of equipment supply and delivery. A real-time monitoring platform was developed and is being

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[4] The number of perinatal facilities increased following the adoption of the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Measures to Protect the Health of Mothers and Children and Strengthen the Reproductive Health of the Population, No. PQ-296, dated 8 September 2023.

[5] The relevant risk in the risk framework was removed following the completion of the assessment.

maintained to keep stakeholders informed about the progress. Additionally, PUNOs involved a Civil Society Advisory Council representative in one of the perinatal readiness monitoring visits. As of 30 December 2024, 70 per cent of perinatal centres had met the electrical requirements to receive equipment procured through the programme and 36 per cent had implemented all recommendations from the engineering facility assessment report. All perinatal centres are expected to reach 100% readiness by March 2025.

PUNOs worked with the national Technical Working Group, composed of representatives of the MoH, and an international expert company to develop the technical specifications for the 23 pieces of medical equipment and an evidence-informed distribution methodology. The specifications and distribution methodology were approved by the Steering Committee of the Joint Programme in January 2024 and August 2024, respectively. The Steering Committee of the Joint Programme involves a member of the Civil Society Advisory Council (CSAC). PUNOs placed a strong focus on ensuring the equipment distribution methodology was transparent and actively involved the members of the Civil Society Advisory Council (CSAC). The distribution methodology prioritises facilities based on data from the facility assessments such as the number of births, severe obstetric cases, number of premature births, and the needs of neonatal and intensive care units. Facilities handling over 1,000 births annually, particularly first- and second-level maternity complexes, are prioritized for receipt of the procured equipment.

PUNOs effectively leveraged their comparative advantage in procurement of health products, combining expertise and their bargaining role in the global market. Equipment procurement followed a transparent, accountable and efficient process facilitated by the PUNO Supply Divisions. This ensured adherence to established procurement policies and procedures, cost-effective provision of high-quality supplies (health products). PUNOs completed the tendering process and signed all contracts for the essential maternal and newborn services equipment in 2024. PUNOs announced an international tender through placing invitations to bid on the United Nations Global Marketplace platform on 29 April (UNICEF) and 22 May (UNFPA) for the procurement of 23 types of life-saving equipment for the perinatal centres. UNICEF's tender was posted using a request for proposals process, with the tender closing on 20 June. The solicitation process included the participation of the delegated representative of the Civil Society Advisory Council, in a non-voting capacity, an international expert company, PUNO supply division representatives and the MoH, serving as voting members of the technical evaluation panel.

UNICEF successfully completed a three-lot tender process, which includes critical neonatal healthcare equipment such as apparatus for therapeutic hypothermia and amplitude-integrated electroencephalography, electronic scales, phototherapy lamps, incubators, resuscitation beds with heating systems, continuous positive airway pressure devices, neonatal ventilators, infusion pumps, heart monitors, low-pressure electric suction devices, blood gas analysers, defibrillators and manual ventilator T-systems. The first shipment of equipment arrived in February 2025 to be followed by distribution, installation and end-user training, based on the readiness of the power supply at the perinatal centre.

UNFPA published its invitation to bid with a deadline of 8 July. UNFPA concluded 5 contracts for 9 types of maternal equipment, namely an anaesthesia machines, obstetric tables, electrosurgical units, fetal cardiac monitors, intensive care ventilators, operating lamps, operating tables, patient monitors and vacuum extractors. The first batch of equipment arrived in Uzbekistan in January 2025 to be followed by distribution, installation and end-user training, based on perinatal centres' electrical readiness. UNFPA approach to the tender allowed to have an open international competition, well designed specifications and transparency at all levels of the procurement process, fair solicitation process, and 3 types of contract were offered to technically compliant bids (current PO, LTA for Ishonch 2030 and Global LTA) which attracted numerous good quality offers.

Based on the updated protocols and the training packages developed, PUNOs enhanced the skills of 11,141 healthcare workers: 3,093 (2,891 female and 202 male) perinatal centre specialists (20.6 per cent of target) and 8,048 (7,491 female and 557 male) primary healthcare workers (32.1 per cent of target). Furthermore, 305 master trainers at perinatal level (285 female and 20 male) and 453 master trainers at primary healthcare level (418 female and 35 male) were trained to lead the cascade training sessions. These professionals are now better prepared to manage standard pregnancies, address complications, provide family planning services and respond effectively to emergency situations.

Specifically, UNICEF improved the skills of 599 healthcare professionals (594 female and 5 male), including 51 master trainers (all females), through neonatal care training, focusing on breastfeeding, newborn resuscitation and essential newborn care, including care for premature and sick newborns. UNICEF scaled up PDAs to 230 perinatal centres (101 per cent), empowering 764 healthcare workers (645 female and 119 male) to analyse the causes of perinatal deaths, identify modifiable factors and take actions to prevent future deaths. Additionally, UNICEF improved the skills of 486 specialists (400 female and 86 male), including 59 master trainers (51 female and 8 male), in using the Universal Progressive Home Visiting Model. This led to an increase in early monitoring of pregnant women at home, with more women becoming aware of the key warning signs during pregnancy and more newborns being exclusively breastfed.

UNFPA trained 394 healthcare professionals as regional trainers in antenatal care and family planning. By December 2024, 3,966 primary healthcare workers had enhanced their skills in managing pregnancies and complications. Additionally, 3,202 healthcare workers participants had gained knowledge on family planning methods. UNFPA also trained 1,123 healthcare workers in effective perinatal care across 60 maternity facilities in Andijan, Fergana and Kashkadarya regions, improving delivery management and emergency care. UNFPA conducted training sessions on NMCR for 53 regional health care workers from the regional branches of the Centre of Mother and Child Health on the development of specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time-bound (SMART) recommendations and followed up on their implementation, with support from an international expert. Additionally, more than 200 health care workers from maternal facilities participated in refresher sessions on NMCR to strengthen the review process. To ensure quality assurance mechanisms are in place, all maternity facilities now conduct NMCR on a regular basis, while regional coordinators oversee the quality of the recommendations and evaluate their effectiveness to ensure improved outcomes.

WHO trained 125 laboratory specialists (106 female and 19 male) from republican and regional clinical diagnostic laboratories, improving their skills in biosafety, sample management and quality systems. WHO also conducted two mentoring visits to the republican perinatal centre, leading to the development of a quality implementation plan and significant progress towards ISO 15189 accreditation.

In addition to training 201 healthcare professionals (188 female and 13 male) to become master trainers in effective perinatal care and quality of care (QoC) assessment tools, WHO trained 28 national specialists in pre- and post-diploma education (25 female and 3 male) from across all public medical institutes in November 2024 to integrate effective perinatal care and its updated technologies into the national curriculum package. As a result of the QoC workshop, 18 national experts (16 female and 2 male) were trained in the use of modern WHO approaches, and the tools were put into practice together with WHO international consultants within the national assessment on QoC. Relevant recommendations based on this assessment have been provided to the MoH and perinatal care centres to improve the quality of training and services at the institutional level. The recommendations of the QoC assessment will be integrated into the supportive supervision tools for implementation.

Output 3. By March 2026, 10 million people are equipped with relevant knowledge and information to demand guaranteed, high-quality and inclusive RMNCAH services.

A key milestone in the inception year of the programme was the establishment of the Technical Working Group on Social and Behaviour Change, which comprises the MoH's relevant departments, and PUNOs. In 2024 the Technical Working Group ensured the quick collection, consultation, clearance and approval of behavioural social data and behavioural messages.

UNICEF supported the training of a total of 486 health workers; 59 as master trainers, who in turn trained 427 of their peers (349 female and 78 male) across all oblasts. These were equipped with essential interpersonal communication skills to effectively engage with patients to promote healthy behaviours and address barriers to care. The training was conducted by international experts on health promotion and focused on introducing concepts such as social determinants of health as well as practical tools for effective interpersonal communication.

The programme aims to equip 50,000 health workers with vital interpersonal skills through setting in motion the first two steps of a cascade model on interpersonal communication skills for promoting health-seeking behaviour. As a next step, the trained health workers will share the knowledge and skills they have gained with their peers through cascade training.

In preparation for community consultations in remote areas with an anticipated reach of 20,000 people, UNICEF has adapted to the local context the minimum standards and indicators for community engagement developed for global use by UNICEF. The standards will serve as a basis for building the capacity of health promoters and relevant non-governmental organisations to engage with remote communities that may not be reached by other modes of social behavioural change communication.

A vital step in increasing demand for RMNCAH services is the collection of social data on behavioural barriers. UNICEF initiated a desk review, and a qualitative study was implemented. These social data will be used extensively to develop a national social behaviour change campaign to encourage pregnant women to adhere to the MoH-recommended number of visits to health facilities. An estimated 10 million people will be reached using behaviourally informed messages to increase the demand for RMNCAH services.

Human Interest Story

https://www.unicef.org/uzbekistan/en/stories/every-baby-has-right-survival-and-life

Challenges

Equipment supply and delivery
While procurement is complete, some maternity facilities received new equipment for operating rooms from other sources, which has had an impact on the effectiveness of the distribution plan developed on the basis of facility assessment conducted in January 2024. The MoH has been asked for an updated inventory so that the distribution plan can be updated.

