



PROJECT DOCUMENT
UZBEKISTAN

Project Title: "Strengthening the rule of law and human rights protection in Uzbekistan"
Project ID: 00128319 **Quantum ID** 00122342
Implementing Partner: Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Uzbekistan
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Brief Description

Since 2016, Uzbekistan's Government initiated a comprehensive package of legal and judicial reforms to strengthen the rule of law, promote and protect fundamental human rights and freedoms and enhance the justice system's efficiency in alignment with international standards. These efforts included ratifying the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), adopting the new laws on gender equality, revising criminal procedural legislation, and introducing new tools and services to improve access to justice in conformity with international human rights practices and standards. In addition, the mandate of the National Human Rights Institution (Ombudsperson's Office) in Uzbekistan was enhanced, which was for the first time accredited by GANHRI (with B-status in 2020).

These reforms improved Uzbekistan's stance in internationally recognized indices and rankings, i.e., Rule of Law Index 2021 (85th out of 139 countries globally) and the 2020 World Bank's Women, Business and Law (134th out of 190). Despite the progress and achievements, the people of Uzbekistan, particularly the most vulnerable populations such as women, youth in rural areas, and people with disabilities, continue to lack awareness about their rights and skills for their protection. They also have limited access to affordable and effective justice remedies, including to free legal advice, representation, and justice services in compliance with human rights standards.

The Project will address the mentioned challenges by supporting the national efforts in strengthening the legal and institutional frameworks that will improve the provision of free legal aid and people-centered justice services, as well as will assist in developing the capacities of NHRI (Ombudsperson's Office) and the justice system actors in line with the international human rights and the rule of law standards. Such measures will further enhance the rule of law and promote, protect, and fulfil human rights in Uzbekistan.

The leading partner of the Project is the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Uzbekistan. In addition, the Project will also cooperate with the NHRI (Authorized Person of the Oliy Majlis Of the Republic of Uzbekistan For Human Rights (Ombudsperson's office)), Chamber of Advocates of the Republic of Uzbekistan, free legal aid providers, civil society, and non-government organizations. While the draft FLA law mentions that MoJ will be responsible for costing the free legal aid needs, it is expected that MoJ shall support their requests. Project will suggest to MoJ engage MoEF in the costing exercise so that allocations will be ensured.

Outcome 1 of the Uzbekistan UNSDCF for 2021-2025 which states that 'By 2025, all people and groups in Uzbekistan, especially the most vulnerable, demand and benefit from enhanced accountable, transparent, inclusive and gender responsive governance systems and rule of law institutions for a life free from discrimination and violence'.
 CPD Output 1.1.: Institutions equipped with effective anti-corruption tools, enabled to expand access to justice and enhance social cohesion
 Indicative intermediate result with the gender marker:
GEN 2

Total resources required:	EUR 1,500,000 (1,500,000 EUR)	
Total resources allocated:	Government of Finland	EUR 1,500,000
	Government of Uzbekistan	In kind contribution (including: furnished office for project and office phone)

AGREED BY:

United National Development Programme in Uzbekistan

Ms. Matilda Dimovska,
Ms. Matilda Dimovska,
UNDP Resident Representative
in Uzbekistan

Date: 03/05/2023



Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Uzbekistan

Mr. Tashkulov Akbar,
Mr. Tashkulov Akbar,
Minister of Justice of the
Republic of Uzbekistan

Date: 03/05/2023



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I. BACKGROUND

Since 2016 Government of Uzbekistan adopted and started the implementation of a comprehensive reform agenda that aimed at ensuring the rule of law and human rights, restructuring the judicial system, and increasing the efficiency of the judiciary of Uzbekistan¹.

The following key strategies were initiated within these reforms:

- **The revision of criminal procedural legislation** to align it with best international and human rights standards:
 - The number of primary criminal penalties that can be imposed for committing crimes was decreased from 10 to 9 (arrest as a type of criminal penalty was abolished).
 - The use of alternative non-custodial types of penalties was expanded.
 - The pre-trial detention period was reduced from 72 to 48 hours.
 - The maximum duration of preventive measures (i.e., house arrest, detention) and preliminary investigation decreased from 1 year to 7 months.
 - Power/authority to arrest correspondence and exhumation was transferred to courts (from prosecutors). Power/authority of courts to return the criminal cases for additional investigation was abolished

- **The introduction of e-tools to increase the accessibility of justice**, including online tools for providing legal consultations, such as:
 - MADAD, a non-governmental organization, was established in 2019 to provide initial² free legal aid to the population through consultations and clarification of legislation (with no authority to represent clients in courts). 'MADAD' launched 'www.advice.uz' legal portal³ to provide online consultations. 'MADAD' is primarily inspired by U.K.'s 'Citizen Advice' system and supported by the Embassy of the United Kingdom in Tashkent. MADAD has a regional presence in 201 districts of Uzbekistan. In 2020, regional (city) bureaus of NGO Madad had received 74 377 requests (with over 44 requests from women) from citizens on the provision of primary free legal consultations⁴. 72 951 requests were received via the 'Advice.uz' legal portal during the same period. MADAD's own funding is unsustainable and depends on financing from the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Uzbekistan and donors.
 - Courts introduced interactive services and tools to increase the accessibility of justice and simplify access to justice. With support from USAID, UNDP has supported the Supreme Court of Uzbekistan in developing and introducing the E-SUD e-justice system in civil courts across Uzbekistan. E-SUD has reduced the number of court trips required to process cases from 6-7 to 2-3, placing Uzbekistan's civil case processing speed above Central Asia's regional average. The E-SUD system has been essential in

¹ [Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan on measures to further reform the judicial and legal system, strengthen guarantees of reliable protection of the rights and freedoms of citizens dated October 21, 2016 No. UP-4850 https://lex.uz/docs/3050494](https://lex.uz/docs/3050494)

² In practice, there are two types of legal aid: primary and secondary. **Primary legal aid** is a free legal aid provided through oral, written and electronic consultations, explanations and information on legal issues. **Secondary legal aid** is a free legal aid to individuals aimed at ensuring the participation of a lawyer in civil, administrative, administrative and criminal cases (expenses are covered by state)

³ Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan on radio improvement of the system of increasing legal consciousness and legal culture in the society dated 09.01.2019 No. UP-5618 <https://lex.uz/docs/4149770>

⁴ Article 'What work did the NGO "Madad" carry out in 2020?' dated 19.01.2021 <https://advice.uz/ru/news/37>

providing swift and accessible justice to Uzbekistan's population in remote regions. It has assisted women in rural areas access justice, 37,000 of whom have resolved alimony disputes through the system. In addition, E-SUD is a quick and cost-effective case filing mechanism. Court users register online for access to complete case files. They can then track case progress and gain direct and immediate access to any procedural document issued by the courts, including final court decisions and interim rulings.

➤ **Strengthened the mandate of NHRI (Ombudsperson) of Uzbekistan.** Following the Decrees of the President⁵ the mandate and powers of the Authorized Person of the Oliy Majlis Of the Republic of Uzbekistan For Human Rights (Ombudsman) were widened in line with Paris Principles. As a result, the new laws were adopted, which introduced the regional representatives and empowered the institution to initiate new legislation based on analyses of the practical implementation of the norms and requirements of legislative acts to ensure human rights, freedoms, and legitimate interests, etc.

➤ **Adopted legal framework for protecting women's rights and preventing gender-based violence**

25 legislative acts were adopted⁶ since 2017, including Laws' On guarantees of equal rights and opportunities for women and men'⁷ and 'On protecting women from harassment (oppression) and violence'⁸ in 2019 and Strategy for Achieving Gender Equality in the Republic of Uzbekistan⁹ until 2030 in 2021 and Law on 'Amending and adding addendums to some legislative acts of the Republic of Uzbekistan in light of further improving system for effective protection of rights, freedoms, and legal interests of women and children' in 2023.

➤ **Rule of Law and Access to Justice**

The reforms mentioned above positively affected the current rule of law in Uzbekistan, resulting in an increased overall rule of law score of Uzbekistan by 4.1% in the 2022 Rule of Law Index. At 78th place out of 140 countries and jurisdictions worldwide, Uzbekistan improved seven positions in global rank¹⁰ with significant improvements in the factors measuring constraints on government powers, absence of corruption, and Open Government.

At the same time, access to justice, the central element of the rule of law, is yet to be improved to further strengthen and ensure adequate human rights protection in Uzbekistan. According to the same Rule of Law

⁵ Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan on measures to improve the activities of the Authorized Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan for human rights (Ombudsman), dated 10.09.2021, No. UP-6312, <https://lex.uz/docs/5625271> and Resolution of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan on additional measures to improve the system of detection and prevention of cases of torture, dated 26.06.2021, No. PP-5163, <https://lex.uz/docs/5475610>

⁶ Resolution of the Senate of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan on approval of gender equalization strategy in the Republic of Uzbekistan until 2030, dated 28.05.2021, No. SK-297-IV-сон, <https://lex.uz/uz/docs/5466673>

⁷ Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan on guarantees of equal rights and opportunities for women and men, dated 02.09.2019, No. ZRU-562, <https://lex.uz/ru/docs/4494873>

⁸ Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan on the protection of women from oppression and violence, dated 02.09.2019, No. ZRU-561, <https://lex.uz/docs/4494712>

⁹ Resolution of the Senate of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan on approval of gender equalization strategy in the Republic of Uzbekistan until 2030, dated 28.05.2021, No. SK-297-IV-сон, <https://lex.uz/uz/docs/5466673>

¹⁰ Uzbekistan country insights, Rule of Law Index 2021, <https://worldjusticeproject.org/rule-of-law-index/country/2021/Uzbekistan>

2022 index, the accessibility of civil justice in Uzbekistan (sub-factor 7.1.) remains insufficient. As a result, Uzbekistan continues to be the country with the lowest score for this sub-factor among the region's countries.

	Sub-factor 7.1. People can access and afford civil justice						Rank change on Factor 7. Civil justice	Score changes on Factor 7. Civil justice	Measures the accessibility and affordability of civil courts, including whether people are aware of available remedies; can access and afford legal advice and representation; and can access the court system without incurring unreasonable fees, encountering unreasonable procedural hurdles, or experiencing physical or linguistic barriers.
	Global Rank	Regional* Rank	Income Rank	Score	Global Average	Regional Average			
2016	64/113	6/13	4/28	0,51	0,56	0,51	+11	+0,03	
2018	74/113	9/13	11/30	0,49	0,56	0,51	-10	-0,03	
2019	72/126	8/13	8/30	0,51	0,55	0,52	+6	+0,02	
2020	72/128	7/14	8/30	0,51	0,55	0,52	+1	+0,00	
2021	78/139	7/14	8/35	0,50	0,55	0,51	+1	-0,01	
2022	75/140	7/14	9/38	0,50	0,54	0,51	+3	+0,00	
* Region: Eastern Europe and Central Asia: Turkey, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Albania, Kyrgyz Republic, Kosovo, Serbia, Moldova, North Macedonia, Russian Federation, Georgia, Ukraine, Belarus, Kazakhstan									

Free legal aid providers are essential for ensuring effective access to justice and adequate protection of human rights and disseminating information on human rights. As Human Rights, Committee explained in its general comment no. 32¹¹ 'the availability or absence of legal assistance often determines whether or not a person can access the relevant proceedings or participate in them in a meaningful way.

Although there is no legal framework for Free Legal Aid in Uzbekistan, de facto currently Free Legal Aid system of Uzbekistan includes NGO MADAD, legal clinics under law universities, free consultations provided by lawyers.

NGO MADAD was established in 2019 in accordance with the Decree of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan 'On measures to further improve the system of legal assistance and communicate legal information to the population' dated September 6, 2019 No. 741¹². As per Decree main tasks of the NGO 'MADAD' are:

- providing citizens with primary free legal aid by online legal consultations and clarifications on legal issues;
- involving volunteers to harmonize legal knowledge of citizens with socio-political changes in Uzbekistan;
- analysing citizens' requests for legal advice and development of proposals for improving legislation based on analysis of the requests for the provision of legal advice;
- introduction into practice innovative methods of raising legal awareness and legal culture of the population, the positive experience of foreign countries in this area;
- maintaining and constant updating of the www.Advice.uz legal information portal.

¹¹ Human Rights Committee, General Comment No. 32, Article 14: Right to equality before courts and tribunals and to a fair trial

<http://docstore.ohchr.org/SelfServices/FilesHandler.ashx?enc=6QkG1d%2FPPrICAqhKb7yhsrdB0H1I5979OVGGb%2BWPAxhRjOXNTTvKgFHbxAcZsvX1Osj%2FiyRmVA4iiMvUt2NIHs%2BQp4VNA5cS4BZ9IRHlzOdzvWwYz1PjgZTLwviiM>

¹² Decree of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan 'On measures to further improve the system of legal assistance and communicate legal information to the population' <https://lex.uz/ru/docs/4500969>

NGO MADAD is currently remaining the only NGO established by GoU and financed by MoJ.

There are also legal clinics established under Tashkent State Law University¹³, under University of World Economy and Diplomacy¹⁴ and under Federation of Trade Unions of Uzbekistan¹⁵.

Wide usage on social media and social messengers in recent years, allowed lawyers to use these platforms for provision of primary free legal aid which is not financed by GoU and is voluntary for lawyers.

Despite the establishment of NGO MADAD, an independent free primary legal aid provider, its activities are limited to the provision of primary free legal consultations with no powers to represent clients in courts or government authorities. Such limitations minimize the efficiency of this free legal aid provider. In addition, the absence of the legal framework regulating free legal aid mechanisms impedes the establishment and effective operating of free legal aid providers.

It is commonly recognized that one of the indicators of how well the legal aid system is working is a change (decrease) in the number of self-represented litigants. While comprehensive data on the number of self-represented litigants in Uzbek courts is not publicly available, the absence of effective legal aid mechanisms combined with the low number of lawyers in Uzbekistan¹⁶ and low level of public trust in lawyers¹⁷ in Uzbekistan can bring us to the conclusion that there is significant number of self-represented litigants in Uzbek courts.

Although most of the cases filed by self-represented litigants can be assumed as simple cases, low level of legal awareness/literacy of the population combined with constant changes in both substantial and procedural legislation of Uzbekistan in recent years results in struggling for litigants to navigate the complex system of legislation and court procedures.

Promotion and Protection of Women's Human Rights

Since the initiation of reforms, the Government of Uzbekistan has been declaring its commitments to improve human rights protection and increasing legal awareness of human rights. Uzbekistan reported¹⁸ that '... in 2017 alone, intending to increase citizens' legal knowledge and awareness and foster respect for children's rights and freedoms among the public, the Ministry of Justice and its local offices held more than 5,000 awareness-raising events to explain the provisions of the Children's Rights Safeguards Act, the Act on the Protection of Children from Information Harmful to Their Health, the Tutorship and Guardianship Act, the Trafficking in Persons Act, the text on measures to enhance further the system for the prevention of offending and the combating of crime, and other laws and regulations concerning children's rights; these events included 793 media appearances, over 5,000 round tables, seminars and workshop-conferences, and 137 other events'.