Staff turnover, project management and coordination
Frequent staff turnover and changes in project coordination personnel across different departments in the healthcare system pose challenges for project management, coordination and knowledge management. This also affects training and capacity-building efforts. To address this challenge, PUNOs have improved communication and coordination by setting up regular meetings with the MoH and other stakeholders, ensuring smooth project implementation. They are also working to make educational materials, such as protocols and training guides, accessible for new staff, helping maintain continuous institutional knowledge and support ongoing capacity building.

Facility preparedness and readiness
It is critical that the perinatal centres are ready to receive and install the equipment. Centres need to complete infrastructure adjustments, such as electrical set-up and physical modifications, which, if not completed on time, could delay the equipment's delivery. The latest PUNO engineering report shows that 70 per cent of perinatal centres have completed the necessary electrical preparations, while only 35 per cent of centres have been fully renovated and meet engineering recommendations To address this challenge, PUNOs are working closely with the MoH and facility managers to ensure the appropriate quality of the renovation process. PUNO engineers are monitoring perinatal centres and providing support to ensure that all required updates are completed before equipment is installed. All perinatal centres are expected to be ready to receive the equipment by March 2025.

Training of trainers participation
During the training of trainers sessions, trainers encountered challenges such as the incorrect nomination of participants or participants with specialties different from those required (e.g. non-doctors), low levels of awareness about the programme and a lack of professional interest among potential trainers. PUNOs will continue to liaise with the MoH to take ownership of and provide leadership for the programme in the upcoming training sessions.

Data and reporting

The Ministry of Health's (MoH) reporting against the project's results framework has room for improvement. PUNOs have identified inconsistencies in the reported data, underscoring the need for continued focus on strengthening data collection and reporting processes. To address these challenges, PUNOs will provide targeted support to MoH staff, to improve their capacity and systems in accurate and consistent data collection, analysis, and reporting. These efforts aim to ensure the reliability of data and its alignment with the project's results framework.

Looking ahead

The final report of the Health Sector Assessment, focusing on corruption, transparency and accountability, and identifying risks and vulnerabilities, with detailed findings and recommendations, will be completed by April 2025. In Q1 and Q2 2025, WHO plans to address health system vulnerabilities based on the health sector assessment findings through capacity-building activities and targeted interventions. Additionally, in 2025 WHO will facilitate a multi-stakeholder policy dialogue to develop collaborative strategies for improving governance, transparency and accountability in the health sector.

Equipment will be delivered in 2025, based on facility readiness and distribution methodology. MoH will ensure adequate warehouse storage and confirm that perinatal centres are prepared to receive, install and integrate the new equipment in their services. These coordinated efforts will facilitate the smooth arrival, distribution and installation of the equipment. To optimize the use of the new equipment, a comprehensive maintenance plan will be developed for all procured and installed equipment. Additionally, PUNOs and the MoH will create an inventory of existing generators to assess the capacity required for sustainable electrical support of the newly installed equipment. These efforts will ensure the long-term functionality and effectiveness of the equipment within the healthcare system.

The suppliers are fully responsible for delivering the equipment to the warehouse in Tashkent, coordinating in-country distribution once all perinatal centres are ready, installing the equipment and providing user training. All contracts encompass consumables identified by the MoH as mandatory for inclusion with the primary equipment in the approved specifications. The selected suppliers are contractually obligated to conduct two types of end-user training to ensure optimal utilization of the equipment procured. The first type of training will target technical staff, focusing on maintenance and operational aspects, while the second type will be designed for medical practitioners to enhance their proficiency in clinical application. The MoH is tasked with compiling and submitting a comprehensive list of technical staff and doctors who will participate in these critical training sessions.

Capacity-building activities continue to be rolled out in the remaining regions. Following the completion of these training sessions at perinatal centres and primary healthcare levels, supportive supervision visits will commence to ensure effective application of the skills and knowledge gained.

To increase demand for RMNCAH services, several initiatives are under way. As part of this process, qualitative data collection is ongoing across six regions to identify key behavioural barriers that prevent pregnant women from adhering to the MoH-recommended number of visits to a gynaecologist during pregnancy. The findings are expected to feed into the social and behaviour change communication campaign plan. There are plans to launch a nationwide campaign in the Q2 of 2025 by leveraging various communication tools and channels, including street advertisements, public transport displays and public service announcements.

In addition to mass communication efforts, direct community consultations with RMNCAH experts will be conducted from May to August 2025, with a focus on engaging communities in remote areas. These consultations will be conducted face to face to build trust, foster direct communication, better understand local barriers, and address questions and concerns of the population about accessing health services. A national agency with a mandate for community engagement will be chosen to facilitate these consultations in close collaboration with the MoH. Through these consultations, community members will have the opportunity to ask questions, provide feedback and share their concerns. This information will be used to further improve health services in underserved areas. To ensure that the consultations are effective and that the feedback collected is useful, in January and February 2025 training on minimum standards for community engagement will be conducted for facilitators of the consultations. This training will equip facilitators with the necessary tools and skills to engage effectively with community members.

Risk Framework for Project/Programme: Maternal and Perinatal Care (Updated as of December 2024)

Specify the key risks that could threaten the achievement of results within the chosen strategy and describe treatment measures (current and/or proposed) using the table below.

Overall risk rating: Moderate

Category of risk	Risks	Risk level for project/programme	Implications for project/programme	Implications for the Fund	Treatment
Contextual/ Programmatic / Institutional	**High-priority risks for project/ programme**	**Risk level = likelihood × impact** **Trajectory (increased, decreased, no change since last assessment)**	**Analysis of the implications for the project/programme**	**Analysis of the implications for the Fund**	**Current treatment measures being taken and/or proposed treatment measures**
Contextual	Social and cultural practices and beliefs negatively affect health-seeking behaviours and uptake of RMNCAH services.	12 – Possible *The risk remains unchanged since the last assessment*	Social and cultural norms may lead to low demand for and uptake of RMNCAH services, leading to increased maternal and neonatal morbidity and mortality.	The Fund will not contribute to the achievement of the SDGs or the 2030 Agenda.	UNICEF will develop a robust evidence-informed social and behaviour change plan with messages to support behaviour change communication activities. UNICEF will work to mobilize communities to increase the acceptability and uptake of RMNCAH services. UNFPA will support community-based activities in the area of maternal and adolescent health and develop relevant messages to support behaviour changes and communication activities. WHO will support national leadership in developing evidence-based policy and strategies on RMNCAH within the Health Strategy 2030 being developed by the MoH.
Programmatic	Political commitment impeding project delivery.	5 – Moderate *The risk remains unchanged since the last assessment*	A reduced political commitment to ensuring high-quality and free RMNCAH services may lead to reduced access to health services, leading to increased maternal and neonatal morbidity and mortality.	The Fund will not contribute to the achievement of the SDGs or the 2030 Agenda.	PUNOs will continue advocating political support for RMNCAH services to sustain the positive changes achieved by the project. There is political commitment to RMNCAH through the adoption of Presidential Resolution No. 296, dated 8 September 2023, which focuses on improving maternal and child health as well as the reproductive health of the population. Additionally, the GoU adopted the Uzbekistan 2030 Strategy, which has a strong focus on RMNCAH. The draft Uzbekistan Health Strategy strongly positions

					RMNCAH as a priority area.
Contextual	Lack of commitment of national counterparts to cooperate in implementation of anti-corruption activities.	12 – Probable *The risk remains unchanged since the last assessment*	Institutions and systems may not be created, and the relevant data will not be disclosed without cooperation of national counterparts, leading to failure to establish strong anti-corruption and anti-fraud mechanisms.	The programme outcome will not be achieved, challenging the achievement of the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda.	PUNOs will raise concerns to the Uzbekistan Vision 2030 Fund Management Committee and the highest level of governance of the Republic of Uzbekistan to overcome the bureaucratic obstacles. UNICEF and UNFPA have jointly applied to the MoH to waive the mandatory requirements for registration of the equipment expected, as part of the project to reduce the expenses associated with procurement.
Institutional	IFI investments not allocated to perinatal care during programme implementation.	12 – Possible *The risk remains unchanged since the last assessment*	Delays in allocating IFI investments in perinatal care may lead to reduced impact of the programme's results given the high level of need for equipment, capacity development and SBC for RMNCAH in the country and the complementarity of the funds.	The Fund will not contribute to equipping all facilities with the required essential medical equipment and health worker capacity building. Despite this, the Fund will be able to achieve its desired results.	PUNOs will continue to advocate and support coordination of IFI investments in perinatal care through technical assistance to the Technical Working Group to ensure that the IFI investments are approved and implemented swiftly. PUNOs will work in close collaboration with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to ensure synergies and reduce duplication of efforts.
Programmatic	Lack of coordination between partners.	6 – Improbable *The risk remains unchanged since the last assessment*	No coordination between central and decentralized levels and between partners delivering RMNACH interventions, leading to subpar service provision and duplication of interventions.	The Fund will not achieve value for money and will have a reduced impact.	The Steering Committee led by the MoH will ensure coordination between and engagement of partners at all levels. The informal Health Development Partners Forum of international organizations and programmes working in the country resumed its monthly meetings under the chair of WHO. PUNOs will regularly present progress on the project and inform the international health community about its core issues. WHO provides technical support to the MoH on development/review of the Health Strategy 2030 and consultations with international partners on health in the country, including strengthening its RMNACH section. Based on the Health Strategy development process, the MoH will facilitate the country platform for health. This strategic approach will improve governance/coordination of