¹³ <https://minjust.uz/ru/press-center/news/91199/>

¹⁴ <https://uwed.uz/ru/centres/view/legal-clinic>

¹⁵ https://www.norma.uz/nashi_obzori/yuridicheskaya_klinika_profsoyuza?ysclid=l29af30uz

¹⁶ Salomov B., 'BAR in Uzbekistan: current situation and development perspectives', page109 <https://inscience.uz/index.php/socinov/article/view/25/19>

¹⁷ Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan on measures to greatly improve the efficiency of the institute of bar and expand the independence of lawyers, dated 12.05.2018, No.UP-5441, <https://lex.uz/docs/3731058>

¹⁸ Fifth periodic report of Uzbekistan to CEDAW

<https://docstore.ohchr.org/SelfServices/FilesHandler.ashx?enc=6QkG1d%2fPPRiCAqhKb7yhsifWMG9%2fRtnvoBn3u8H6O%2bYfzWYaYQEH1SI6rsVigoUHWbdXD5utZL3qhbCNZfnON9ujdr6yJHP7WU6oyA%2bJar98bVFVL5zSSuzhS8zwLRt4>

In its following periodic report¹⁹, Uzbekistan reiterated its commitment to increase legal awareness and literacy of women by reporting that 'Over two years, the Women's Committee has carried out more than 40 training courses and 10 round tables, with the total number of participants exceeding 1,300.'

At the same time, it is true to say that these massive events are aimed primarily at disseminating legal information on new developments in legislation and general information on rights without providing mechanisms for the protection of these rights. Therefore, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women requested the Government of Uzbekistan to provide information on the impact of the awareness-raising activities targeting government officials and the judiciary and to indicate whether the Convention has been invoked in court proceedings and provide information on the number, nature, and outcome of relevant cases.²⁰

Recognition of the importance of ensuring effective protection of women's rights and equal representation in the judiciary has become one of the cornerstones of the legal and judicial reforms. Namely, the number of Presidential Decrees were adopted envisaging support to women entrepreneurial activities and effective protection of women labour rights²¹. Regarding the justice sector, President Mirziyoyev, during the meeting on ensuring fair trials and enhancing anti-corruption activities on June 30, 2020 stressed the need for creating mechanisms for ensuring gender equality among judges. These measures aim to eliminate existing gender gaps in the justice sector, improve mechanisms for adequate protection of women's social and economic rights.

Adopting such a massive legal framework on gender equality and protection of women's rights contributed to the increase of Uzbekistan's rank in World Bank's Women, Business and Law 2020²² (134th globally). The legal framework introduced restraint orders mechanisms as an essential mechanism to protect women from domestic violence. The introduction of this mechanism resulted in the issuance of 14,774 protection orders in 2020 to women and girls affected by harassment and violence. About 11,000 women who received warrants needed protection from their spouses. In 6,836 cases, women were subjected to physical violence, in 6,281 cases - psychological pressure; in 1,480 cases - oppression. In 121 cases, the warrant was issued to victims of economic and in 56 cases - sexual violence²³.

The gender analysis conducted within the 'Rule of Law Partnership in Uzbekistan' Project²⁴ showed that while the e-justice tools and interactive services developed by Uzbek courts are reported to simplify access to justice for all, women are still facing barriers that are primarily based on cultural perceptions, in accessing justice. These barriers are based on women's financial dependence on household and family budgets and low levels

¹⁹ Sixth periodic report of Uzbekistan to CEDAW

<https://docstore.ohchr.org/SelfServices/FilesHandler.ashx?enc=6QkG1d%2fPPRiCAqhKb7yhsvglKm%2f71Q4iogAZSMgJYVs60KRy5crJ6kEiuyr%2bMf3kQZOR7xy6os%2fgfVi6U8SWJzQ3hoasS%2fykjavi39nSZnREZgvg6t9tUEoqTqsmwzXC>

²⁰ List of issues and questions by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women concerning the sixth periodic report of Uzbekistan

<https://docstore.ohchr.org/SelfServices/FilesHandler.ashx?enc=6QkG1d%2fPPRiCAqhKb7yhsvglKm%2f71Q4iogAZSMgJYVvAJmQUOyQ9i50qVdaljQNEWNP5t9aTSj2To64mkMk3TaVMhsfNVJeREr1YPkyBNYLu89bjBfAiIlMxgEdkpgZ>

²¹ Resolution of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan on measures to further strengthen guarantees of labor rights and support for women's entrepreneurship, dated 07.03.2019 r. No. PP-4235 <https://lex.uz/ru/docs/4230938>

²² World Bank's Women, Business and Law 2020 report

<https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/bitstream/handle/10986/35094/9781464816529.pdf?sequence=7&isAllowed=y>

²³ Article 'Interior Ministry: 14,774 women subjected to repression and violence issued protection orders in 2020' https://uza.uz/uz/posts/iiv-2020-yilda-tazyiq-va-zoravonlikka-uchragan-14-ming-774-xotin-qizga-himoya-orderi-berildi_236643

²⁴ <https://sud.uz/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/обзор-Зарубежного-Опыта.pdf> and https://sud.uz/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Разработка_и_внедрение_гендерных_индикаторов.pdf

of internet penetration as well as low levels of digital literacy, especially in rural areas. Another aspect of obstacles to justice for women is the lack of legal information tailored for women and their needs.

There are no comprehensive educational programmes on human rights tailored for the needs of women, especially in rural areas, what leads to, as was stated in the alternative report²⁵ to the CEDAW Committee, that 'low awareness of women, especially from rural areas, on their own rights, processes and procedures made available to them to protect their rights and interests' remains being an actual topic.

Human rights of people with disabilities

An insufficient level of physical and informational accessibility of justice for people with disabilities was pointed out by Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers in his final recommendations upon a visit to Uzbekistan in 2019. Special Rapporteur stressed that '...effective exercise of the right of access to justice on an equal basis with others can be violated where architectural barriers or language obstacles prevent or limit the access of certain groups of individuals, such as persons with disabilities and older persons, to court buildings or court proceedings.'²⁶

Concerning the accessibility of judicial proceedings, the Special Rapporteur also raised his concerns about 'the insufficient number of sign language interpreters; the lack of documents, including court decisions, in accessible formats for persons with sensory, intellectual or psychosocial disabilities.'²⁷ Another two barriers to justice for people with disabilities include the low level of legal literacy of people with disabilities and financial barriers^{28, 29}

In 2021, Uzbekistan adopted the new Law 'On rights of people with disabilities' and ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities³⁰. These two documents set a new legal framework for ensuring the protection of the rights of people with disabilities. However, the Convention contains the reservation which relate to access to justice for people with intellectual disabilities. The main novelty of the new Law 'On rights of people with disabilities' is the introduction of the term 'disability discrimination' absent in Uzbekistan legislation.

²⁵ Alternative report by 'Civic Initiatives Support Center' (an NGO in Special Consultative Status with the U.N. Economic and Social Council) and 'NIHOL' Initiative's Development and Support to the CEDAW committee Center https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=INT%2fCEDAW%2fNGO%2fUZB%2f44129&Lang=en

²⁶ Human Rights Council Visit to Uzbekistan Report of the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers- para 84, <https://undocs.org/en/A/HRC/44/47/Add.1>

²⁷ Human Rights Council Visit to Uzbekistan Report of the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers- para 87, <https://undocs.org/en/A/HRC/44/47/Add.1>

²⁸ NGO MADAD was established as an NGO that aims to provide primary free legal aid to all people in the form of (online/offline) consultations) as well as explanations on legislation. NGO MADAD also provides FLA to people with disabilities

²⁹ 'There are rights, but how to exercise them?' an article at Gazeta.uz web newspaper <https://www.gazeta.uz/ru/2020/10/24/rights/>

³⁰ Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan on ratification of the convention on the rights of persons with disabled (New York, December 13, 2006), dated 07.06.2021, No. ZRU-695, <https://lex.uz/docs/5447430>

II. DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGE

Despite this promising narrative on Uzbekistan Government's commitment to promoting a human rights-compliant legal reform agenda, many obstacles remain in ensuring equitable access to justice and achieving quality public service delivery in the justice sector. This includes the following development challenges:

Absence of due legal and institutional framework to regulate free legal aid

Up to date, Uzbekistan has ratified major UN human rights treaties and conventions that envisage the obligation of states to establish effective free legal aid mechanisms. However, despite this and the support of development partners in developing a draft law on free legal aid,³¹ the legal framework has not been adopted yet. In fact, the current system for the provision free legal aid, which is divided into primary free legal aid and state subsidized (secondary or qualified) free legal aid.

The main challenge of the existing system of providing primary free legal aid is a very limited number of free legal aid providers. The major primary free legal aid provider is the NGO MADAD which is strongly dependent on government financing and has limited human potential. Absence of legal framework regulating provision of primary legal aid makes it very difficult to ensure proper access to free legal aid. The system also does not stimulate self-initiated NGOs to register for provision of primary FLA. The few Legal Clinics that are present in Uzbekistan, operate primarily in capital city and cannot provide services in the regions. Primary free legal aid provided voluntarily by lawyers (usually via channels in social media) are not systematized and can be used by lawyers to increase clients for their paid services.

Challenges of the existing system of providing secondary (state subsidized) free legal aid is related to the system of 'on-duty lawyers' who in many cases lack efficiency in providing support. The lawyers also do not have sufficient remuneration and timely payments. In addition, there have also been complaints about the lack of transparent selection and assignment of cases to the 'on-duty lawyers'. Existing system of providing secondary (state subsidized) free legal aid is limited only to criminal cases while World Justice Project's 'Global Insights on Access to Justice' showed that majority of population face legal problems related to civil justice (not only criminal cases)³².

Following these concerns, the draft law on free legal aid was developed in 2019 and published on a special website for broad public discussions.³³ Para 11 of the State Programme on implementation of Actions Strategy

³¹ Since 2010, media has been reporting that draft law on free legal aid has been developed. <https://nav.uz/news/8119-v-uzbekistane-uzakonyat-besplatnuyu.html>

³² World Justice Project's 'Global Insights on Access to Justice' – available at <https://worldjusticeproject.org/access-to-justice-data/#/map>

³³ Article 'Voluntary free legal aid attorneys may be eligible for qualifications' dated 07.08. 2019, website of the Chamber of Advocates of Uzbekistan, <https://advokatnews.uz/xabar/1656.html> also draft law of the Republic of

in 'Year of supporting youth and enhancing the health of population'³⁴ also envisaged development of law by November 1, 2021.

At the same time, para 53 of the roadmap on implementation of Concept of development of justice institutions during 2020-2021³⁵ also envisaged improvement of state-guaranteed free legal aid system by widening opportunities to receive free legal aid in criminal, civil, and administrative courts for the vulnerable groups of the population. After implementation of this Concept and enactment of the Law on Free Legal Aid, it is expected that a separate road map on implementation of provisions of the law will be adopted. Adoption of such road maps on implementation of laws is usual practice in Uzbekistan when law envisages establishment of new entities and/or interaction among different actors and/or require amending legislation and/or require financing from state budget.

The Ministry of Justice prepared and published a draft law on FLA for public discussions. The Ministry completed the consultations on the draft law with the relevant ministries and agencies in November 2021. After law's enforcement, there will be the need for the development of the costed implementation plan and by-laws/regulations which will envisage the FLA system's operational functioning.

Scheme # 1. Types of FLA

Voluntary FLA (pro bono)	Primary FLA	Secondary FLA
Qualified legal assistance provided by lawyers to individuals and legal entities free of charge, impartially and voluntarily	Free legal aid provided through oral, written and electronic consultations, explanations and information on legal issues	free legal aid to individuals aimed at ensuring the participation of a lawyer in civil, administrative, administrative offenses and criminal cases at public expense
Provided by: lawyers	Provided by: specialized NGOs (i.e. NGO MADAD) and legal clinics	Provided by: lawyers preregistered in the FLA information system

It is envisaged that there will be the following types of free legal aid:

Voluntary free legal aid (pro bono) - Qualified legal assistance provided by private lawyers to individuals and legal entities free of charge, impartially and voluntarily.

Uzbekistan on free legal aid developed and published for public discussions in 07.08.2019, No. 4329, <https://regulation.gov.uz/uz/document/4329>

³⁴ Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan on the state program for the implementation of the strategy of action in five priority areas of development of the Republic of Uzbekistan in 2017-2021 in the "Year of support to youth and improvement of population health" dated 03.02.2021, No. PF-6155, <https://lex.uz/docs/5260791?otherlang=1>

³⁵ Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan on measures to further improve the activities of justice bodies and institutions in the implementation of state legal policy, dated 19.05.2020, No. UP-5997 <https://lex.uz/docs/4820075>

Primary free legal assistance - free legal assistance provided through oral, written and electronic consultations, clarifications and information on legal issues by non-government/non-profit organizations and legal clinics.

Primary free legal assistance is entitled to all citizens of the Republic of Uzbekistan, foreign citizens and stateless persons, as well as legal entities. Non-government/non-profit organizations and legal clinics will be in a position to provide primary free legal aid and may determine the category of persons receiving free legal aid based on their goals. The providers fund the primary legal assistance.

Free Legal Aid Subjects (FLA center) and its regional branches will have the mandate to “promote” primary free legal aid.

Secondary free legal assistance - free legal assistance to individuals, aimed at ensuring the participation of a lawyer in civil, administrative, administrative and criminal cases at public expense. Secondary free legal assistance will be provided to the following categories of people recognized to be low-income or mentally ill:

- plaintiff and defendant in civil cases;
- the applicant in administrative cases;
- offender in cases of administrative offenses;

The secondary assistance is also provided to the suspect, accused, criminal defendant or convicted. The Code of Criminal Procedure also identifies the range of cases where provision of a defence counsel in a criminal case is mandatory (usually grave crimes).

Information about the person who applied for secondary free legal assistance, upon application (request) for the provision of secondary free legal assistance, is automatically checked by the information system "Unified Register of Social Protection" and the “Unified Electronic Register of Mentally Ill Under Supervision”.

Management, coordination and supervision of secondary free legal aid, as well as promotion of primary free legal aid will be carried out by the FLA centre and its regional branches. Only the lawyers included in the Registry of Free Legal Aid Centre will be able to provide this assistance. A lawyer who wants to enter the Registry should submit an application in electronic form through the Unified Portal of Interactive Public Services.