					RMNACH interventions and support institutional capacity.
Institutional	Delays in installation of the equipment due to the GoU not carrying out high-quality infrastructure renovations, as required, at perinatal centres.	16 – Probable *The risk remains unchanged since the last assessment*	Despite the GoU's commitment to funding the required infrastructure renovations, there may be limited funding allocations and commitments at the regional level.	There will be significant delays in the delivery and use of the required essential equipment, reducing the impact of the interventions. Despite this, the engineering teams will focus on efforts to ensure that the critical departments where the US$30 m of equipment will be installed are improved first.	PUNOs conducted a comprehensive assessment of the perinatal centres, providing valuable insights and recommendations to both national and regional government agencies. The assessment identified areas for improvement and guided decision-making processes for effective implementation. The findings of the assessment were shared with the MoH on 19 March 2024, along with a summary for high-level advocacy. Following the most recent visit in December 2024 by the PUNOs' international and local engineers, it was discovered that renovations are still pending. The team of engineers is supporting the local government (MoH/regional governments) in understanding the renovation requirements. They will conduct monthly visits to each region to monitor progress. The duration of these monitoring visits depends on several factors. PUNOs will continue the visits until the facilities are prepared to an acceptable standard and within the agreed project time frame. To ensure the success of the programme, PUNOs will ensure that the GoU's commitment to ensuring infrastructure readiness is minuted in the Management Committee's approval and will advocate its inclusion in protocols and Cabinet of Ministers resolutions. The MoEF stated that a Cabinet of Ministers resolution on the provision of preferences for the importation of procured equipment has been adopted. Additionally, the MoH stated that relevant correspondence has been issued to all regional khokimiyats (regional administrations) regarding preparatory and renovation works. Furthermore, the MoH is closely coordinating this matter with the Prime

					Minister.
Contextual	The GoU does not allocate sufficient domestic funding for the maintenance of the procured equipment.	16 – Probable *The risk remains unchanged since the last assessment*	Despite the GoU's commitment to funding the maintenance of the equipment, there may be limited funding allocations and commitments at the health centre level.	Equipment will not be maintained appropriately, reducing the impact of the intervention and its sustainability.	To ensure the success of the programme, PUNOs will ensure that the GoU's commitment to the maintenance of the procured equipment is minuted in the Management Committee's approval and will advocate its inclusion in protocols and Cabinet of Ministers resolutions. The facility assessment report with key findings and recommendations was shared with and presented to the Steering Committee for appropriate action before procurement of equipment. PUNOs will support the MoH in developing a maintenance plan for the equipment.
Contextual	Politically exposed individuals involved in the project's implementation.	6 – Possible *The risk remains unchanged since the last assessment*	The involvement of politically exposed individuals in the project's implementation could lead to potential conflicts of interest, lack of transparency and compromised decision-making.	The programme's integrity and credibility will be undermined, posing a reputational risk for the Fund and PUNOs.	To address the risk of politically exposed individuals' involvement in the project's implementation, the following measures will be implemented: - Procurement of equipment through PUNOs' supply divisions: equipment procurement will follow a transparent and accountable process facilitated by PUNOs' supply divisions. - Checks and balances through the UNICEF/UNFPA HACT framework. - Collaboration with CSOs, bloggers and activists through social listening to identify potential conflicts of interest and ensure transparency. PUNOs added no contact clauses in the equipment contracts to reduce undue intervention from third parties, including politically exposed people.
Programmatic	Equipment needs assessment not conducted in good time.	8 – Improbable Deleted risk – Assessment completed.	The equipment needs assessment may not be conducted within the required time frame, potentially leading to delays in identifying and addressing equipment gaps in perinatal centres.	Equipment will not be procured and installed within the required time frame, reducing the impact of the RMNCAH interventions and their sustainability.	To ensure the needs assessment is done in a timely manner, PUNOs have: - Allocated dedicated staff to oversee and coordinate the assessment. - Involved relevant stakeholders, such as the MoH, technical experts, the MoEF and perinatal centres, early in the process. Their active participation and

					collaboration have been instrumental in expediting the assessment by streamlining communication, data sharing and decision-making. The result of the equipment needs assessment was communicated to the MoH and the National Technical Working Group on 12 April 2024.
Programmatic	Equipment technical specifications are developed to favour a particular company.	12 – Possible Deleted risk.	Excessively precise technical specifications can favour a particular equipment brand, reducing competition in bidding by limiting eligible alternatives.	The principles of value for money and transparency are compromised, posing a reputational risk for the Fund and PUNOs.	PUNOs hired an expert international institution to guide the Technical Working Group in developing the technical specifications, providing insights and recommendations in areas where the company deems the specifications too precise or where this could limit the number of companies that can bid. Technical specifications were endorsed by the National Technical Working Group, approved by the Steering Committee and certified by the international institution as allowing competitive bidding across manufacturers.
Contextual	Turnover of key personnel within the MoH's management.	12 – Possible *The risk remains unchanged since the last assessment*	Frequent turnover of staff in the MoH significantly affects various aspects of the programme, disrupting the retention of crucial institutional knowledge and leading to challenges in both official and informal communication channels. Moreover, it may cause delays and obstacles in effectively implementing the programme interventions.	The Fund will have a reduced impact due to delays in programmatic implementation.	The ongoing structural changes in the national health system involve turnover of senior staff in the MoH. PUNOs will maintain communication with MoH technical and decision-making staff to ensure the smooth continuation of planned activities.
Programmatic	The mandatory registration of commodities in Uzbekistan can narrow the field of qualified equipment suppliers participating in tender processes, thereby adversely affecting equitable	12 – Possible Deleted risk.	The mandatory registration of commodities in Uzbekistan could narrow the field of eligible equipment suppliers participating in tender processes, thereby adversely affecting equitable competition.	The principle of value for money is compromised, posing a reputational risk for the Fund and PUNOs.	PUNOs sent an official communication to the MoH, urging collaboration with the GoU to seek a waiver for the registration requirements applicable to the equipment procured under the Vision 2030 project. PUNOs received an official communication from the MoH confirming that the equipment was exempt from registration and customs

	competition.				duties.

CSO, civil society organization; GoU, Government of Uzbekistan; IFI, international financial institution; MoEF, Ministry of Economy and Finance; SDG, Sustainable Development Goal; ADB, Asian Development Bank.

Results framework						
Outcome 1. By March 2026, the most vulnerable neonates, adolescents and women will benefit from gender-responsive quality RMNACH services.						
		Baseline (2022)	**Target (March 2026)**	**Current status (December 2024)**	**Means of verification**	**Responsible organization**
Outcome indicators	Survival of low-birthweight newborns in 227 perinatal centres (%) a) 500–1,500 g b) 1500–2,000 g	a) 70% b) 80%	a) 85% b) 95%	On track a) 75% b) 82% Data are based on official statistics from the MoH as of the end of December 2024. Validated data will be available in March 2025.	MoH HMIS	UNICEF, WHO, UNFPA
	Preventable maternal deaths (%)	77.3%	45%	On track 74.6% Biannual reporting therefore, no new data available. Data will be available end of December 2025.	Hospitals/health facility records; HMIS, CEMD reports	UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO
Output 1. By March 2026, the MoH and the 227 supported perinatal centres have strengthened governance mechanisms (including intersectoral and multi-partner coordination), policies, guidelines and clinical protocols to deliver transparent and inclusive RMNCAH services.						
Output indicators	1.1 Percentage of perinatal deaths audited	30%	70%	44.5% UNICEF intensified the scaling up of perinatal death audits to 230 perinatal centres by including strengthening the capacity of identified perinatal centres through targeted support.	Perinatal death audits, HMIS	UNICEF