The state budget will cover the secondary free legal assistance costs. The Ministry of economics and finance will assign funds from the state budget as per the request of Free Legal Aid Centre according to the document that confirms provisions of secondary free legal aid. The allocation of costs will be regulated by the instruction signed by the Ministry of Justice and Ministry of economics and finance. A lawyer’s remuneration for providing secondary free legal assistance will be established by the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

While the legislation of the Republic of Uzbekistan provides a reasonable basis for the inception of the free legal aid system, it would benefit from additional amendments and reviews. In particular, the main anticipated challenge is the limited number of primary free legal aid providers. As per practice primary free legal aid can be provided by law clinics under higher educational institutions specialized in training in the field of jurisprudence and non/government and non/profit organizations established for the provision of primary free legal aid.. A number of higher educational institutions specialized in training in the field of jurisprudence is limited in Uzbekistan. In mid-2020, it was reported that there are six such institutions in Uzbekistan.

With regard to the NGOs, despite recent developments in legislation regarding NGO since 2018 (these include decrease amount of state fees for registration of NGOs, their symbols and representative offices and branches were considerably reduced, application lead time for NGO registration was reduced from two to one month and developing a web portal, e-ngo.uz, to reduce paperwork and allow registration, reporting, etc.), in recent years, number of applications to MoJ on registration of 'self-initiated NGOs' have not increased and therefore, such self-initiated NGOs constitute about 35% of the total number of registered NGOs. Such self-initiated NGOs also lack financing from government bodies³⁶.

Additionally, , the scope of primary legal aid could be broadened as their purpose to provide early intervention mechanisms and techniques to help resolve legal disputes quickly and, as far as possible, at the source – this, in turn, expects to alleviate financial demands on the legal aid scheme and, more generally, pressure on the legal system. Such assistance usually entails the provision of information on the law and the legal system and, in particular, on legal rights, obligations, and remedies and, therefore, should be widely and easily accessible for everyone. In this regard, the range of providers can be extended, relying not only on NGOs and legal clinics but also for example, on integrated and/or holistic public services (for example, “one-stop shops”) in areas such as social policy, health, housing, employment and education and IT solutions.

Therefore, it is critical for the project to start from the baseline assessment of actual legal aid needs, of the so called “demand” and of the “supply”, i.e. availability and accessibility of free legal aid providers (especially, both primary and secondary free legal aid providers). The assessment and the mapping will help the project suggest improvements to the legislation and develop a legal framework defining the role and functions of FLAC in organization and promoting the provision of primary free legal aid.

When it comes to the secondary free legal assistance, there will be the need to advocate for broadening the eligibility criteria since, for the time being, it's limited to the low income and mentally ill people and those who require defense council in criminal cases. The project will try to address this by supporting the analysis of the

³⁶ <https://fpc.org.uk/challenges-ngos-in-uzbekistan-are-still-facing/>

legal aid needs of vulnerable populations, including women in rural areas, people with disabilities, and youth. Based on the analysis, the project will advocate the changes to the law.

The capacities of free legal aid providers (both providers of primary and secondary free legal aid) to effectively protect human rights and effectively disseminate information on human rights should also be strengthened. Moreover, the ecosystem should envisage coordination between providers of primary and secondary free legal aid providers to increase their efficiency and coordination. There will also be the need to develop by-laws to address the lack of clarity in the law on monitoring the quality of services of the free legal aid providers, the organization and operational functioning of Free Legal Aid Centres, and its branches and related data collection, where data disaggregation shall be a key operation. The data shall be grouped by dimension, such as sex, age, geographic area (place city/countryside)), disability status and/or other socioeconomic variables per necessity. High quality, accessible, trusted, timely, open, and reliable disaggregated data is critical to generating valuable information for decision-making in real time, enhancing understanding of a situation and to identify and characterize the factors that slow or accelerate transmission and the populations that are most vulnerable.

Limited capacities of Ombudsperson's office and lack of effective interaction between Ombudsperson's office and civil society organizations

The assessment of the Ombudsperson office conducted in 2018³⁷ identified the following challenges that include:

- little understanding of human rights amongst the people of Uzbekistan and in government agencies;
- insufficient resources to employ sufficient staff;
- the voluntary (non-paid) nature of the regional representatives, work and the lack of secretariats in the regions;
- insufficient funding to expand promotion and protection program activities;
- lack of gender balance and diversity among leadership and staff.

Within this area of reforms, Uzbekistan significantly revisited the powers and capacities of the Authorized Person of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan for Human Rights (Ombudsman).

The national preventive mechanism for the prevention of torture (NPM) was also established through public control over the rights of persons in places of detention and other closed institutions³⁸. As per the above-mentioned decree, Uzbekistan has adopted 'Ombudsman plus model', which envisages the establishment of public expert groups that include experts of the National Centre for Human Rights, medical workers, representatives of non-governmental non-profit organizations, the media, and other civil society institutions (Ombudsman plus model). After assigning this mandate to the Ombudsman office, 76 monitoring visits to places of detention and other closed institutions were organized in 2020. The Ombudsman office has reviewed 14 975 petitions and organized 42 monitoring visits to penal institutions. These and other reforms of the Office

³⁷ Ombudsman / Commissioner for Human Rights of the Oliy Majlis/Parliament of Uzbekistan Capacity Assessment, https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/Treaties/CAT/Shared%20Documents/UZB/INT_CAT_IFL_UZB_34684_E.pdf

³⁸ Resolution of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan on additional measures to improve the system of detection and prevention of cases of torture, dated 26.06.2021, No. PP-5163, <https://lex.uz/docs/5475610>

of Ombudsman office in Uzbekistan resulted in accreditation Ombudsman office in the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI) with B status upon recommendation of the Sub-Committee on Accreditation (SCA)³⁹. It must also be noted that the government of Uzbekistan has declared its intention to ratify the OPCAT by requesting the National Center for Human Rights, together with the Ombudsman and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, to submit proposals to the Cabinet of Ministers on the issue of accession of the Republic of Uzbekistan to the OPCAT.

In its recommendations on accreditation, GANHRI pointed out that 'annual, special and thematic reports of NHRIs serve to highlight key national human rights concerns and provide how these bodies can make recommendations to and monitor respect for human rights by public authorities'⁴⁰.

The same reports recommend that the Ombudsperson's office in line with Paris principles, should a) increase engagement with civil society organizations, including human rights defenders, as current partnerships of the Office focus on a small number of civil society actors that are generally quasigovernmental or Government friendly civil society organizations and b) Develop a fully costed Human Rights Education Plan, targeted at specific communities across Uzbekistan most at risk of human rights violations and at key government agencies.

Limited integration of people-centered approaches into legal and justice services

Legal and justice services are seen as people-centric and effective when they are provided in a seamless, coordinated, and inclusive manner, available to everyone equally while focusing on specific, vulnerable groups. These services match people's needs and help build empowerment, prioritize proactivity, prevent and timeliness, and focus on substantive outcomes and fairness⁴¹.

Since the initiation of reforms, Uzbekistan has introduced several mechanisms that indirectly match some of the OECD's criteria for people-centered design and delivery of legal and justice services. These include:

- Prevention, proactivity, and timeliness of legal and justice services: establishing people's receptions in 2017, right after assuming power by President Mirziyoyev, created a mechanism that contributed to the timely resolution of people's grievances. It must be noted that people's receptions are still operational, they cover all regions of Uzbekistan.
- amending the law of the Republic of Uzbekistan' On applications of physical and legal entities' which requires government authorities to provide legal explanations to applicants⁴².
- As mentioned above, the broad introduction of ICT in courts and interactive services to provide legal consultations aimed to increase the accessibility of justice.

These examples show that Uzbekistan has made efforts to implement some aspects of the people-centered delivery of legal and justice services. Still, these efforts were neither sustainable nor long-lasting. The main reason for this lack of a systematic and holistic approach to identifying legal needs is the lack of public

³⁹ Article in Xalk Sozi newspaper 'How deputies evaluated activities of Ombudsperson in 2020', <https://xs.uz/ru/post/kak-deputaty-otsenili-deyatelnost-ombudsmanna-za-2020-god>

⁴⁰ Global Alliance Of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI), Report and Recommendations of the Virtual Session of the Sub-Committee on Accreditation (SCA), 2020, <https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Countries/NHRI/GANHRI/SCA%20Report%20December%202020%20-%2024012021%20-%20En.pdf>

⁴¹ Governance as an SDG accelerator, Chapter 6. Governance frameworks to ensure equal access to justice and citizens' legal empowerment, OECD, <https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/sites/cae781ce-en/index.html?itemId=/content/component/cae781ce-en>

⁴² Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan on appeals of individuals and legal entities, dated 11.09.2017, No. ZRU-445 <https://lex.uz/docs/2509998>

participation in law and policy-making processes related to access to justice and legal aid and weak, ineffective justice data collection systems.

Low level of legal awareness on human rights and empowerment for people, mainly living in rural areas

As stated above, Uzbekistan provided a periodic report to the U.N. treaty bodies that have systematically reported activities taken and organized events to increase legal awareness and literacy for the population. These activities were aimed to disseminate information on reforms and changes in the legislation of Uzbekistan. Moreover, the National Strategy on human rights specifically stressed the need for increased quality and focus of legal awareness raising activities in human rights. At the same time, the absence of free legal aid providers, lack of civil society and non-government organizations that can be most effective in legal awareness and empowerment does not ensure the sustainability of activities in this area.

Another essential factor negatively affecting access to justice in Uzbekistan is the absence of a people-centred approach in legal and justice services. The people-centred approach empowers people to understand and use the law, provides people-centred justice services, and enables fair outcomes and remedies.

The absence of legal aid providers, lack of tools for legal needs analyses, limited participation of the Ombudsperson's office, civil society, and non-government organizations in legal drafting, limited and unfocused awareness-raising on human rights are the factors that evidence absence of 'people-centred approach' in legal and justice services.

Therefore, lack of access to justice and the absence of people-centred justice approaches are the key development challenges that impede ensuring the rule of law and further reforming the judicial and legal system' to protect human rights in Uzbekistan effectively.

III. STRATEGY

The proposed Project's Strategy is aligned with the national development priorities of the Republic of Uzbekistan that is reflected in the 'Development Strategy of new Uzbekistan' announced by the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan.⁴³ The second pillar of this Strategy declares that ensuring justice and the rule of law are fundamental and necessary conditions for building a people's state and respecting a person's honour and dignity.

The Project is also aligned with the National Strategy on human rights that envisage ensuring rule of law and increasing efficiency of national justice sector actors to effectively protect and promote human rights. The same Strategy and Action plan on improving the activities of the Authorized Person of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan for Human Rights⁴⁴ stressed the need for increasing practical cooperation of state bodies with civil society organizations. Furthermore, crosscutting gender activities of the Project are aligned

⁴³ Statement by President elect Shavkat Mirziyoyev at the joint session of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan dedicated to the inauguration ceremony <https://president.uz/uz/lists/view/4743> --- <https://lex.uz/ru/pdfs/5841077>

⁴⁴ Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan on measures to improve the activities of the Authorized Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan for human rights (Ombudsman), dated 10.09.2021, No. UP-6312, <https://lex.uz/docs/5625271>

with the priority areas of National Gender Strategy⁴⁵, including priority area #5 'Ensuring equal rights and opportunities for women and men in the prevention of harassment and violence.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development Strategy of new Uzbekistan - Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan 'On approval of the national Strategy of the Republic of Uzbekistan on human rights'. - Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan' On measure for improving activities of Authorized Person of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic - Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan' On additional measures to improve the system for detecting and preventing cases of torture - Decision of the Senate of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan' On approval of the Strategy for achieving gender equality in the Republic of - Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan' On measures for further improvement of the activities of bodies and institutions of justice

The Project strategizes on strengthening capacities of the key government institutions and NGOs responsible for establishment of the free legal aid system and the Ombudsperson office, and justice sector actors contribute to Outcome 1 ('Institutions are able to respond to the needs and rights of citizens') and Outcome 2 ('Empowered people who are better able to claim and defend their rights') of the Priority Area 1 of the Programme for Development Cooperation of Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland 2021–2024.

The Project's Strategy is also aligned with the Strategic Priority A ('Effective governance and justice for all') of the Outcome 1 of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) for 2021-2025 that aims 'By 2025, all people and groups in Uzbekistan, especially the most vulnerable, demand and benefit from enhanced accountable, transparent, inclusive and gender-responsive governance systems and the rule of law institutions for a life free from discrimination and violence.

Project activities also correspond to Output 1.1 of the UNDP Country program document for Uzbekistan (CPD 2021–2025) 'Institutions equipped with effective anti-corruption tools, enabled to expand access to justice and enhance social cohesion'.

The proposed Project will leverage UNDP's mandate and current engagement in the rule of law, governance and justice sector of the Republic of Uzbekistan and capitalize on progress, best practices and lessons learned generated under the 'Accelerate structural transformations for sustainable development' outcome of the UNDP Strategic Plan for Uzbekistan for 2018-2021.

Project implementation strategy and related activities are aligned with overall SDGs and contribute specifically to SDG target number 5, 'Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls and 16 'Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all, and build effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels.