	1.2 Percentage of maternal complications reviewed	13.3%	70%	On track 15% NMCR started in all perinatal centres in November 2024, with steady progress in percentage of reviewed complications.	Maternal audits, HMIS	UNFPA
	1.3 Policies or guidelines to prevent and address corruption are in place and implemented in 227 perinatal centres: a) policy developed/approved b) percentage of facilities implementing policy	a) No b) 0%	a) Yes b) 70%	On track a) No b) 0% WHO is actively collaborating with the MoH to integrate the recommendations, principles and strategies outlined in the ACTA global action plan into national health policy documents, including the health strategy and action plan, which will last until 2030.	Documents/ regulations/SOPs	WHO
Output 2. By March 2026, 227 perinatal centres have improved capacity to provide high-quality and inclusive RMNCAH services.						
Output indicators	2.1 Percentage of UN-supported health facilities: a) offering delivery services with functional neonatal resuscitation	a) 50% b) 52%	a) 100% b) 100%	On track a) 50%	Facility assessments or surveys	WHO, UNFPA, UNICEF

	equipment (functional bag and mask in neonatal size) b) offering delivery services with functional obstetric emergency equipment			a) 52% Installation of procured equipment will start in Q1 2025.		
	2.2 Number of healthcare providers in UN-supported perinatal care facilities that have increased capacity to provide transparent quality of care, counselling and support to pregnant women and neonates: a) perinatal centre workers b) primary healthcare workers	a) 730	a) 15,000 b) 25,000	On track a) 3,093 (2,891 female/202 male) b) 8,048 (7,491 female/557 male)	Training records, post-training assessments, attendance registers	UNICEF, UNFPA, WHO
	2.3 Number of neonates, women and adolescents benefiting from UN-supported high-quality inclusive RMNCAH services in 227 perinatal centres. Disaggregation: a) age b) gender c) rural/urban d) regional disaggregation e) humanitarian context	20,000 a) N/A b) 20,000 women c) N/A d) Republic of Karakalpakstan: 20,000 e) No	1,200,000 a) 600,000 women aged 15–49; 600,000 neonates b) 600,000 women	On track 1,825,310 people (890,529 women and 934,781 newborns) a) 934,781 neonates b) 890,529 women c) N/A d) Republic of Karakalpakstan: 101,140; Andijan: 172,552; Bukhara: 91,739; Jizzakh: 75,984; Kashkadarya: 201,202; Navoi: 51,957; Namangan: 157,731; Samarkand: 208,131; Syrdarya: 42,689; Surkhandarya: 156,332; Tashkent Region: 139,298; Fergana: 206,856; Khorezm: 91,981; Tashkent City: 127,718 e) No	Facility records, HMIS	UNICEF, UNFPA, WHO

Output 3. By March 2026, people are equipped with relevant knowledge and information to demand guaranteed, high-quality and inclusive RMNCAH services.

Output indicators	3.1. Number of people equipped with relevant knowledge and information to demand high-quality and inclusive state-guaranteed RMNCAH services	0	10 million	On track 0 Media campaign will start Q1 2025.	Google Analytics; Uzbekistan advertising agency reports	UNICEF, UNFPA
	3.2 Number of people reached through direct community consultations	0	20,000	On track 0 Face-to-face consultations in remote areas will start in February and March 2025 to address local barriers. These sessions, supported by trained facilitators, will gather community feedback to improve health services in underserved regions.	Meeting records, attendance sheets, community consultation reports	UNICEF, UNFPA
	3.3 Number of health service providers at primary healthcare facilities with improved interpersonal communication skills to promote the seeking out of RMNCAH services	0	50,000	On track 486 As the cascade training sessions continue, the number of trained healthcare workers will grow, further expanding coverage and improving patient care, especially in underserved areas.	Training records, post-training assessments, evaluation assessments	UNICEF, UNFPA

CEMD, Confidential Enquiry into Maternal Deaths; HMIS, Health Management Information System; SOP, standard operating procedure.

Annex 3. "Empowering Education in Uzbekistan: Leveraging ICT and Digital Learning for High-quality and Inclusive Education Results" Project/ Programme Annual Narrative Report

Project/programme title (short):	**EMPOWERING EDUCATION IN UZBEKISTAN: LEVERAGING ICT AND DIGITAL LEARNING FOR HIGH-QUALITY AND INCLUSIVE EDUCATION RESULTS**
MPTFO Project ID:	MPTF_00243: Uzbekistan Vision 2030 Fund
Start date:	01/08/2024
Planned end date:	31/07/2027
Total Budget as per ProDoc:	**$23,500,850**
Implementing Organizations:	**UNESCO: Lead Implementing Organization / Convening Agent** UNICEF: Implementing

	Implementing Organization:	Report approved by:	Position/Title	Signature
1.	UNESCO	Sara Noshadi	UNESCO Representative in Uzbekistan	
2.	UNICEF	Regina M. Castillo	UNICEF Representative in Uzbekistan	

Annual Highlights (3-5)

1. **The Ministry of Pre-school and School Education and UNICEF finalized the selection of 50 project schools**, in alignment with defined criteria approved by the Ishonch Fund Management Committee. As a result of joint monitoring visits conducted by UNICEF and Ministry of Pre-school and School Education in all pre-selected schools and regions, a total of 24 schools from the original school list annexed to the Project Document were confirmed, while 26 schools were replaced to ensure compliance with project equity criteria.

2. **A Digital Readiness Framework was developed, and all project schools were assessed against newly developed indicators** supporting transition to the use of education technology for curriculum delivery, inclusive education, and accessible infrastructure. The digital readiness and inclusive education assessment methodology with over 120 indicators was field-tested and ethically reviewed, incorporating inputs from over 14,000 respondents including feedback from 8,500 parents and 3,200 students in all project schools.

3. Through comprehensive assessments of infrastructure, digital readiness, and accessibility, as well as input from educators, technical experts, and policymakers, **three Teacher Training Centers (TTC)—Surkhandarya, Fergana, and Bukhara—were strategically selected to serve as Pedagogical Centers of Excellence** within the project. Key achievements include the development of detailed engineering master plans to upgrade TTC infrastructure, create digitally equipped and inclusive learning environments, and address critical needs such as STEM labs and ICT rooms. **A nationwide teacher survey,** engaging over 3,500 educators, provided vital insights into teachers' **professional development needs and digital competencies**, serving as critical evidence to inform the creation of an ICT Teacher Competency Framework in Uzbekistan.

4. A preliminary draft of the **ICT and AI Teacher Framework** has been drafted, emphasizing STEM education, digital pedagogy, and AI literacy to enhance student learning outcomes through effective technology integration. This builds on a comprehensive assessment of teachers' digital competencies and TTC infrastructure, which identified key gaps in digital literacy and ICT integration. The findings from this assessment are informing the contextualization of the UNESCO ICT Competency Framework to ensure alignment with real classroom conditions.

5. **New International Classification Functioning (ICF) tools to identify children's needs for assistive devices** were co-created and tested in partnership with the Republican Center for Career Guidance and Pedagogical-Psychological Diagnostic (Tashxis). As a result, 15 specialists (11 female) from Tashxis were trained in the International Classification of Functioning (ICF) for assessing the needs of students with disabilities in project schools.

6. **Project design and engineering bills of quantities for all project schools have been developed,** based on conducted school-based assessment and review of international standards. This included identification of school-based solutions for upgraded infrastructure addressing needs of students with mobility, hearing, and visual impairments, in accordance with both international and national norms.

7. **New requirements and specifications for portable digital devices were developed, facilitating a new partnership between the Government of Uzbekistan and Microsoft.** This agreement is expected to secure discounted licenses under the global Shape the Future program, offering up to 50% off Microsoft licensing for all education-related ICT devices to be procured by the project as well as for future large-scale procurement processes.

Progress update by component/outcome

Progress rating: On Track

Outcome 1 : By the end of 2026, the most vulnerable children and teachers will benefit from enhanced access to quality and inclusive digital learning opportunities.

Considerable progress has been made in advancing inclusive and technology-driven education in Uzbekistan, with the project remaining firmly on track to achieve its objectives. PUNOs have finalized the selection of 50 model schools, ensuring alignment with equity and accessibility criteria. A comprehensive Digital Readiness Framework has been developed and field-tested, engaging over 14,000 respondents to assess schools' preparedness for digital and inclusive learning. In parallel, three Teacher Training Centers (TTCs) in Surkhandarya, Fergana, and Bukhara have been designated as Pedagogical Centers of Excellence, supported by detailed master plans for infrastructure modernization, STEM labs, and ICT-equipped learning environments. A new partnership with Microsoft is set to secure discounted licenses for digital education, reinforcing the long-term sustainability of investments in education technology. Additionally, the introduction of the International Classification of Functioning (ICF) tool has enhanced the assessment of children's needs, ensuring assistive technologies and inclusive practices are effectively integrated at the school level. With these foundations in place, the next phase of the project will focus on implementing targeted interventions to strengthen digital learning environments, enhance teacher capacity, and upgrade school infrastructure to support inclusive and equitable education for all.

Key achievements:

The project is on track to establish 50 model schools focused on inclusive education and the integration of education technology to enhance learning outcomes. Following a comprehensive school-based assessment, updated requirements for education technology, accessible infrastructure, and assistive technology are guiding the deployment of new solutions at the school level. Additionally, the rehabilitation of school facilities—aimed at improving accessibility and creating specialized STEM/digital learning labs and inclusive learning spaces—is expected to be completed by September 2025 in line with project timeline.

A systematic and evidence-based assessment process was conducted to identify Teacher Training Centers (TTCs) that will serve as Pedagogical Centers of Excellence, ensuring alignment with Uzbekistan's education reform priorities and providing a foundation for targeted investments in teacher capacity-building. The assessment evaluated eight TTCs based on infrastructure conditions, digital and teacher readiness, accessibility, and alignment with national investment plans. Field visits and engineering assessments validated infrastructure capacity and needs, while qualitative methods, such as focus group discussions with teachers, TTC staff, and local stakeholders, provided deeper insights into operational challenges and regional disparities. Surkhandarya, Fergana, and Bukhara TTCs were selected to be included in the project, strategically addressing regional disparities by representing distinct performance contexts— Surkhandarya as a low-performing region, Fergana as mid-performing, and Bukhara as high-performing. This selection

approach ensures that the project's interventions are both scalable and inclusive, targeting regions with varying needs and capacities.

Output 1: By 2026, the Ministry of Pre-school and School Education has improved capacity to model and scale up school-based solutions for flexible, equitable, and inclusive digital learning that support the learning outcomes of the most vulnerable children.

The Joint Programme rolled-out review process to finalize the selection of 50 project schools in line with the criteria approved by the Ishonch Fund Management Committee. Total of 24 schools were confirmed from the initial list of 50 Annexed to the Project Document, and 26 schools were replaced to achieve a more balanced and equitable representation of rural, semi-rural, and urban schools. In total, PUNOs visited 76 schools across the country to ensure the creation of a list of model schools to meet the defined equity criteria and maximize the project's impact and scalability at national level.

The development of a comprehensive Digital Readiness Framework has been finalized, incorporating 16 dimensions and 120 indicators to assess school readiness and assess schools' capacity to transition to education technology. The framework was developed to evaluate the readiness of schools for digital and STEM learning. It focuses on infrastructure, digital practices, and inclusivity, providing insights into existing gaps and recommending actionable solutions. The findings are expected to guide policymakers, educators, and stakeholders in fostering an effective technology-enhanced learning environment across Uzbekistan. Supporting the development and contextualization of the Digital Readiness Framework, national technical working group, comprising 19 national specialists (6 female), was established with representatives from the Ministry of Pre-school and School Education, in coordination with the Ministry of Digital Technologies, National Research Institute of Pedagogical Excellence named after Abdulla Avloni, Republican Tashxis Center, Scientific and Practical Center for Pedagogical Excellence and International Assessment, Barkamol Avlod Center, Innovation, technology and strategy centers. This Working Group was tasked to oversee the integration of digital and STEM learning at the school level and the revision of existing policies and standards to support sustainable and inclusive digital environments.

The framework's methodology underwent field testing, ethical review, and local adaptation, resulting in the creation of finalized tools available in English, Uzbek, and Russian. These tools were deployed across all schools, engaging over 14,000 respondents, including more than 8,300 parents and 3,200 students. This initiative lays the foundation for scaling digital learning in alignment with the Uzbek national context. The approach applied a human-centered design to ensure that the development of new functionalities for digital learning takes into consideration real needs and perspectives of users, including school principals, teachers, parents, and children. The results of the school-baseline assessment was discussed and validated by the National Technical Working Group including invited principals and teachers from schools in urban and rural areas at the technical workshop led by MOPSE with support of appointed international expert, conducted on 4-5 February 2025. The set of interventions and recommendations were drafted during the working group discussions to overcome identified gaps and improve ICT Readiness to support Digital and STEM Learning.

Additionally, the project facilitated the review of current license practices in Uzbekistan and the development of new partnership with Microsoft via official exchange of letters. Within this framework, the project is expected to secure discounted licenses under the global Shape the Future program, offering up to 50% off Microsoft licensing for all education-related ICT devices to be procured by the project as well as for future large-scale procurement processes.

Training Workshop on International Classification Functioning at National Research Institute of Pedagogical Excellence named after Abdulla Avloni - November 8-9, 2024

Total of 400 primary grades teachers, special educators, speech therapists and psychologists (337 female, 18 male) from 50 project schools were interviewed by Tashxis specialists to assess whether teachers feel adequately prepared, both psychologically and professionally, to handle children with disabilities. The teachers' consultation process gathered detailed feedback on barriers to education for children with disabilities, including infrastructural challenges, social attitudes, and lack of specialist support. It also explored the adoption of assistive devices and technology, emphasizing digital skill development for all students. Key areas covered included professional development in inclusive education, the integration of Individual Educational Plans with Assistive Technology (AT), and classroom use of AT to promote active participation. Efforts were highlighted to ensure students with disabilities can engage in activities with their peers through necessary adaptations.

New International Classification Functioning (ICF) tool was created to analyze the participation of children with disabilities in education, assess teachers' and parents' attitudes, and children's functional needs. The use of ICF are expected to inform strategies to promote inclusive education and the correct use of inclusive assistive technology. Fifteen specialists from the Republican Center for Career-Guidance and Pedagogical-Psychological Diagnostics were trained on using the developed ICF tool for school-based assessments and prepared for data collection to identify children's needs in 50 schools. The new ICF-based tool was employed by Tashxis specialists to assess the needs of each of the 201 children (85 girls) identified as having a disability or functional limitations, the experiences and challenges children face in various activities and contexts, focusing on their participation and interaction within educational and social environments. The tool is organized along the life domains of the ICF and includes the following sections: Learning and Application of Knowledge; Communication; Mobility; Self-Care; Interpersonal Interactions and Relationships; and Child's involvement in social, recreational, and civic activities outside the family setting.

Additionally, the appointed specialists will support review and development of school development plans, to identify possible entry points to support transformation of current practices, as well as to test procedures for school-based screening and assessment of functional needs of students. This exercise is needed in order to develop a meaningful list(s) of assistive devices useful in the context of a regular classroom and school environment.

Supporting the introduction of inclusive education, the project facilitated the establishment of a youth advisory group composed by adolescents and young people with disabilities. A national consultant was recruited to establish and coordinate a Youth Advisory Board on inclusive education solutions, including accessibility, inclusive technologies, and learning solutions. Through an open call, 54 applications for participation in the Youth Advisory Boards were received. Through the review of applications and interviews, 20 young people with disabilities were selected for membership in the Youth Advisory Board.

International and national expertise informed the development of tools, readiness assessments, and methodologies, which were reviewed and endorsed by the Ministry of Pre-school and School Education. An independent research agency was also appointed to conduct the baseline assessments, ensuring data- driven decision-making.
To develop new standardized and school-based accessibility designs, a national engineering and design company with regional representatives in all regions was appointed through a national competitive tender. The first draft of the project designs and engineering bills of quantities has been prepared. The designs and bills of quantities include detailed scope of work for school-based upgrades and improvements for students with mobility, hearing, and visual impairments. The designs are being developed in accordance with both international and local norms of urban development.

In Q1 2025, the project designs are expected to be reviewed by beneficiaries, including people with disabilities, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and the Social Inspection under the National Agency for Social Protection (NASP). The solicitation process to identify construction companies is planned to be initiated by the end of March, with rehabilitation works expected to start by mid-May. Upon completion and adaptation of works by September 2025, the project schools are expected to meet all new accessibility defined criteria.

Examples of inaccessible infrastructure (entrance and corridors in schools)

Example of identified classroom to be renovated and equipped as Resource Digital and STEM Resource Room (School 47 Okdarya district - Samarkand Region)

To ensure scalability of proposed models and solutions for inclusive schools, further collaboration and coordination was established with the National Agency for Social Protection. This collaboration aimed to gather insights and guidance necessary for creating comprehensive minimum standards for inclusive infrastructure. These standards are intended to be implemented not only within the scope of the current project schools but also to be scaled up at national level, ensuring that inclusive infrastructure becomes a nationwide standard based on the results of the modelling in project schools.

Challenges:

- **Difficulties in understanding and adopting new concepts and language adequate terminology.** The introduction of new approaches in inclusive education and digital technologies required extensive consultations with diverse groups of technical experts, combining various expertise in digitalization, inclusive education, and engineering. This challenge was mitigated by joint planning and coordinated efforts among multiple stakeholders. The establishment of working groups under MOPSE, including additional coordination and engagement with the Ministry of Digital Technologies and all relevant national institutions continue to be instrumental to achieve consensus on new methodologies and tools.

- **Procurement and Delivery of Technology in alignment with best international standards.** The absence of national standards for portable digital devices and the lack of discounted agreements with software providers pose serious challenges to long-term use and sustainability of digital learning technologies and assistive devices to be deployed by the project. PUNO has identified entry points for the establishment of special licensing agreements with service providers such as Microsoft at discounted rates and will work closely with MOPSE and Ministry of Digital Technologies to ensure the institutional validation and endorsement of such agreements. The confirmation of the discounted agreement with Microsoft constitutes a requirement prior to launching future tender on devices.

- **Alignment with inclusive education framework in line with international best practices.** The current medical approach used in assessing the needs of children with disabilities posed a challenge to achieving equitable, rights-based education results. The transition to new international standards for inclusive education will require systematic ownership of new inclusive education approaches by education managers, school principals, and teachers. This mindset shift will continue to demand extensive capacity building and development activities, including through co-creation of tools, and routine collaboration between international experts and national stakeholders.