List of SDG goals and target that Project contribute to
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 5.2 (eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation), - 5.c (adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels), - 5.c (Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels), - 16.6. (effective, accountable, and transparent institutions at all levels), - 16.7. (responsive, inclusive, participatory, and representative decision-making at all levels), - 16.10. (public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements), - 16.a. (strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international cooperation, for building capacities at all levels, in developing countries, for preventing violence and combating terrorism and crime), - 16.b. (promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development)

⁴⁵ Resolution of the Senate of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan on approval of gender equalization strategy in the Republic of Uzbekistan until 2030, dated 28.05.2021, No. SK-297-IV-сон, <https://lex.uz/uz/docs/5466673>

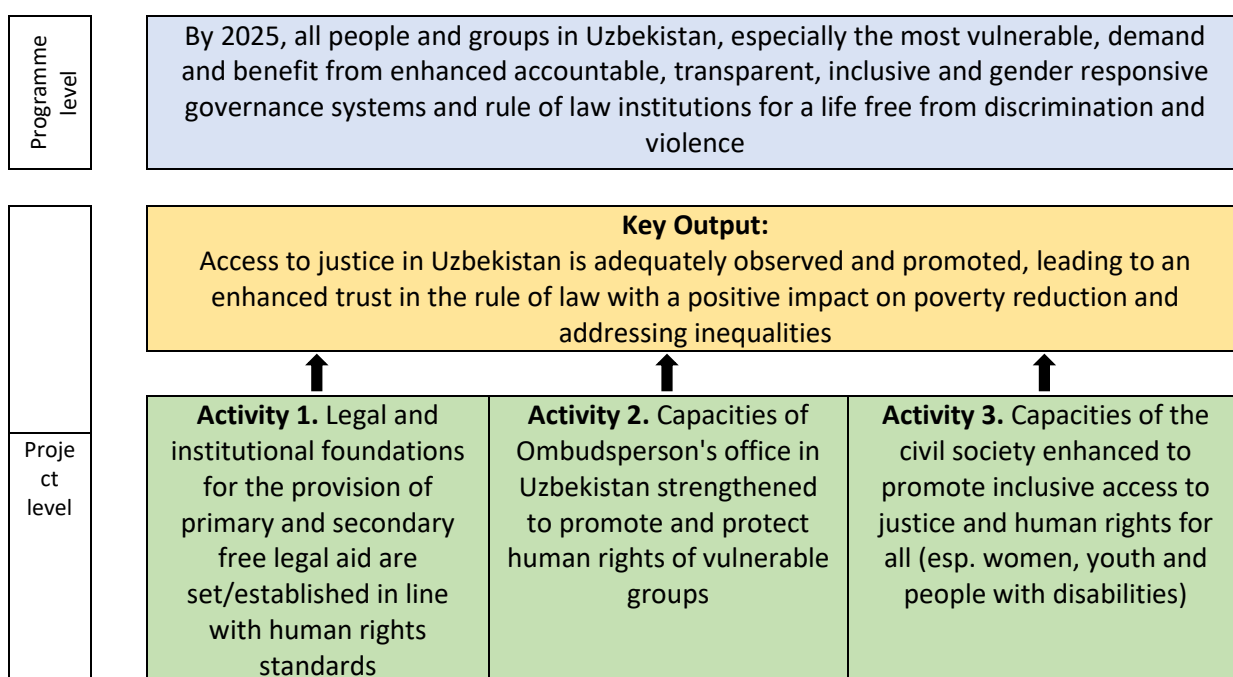
The underlying idea of the Project is **strengthening the rule of law and access to justice for vulnerable groups of the population, especially in rural and remote areas**, by enhancing capacities of free legal aid providers, the Ombudsperson office, and justice sector actors as well as by improving their cooperation with civil society and non-governmental organizations to protect and promote human rights effectively.

Therefore, Project takes a cross-sectoral approach among various human rights institutions and justice actors to strengthen the rule of law and human rights, building on current national priorities in the rule of law. The **primary goal** of the Project is *'Population especially rural women, youth and people with disabilities benefit from increased access to justice, provided via effective free legal aid mechanisms focused on their legal needs.'*

The theory of change of this Project is as follows:

If legal and institutional foundations for free legal aid system, focusing on enhancing both primary and secondary free legal aid, are established in line with human rights standards, the capacities of Ombudsperson's office in Uzbekistan are strengthened to promote and protect human rights of vulnerable populations, widened number of qualitative free/ pro bono legal aid providers as well of the capacity of civil society is enhanced to promote inclusive access to justice and human rights (esp. of women, youth and people with disabilities); then the access to justice in Uzbekistan will be more adequately observed and promoted, leading to an enhanced trust in the rule of law with a positive impact on poverty reduction and addressing inequalities.

Theory of change



Note: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland, which is the donor of the project, and UNDP, as the implementing partner of the project, take different approaches to interpreting the content and scope of the concepts Outcome and Output. The understanding of the Outcome by MFA of Finland corresponds to the Output level in understanding of the UNDP. Accordingly, the Output, as understood by the Finnish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, corresponds to the understanding of the UNDP Key Results Activity. Therefore, the project

document will use the Finnish MFA interpretation as the main text with UNDP interpretation in brackets, while the UNDP interpretation will be used in UNDP internal systems to maintain internal consistency.

The **Project Key Outcome** is (UNDP Output): “Access to justice in Uzbekistan is adequately observed and promoted, leading to an enhanced trust in the rule of law with a positive impact on poverty reduction and addressing inequalities”. It will be achieved through the following three outcomes and indicative activities:

Outcome 1. (UNDP Key Results Activity) Legal and institutional foundations for the provision of primary and secondary free legal aid are set/established in line with human rights standards

Under this outcome, the project will focus on establishing a free legal aid system in Uzbekistan, which will be based on the best international practices in providing free legal assistance in criminal and civil justice systems and providing access to quality primary and secondary legal aid.

The project will start from assessing the “demand” and experience in accessing the legal aid for civil and criminal cases by vulnerable populations (women, youth, people with disabilities) in selected provinces of Uzbekistan in collaboration with NGOs that represent the rights of vulnerable groups.

Furthermore, the project will aim to take stock of the current “supply” of free legal aid and develop an overview and analysis of the existing free legal aid providers (primary and secondary) with reviews of their capacities, coverage, specialization, etc. Several methodologies will be used for these exercises, including UNDP access to justice assessments, OSI – OECD Legal Needs Survey, and others. This overview will list both the existing resources, e.g. NGO MADAD, legal clinics under Law universities, online primary free legal aid by lawyers and the elements of the anticipated FLA system.

The Project will also ensure that the best practices in establishing free legal aid mechanisms, including the sustainable models guaranteed by the state, will be exposed to the extent possible to the partners, in particular during the discussions of the draft law on FLA. The important role will be assigned to the experts of the Rule of Law Center of Finland in helping with the analysis of Uzbekistan’s FLA system and relevant models from other countries.

The results of the mapping of free legal aid providers will also be featured in the interactive map and mobile application (to be hosted by the FLA center), which will provide the people of Uzbekistan with hands-on information on the closest free legal aid provider. The development of these tools will be supported by the Global Rule of Law Team, assisting other UNDP country offices in similar tasks.

The analysis produced by the mapping and assessments will be publicly shared and presented to the Ministry of Justice, FLA Center and other partners responsible for development of legislation on the FLA . Furthermore, the project will also develop proposals for the improvement of the legislation on free legal aid and/or development of by-laws related to its implementation (e.g. costed action plan). These proposals will highlight the need for widening the scope of the primary free legal aid providers, ensuring their sustainability and government financing, enhancing the coordination among free legal aid providers, widening the eligibility

criteria for secondary free legal assistance (as of now it shall be provided only to the people recognized to be low-income or mentally ill), etc.

The project will also aim to support FLA center in developing its regulations (such as by-laws, methodological tools, and frameworks, instructions, etc. guidelines, etc.). Such support will focus on enhancing both primary and secondary free legal aid and their coordination and may include support for the development of:

- Costed implementation plan of FLA legislation;
- By-laws related to the establishment and functioning of Free Legal Aid Centers and its regional branches;
- Legal framework defining the role and functions of FLAC in the organization, coordination and promoting the provision of primary free legal aid;
- Instructions and provisions regulating the provision of secondary free legal aid;
- Methodological tools of providing free legal aid (in cases as per law on free legal assistance) to the population, prioritizing women, youth, and people with disabilities as well as the population with low-income status, on financing system of primary FLA in alignment with international standards and best practices, as well as on coordination between primary and secondary FLA providers and regional branches of FLA center;
- Rules of provision of pro bono free legal aid by lawyers
- etc.

In cooperation with the FLAC and the Ministry of Justice, the project will support the design of the concepts and the establishment of 13 free secondary legal aid centers in all regions of Uzbekistan (with the exception of Tashkent city). The project will provide limited ICT or office equipment to the selected FLA providers (primary and/or secondary).

When it comes to primary FLA, the project will also support NGOs in selected provinces that can serve as primary free legal aid providers by providing them grants and capacity building. The priority will be on the regions and groups that have the lowest fulfillment of their legal aid needs and face barriers in accessing justice (to be defined as per the baseline assessment results). The primary focus of these NGOs will be on the justice needs of women (especially GBV survivors), people with disabilities, and youth. In addition, the project will facilitate the close collaboration between the FLA centers and NGOs at the regional and national levels to provide foundations for the comprehensive FLA system.

To ensure effective monitoring and coordination of providing primary and secondary FLA and ensure transparency of free legal aid provision, the project will support the development and deployment of the FLA information system as envisaged in the Concept of development of justice institutions during 2020-2021⁴⁶.

The project will also conduct a capacity needs assessment of employees of primary and secondary free legal aid providers and the FLA center. Based on the assessment results, the project will assist the Ministry of Justice

⁴⁶ Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan on measures to further improve the activities of justice bodies and institutions in the implementation of state legal policy, dated 19.05.2020, No. UP-5997
<https://lex.uz/docs/4820075>

in developing and organizing training programs. It is anticipated that these training programs will include 'Basics of provision of free legal aid' as well as training on human rights including 'On protection of the rights of women, 'On gender-based violence, 'On youth rights' and 'On rights of people with disabilities', etc.

Once the free legal aid system is in place and operational, the project will assist the Ministry of Justice and FLAC in establishing effective interaction and exchange of experience/information on FLA with counterparts from Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan etc. Furthermore, to promote free legal aid in Uzbekistan and disseminate and popularize the FLA system in Uzbekistan, the project will support the Ministry of Justice and FLAC in organizing promotional campaigns about their work, as well as regular reviews and evaluations of free legal system.

Towards the end of the project implementation cycle, the project will analyze the achievements and successes of the project, analyze the initial results of the implementation of the FLA legislation during three consecutive years and appropriate regulatory rules (developed within the framework of the project) to identify gaps, as well as strengths and weaknesses to develop respective expert recommendation and a road map for further improvement of FLA system in Uzbekistan.

Outcome 2. (UNDP Key Results Activity) Capacities of Ombudsperson's office in Uzbekistan strengthened to promote and protect human rights of vulnerable groups

To achieve this outcome project will focus on establishing effective interaction with CSOs in the area of preparation and discussion of reports on human rights protection as well as effective cooperation with government institutions to monitor implementation of such reports. For this purpose, project will support Ombudsperson's office in conducting research of existing CSO's to identify their needs, capacities, coverage, specialization, etc. Once project in cooperation with Ombudsman's office finalize the report on existing CSO's, project will assist to Ombudsperson's office in organization of discussions to develop legal framework for cooperation between Ombudsperson's Office and CSO's including non-profit organizations, women's movements and activists, etc. The legal framework will include provisions describing regular meetings between Ombudsperson's Office and CSO's (periodicity, agreeing topics for discussions, etc.)

Project will also contribute to building capacity of Ombudsperson's office in Uzbekistan in effective monitoring of complaints by population (especially by vulnerable groups and by rural population) on violation of human rights by assisting in the development of a user-friendly database for complaints management. Project will also assist in developing publicly available database of NHRIs reports. In parallel with developing database for complaints management project will design comprehensive programmes of induction, training and professional development for all staff and regional representatives of Ombudsperson's office in Uzbekistan in the areas of human rights; preparation of reports on human rights protection; developing new legislation aimed at implementation of U.N. treaty bodies recommendations (ICCPR, CRPD, CEDAW, etc.) into national legislation of Uzbekistan, etc. While these training programmes are dedicated for employees and regional representatives of Ombudsperson's office, project will work with Ombudsperson's office to ensure wide participation of representatives of CSO's in these trainings.

Considering novelty of monitoring visits of correction facilities, prisons, residential institutions (within NPM mandate) for Ombudsperson's office in Uzbekistan, project will assist in developing/enhancing methodologies on:

- joint monitoring visits to correction facilities, prisons, residential institutions (within NPM mandate), following international human rights instruments, with particular attention to women's and children's rights (reproductive rights in detention, breastfeeding, and condition of living with young children, access to regular medical screenings and access to hygiene products to eliminate periods poverty among girls and women in prisons);
- visits to juvenile detention facilities is developed with full consideration of juvenile prisoners' education and vocational training needs.
- visits to facilities for people with mental disabilities.

Project will also develop methodological recommendations on issues of expert assessment of cases of torture.

Once methodologies are developed, project will support organization of trainings for Ombudsperson's office in Uzbekistan and representatives of interested CSO's and take active participation in organization of visits to correction facilities, prisons, residential institutions, etc. as per developed methodologies.

Special assistance will be provided to Ombudsperson's office in Uzbekistan in enhancing its capacities to effectively interact with mass media to ensure wide dissemination of information on activities of Ombudsperson's office in Uzbekistan and on human rights. This will include providing assistance to Ombudsperson's office in developing and deploying communication plan of the Ombudsperson's office and dissemination of information on activities of Ombudsperson's Office in Uzbekistan and NHRI's reports.

Within project activities aimed at strengthening capacities of Ombudsmen's office, project will also facilitate twinning and peer-to-peer learning programme of Ombudsperson's office in Uzbekistan with Parliamentary Ombudsperson of Finland and/or European Union by organization of events on exchanges of experience.

As a result of these activities, it is expected that a) institutional capacity of Ombudsperson's office in Uzbekistan is strengthened in line with Paris Principles, GANHRI recommendations and other international human rights instruments, and b) public outreach capacities of the Ombudsperson's Office in Uzbekistan are enhanced and public visibility is improved.

Outcome 3. (UNDP Key Results Activity) Capacities of the civil society enhanced to promote inclusive access to justice and human rights for all (esp. women, youth and people with disabilities)

To achieve this outcome project and based on results of the mapping of CSO's (organized within outcome 2), project will focus on strengthening capacities of CSO's in organization of legal awareness raising events. Project will develop and organize specialized trainings (ToTs) for civil society organizations in human rights, women rights, rights of people with disabilities, etc.

After organization of trainings on human rights for staff of CSO's, project will cooperate with selected ministries and agencies (Ministry of Justice, Ministry of employment and decreasing poverty, Ministry for Youth policy and sports) to organize trainings for vulnerable groups and population in rural areas with participation of trained staff of CSO's as trainers. The trainings will be dedicated to raise legal awareness and understanding of rights to justice and on available legal aid providers and remedies in their closest location

Project will also cooperate with selected civil society organizations to strengthen their capacities in developing legislative proposals focusing on the implementation of UN HR treaties (including CRPD and OPCAT). This will be achieved by developing methodologies for CSO's on effective analyses of judicial, on analyses judicial and law enforcement practice as well as on preparation of policy and regulatory laws (amendments in legislation) and organizing trainings based on developed methodologies.

Project will assist civil society organizations in establishing effective communication channels with primary and secondary FLA providers (especially in rural areas) to ensure that justice needs of vulnerable groups of population are served on priority basis. At the same time, project will strive to include representative of civil society organizations in trainings for FLA providers organized within outcome 1 of the project in order to increase capacities of CSO organizations to provide primary free legal aid to population.

Once representatives of CSO's are trained on effective analyses of judicial, on analyses judicial and law enforcement practice as well as on the preparation of policy and regulatory laws (amendments in legislation) project will provide support to them in establishing effective interaction of CSO's with justice sector actors. This will include developing legal framework for dialogue between CSO's and justice sector actors and organization of annual dialogue/meetings between CSO's and justice sector actors to discuss the identified legal needs of population and access to justice gaps to promote legislative amendments in the area of access to justice.