- **Assessing school readiness in light of ambitious project timeline.** The ethical standards required for the approval of baseline assessment and supporting materials, while enhancing quality, added significant time pressure in the completion of the national school-based assessment. Addressing this challenge, PUNO facilitated ethical approval from a globally renowned independent Ethical Review Board (HML IRB Research and Ethics). The results of the school-based assessment informed interventions for modeling the integration of digital and STEM learning at school-level as well as ensure the revision of current policies and standards needed to sustain inclusive digital environments.

- **Ensuring timely delivery of equipment and facilitation of school-based accessibility renovation.** PUNO has established a solid monitoring and evaluation plan, with a baseline on current school-based status across indicators related to digital learning, infrastructure accessibility, and inclusive education. However, successful completion of project interventions and delivery of services and goods will require extensive coordination and monitoring with respective agencies (e.g. customs, etc.) and local authorities. As a mitigation strategy, PUNO will share in advance the finalized scope of work, names of service providers/suppliers, and will seek close coordination with local authorities in regions with support from MoPSE and Ministry of Finance.

Looking Ahead:

1. The validation of the analysis of identified gaps and opportunities has enabled MOPSE and project partners to prioritize transformative interventions at systemic level on improving ICT Readiness to support Digital and STEM Learning. It is also expected that the detailed results will be presented to CSAC and shared with the Ishonch Fund's Management Committee.

2. The strategic review and collaboration with national stakeholders will enable the project to inform development of recommendations to be adopted as national guidelines/roadmap for maintenance, storage and use of digital devices, further informing scalability of digital devices with proposed specifications and requirements.

3. The finalized protocols and questionnaires for assessing functional needs of students are informing the lists of assistive devices tailored to classroom and school contexts, with procurement and deployment to be initiated along with the identified list of digital devices before school year 2025-2026.

3. Based on identified specifications, the competitive-based solicitation process for procurement of digital equipment and solutions will be launched nationally and internally by Q2 2025, with expected equipment to be deployed by Q3 2025 with date to be confirmed based on the results of the tender. The rehabilitation for accessible infrastructure is also expected to be implemented during summer school closure in order to meet safety requirements and not disrupt current learning activities.

4. In collaboration with the UNICEF Learning Innovation Hub, the project is identifying additional tools and resources that will address gaps in digital learning, STEM, and inclusion. Selected digital solutions will be contextualized and translated for implementation in project schools starting in 2025-2026 school year as per the project timeline.

Top Left: Bukhara Teacher Training Centre's ICT room Top Right:
Shurkhandarya Teacher Training Centre Bottom: Fergana Teacher
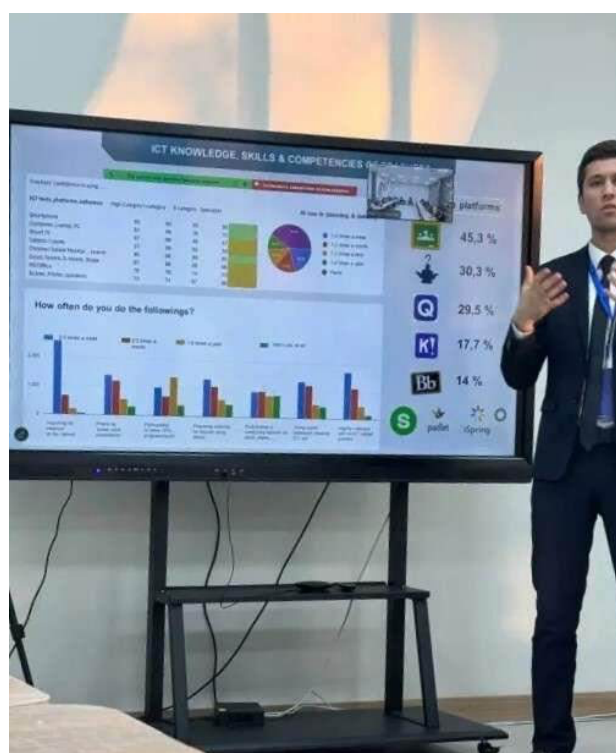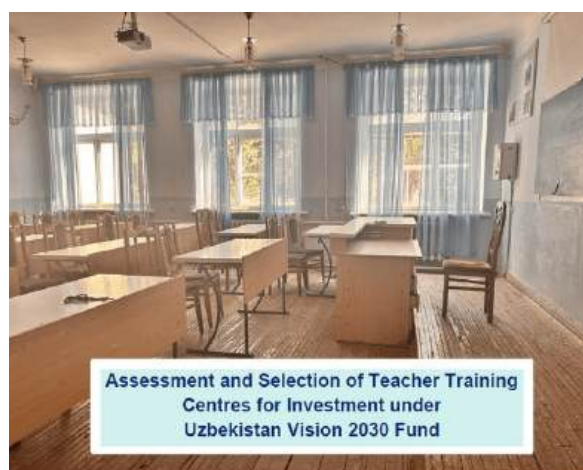Training Centre

Output 2: By 2026, the Ministry of Pre-school and School Education will have improved capacity to scale up the pedagogical excellence models for quality of teaching and continuous professional development of teachers.

A comprehensive nationwide online teacher survey (completed by 3,494 respondents) was undertaken in September 2024 to collect in-depth insights into educators' professional experiences, needs, and challenges, with a particular focus on assessing their digital competencies. The findings from this survey will are informing the development of the ICT Teacher Competency Framework, ensuring that the framework aligns with the realities and capacities of teachers in the field. The survey had strong representation across the country, capturing insights from educators in urban centers, rural areas, and remote districts. Key findings revealed a strong demand for professional development opportunities in digital tools, inclusive practices, and competency-based teaching methodologies. Inclusion remains a significant challenge, as 28 percent of respondents reported having students with disabilities or special educational needs in their classrooms. Many teachers expressed the need for additional resources, specialized training, and support mechanisms to effectively address these students' needs. While internet access is widely available in schools, teachers noted disparities in quality and speed, which can hinder efforts to integrate technology into teaching and learning. Moreover, the survey assessed teachers' digital competencies, providing critical evidence to inform the development of an ICT Teacher Competency Framework. These insights will guide targeted capacity-building initiatives and systemic improvements, ensuring that interventions are aligned with the diverse realities of educators in the field.

UNESCO presented results of the research on "ICT Literacy of School Teachers: Shortcomings and Achievements", during international conference on November 15th, hosted by the National Institute of Pedagogical Excellence.

As part of the project's foundational research, a **comprehensive assessment of digital competencies among teachers across primary and secondary education was conducted, alongside an evaluation of digital tools and infrastructure in Teacher Training Centers (TTCs).** This assessment provided critical insights into teachers' proficiency with ICT tools, their familiarity with digital pedagogical approaches, and existing gaps in digital literacy. The assessment and survey findings are now actively informing the contextualization of the UNESCO ICT Competency Framework, ensuring that it **reflects the realities of educators' working conditions and provides a structured pathway for digital skills development.**

Following the completion of the digital competency assessment, progress has been made in contextualizing the UNESCO ICT Competency Framework for primary and secondary education teachers in Uzbekistan. **A first initial draft of the ICT and AI Teacher framework has been completed**, outlining the key digital competencies required for effective technology integration in teaching and learning. The framework particularly emphasizes STEM education, digital pedagogy, and AI literacy, ensuring that teachers can effectively incorporate technology into their classrooms to enhance student learning outcomes.

left: The cover page of the Assessment and selection of Teacher Training Centres conducted by UNESCO
Right: Presentation on the results of the Teacher's Digital Competency survey, more
details can be found through the following link :
https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/unesco-presented-results-research-ict-literacy-school-teachers-shortcomings-and-achievements?hub=66927

Additionally, comprehensive **engineering master plans** were developed for the three selected Teacher Training Centers (TTCs), providing a roadmap to renovate them into model centers of pedagogical excellence. The proposed upgrades focus on creating facilities that will support innovative teaching practices, professional development, and student-centered learning. Key priorities include the enhancement of STEM laboratories to foster hands-on training in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, alongside modern ICT rooms that integrate digital tools essential for both in-person and hybrid learning environments. Recognizing the importance of equitable access, the master plans also emphasize significant accessibility enhancements, ensuring that TTCs are inclusive for persons with disabilities. By addressing these critical needs, the master plans provide a blueprint to not only modernize TTC infrastructure but also ensure their capacity to deliver high-quality, inclusive teacher training programs.

The tendering process for Bukhara and Surkhandarya TTCs was opened for bidders in Q1, with the selection process for contractors currently underway. As for Fergana TTC, a reassessment is needed after the TTC initiated renovations on the floors originally designated for UNESCO-supported upgrades, requiring a revision of plans before moving forward.

Challenges:

- **Aligning project activities with the government's planned regional investments under Decree No. 231:** The decree prioritizes specific regions for significant funding to modernize Teacher Training Centers (TTCs), but varying levels of financial resources and capacity across regions can impact implementation timelines and quality. This is particularly relevant in areas like Surkhandarya or Fergana, where financial constraints and infrastructure gaps are more pronounced. A key challenge arises when local authorities independently initiate renovations in TTCs without prior coordination, despite existing agreements on planned work. **In the case of Fergana TTC, uncoordinated renovation activities were undertaken by the TTC on floors designated for UNESCO-supported upgrades, necessitating a reassessment of project plans and subsequent delays in implementation.** This unexpected intervention requires reassessments and re-tendering, causing delays and adding administrative burdens. To address this, the project actively coordinates with government stakeholders and local authorities to ensure that priorities of both the JP are government aligned and investments are complementary. A letter was sent to the Ministry of School and Pre-School Education early February 2025 to address the situation.

Looking Ahead:
1. The tendering process for the renovation of the three selected Teacher Training Centers (TTCs) will be finalized by February 2025, with contractors fully onboard. Renovation works are planned to commence in Q2 2025. The renovations are expected to be completed by Q3 2025, creating digitally equipped and accessible environments that support high- quality teacher training and professional development.
2. By Q2 2025, detailed specifications for ICT tools will be developed by PUNOs to ensure that the selected tools and technologies align with international standards while addressing the specific needs of teachers and TTC staff in Uzbekistan. Once finalized, the procurement and installation of these tools will begin, ensuring all TTCs are equipped with the necessary digital infrastructure by Q3 2025.
3. National consultations with key stakeholders — including teachers, school leaders, policymakers, and other education professionals — will be held in Q2 of 2025 by the expert team consisting of international and national experts. The process will gather diverse perspectives and input on the design of the ICT Teacher Competency Framework, ensuring it reflects the realities of teachers' working environments and capacities.
4. By Q2 2025, a comprehensive conceptual model for TTCs will be finalized. This model will integrate key elements such as digital learning, inclusive education, and teacher capacity- building, serving as a strategic blueprint for future renovations and training programme design. The model will emphasize the creation of a modern, inclusive learning environment while promoting innovative teaching practices and collaboration among educators. It will also provide a framework for scaling interventions beyond the three selected

TTCs, ensuring broader systemic impact and sustainability in Uzbekistan's teacher training infrastructure.

5. Steering Committee establishment: The project will establish a Steering Committee to provide strategic oversight and guidance. The Terms of Reference (ToR) and composition of the committee will be finalized ahead of its first meeting, scheduled for **March 17**. The committee will bring together key stakeholders to review progress, highlight accomplishments, and outline the next steps for project implementation.

Risk Framework for Project/Programme: Empowering education in Uzbekistan: leveraging ICT and digital learning for high-quality and inclusive education results (Updated as of 02/2025)

Category of Risk	Risks	Risk Level for project/ programme	Implications for project/ programme	Implications for the Fund	Treatment
Contextual / Programmatic / Institutional	High priority risks for project/ programme	Risk level = likelihood x impact Trajectory (increased, decreased, no change since last assessment)	Analysis of the implications for the project/programme	Analysis of the implications for the fund	Current treatment measures being taken and/or proposed treatment measures
Contextual	Teacher resistance to pedagogical innovations	12 Possible	Slow adoption of new methodology and technology in classroom teaching and professional development	The Fund may be perceived as out of touch with on-the-ground realities. With no demonstrable benefits, its investments in training and digital solutions are wasted.	UNESCO will conduct systematic assessment of the needs, motivations and preparedness of all education stakeholders through a bottom-up approach; will extensively engage and communicate on benefits, incentives, and change management support as building teacher buy-in is crucial to avoid reputational damage, achieve targets, and catalyze lasting improvement. UNICEF will develop a social behavior change plan with messages to support behavior changes and communication activities.

| Contextual | Lack of parental and/or community support | 12-Probable | Lower participation rates, pushback against reforms | Lacking local buy-in endangers sustainable change, as parental resistance hinders student participation, and community objections may constrain government modernization efforts, which contradicts the Fund's mission. | PUNOs will develop community outreach and sensitization strategy and activities to demonstrate the joint programme's benefit, and increase engagement and participation from the local communities and parents |

Contextual	Changes in government priorities or political instability in Uzbekistan may affect the joint programme's continuity and support.	6 Moderate	Disruptions to implementation, and reduced government support	Discontinuity in government support risks misalignment, jeopardizes sustainability, harms reputation, and disrupts activities, wasting resources invested.	PUNOs will establish strong partnerships with government agencies and secure commitment and support through formal agreements as well as will continuously engage with policymakers to ensure alignment with the joint programme's goals and maintain flexibility to adapt to changing political contexts.
Contextual	Infrastructure limitations, especially in rural areas (Internet connectivity and electricity supply issues)	9 Possible	Hampering to adopting and installing digital solutions, which may yield to lower results or delays.	High risk of wasted resources and missed opportunities if the technologies deployed cannot be properly accessed and applied due to underlying infrastructure deficiencies.	PUNOs will conduct school-based assessment and elaborating scope of works that are aligned to existing infrastructure requirements. Explore potential of public- private partnerships as needed for longer- term sustainability of provided internet services.
Contextual	Misuse of equipment including risk of theft of equipment	10 Improbable	Financial losses, implementation delays, reputational damage	Reputational damage to the fund in case of misuse and misappropriation of the equipment, undermining stakeholders and public trust. It will cause loss of resources, failing to achieve program objectives. Further, it may disincentivize future funding and donor contributions if funds are perceived as mismanaged, which contradicts funding objectives of responsible governance and accountability.	In addition to established financial oversight mechanisms, PUNOs will oversee the delivery and installation of devices, as well as undertake training on the safe usage and maintenance of devices. To avoid any possible misuse of equipment, PUNOS and MOPSE will work together to clarify protocols and safety standards and ensure strict application and compliance against established rules to prevent any misuse or theft. MOPSE and Government Partners are accountable for prosecution of any illegal act of appropriation. In case of any irregularities observed, the PUNOs will directly inform the Management Committee. Raise public awareness about whistleblowing mechanisms related to the project.

Programmatic	Delays in procurement and installation of equipment, and refurbishment works	5 Moderate	Reduced joint programme reach, delays in achievement of the results and scaling	Reputational risks that undermine stakeholder trust in the Fund's ability to oversee successful initiatives. Direct financial risks, as delays can increase costs and result in wasted spending if equipment arrives too late for full utilization. Protracted delays beyond joint programme timeframes may prevent the achievement of expected targets, rendering spent resources ineffective.	PUNOs will take the following measures to address and mitigate procurement risks: - Careful vendor selection, contracting, procurement planning and oversight; - Refurbishment timelines must have contingencies allowed; - Exploring and expanding local solutions for goods and services.
Programmatic	The introduction of portable digital devices and ICT equipment, as well as the development of a digital competency framework, may face technical challenges or compatibility issues.	6-Improbable	Solutions underutilized benefits unrealized.	Potential delays in implementation, increased costs, and difficulties in achieving joint programme goals. If compatibility issues arise, it may hinder the wider use of digital devices in learning and adopting digital competencies for teachers, impacting the fund's objectives of improving digital literacy and learning outcomes.	Regular technical assessments and testing of digital devices will be conducted by PUNOs to ensure they meet the required standards. Ongoing technical support and training for teachers and mentors will be provided to address any issues that may arise.

Institutional	Limited usage and maintenance of assistive technologies	6 - Improbable	Limited usage of assistive technologies hinders inclusive education	If the joint programme encounters challenges in the usage and maintenance of assistive technologies, it may not achieve its educational objectives as planned. This could affect the MPTF's goal of supporting inclusive and quality education in Uzbekistan.	PUNOs will develop SOPs, provide robust training, tech support, and clear procurement processes promote effective use and maintenance.
Programmatic	Insufficient adoption of digital technology solutions by teachers and students hinders joint programme's goals.	5 Moderate	Lack of digital literacy, resistance to change, or insufficient understanding of the benefits these technologies offer.	The fund's investments may not yield the desired educational improvements.	PUNOs will provide customized training, user feedback, and ongoing support to promote effective adoption of technology solutions.
Programmatic	Insufficient capacity in monitoring effective implementation on the part of PUNOs and local partners	5 Moderate	Delays in project implementation and mismanagement of resources including in relation to misuse of funds	Hinder the efficient use of MPTF resources, potentially leading to delays, inefficiencies, or misallocation of funds.	PUNOs have extensive experience and systems in place for effective monitoring, indicating this risk as low. PUNOs maintain detailed records of financial transactions and require beneficiaries of direct cash transfers to comply with rigorous reporting and financial management requirements. On-site visits and audits may be used if an implementing partner has a poor financial system in place.
Institutional	Weak institutional capacity with managing and executing the joint programme effectively	6 Possible	Ineffective joint programme management and coordination. Poor decision-making and execution of joint programme activities.	Hinder the efficient use of MPTF resources, potentially leading to delays, inefficiencies, or misallocation of funds.	PUNOs will conduct organizational assessments to address weaknesses and will develop tailored capacity-building programs for staff and leadership.