As a result of these activities, it is expected that a) CSOs are equipped with tools and methodologies to develop policy proposals in the area of access to justice and human rights (with special focus on vulnerable groups including women, youth and people with disabilities) and b) discussion platforms to facilitate dialogue between CSOs and justice sector actors regarding policy and regulatory laws on promoting inclusive access to justice and human rights for all, are established.

IV. RESULTS AND PARTNERSHIPS

Expected results

The Project will contribute to strengthening the rule of law by improving access to justice, ensuring effective promotion and protection of human rights, and enhancing civil society organizations to promote inclusive access to justice and human rights for all. The key outcome of the Project is "Access to justice in Uzbekistan is adequately observed and promoted, leading to an enhanced trust in the rule of law with a positive impact on poverty reduction and addressing inequalities".

The following main activities will be implemented to achieve the abovementioned outcome.

Outcome 1. (UNDP Key Results Activity) Legal and institutional foundations for the provision of primary and secondary free legal aid are set/established in line with human rights standards

Activity Result 1.1. Free Legal Aid System is established and increasingly sustained by the Ministry of Justice

Main Indicative Actions:

- Conduct needs assessment of vulnerable populations (women, youth, people with disabilities) in accessing justice in select provinces of Uzbekistan in collaboration with respective CSOs.
- Organize mapping of existing free legal aid providers to identify their needs, capacities, coverage, specialization, etc.
- Research of best foreign practices in establishing free legal aid mechanisms as well as best practices in ensuring the sustainability of free legal aid providers
- Organize discussion of the draft law on FLA and identified best foreign practices with experts of Rule of Law Center (Finland) to develop proposals for improvement of draft law on FLA and/or to develop list of regulatory rules needed for effective implementation of FLA law.
- Support Ministry of Justice and FLA centre in development of regulatory rules (such as by-laws, methodological tools, frameworks, instructions and guidelines, etc.) including:
 - Costed implementation plan of FLA law through creating a platform of engagement among MoJ, CA, MoEF and CSOs, legal clinics to ensure participatory approach in FLA system and sharing of best practices;;
 - By-laws related to establishment and functioning of Free Legal Aid centers and its regional branches;
 - Legal framework defining role and functions of FLAC in organization and promoting provision of primary free legal aid;
 - Instructions and provisions regulating provision of secondary free legal aid;
 - Methodological tools of providing free legal aid (in cases as per law on free legal aid) to the population, prioritizing women, youth, and people with disabilities as well as population with low-income status, on financing system of FLA in alignment with international standards and best practices, as well as on interaction between primary and secondary FLA providers and regional branches of FLA centre, as well as between secondary and primary FLA providers;
 - Rules of provision of pro bono free legal aid by lawyers
 - Integrate into all regulations an efficient and reliable data collection system that should provide for data disaggregation by sex, age, geographic area (urban/rural), disability status and/or other socioeconomic variables as appropriate.
- Conduct regular discussions of implementation of FLA law with MoJ, CA, MoEF and CSOs, legal clinics to disseminate information on activities of FLA providers and to ensure participatory approach in FLA system and sharing of best practices
- Conduct analyses of the achievements and successes of the project, analyse the implementation of the FLA law and appropriate regulatory rules (developed within framework of the project) to develop a road map for further improvement of FLA system in Uzbekistan.

Key Activity deliverables:

- Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan' On free legal aid' developed in line with international standards and includes provisions that identify the categories of people eligible for free legal aid, based on their vulnerability and deprivation status, the types of cases eligible for free legal aid (including by not limited to rape cases; GBV related cases of divorce, alimonies, labour disputes, reproductive rights, forced marriages, and others relevant to women, youth and people with disability cases.
- Report on needs assessment of vulnerable populations in accessing justice in select provinces of Uzbekistan
- Report and an online interactive map of free legal aid providers in Uzbekistan
- Overview of best foreign practices in establishing free legal aid mechanisms with suggestions/proposals to enhance draft FLA law
- Costed implementation plan of FLA law;
- By-laws related to the Free Legal Aid;
- Legal framework defining role and functions of FLAC in the organization and promoting the provision of primary free legal aid;
- Instructions and provisions regulating provision of primary and secondary free legal aid;
- Methodological tools of providing free legal aid (in cases as per law on free legal aid) to the population
- Methodological tools on interaction between primary and secondary FLA providers and regional branches of FLA centre, as well as between secondary and primary FLA providers;
- Rules of provision of pro bono free legal aid by lawyers
- Reports reflecting the information on activities of FLA providers and the outcomes of the regular discussions of the implementation of FLA law with MoJ, CA, MoEF and CSOs, legal clinics
- Road map for further improvement of FLA system in Uzbekistan

Activity Result 1.2. Free legal aid providers are better equipped to deliver responsive and accountable justice services in line with fair trial standards and due process of law**Main Indicative Actions:**

- Develop an interactive map of free legal aid providers for population with detailed contact information, specialization area, etc.
- Support limited equipping of selected FLA providers (primary and/or secondary) with ICT or office equipment (up to 13 free legal aid providers).
- Support primary free legal aid providers by initiating small grants programme.
- Support development and deployment of FLA information system to ensure transparency, effective monitoring and coordination of providing primary and secondary FLA.

- Conduct capacity needs assessment of employees of primary and secondary free legal aid providers and FLA centre.
- Develop and organize training programmes for staff of primary and secondary free legal aid providers. It is anticipated that these training programmes will include 'Basics of provision of free legal aid' as well as trainings on human rights including 'On protection of the rights of women, 'On gender-based violence, 'On youth rights' and 'On rights of people with disabilities', etc.
- Provide assistance to the Ministry of Justice in establishing effective interaction and exchange of experience/information on FLA with counterparts from Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, etc.
- Support organization of annual assessments of activities of free legal providers to recognize their contribution to enhancing access to justice in Uzbekistan.

Key Activity deliverables:

- Interactive map of free legal aid providers for population
- Reports of FLA providers - receivers of the small grants
- FLA information system
- FLA capacity needs report
- Training reports
- Study tour to Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan and etc.
- Roundtable discussions of FLA law implementation with the participation of counterparts from Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan and etc.
- Performance assessments of free legal aid providers

Outcome 2. (UNDP Key Results Activity) Capacities of Ombudsperson's office in Uzbekistan strengthened to promote and protect human rights of vulnerable groups

Activity Result 2.1. The institutional capacity of Ombudsperson's office is strengthened in line with Paris Principles

Main Indicative Actions:

- Conducting research of existing CSOs to identify their needs, capacities, coverage, specialization, etc.
- Designing and implementing comprehensive programmes of induction, training and professional development for all staff and regional representatives of Ombudsperson's office in Uzbekistan in the areas of:
 - human rights;
 - preparation of reports on human rights protection;
 - developing new legislation aimed at implementation of U.N. treaty bodies recommendations (ICCPR, CRPD, CEDAW, etc.) into national legislation of Uzbekistan.

- Developing legal framework for cooperation between Ombudsperson's Office and civil society, women's movements and activists, and non-profit organizations. Developed legal framework will include provisions on organization of annual meetings.
- Designing methodologies of:
 - joint monitoring visits to correction facilities, prisons, residential institutions (within NPM mandate), following international human rights instruments, with particular attention to women's and children's rights (reproductive rights in detention, breastfeeding, and condition of living with young children, access to regular medical screenings and access to hygiene products to eliminate periods poverty among girls and women in prisons);
 - visits to juvenile detention facilities is developed with full consideration of juvenile prisoners' education and vocational training needs.
 - visits to facilities for people with mental disabilities.
- Designing and implementing methodological recommendations on issues of expert assessment of cases of torture;
- Designing training programmes on the methodologies (developed within project) for staff of Ombudsperson's office and representatives of CSO;
- Supporting Ombudsperson's office in organizing monitoring visits in accordance with developed methodologies and with participation of CSO;
- Facilitating twinning and peer-to-peer learning programme of Ombudsperson's office in Uzbekistan with Parliamentary Ombudsperson of Finland and/or European Union and/or Central Asian countries by organization of events on exchanges of experience.

Key Activity deliverables:

- Report on existing CSOs
- Trainings materials on:
 - human rights;
 - preparation of reports on human rights protection
 - developing new legislation aimed at implementation of U.N. treaty bodies recommendations (ICCPR, CRPD, CEDAW, etc.) into national legislation of Uzbekistan
- Staff of Ombudsperson's office trained to effectively promote and protect human rights and rights of vulnerable groups, including women, youth, and people with disabilities in rural areas.
- Legal framework for cooperation between Ombudsperson's Office and civil society, women's movements and activists, and non-profit organizations
- Methodology of joint monitoring visits of correction facilities, prisons, residential institutions (within NPM mandate)
- Methodology of conducting visits to juvenile detention facilities is developed with full consideration of juvenile prisoners' education and vocational training needs.
- Methodology of conducting visits to facilities for people with mental disabilities.
- Methodological recommendations expert assessment of cases of torture
- Reports on conducted trainings

- Reports on the conducted visits within NPM mandate

Activity Result 2.2. Public outreach capacities of the Ombudsperson's Office are enhanced, and public visibility of improved

Main Indicative Actions:

- Assisting in the development of a user-friendly database for complaints management (with sex, age, locality disaggregated data and tracking all other core activities) as well as database of publicly available of NHRIs reports.
- Supporting Ombudsperson's Office in Uzbekistan in developing comprehensive communication plan, including specific gender equality and PwD related interventions.
- Assisting in effective dissemination of information on activities of Ombudsperson's Office in Uzbekistan and NHRI's reports.

Key Activity deliverables:

- User-friendly database for complaints management and database of publicly available of NHRIs reports
- Comprehensive communication plan of Ombudsperson's Office is developed, including specific gender equality related interventions.
- Press releases, statements, etc. of Ombudsperson's office on its activities are widely disseminated.

Outcome 3. (UNDP Key Results Activity) Capacities of the civil society are enhanced to promote inclusive access to justice and human rights for all (esp. women, youth and people with disabilities)

Activity Result 3.1. Civil society organizations and representatives of vulnerable groups are empowered to promote and protect human rights, with the focus on the rights of women, youth and people with disabilities

Main Indicative Actions:

- Development and organization of ToTs for civil society organizations, public activists on women and PwDs rights' protection.
- Support legal awareness campaigns in cooperation with Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Employment and decreasing poverty, Ministry for youth policy and sports for vulnerable groups (youth, women, people with disabilities and ethnic minorities) and population in rural areas to raise their awareness and understanding of rights to justice and on available legal aid providers and remedies in their closest location.
- Support civil society and government agencies in preparing the package of policy and regulatory laws and strategy plans, focusing on the implementation of ratified UN CRPD, OPCAT and other UN HR treaties by:

- developing methodologies for CSO's on effective analyses of judicial, on analyses judicial and law enforcement practice as well as on preparation of policy and regulatory laws (amendments in legislation);
- organizing trainings for CSO's based on developed methodologies.

Key Activity deliverables:

- Trainings programmes for CSO's developed and trainings organized.
- Legal awareness campaigns for vulnerable groups are conducted by attractions of CSO's.
- CSO's are equipped with methodologies and trained to effectively analyse legal needs of population, judicial and law enforcement practice on human rights as well as preparation of policy and regulatory laws (amendments in legislation)

Activity Result 3.2. Discussion platforms between CSOs and justice sector actors are established to enhance access to justice

Main Indicative Actions:

- Develop and promote adoption of legislative framework of dialogue between CSO's and justice sector actors
- Organization of annual dialogues/meetings between CSO's and justice sector actors to discuss the identified legal needs of population and access to justice gaps to promote legislative amendments in the area of access to justice.

Key Activity deliverables:

- Legislative framework of dialogue between CSO's and justice sector actors is developed
- Annual dialogues/meetings between CSO's and justice sector actors to discuss the identified justice gaps are organized to promote legislative amendments in the area of access to justice.
- Proposals on further improvement of legislation in the area of access to justice and human rights based on dialogue between CSO's and justice sector actors are developed.

Partnerships

The following national institutions will be engaged during the project implementation:

Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Uzbekistan: Key implementing partner of the Project. UNDP will support Ministry of Justice (via Free Legal Aid Centre) in developing free legal aid mechanisms in Uzbekistan, establishing effective mechanisms for monitoring activities of free legal aid providers, supporting free legal aid

providers in increasing their technical capacities, providing methodological support to legal aid providers, and improving qualifications of competencies of staff of free legal aid providers.

Authorized Person of the Oliy Majlis Of the Republic of Uzbekistan For Human Rights (Ombudsperson's office): UNDP will strengthen the capacity of the Ombudsperson's office to further enhance its capacities in effective cooperation between Ombudsperson's office and civil society and non-government organizations to promote human rights and monitor human rights violations in Uzbekistan, in effective cooperation between Ombudsperson's office and Ministry of Justice to ensure effective implementation of free legal aid mechanisms in Uzbekistan and in effective cooperation between Ombudsperson's office and Supreme Court to ensure effective participation of civil society and non-government organizations in analysing the judicial and law-enforcement practice, etc.

Chamber of Advocates of the Republic of Uzbekistan: UNDP will support the Chamber of Advocates in developing methodological framework for assessing the quality of secondary free legal aid, monitoring compliance with the rules of professional ethics by lawyers providing secondary free legal aid, promoting free legal aid among lawyers, etc.

Cabinet of Ministers: Considering the powers of the Cabinet of Ministers of Uzbekistan in identifying legal policy in the area of free legal aid, UNDP will cooperate with Cabinet of Ministers to discuss the proposals on further enhancement of FLA system as well as proposals for improvement of legislation in the area of access to justice and human rights.

Ministry of economics and finance: UNDP will work with Ministry of Finance in designing and deploying methodologies for covering costs related to establishment of FLA system as well as provision of secondary (and initial) free legal in Uzbekistan.

Supreme Court of the Republic of Uzbekistan: UNDP in cooperation with Ministry of Justice will cooperate with Supreme Court in supporting CSOs supported to conduct analyses of judicial and law enforcement practice and develop policy and legislative proposals in the area of the rule of law and access to justice.

Gender Commission of the Senate of the Republic of Uzbekistan UNDP jointly with Ministry of Justice will cooperate with Gender commission of the Senate of the Republic of Uzbekistan on project activities related to gender equality, discrimination, GBV, etc.

NGO MADAD: NGO MADAD is a first specialized NGO (with branches in all regions of Uzbekistan) on provision of primary legal aid to population. In this regard UNDP will support NGO MADAD in strengthening capacities of its employees in provision of primary FLA to population as well as their knowledge in human rights.

Legal clinics: UNDP will work with existing legal clinics to improve knowledge and skills of its staff in area of provision of primary legal aid and human rights. UNDP will also seek opportunities to support universities and educational institutions to establish legal clinics in rural areas.

Civil society organizations: UNDP jointly with national partners (Ministry of Justice, Ombudsperson's Office, Supreme Court) will support civil society organizations in strengthening their capacities to effectively

contribute to development of policy and legal proposals on rule of law and human rights via wide participation with analyses of judicial and legal practice.

Whenever possible UNDP will cooperate with UN agencies present in Uzbekistan, partner organizations in Finland in developing tools and instruments on free legal aid provision, justice centered approach, human rights-based approaches etc., based on tool and methodologies developed and implemented by these organizations. Project aims to cooperate with Legal Clinic of the Rule of Law Centre at the University of Helsinki in performing overviews of foreign experience in the areas of free legal aid, legal needs assessment, gender justice indicators, provide consultations and review of the methodological tools and instruments developed by local staff and consultants, etc. Specific activities performed in cooperation with Legal Clinic of the Rule of Law Centre at the University of Helsinki will be identified in cooperation with national partners at the project appraisal stage as well as during development of project's workplan for the implementation period. Expenses of the Legal Clinic of the Rule of Law Centre at the University of Helsinki related to such cooperation will be covered by the project budget.

Crosscutting Issues and Principles

Human rights and gender are cross-cutting components of this Project. The Project is designed with a rights-based approach to further increase access to justice for protection of social and economic rights of population, especially rural women, youth and people with disabilities and other vulnerable groups. The project outcomes and outputs are based on analyses of the current priorities of government of Uzbekistan. Project components and activities are based on UNDP's knowledge of priorities of national partners which were identified during UNDP's long standing history of cooperation with national agencies in Uzbekistan via various projects/interventions before 2022. It is expected that at the initiation of the project (appraisal stage) as well as through-out the implementation of project, bi-annual consultations with all involved national partners will be organized to ensure that project goals, outcomes and outputs are in line with both national priorities and international commitments of Uzbekistan in the area of rule of law, human rights and access to justice.

Gender issues will be addressed by developing focused publications on women rights, gender equality and domestic violence that will be disseminated during trainings and events organized in cooperation with Ministry of Justice and Ombudsperson's Office. Project will also organize trainings for free legal aid providers and civil society organizations on legal instruments and techniques to effectively protect domestic violence victims.

Project will support Ombudsperson's Office in promoting the implementation of U.N. treaty body recommendations related to human rights and gender equality into national legislation of Uzbekistan.

Within project activities related to implementing people-centered justice delivery approaches, Project will develop new gender indicators (as well as justice data) and support justice sector actors in improving collection of information on these indicators and improved justice data, with appropriate data disaggregation.

Project will cooperate with national justice sector actors to implement human rights-based approach in their activities on analyses of judicial and law enforcement practice.

Project will also support the Ministry of Justice in implementing National Gender Strategy of the Republic of Uzbekistan (para 10) which envisages systematic legal education and women empowerment events.

The Project will also cooperate with relevant CSOs that work with people with disabilities to provide training on human rights and 'disability discrimination' and on measures to effectively protect people with disabilities from discrimination.

South-South Cooperation and Triangular Cooperation (SSC / TrC)

Building on achievements and results of access to justice interventions of UNDP in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, Project will support sharing experiences and good practices in establishing and effectively supporting free legal aid mechanisms between free legal aid providers, civil society and non-governmental organizations of Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan. In addition, the Project will benefit from the expertise and experience shared within the Global Programmes on Rule of Law and the Policy Network of UNDP, gathering practitioners of UNDP from all regions on areas of rule of law, security, and human rights.

Project will also contribute to establishing partnerships between Ombudsperson's offices of Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan, as well as partnerships with the Asia Pacific Forum of NHRIs and European network of Ombudsperson's offices.

The Project will organize study tours to Rule of Law Centre (Helsinki) for the Ombudsperson's office of Uzbekistan staff to increase their qualifications and enhance their skills. Cooperation will be sought with peer institutions in Finland to share and learn the experience.

Stakeholder Engagement

The main target groups and stakeholders of the Project are the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Authorized Person of the Oliy Majlis Of the Republic of Uzbekistan For Human Rights (Ombudsperson's office), Chamber of Advocates of Uzbekistan, Supreme court, free legal aid providers as well as civil society and non-government organizations. The Project aims to work with all bodies, agencies responsible for the improving access to justice, widening usage of free legal aid, promoting human rights in Uzbekistan. Project will also strengthen capacities of Ombudsperson's office in effective cooperation with civil society and non-government organizations, which will also require that Project to strengthen capacities of in civil society and non-government organizations.

The main mechanism for involving these bodies is the joint monitoring of the implementation of the national action plans in area of strengthening rule of law, promoting human rights including action plans on gender equality. Within project activities related to enhancing tools for analyses of judicial and law-enforcement practice project will address legal issues faced by women, youth, and people with disabilities to develop policy measures.

Knowledge Management

The Project is expected to produce manuals, guidelines, methodological tools, analytical briefs, and several other publications. Project will also produce promotional materials that aim to popularize free legal aid providers and free legal aid mechanisms. Separately Project will develop and publish reports on activities of Ombudsperson's office, free legal aid providers, civil society, and non-government organizations. The publications, awareness raising materials and knowledge/media products will be produced in an easy to understand and user-friendly manner to widen their target audience. Whenever possible, the Project will conduct presentations of project publications with a variety of project stakeholders. Project publications will be disseminated via national partners.

Sustainability and Scaling Up

The Project's knowledge products, methodologies and tools should become a solid methodological basis for further sustainability of free legal aid providers and dissemination of information on human rights. Project support in developing free legal aid information system will ensure transparent and effective monitoring tools of free legal aid providers. The legal and methodological framework on analysing judicial and law enforcement practice will include provision regarding wide participation of civil society and non-governmental organizations thereby ensuring their sustained capacity to develop policy proposals. From an organizational point of view, upon completion of the Project, analytical materials (programs and information exchanges, infographic, brochures, and other literature) created with the support of the Project and the intellectual contribution of experts will remain with the national partners for their use.

V. PROJECT MANAGEMENT

Project Management

The Project will be implemented under support to National Implementation Modality (NIM). Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Uzbekistan will be the Implementing Partner. The project team will be physically located in the Tashkent city. To ensure synergies and consolidation of efforts the Project will and will work closely with other on-going UNDP projects, pursuing an integrated approach.

In accordance with the Letter of Agreement between UNDP and Ministry of Justice for the provision of support services, the UNDP Country Office in Uzbekistan may provide, at the request of the Implementing Partner, the following:

- a) Identification and/or recruitment of Project and programme personnel and consultants.
- b) Identification and facilitation of training activities, seminars, and workshops.
- c) Procurement of goods and services.
- d) Processing of payments, disbursements, and other financial transactions.
- e) Administrative services including travel authorization, visa requests and other arrangements.

Detailed description of services is provided in the Annex of this project document.

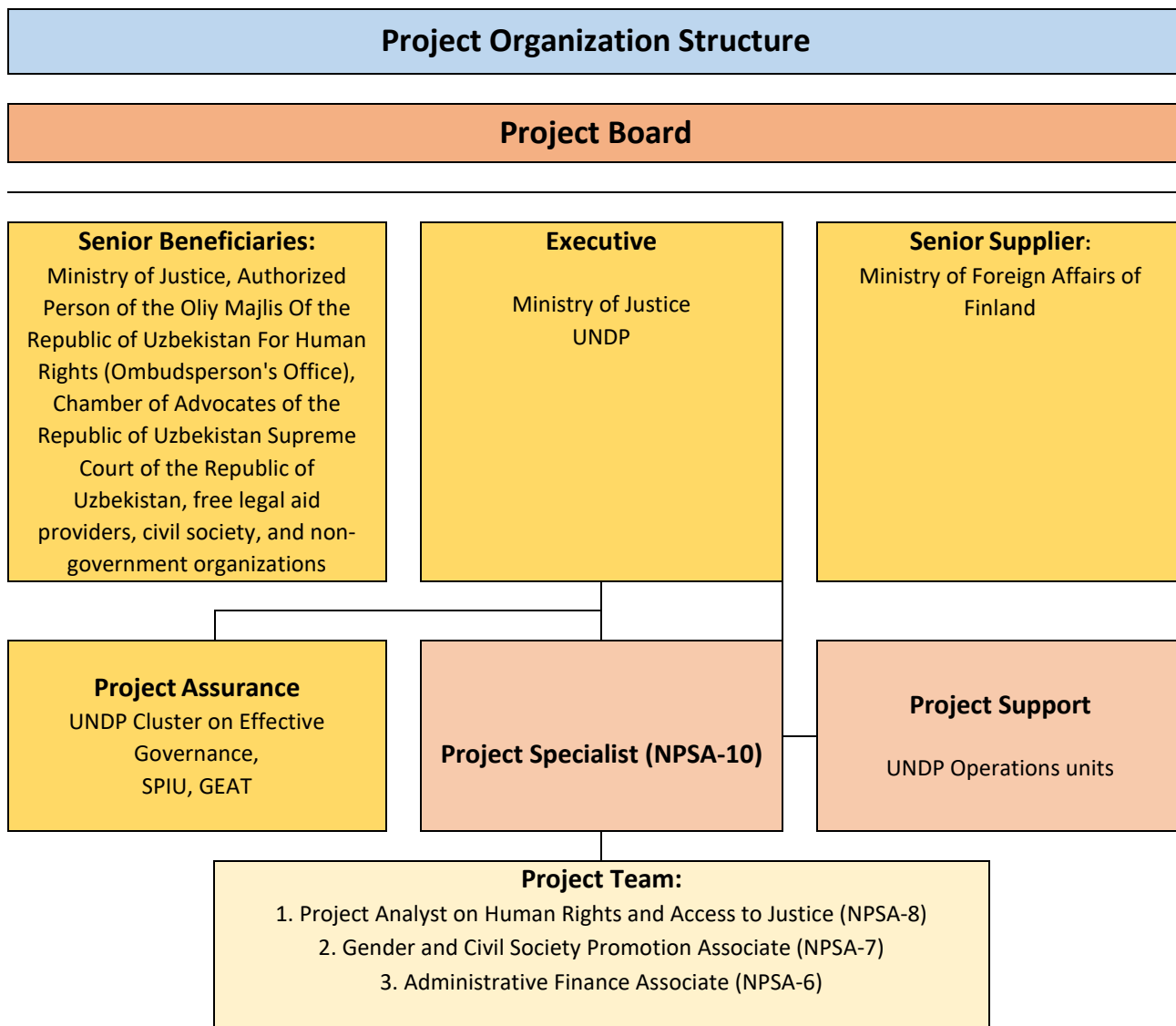
The procurement of goods and services and the recruitment of project personnel by the UNDP Country Office shall be in accordance with the UNDP regulations, rules, policies, and procedures. If the requirements for support services by the country office change during the life of the Project, the annex to the project document will be revised with the mutual agreement of the UNDP Resident Representative and the Implementing Partner. The goods procured within the framework of the Project and necessary for the implementation of its activities, I.T. equipment & office furniture shall be transferred to the ownership of the Implementing Partner, unless the Project Board decides otherwise, or the goods have been procured from the funds provided by third parties and the agreements with them stipulate other arrangements. The relevant provisions of the Standard Basic Assistance Agreement (SBAA) between the Government of Uzbekistan & the UNDP, signed by Parties on June 10, 1993, incl. the provisions on liability and privileges & immunities, shall apply to the provision of such support services.

Any claim or dispute arising under or in connection with the provision of support services by the UNDP country office in accordance with this document shall be handled pursuant to the relevant provisions of the SBAA.

Audit Arrangements: The Audit will be conducted in accordance with the established UNDP procedures set out in the Programming and Finance manuals by the legally recognized auditor.

Use of institutional logos on project deliverables: To accord proper acknowledgement to UNDP for providing funding, UNDP should appear on all relevant project publications, including among others, project hardware purchased with UNDP funds. Any citation on publications regarding projects funded by UNDP should also accord proper acknowledgement to UNDP. The UNDP logo should be more prominent – and separated from any other logo, if possible, as U.N. visibility is important for security purposes.

VI. GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS



The Project Board will direct the Project and will be responsible for adoption of strategic management decisions for a project. It will be chaired by the Minister of Justice and co-chaired by UNDP Resident Representative. Ministry of Justice will serve as the Project Executive. Project Board shall adopt decision by consensus. The Project Board will meet not less than once a year to review the strategic direction of the Project, ensuring accountability and proper oversight. The board meetings will also provide a forum for rigorous quality control and review of progress. This will entail setting and revising deliverables and achievement of benchmarks, alongside opportunities for fine-tuning and adjustments, including any prioritization of activities if the Project is not fully funded. Project Board will provide guidance when requested by the Project Manager, who will be responsible for daily management of the project activities and will be accountable to Project Board. This may include Project Manager's recommendations for Project Board (and other partners) of approval of project's annual actions plans and their revisions. To ensure UNDP's ultimate accountability, Project Board decisions should be made in accordance with standards that shall ensure best value to money, fairness, integrity transparency and effective international coordinating. Detailed roles and responsibilities of the Project Board are provided in Annex 2 of this Project Document.

The Project Board contains three roles, including:

1) An Executive: individual (National Project Coordinator from Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the UNDP Resident Representative) representing the project ownership to chair the group.

2) Senior Supplier: representing the interests of the parties concerned which provide funding and/or technical expertise to the Project. The Senior Supplier's primary function within the Board is to provide guidance regarding the technical feasibility of the Project.

3) Senior Beneficiary: Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Uzbekistan (1 representative) representing the interests of those who will ultimately benefit from the Project. The Senior Beneficiary's primary function within the Board is to ensure the realization of project results from the perspective of project beneficiaries. Other beneficiaries also include Authorized Person of the Oliy Majlis Of the Republic of Uzbekistan For Human Rights (Ombudsperson), Chamber of Advocates of the Republic of Uzbekistan Supreme Court of the Republic of Uzbekistan, free legal aid providers, civil society, and non-government organizations, etc. (1 representative from each agency).

Project Assurance in general is the responsibility of each Project Board member, while specific quality assurance rests with UNDP Effective Governance cluster and other respective UNDP in Uzbekistan Units; however, the Project Board may delegate this role. The Project Assurance role supports the Project Board by carrying out objective and independent project oversight and monitoring functions. This role ensures appropriate project management milestones are managed and completed.

The Project Support role provides project administration, management and technical support to the Project Manager as required by the needs of the individual Project or Project Manager. The provision of any Project Support on a formal basis is optional. It is necessary to keep Project Support and Project Assurance roles separate to maintain the independence of Project Assurance.