Institutional	High staff turnover within the joint programme team or partner organizations	9 likely	Loss of institutional knowledge and joint programme continuity. Disruption of joint programme activities and timelines.	Impact the MPTF's ability to meet its objectives within the designated timeframe.	UNESCO and UNICEF will continue fostering a supportive and engaging work environment and collaboration with stakeholders and provide opportunities for career growth and development to retain skilled staff members critical to joint programme success.
Institutional	Inadequate sustainability planning upon joint programme closure	16 - Probable	Joint programme outcomes may not be sustained after joint programme completion. Limited long-term impact on education quality.	This may result in the joint programme's inability to sustain its positive impacts beyond the fund's support period. This could undermine the MPTF's goal of fostering long-lasting change.	PUNOs will focus on cost-effective solutions to reduce reliance on external funding as well as facilitate skills transfer to local stakeholders for joint programme continuity. Close coordination within the framework of Local Education Group and MOPSE leadership in the implementation of Partnership Compact will also ensure the adoption of revised standards and scaling up of defined solutions by other IFIs supporting education sector.
Institutional	Involvement of politically exposed persons (PEP)	12 - Possible	Potential for corruption, bribery, Misallocation of resource, non-compliance, reputational damage, conflicts of interest, legal issues, and operational disruption	Inappropriate engagement of Politically Exposed Persons can damage the credibility of the Fund, financial losses	During the tender process, the required clauses on fraud, corruption, and eligibility are already standard in UNESCO ITB documents, ensuring compliance with ethical procurement practices. Additionally, vendor checks against Politically Exposed Persons (PEPs) are conducted at the HQ level to mitigate risks. PUNOs will abide by available conflict of interest and financial disclosure policies. If an undisclosed conflict of interest or possible undisclosed conflict of interest does arise, PUNOs will take all measures to disclose potential conflict of interest and ensure it is addressed and resolved in line with the Operations Manual. Active search of guidance from the Management Committee in cases where doubts exist if a person would be considered a PEP. In accordance with existing regulations, the project will not engage in any paid consulting activities with people holding an official position. PUNOs will be in continuous contact with the Fund Secretariat to identify and mitigate risks. When contracting third parties, PUNOs will take into account guidance from the

					Secretariat regarding Fund-specific reputational risks and procurement principles. PUNOs will require their suppliers to follow the same principles and declare that their sub-contractors do the same. Furthermore, core UNESCO staff, including programme, administration, and procurement personnel, underwent intensive fraud and corruption awareness training in UNESCO Bangkok in September 2024 to further ensure transparency and integrity in procurement and project implementation.
Institutional	Potential conflict of interest on various decision-making levels, including sub-contracting parties	4 - Moderate	Biased decision-making, compromised project objectives, diminished trust among stakeholders	Loss of stakeholder confidence, legal disputes, reputational damage	Enforce comprehensive conflict of interest and financial disclosure policy, which addresses disclosure of financial and conflict of interest information on the various levels of decision making. Ensure that existing mandatory ethics training addresses identifying and managing conflicts of interest. Foster transparency in decision-making processes and encourage open dialogue among partners- informing the Management Committee level- to mitigate potential conflicts. In accordance with existing regulations, the project will not engage any paid consulting activities for people holding an official position. Proactive information about existing conflict of interest mechanisms of the PUNOs, amongst others via the Fund's website. Practice openness to proposals/observations from civil society, including the CSAC, in case of any perceived conflict of interest. Raise public awareness about whistleblowing mechanisms related to the project.

	Results Framework					
	Outcome 1: By the end of 2026, the most vulnerable children and teachers will benefit from enhanced access to quality and inclusive digital learning opportunities					
		Baseline 2023	**Target Dec-26**	*Current Status Achieved / On Track / Off Track* *Brief explanation of status*	**Means of verification**	**Responsible Organisations**
Outcome Indicators	NSDG 4:1 1.1 Proportion of schools offering basic services, by type of service a) The internet for education purposes b) Computers for educational purposes c) Adapted infrastructure and materials for students with disabilities	a) 94% b) 47% c) 3% (Baseline data is retrieved from Partnership Compact for Education Reform 2024-2026)	a) 99% b) 85% c) 20%	On Track	MOPSE education database	Ministry of Preschool and School Education, Ministry of Digital Technologies, Republican Scientific and Methodological Center on Education Development, UNESCO, UNICEF
	% improvement in national PISA outcomes	19% (December 2023)	24% from Baseline (during the next 2026 PISA)	On Track	MOPSE, OECD reports	MOPSE, OECD PISA, UNESCO, UNICEF

	Availability of supportive supervision, mentorship, and on-the-job support system for digital learning	Not available	Available	Not available	Endorsed standards, policies, and mentorship programs	MOPSE, UNESCO, UNICEF
	% of teachers applying digital technologies and pedagogical innovations in teaching and learning	60% urban; 25% rural teachers have basic ICT skills[1]	80% urban; 45% rural teachers have basic ICT skills	On Track: 60% urban; 25% rural teachers have basic ICT skills _Note: teacher survey conducted as baseline assessment_	Survey and questionaries' on ICT readiness of teachers MOPSE education database MOPSE, UNESCO reports	MOPSE, UNESCO, UNICEF
Output Indicators	**Output 1: By the end of 2026, the Ministry of Pre-school and School Education working collaboratively with the local authorities, teacher educators, school leaders, mentors, policymakers and parents and private sector providers has improved capacity to model and scale up school-based solutions for flexible, equitable, and inclusive digital learning that support the learning outcomes of the most vulnerable children;**					
	1.1 New standards and school-based checklists available for a.) Portable digital devices b.) Assistive technology and equipment c.) Checklist for school accessibility	Not available	Available and tested	On track: Not available _Completed school-based assessment is informing the development of new standards and check-lists_	Approved standards and school-based checklists	UNICEF
	1.2 Increased student performance in foundational numeracy and digital skills	baseline survey data	10% from baseline in project schools, disaggregated by sex, location and age group	On track: Baseline data _Identified digital solutions to be contextualized and operationalized in school calendar year 2025-2026_	LMS, baseline and endline surveys	UNICEF

[1] UNESCO. 2021. Rapid Analysis of Teachers' ICT Skills in Uzbekistan.

	1.3 New teachers training course is available and integrated into the TPD online system on use of assistive digital technologies for learning	Not available	Available	On track: Not available

New International Classification of Functioning being piloted and tested to inform development of new training course to be integrated as part of TPD | LMS, MOPSE | UNICEF |
| | 1.4 Number of resource schools providing inclusive digital learning opportunities through curricular and extra-curricular interventions | 0 | 50 (representing each region, disaggregated by rural/urban) | On track: 0

Selected national engineering and design company finalizing design based on conducted assessment | MOPSE education database | UNICEF |
| | 1.5 Number of students benefiting from new digital learning solutions in project resource schools | 0 | 40,000 (disaggregated by sex, disability, location) | On track: 0

based on conducted school-based assessment and baseline | MOPSE education database | UNICEF |

	1.6 Number of additional children with disabilities attending education in mainstream settings in project resource schools	150	500 (disaggregated by sex, location)	On track: +51 *based on conducted school-based assessment and baseline*	MOPSE education database	UNICEF
Output Indicators	**Output 2: By the end of 2026, the Ministry of Pre-school and School Education by working collaboratively with the local authorities, teacher educators, school leaders, mentors, policymakers and parents and private sector providers will have improved capacity to scale up the pedagogical excellence models for quality of teaching and continuous professional development of teachers.**				

	2.1 National ICT and Digital Learning Policy, including the Digital Competency Framework for Teachers, developed and endorsed for Public Education sector	Not available	available and tested	On Track: Not available *teacher survey conducted as baseline assessment*	Endorsed National ICT and Digital Learning Policy for Public Education sector	UNESCO (in coordination with UNICEF and the MOPSE)
	2.2 New model for pedagogical excellence[2] is developed and tested in three Centers.	Not available	Available and tested in three regions	On Track: Not available	Endorsed concept of the Model Center for Pedagogical Excellence	UNESCO

	2.3 Number of mentors and percentage of trained teachers from three targeted regions demonstrate enhanced digital competencies:
	     a) mentors
	     b) teachers
		a) 0
		 b) 0%[3]
			a) + 300 (Y2)
			 b) 80 % of trained teachers (Y3) (Disaggregated locations, sex, and age group of teachers)
				On Track:
				 a) 0
				 b) 0%
				 teacher survey conducted as baseline assessment
					Performance Records (unit activity tracker) and attendance sheets Avloniy Institute LMS database	UNESCO

	2.4 Number of new in-service teacher training modules developed based on the digital competency framework and integrated into TPD online system	0	3 sets of modular courses by levels: 1 set for beginners, 1 set for intermediate level, 1 set for advanced level	0	Avloniy Institute LMS MOPSE education database	UNESCO

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[2] in three in-service teacher education centers using a new model for pedagogical excellence will serve as hubs for improving learning teaching practices, fostering innovation, and encouraging programmes that enhance classroom experiences for students.