In the Project's final year, the Project Board shall hold an end-of project review to evaluate the quality of project deliverables, sustainability of results, capture lessons learned and discuss opportunities for scaling up and sharing project results with relevant audiences. It will also assess Final Project Review Report during a formal meeting organized at least one month prior to the completion date of the Project.

The Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Uzbekistan as Implementing partner will be responsible for overall coordination of the Project. The Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Uzbekistan will appoint National Project Coordinator (NPC). Overall responsibilities of NPC are providing strategic guidance and strategic coordination of activities with consideration of interests of all national partners of the Project including (but not limited to): Ombudsperson's Office, Chamber of Advocates of the Republic of Uzbekistan Supreme Court of the Republic of Uzbekistan, free legal aid providers, civil society, and non-government organizations, etc.

The Project Team will consist of:

a) **Project Specialist (Manager)**, who will be responsible for the operational management of the project according to the project document, UNDP corporate rules and procedures, donor requirement, overseeing strategic planning process for the project and ensuring its implementation in accordance with the signed project document, producing the results specified in the project document, to the required standard of quality and within the specified constraints of time and cost;

b) **Project Analyst on Human Rights and Access to Justice (Task Manager)**, who, under the guidance and direct supervision of Project Specialist and working in close collaboration with other team members, will provide support to national stakeholders, mainly government partners, in capacity building, strengthening their professional knowledge and skills to effectively implement country commitments in terms of human rights and access to justice (Outcomes 1,2);

c) **Gender and Civil Society Promotion Associate**, who, under the guidance and direct supervision of Project Specialist and working in close collaboration with other team members, will integrate the principles of gender equality, empowerment of women, people with disabilities and other vulnerable segments of the population in the field of access to justice and the protection of human rights, as well as expand the capacity and potential of non-governmental organizations in the field of strengthening access to justice, including in primary free

legal aid (Outcome 3);

d) **Administrative Finance Associate**, who, under the guidance and direct supervision of Project Specialist and working in close collaboration with other team members, will bear responsibilities for administrative operations, logistics, procurement, finance and recruitment for the project, in accordance with corporate UNDP rules and regulations as well as donor's requirements. Prepare all financial and administrative documents related to the project implementation;

Detailed terms of reference for each position will be developed in accordance with the requirements of UNDP and the donor and attached to the project document.

VIII. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

In accordance with UNDP's programming policies and procedures, the Project will be monitored through the following monitoring and evaluation plans:

Monitoring Activity	Purpose	Frequency	Expected Action	Partners (if joint)	Cost
Track results progress	Progress data against the results indicators in the RRF will be collected and analysed to assess the progress of the Project in achieving the agreed outputs.	Biannually	Slower than expected progress will be addressed by project management.	Project Board, Beneficiaries	Will be led by Project Manager within their TOR
Monitor and Manage Risk	Identify and monitor risk management actions using a risk log. This includes monitoring measures and plans that may have been required as per UNDP's Social and Environmental Standards. Audits will be conducted in accordance with UNDP's audit policy to manage financial risk.	Quarterly	Risks are identified by project management and actions are taken to manage risk. The risk log is actively maintained to keep track of identified risks and actions taken.	Project Board, Beneficiaries	Will be led by Project Manager within their TOR
Learn	Knowledge, good practices, and lessons will be captured regularly, as well as actively sourced from other projects and partners and integrated back into the Project.	At least annually	Relevant lessons are captured by the project team and used to inform management decisions.	Project Board, Beneficiaries	Will be led by Project Manager within their TOR
Annual Project Quality Assurance	The quality of the Project will be assessed against UNDP's quality standards to identify project strengths and weaknesses and to inform management decision	Once in two years	Areas of strength and weakness will be reviewed and used to inform decisions to improve project performance.	Project Board, Beneficiaries	Will be led by Project Manager within their TOR

	making to improve the Project.				
Project Report	A progress report will be presented to the Project Board and key stakeholders, consisting of progress data showing the results achieved against pre-defined annual targets at the output level, the annual project quality rating summary, an updated risk long with mitigation measures, and any evaluation or review reports prepared over the period.	Annually, and at the end of the Project (final report)	Measuring efficiency of project against its expected goals	Project Board	Will be led by Project Manager within their TOR
Project Review (Project Board)	The Project's governance mechanism (i.e., project board) will hold regular project reviews to assess the performance of the Project and review the Multi-Year Work Plan to ensure realistic budgeting over the life of the Project. In the Project's final year, the Project Board shall hold an end-of project review to capture lessons learned and discuss opportunities for scaling up and to socialize project results and lessons learned with relevant audiences.	Annually	Any quality concerns or slower than expected progress should be discussed by the project board and management actions agreed to address the issues identified.	Project Board	Will be led by Project Board within their TOR

<p>Mid-term evaluation (subject to Project Board decision on feasibility)</p>	<p>In order to assess the preliminary results as well as efficiency of project against project goals and tasks, a mid-term evaluation of project will be organized in 2023. It is expected that during this evaluation UNDP, Finland MFA, as well as national partners will be able to discuss current achievements of project, redefine project goals (if needed) and develop project strategy for 2024-2025.</p>	<p>Biannually</p>	<p>Measuring efficiency of project against its expected goals and define strategy of the project for the rest of project implementation cycle</p>	<p>Project Board</p>	<p>Within planned budget</p>
<p>Final evaluation</p>	<p>In order to assess the project results as well as efficiency of project against project goals and tasks, a final evaluation of project will be organized in 2025. It is expected that during this evaluation UNDP, Finland MFA, as well as national partners will be able to discuss new priorities of Government of Uzbekistan in the areas of access to justice, rule of law and human rights to identify further cooperation.</p>	<p>Last year of the project implementation</p>	<p>Measuring efficiency of project against its expected goals and identify areas for further cooperation</p>	<p>Project Board</p>	<p>Within planned budget</p>

X. LEGAL CONTEXT

This project document shall be the instrument referred to as such in Article 1 of the Standard Basic Assistance Agreement (SBAA) between the Government of Uzbekistan and UNDP, signed on June 10, 1993. All references in the SBAA to "Executing Agency" shall be deemed to refer to "Implementing Partner."

This Project will be implemented by the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Uzbekistan ("Implementing Partner") in accordance with its financial regulations, rules, practices, and procedures only to the extent that they do not contravene the principles of the Financial Regulations and Rules of UNDP. Where the financial governance of an Implementing Partner does not provide the required guidance to ensure best value for money, fairness, integrity, transparency, and effective international competition, the financial governance of UNDP shall apply.

XI. RISK MANAGEMENT

1. Consistent with the Article III of the SBAA, the responsibility for the safety and security of the Implementing Partner and its personnel and property, and of UNDP's property in the Implementing Partner's custody, rests with the Implementing Partner. To this end, the Implementing Partner shall:
 - a. put in place an appropriate security plan and maintain the security plan, considering the security situation in the country where the Project is being carried.
 - b. assume all risks and liabilities related to the Implementing Partner's security, and the full implementation of the security plan.
2. UNDP reserves the right to verify whether such a plan is in place, and to suggest modifications to the plan when necessary. Failure to maintain and implement an appropriate security plan as required hereunder shall be deemed a breach of the Implementing Partner's obligations under this Project Document.
3. The Implementing Partner agrees to undertake all reasonable efforts to ensure that no UNDP funds received pursuant to the Project Document are used to provide support to individuals or entities associated with terrorism and that the recipients of any amounts provided by UNDP hereunder do not appear on the list maintained by the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999). The list can be accessed via http://www.un.org/sc/committees/1267/aq_sanctions_list.shtml.
4. The Implementing Partner acknowledges and agrees that UNDP will not tolerate sexual harassment and sexual exploitation and abuse of anyone by the Implementing Partner, and each of its responsible parties, their respective sub-recipients and other entities involved in Project implementation, either as contractors or subcontractors and their personnel, and any individuals performing services for them under the Project Document.
 - a. In the implementation of the activities under this Project Document, the Implementing Partner, and each of its sub-parties referred to above, shall comply with the standards of conduct set forth in the Secretary General's Bulletin ST/SGB/2003/October 13 9 2003, concerning "Special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse" ("SEA").
 - b. Moreover, and without limitation to the application of other regulations, rules, policies, and procedures bearing upon the performance of the activities under this Project Document, in the implementation of activities, the Implementing Partner, and each of its sub-parties referred to above, shall not engage in any form of sexual harassment ("S.H."). S.H. is defined as any unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature that might reasonably be expected or be

perceived to cause offense or humiliation, when such conduct interferes with work, is made a condition of employment, or creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive work environment.

5. a) In the performance of the activities under this Project Document, the Implementing Partner shall (with respect to its own activities) and shall require from its sub-parties referred to in paragraph 4 (with respect to their activities) that they, have minimum standards and procedures in place, or a plan to develop and/or improve such standards and procedures to be able to take effective preventive and investigative action. These should include policies on sexual harassment and sexual exploitation and abuse; policies on whistleblowing/protection against retaliation; and complaints, disciplinary and investigative mechanisms. In line with this, the Implementing Partner will and will require that such sub-parties will take all appropriate measures to:
 - i. Prevent its employees, agents or any other persons engaged to perform any services under this Project Document, from engaging in S.H. or SEA.
 - ii. Offer employees and associated personnel training on prevention and response to S.H. and SEA, where the Implementing Partner and its sub-parties referred to in paragraph 4 have not put in place its own training regarding the prevention of S.H. and SEA, the Implementing Partner and its sub-parties may use the training material available at UNDP.
 - iii. Report and monitor allegations of S.H. and SEA of which the Implementing Partner and its sub-parties referred to in paragraph 4 have been informed or have otherwise become aware, and status thereof.
 - iv. Refer victims/survivors of S.H. and SEA to safe and confidential victim assistance; and
 - v. Promptly and confidentially record and investigate any allegations credible enough to warrant an investigation of S.H. or SEA. The Implementing Partner shall advise UNDP of any such allegations received and investigations being conducted by itself or any of its sub-parties referred to in paragraph 4 with respect to their activities under the Project Document, and shall keep UNDP informed during the investigation by it or any of such sub-parties, to the extent that such notification (i) does not jeopardize the conduct of the investigation, including but not limited to the safety or security of persons, and/or (ii) is not in contravention of any laws applicable to it. Following the investigation, the Implementing Partner shall advise UNDP of any actions taken by it or any of the other entities further to the investigation.
- b) The Implementing Partner shall establish that it has complied with the foregoing, to the satisfaction of UNDP, when requested by UNDP or any party acting on its behalf to provide such confirmation. Failure of the Implementing Partner, and each of its sub-parties referred to in paragraph 4, to comply of the foregoing, as determined by UNDP, shall be considered grounds for suspension or termination of the Project.
6. Social and environmental sustainability will be enhanced through application of the UNDP Social and Environmental Standards (<http://www.undp.org/ses>) and related Accountability Mechanism (<http://www.undp.org/secu-srm>).
7. The Implementing Partner shall: (a) conduct project and programme-related activities in a manner consistent with the UNDP Social and Environmental Standards, (b) implement any management or mitigation plan prepared for the Project or programme to comply with such standards, and (c) engage in a constructive and timely manner to address any concerns and complaints raised through the Accountability Mechanism. UNDP will seek to ensure that communities and other project stakeholders are informed of and have access to the Accountability Mechanism.
8. All signatories to the Project Document shall cooperate in good faith with any exercise to evaluate any programme or project-related commitments or compliance with the UNDP Social and Environmental

Standards. This includes providing access to project sites, relevant personnel, information, and documentation.

9. The Implementing Partner will take appropriate steps to prevent misuse of funds, fraud, or corruption, by its officials, consultants, responsible parties, subcontractors, and sub-recipients in implementing the Project or using UNDP funds. The Implementing Partner will ensure that its financial management, anti-corruption, and anti-fraud policies are in place and enforced for all funding received from or through UNDP.
10. The requirements of the following documents, then in force at the time of signature of the Project Document, apply to the Implementing Partner: (a) UNDP Policy on Fraud and other Corrupt Practices and (b) UNDP Office of Audit and Investigations Investigation Guidelines. The Implementing Partner agrees to the requirements of the above documents, which are an integral part of this Project Document and are available online at www.undp.org.
11. If an investigation is required, UNDP has the obligation to conduct investigations relating to any aspect of UNDP projects and programmes. The Implementing Partner shall provide its full cooperation, including making available personnel, relevant documentation, and granting access to the Implementing Partner's (and its consultants', responsible parties', subcontractors', and sub-recipients') premises, for such purposes at reasonable times and on reasonable conditions as may be required for the purpose of an investigation. Should there be a limitation in meeting this obligation, UNDP shall consult with the Implementing Partner to find a solution.
12. The signatories to this Project Document will promptly inform one another in case of any incidence of inappropriate use of funds, or credible allegation of fraud or corruption with due confidentiality. Where the Implementing Partner becomes aware that a UNDP project or activity, in whole or in part, is the focus of investigation for alleged fraud/corruption, the Implementing Partner will inform the UNDP Resident Representative/Head of Office, who will promptly inform UNDP's Office of Audit and Investigations (OAI). The Implementing Partner shall provide regular updates to the head of UNDP in the country and OAI of the status of, and actions relating to, such investigation.
13. Should UNDP refer to the relevant national authorities for appropriate legal action any alleged wrongdoing relating to the Project, the Government will ensure that the relevant national authorities shall actively investigate the same and take appropriate legal action against all individuals found to have participated in the wrongdoing, recover, and return any recovered funds to UNDP.
14. The Implementing Partner shall ensure that all its obligations set forth under this section entitled "Risk Management" are passed on to each responsible party, subcontractor, and sub-recipient and that all the clauses under this section entitled "Risk Management Standard Clauses" are included, *mutatis mutandis*, in all sub-contracts or sub-agreements entered further to this Project Document.

XII. ANNEXES

Annex 1: Risks and assumptions

Annex 2. Results and resources framework

Annex 1: Risks and assumptions

Project Title: 'Strengthening rule of law and human rights protection in Uzbekistan'				
#	Description	Date Identified	Type	Impact & Probability (1=low; 5= high)
1.	Lack of political will of judiciary to interact with civil society organizations to develop joint proposals		Strategic & Political	P = 2 I = 4
2.	Limited readiness of the national partners in revisiting the justice data ecosystem.		Strategic & Political	P = 2 I = 4
3.	Challenges in cooperation and coordination within state and justice institutions and/or between state and public compromise results		Strategic & Political	P = 2 I = 4
4.	Low level of skills and knowledge of staff of free legal aid providers can impede successful implementation of free legal aid mechanisms		Strategic & Political	P = 2 I = 4

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Annex 2: Results and resources framework

<p>Intended Outcome as stated in the UNDAF/Country [or Global/Regional] Programme Results and Resource Framework: Strategic Priority A ('Effective governance and justice for all') of the Outcome 1 of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) for 2021-2025 that aims 'By 2025, all people and groups in Uzbekistan, especially the most vulnerable, demand and benefit from enhanced accountable, transparent, inclusive and gender-responsive governance systems and the rule of law institutions for a life free from discrimination and violence.</p>
<p>Outcome indicators as stated in the Country Programme [or Global/Regional] Results and Resources Framework, including baseline and targets: Outcome 1 ('Institutions are able to respond to the needs and rights of citizens') and Outcome 2 ('Empowered people who are better able to claim and defend their rights') of the Priority Area 1 of the Programme for Development Cooperation of Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland 2021–2024. Output 1.1 of the UNDP Country program document for Uzbekistan (CPD 2021–2025) 'Institutions equipped with effective anti-corruption tools, enabled to expand access to justice and enhance social cohesion'</p>
<p>Applicable Output(s) from the UNDP Strategic Plan: 'Accelerate structural transformations for sustainable development' outcome of the UNDP Strategic Plan for Uzbekistan for 2018-2021</p>
<p>Project title and Atlas Project Number: 'Strengthening the rule of law and human rights protection in Uzbekistan' Project ID: 00128319 Quantum ID: 00122342</p>

EXPECTED OUTCOMES	EXPECTED OUTPUTS	DATA SOURCE	Baseline		TARGETS (by frequency of data collection)				Data Collection Methods
			Value	Year 2022	Year 2023	Year 2024	Final	Indicators	
Outcome 1. Legal and institutional foundations for provision of primary and secondary free legal aid are set/established in line with human rights standards	Output 1.1. Free Legal Aid System is established and increasingly sustained by the Ministry of Justice	Concept of development of justice institutions during 2020-2021; Rule of Law index 2022; UPR 2018 Concluding Observations of CEDAW Committee 2020; Respective Laws and Presidents' Government's decisions in the area	1.1.1. Absence of legislative document/by-laws regulating free legal aid		1.1.1.a. 3 legislative document/by-laws regulating free legal aid prepared	1.1.1.a. 3 legislative document/by-laws regulating free legal aid prepared	1.1.1.a. 3 legislative document/by-laws regulating free legal aid prepared	1.1.1. # of legislative documents/by-laws regulating FLA	Annual Ministry of justice reports
			1.1.2. Low score of Uzbekistan in 'accessibility of civil justice' sub-factor in the region		1.1.2.a. 100 people receiving primary legal aid 1.1.2.b. 100 people receiving secondary legal aid 1.1.2.c. 150 of unique accesses to the interactive map of free legal aid providers	1.1.2.a. 100 people receiving primary legal aid 1.1.2.b. 100 people receiving secondary legal aid 1.1.2.c. 150 of unique accesses to the interactive map of free legal aid providers	1.1.2.a. 100 people receiving primary legal aid 1.1.2.b. 100 people receiving secondary legal aid 1.1.2.c. 150 of unique accesses to the interactive map of free legal aid providers	1.1.2.a. # of population receiving: a) Primary legal aid 1.1.2.b. # of population receiving: b) Secondary legal aid 1.1.2.c. # of unique accesses to the interactive map of free legal aid providers	Annual Ministry of justice reports
			1.1.3. NGO MADAD is the only financed CSO providing primary FLA		1.1.3. 5 of primary and secondary FLA providers financially supported via small grants programme	1.1.3. 5 of primary and secondary FLA providers financially supported via small grants programme	1.1.3. 5 of primary and secondary FLA providers financially supported via small grants programme	1.1.3. # of primary and secondary FLA providers financially supported via small grants programme	Annual Ministry of justice reports Monitoring visits to regional FLA providers
	Output 1.2. Free legal aid providers are better equipped to deliver		1.2.1. No FLA Centers are present.		1.2.1. 5 Free Legal Aid (FLA) centers set up and technically equipped to support FLA providers	1.2.1. 5 Free Legal Aid (FLA) centers set up and technically equipped to support FLA providers	1.2.1. 2 Free Legal Aid (FLA) centers set up and technically equipped to support FLA providers	1.2.1. # of Free Legal Aid (FLA) centers set up and technically equipped to	Annual Ministry of justice reports

EXPECTED OUTCOMES	EXPECTED OUTPUTS	DATA SOURCE	Baseline		TARGETS (by frequency of data collection)				Data Collection Methods
			Value	Year 2022	Year 2023	Year 2024	Final	Indicators	
	responsive and accountable justice services in line with fair trial standards and due process of law							support FLA providers	Monitoring visits to regional FLA providers
			1.2.2. Lack of capacity of FLA providers to effectively provide FLA services	1.2.2.a. 2 of capacity building trainings organized 1.2.2.b. 50 of secondary FLA providers staff trained 1.2.2.c. 50 of primary FLA providers staff trained	1.2.2.a. 2 of capacity building trainings organized 1.2.2.b. 50 of secondary FLA providers staff trained 1.2.2.c. 50 of primary FLA providers staff trained	1.2.2.a. 2 of capacity building trainings organized 1.2.2.b. 50 of secondary FLA providers staff trained 1.2.2.c. 50 of primary FLA providers staff trained	1.2.2.a. # of capacity building trainings organized 1.2.2.b. # of secondary FLA providers staff trained 1.2.2.c. # of primary FLA providers staff trained		Annual Ministry of justice reports Monitoring visits to regional FLA providers
Outcome 2. Capacities of Ombudsperson's office in Uzbekistan strengthened to promote and protect human rights of vulnerable groups	Output 2.1. The institutional capacity of Ombudsperson's office is strengthened in line with Paris Principles	National Strategy on human rights Capacity assessment of the Ombudsman / commissioner for human rights of the Oliy Majlis Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan on measures to improve the activities of the Authorized Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan for human rights (Ombudsman)	2.1.1. Lack of trustful partnership between Ombudsperson office and CSOs in human right reporting	2.1.1.a. 10 of established partnership of Ombudsperson with CSOs in promoting human rights 2.1.1.b. 3 of initiatives conducted by Ombudsperson's office and CSOs on human rights	2.1.1.a. 10 of established partnership of Ombudsperson with CSOs in promoting human rights 2.1.1.b. 3 of initiatives conducted by Ombudsperson's office and CSOs on human rights	2.1.1.a. 10 of established partnership of Ombudsperson with CSOs in promoting human rights 2.1.1.b. 3 of initiatives conducted by Ombudsperson's office and CSOs on human rights	2.1.1.a. # of established partnership of Ombudsperson with CSOs in promoting human rights 2.1.1.b. # of initiatives conducted by Ombudsperson's office and CSOs on human rights		Reports of the Ombudsperson's office
			2.1.2. Limited technical capacities and skill of Ombudsperson staff (including its regional representatives)	2.1.2.a. 2 of capacity building material developed 2.1.2.b. 20 Ombudsperson's office staff trained/capacitated	2.1.2.a. 2 of capacity building material developed 2.1.2.b. 20 Ombudsperson's office staff trained/capacitated	2.1.2.a. 2 of capacity building material developed 2.1.2.b. 20 Ombudsperson's office staff trained/capacitated	2.1.2.a. # of capacity building material developed 2.1.2.b. # Ombudsperson's office staff trained/capacitated		Reports of the Ombudsperson's office
			2.1.3. Lack of effective methodological tools on NPM aligned with Paris principles	2.1.3. 2 of methodologies and methodological tools on NPM developed in line with Paris Principles	2.1.3. 2 of methodologies and methodological tools on NPM developed in line with Paris Principles	2.1.3. 2 of methodologies and methodological tools on NPM developed in line with Paris Principles	2.1.3. # of methodologies and methodological tools on NPM developed in line with Paris Principles		Reports of the Ombudsperson's office

EXPECTED OUTCOMES	EXPECTED OUTPUTS	DATA SOURCE	Baseline		TARGETS (by frequency of data collection)				Data Collection Methods
			Value	Year 2022	Year 2023	Year 2024	Final	Indicators	
		Resolution of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan on additional measures to improve the system of detection and prevention of cases of torture	2.1.4. Legal framework regulating cooperation between Ombudsperson's Office and CSOs is absent	2.1.4.a. 1 legal document regulating cooperation between Ombudsperson's Office and CSOs is prepared. 2.1.4.b. 2 dialogues between Ombudsperson's Office and CSOs conducted. 2.1.4.c. 2 of proposal documents on improvement national HR legislation developed in cooperation between Ombudsperson's Office and CSOs	2.1.4.a. 1 legal document regulating cooperation between Ombudsperson's Office and CSOs is prepared. 2.1.4.b. 2 dialogues between Ombudsperson's Office and CSOs conducted. 2.1.4.c. 2 of proposal documents on improvement national HR legislation developed in cooperation between Ombudsperson's Office and CSOs	2.1.4.a. 1 legal document regulating cooperation between Ombudsperson's Office and CSOs is prepared. 2.1.4.b. 2 dialogues between Ombudsperson's Office and CSOs conducted. 2.1.4.c. 2 of proposal documents on improvement national HR legislation developed in cooperation between Ombudsperson's Office and CSOs	2.1.4.a. # of legal documents regulating cooperation between Ombudsperson's Office and CSOs 2.1.4.b. # of dialogues between Ombudsperson's Office and CSOs conducted. 2.1.4.c. # of proposal documents on improvement national HR legislation developed in cooperation between Ombudsperson's Office and CSOs	Reports of the Ombudsperson's office	
	Output 2.2. Public outreach capacities of the Ombudsperson's Office are enhanced, and public visibility of improved	UPR 2018 Concluding Observations of CEDAW Committee 2020	2.2.1. Lack of communications and public outreach capacities of the Ombudsperson's Office and communications skills of Ombudsperson personnel.	2.2.1.a. 1 of communication plan/strategy developed 2.2.1.b. 15 of Ombudsperson personnel capacitated on communication and outreach skills	2.2.1.a. 1 of communication plan/strategy developed 2.2.1.b. 15 of Ombudsperson personnel capacitated on communication and outreach skills	2.2.1.a. 1 of communication plan/strategy developed 2.2.1.b. 15 of Ombudsperson personnel capacitated on communication and outreach skills	2.2.1.a. # of communication plan/strategy developed 2.2.1.b. # of Ombudsperson personnel capacitated on communication and outreach skills	Reports of the Ombudsperson's office	
			2.2.2. Lack of Ombudsperson's HR reporting tools available that are in line with Paris principles	2.2.2.a. 3 of publicly available of HR report 2.2.2.b. 1000 of individual complaints considered by Ombudsperson's office and recorded in the user-friendly database	2.2.2.a. 3 of publicly available of HR report 2.2.2.b. 1000 of individual complaints considered by Ombudsperson's office and recorded in the user-friendly database	2.2.2.a. 3 of publicly available of HR report 2.2.2.b. 1000 of individual complaints considered by Ombudsperson's office and recorded in the user-friendly database	2.2.2.a. # of publicly available HR reports 2.2.2.b. # of individual complaints considered by Ombudsperson's office and recorded	Reports of the Ombudsperson's office	

EXPECTED OUTCOMES	EXPECTED OUTPUTS	DATA SOURCE	Baseline		TARGETS (by frequency of data collection)				Data Collection Methods
			Value	Year 2022	Year 2023	Year 2024	Final	Indicators	
								in the user-friendly database	
Outcome 3. Capacities of the civil society enhanced to promote inclusive access to justice and human rights for all (esp. women, youth and people with disabilities)	Output 3.1. Civil society organizations and representatives of vulnerable groups are empowered to promote and protect human rights, with the focus on the rights of women, youth and people with disabilities	Concept of development of civil society organization in 2021-2025 Concept of development of justice institutions during 2020-2024 UPR 2018 Concluding Observations of CEDAW Committee 2020	3.1.1. Civil society organizations lack capacities to promote inclusive access to justice and human rights for all (esp. women, youth and people with disabilities)	3.1.1.a. 2 of training materials for civil society organizations developed 3.1.1.b. 50 of civil society organizations staff trained	3.1.1.a. 2 of training materials for civil society organizations developed 3.1.1.b. 50 of civil society organizations staff trained	3.1.1.a. 2 of training materials for civil society organizations developed 3.1.1.b. 50 of civil society organizations staff trained	3.1.1.a. # of training materials for civil society organizations developed 3.1.1.b. # of civil society organizations staff trained	UNDP reports Government reports Media publications	
			3.1.2. Lack of researches/studies conducted by CSOs on human rights, judicial and law enforcement practices	3.1.2. 2 of researches/studies conducted by CSOs on human rights, judicial and law enforcement practices	3.1.2. 2 of researches/studies conducted by CSOs on human rights, judicial and law enforcement practices	3.1.2. 2 of researches/studies conducted by CSOs on human rights, judicial and law enforcement practices	3.1.2. # of researches/studies conducted by CSOs on human rights, judicial and law enforcement practices	UNDP reports Government reports Media publications	
	Output 3.2. Discussion platforms between CSOs and justice sector actors are established to enhance access to justice	Concept of development of civil society organization in 2021-2025 UPR 2018 Concluding Observations of CEDAW Committee 2020	3.2.1. Lack of mechanisms for interaction between CSOs and government institutions/justice sector actors	3.2.1.a. 1 of legislative documents regulating interaction between CSOs and government institutions/justice sector actors 3.2.1.b. 10 of CSOs engaged in consultations with government institutions/justice sector actors on the issues of access to justice and human rights 3.2.1.c. 2 of draft policy and legislative documents developed in consultation with CSOs	3.2.1.a. 1 of legislative documents regulating interaction between CSOs and government institutions/justice sector actors 3.2.1.b. 10 of CSOs engaged in consultations with government institutions/justice sector actors on the issues of access to justice and human rights 3.2.1.c. 2 of draft policy and legislative documents developed in consultation with CSOs on the access to justice and human rights	3.2.1.a. 1 of legislative documents regulating interaction between CSOs and government institutions/justice sector actors 3.2.1.b. 10 of CSOs engaged in consultations with government institutions/justice sector actors on the issues of access to justice and human rights 3.2.1.c. 2 of draft policy and legislative documents developed	3.2.1.a. # of legislative documents regulating interaction between CSOs and government institutions/justice sector actors 3.2.1.b. # of CSOs engaged in consultations with government institutions/justice sector actors on the issues of access to justice and human rights	UNDP reports Government reports Media publications	

EXPECTED OUTCOMES	EXPECTED OUTPUTS	DATA SOURCE	Baseline		TARGETS (by frequency of data collection)				Data Collection Methods
			Value	Year 2022	Year 2023	Year 2024	Final	Indicators	
					on the access to justice and human rights			in consultation with CSOs on the access to justice and human rights	3.2.1.c. # of draft policy and legislative documents developed in consultation with CSOs on the access to justice and human rights