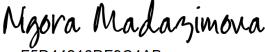




Annual Project Progress Report 2023

Project Name: Achieving Equality by Supporting the Implementation of the National Gender Strategy of Uzbekistan

Project ID:	Project Number: 00139611 Output Number: 00129174
Project Duration:	Dec 2021 – Dec 2024
Reporting Period	Jan-Dec 2023
UNSDCF Outcome and RG:	By 2025, youth, women and vulnerable groups benefit from improved access to livelihoods, decent work and expanded opportunities generated by inclusive and equitable economic growth.
CPD Outcome:	Outcome #1 indicators as stated in the CPD Results and Resources Framework, including baseline and targets.
UNDP Strategic Plan Outcome:	1.1.2 Marginalized groups, particularly the poor, women, people with disabilities and displaced are empowered to gain universal access to basic services and financial and non-financial assets to build productive capacities and benefit from sustainable livelihoods and jobs. 3.1. Women, youth and people from remote rural areas benefit from better skills, sustainable jobs and strengthened livelihoods.
Total budget:	USD 353,496.77
Annual budget:	USD 162,731
Unfunded amount	USD 646,503.23
Donors:	-
Implementing Partner:	Senate of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan and Gender Commission of the Republic of Uzbekistan, UNDP Uzbekistan.
Key Responsible Parties:	Gender Commission of the Republic of Uzbekistan, UNDP Uzbekistan.
Project Manager:	Nigorakhon Madazimova  <small>DocuSigned by: F5D44216DF9C4AB...</small>
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List of abbreviations

BI	Behavioral Insight
CSO	Civil Society Organization
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GEP	Gender Equality Project (Achieving Equality by Supporting the Implementation of the National Gender Strategy of Uzbekistan project)
GES	Gender Equality Seal
MoEF	Ministry of Economy and Finance of Uzbekistan
MVP	Minimum Viable Product
NGO	Non-Government Organization
NGS	National Gender Strategy
NWLC	National Women Leaders Caucus
PBM	Project Board Meeting
SCC	State Customs Committee

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I. Executive summary

The Project responds to the commitment stated by country's leadership to adopt a whole-of-government approach for women's empowerment, requiring all ministries and departments to support the implementation of the Strategy for achieving gender equality in the Republic of Uzbekistan until 2030, including the comprehensive review of the legal framework with a gender lens.

The project is aimed at facilitating the implementation of the National Gender Strategy of the Republic of Uzbekistan focused on concrete results in implementing the recommendations, in particular in such areas as the rule of law, judicial and legal reform, economic and social rights, with emphasis on vulnerable groups. In addition, the project will support activities aimed at implementing the recommendations of the CEDAW Committee.

The project facilitates the development of institutional mechanisms and capacity to implement the Strategy for Achieving Gender Equality in the Republic of Uzbekistan, including:

- (1) addressing gender-biased stereotypes through amending the legislation, raising awareness and empowering women leaders.
- (2) improving socio-economic conditions and opportunities for women through enhancing their employment opportunities, including by promoting STEM initiatives.
- (3) Improving the system of collection, analysis and regular monitoring of the gender-disaggregated data on women's public and socio-economic participation, gender-based violence through developing methodologies for data collection and analysis, and creating special digital tools for this in accordance with the provisions of the UN Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).

In 2023, the GEP implemented the following activities within pillar 1: Gender Equality Foresight Exercise, BI experiment, the UNDP GEP assisted in the selection process of the NWLC and awarding the National Gender Championship.

Foresight Exercise. Conducted a Gender Equality Foresight exercise: workshops to develop scenarios of further development of the national gender equality issue; established the National Experts' Group; according to the Foresight methodology created Chatbot to collect information; developed Core Dynamics and drafted Scenario.

BI experiment. Methodology and approach adopted is both innovative and grounded in evidence-based behavioral science. Recognizing the limitations of traditional policy-driven strategies in effecting profound societal change, the study pivots towards a more nuanced behavioral change approach. This approach entails a carefully designed intervention that leverages the power of influential community figures and a proven training curriculum, adapted from the successful Indashyikirwa program in Rwanda, to foster a transformation in the way gender roles are perceived and enacted within households. By combining the dissemination of information with strategic social influences, the study endeavors not only to alter surface-level behaviors but to initiate a fundamental shift in underlying beliefs and attitudes towards gender equality.

Activities within pillar 2: support the implementation of the Gender Equality Seal for Public Institutions programme at the Customs Committee and the Ministry of Economy and Finance of Uzbekistan; promote the implementation of the Gender Equality Seal for Public Institutions programme in Uzbekistan.

The UNDP GEP supported the Ministry of Economy and Finance and the Customs Committee in implementation of the Gender Equality Seal for Public Institutions programme which started in 2022. The UNDP GES Global team developed and provided recommendations for the improvement within the programme. The UNDP Uzbekistan supported the Customs Committee in developing an Action Plan.

The UNDP GEP developed promo materials on the GES for Public Institutions: short video in Uzbek (with Russian and English subtitles); posters, leaflets.

Activities within pillar 3: Develop a digital platform for monitoring the implementation of the National Gender Equality Strategy of Uzbekistan.

The UNDP GEP developed the MVP of the digital platform for monitoring the implementation of the National Gender Equality Strategy of Uzbekistan in different responsible government bodies to ensure transparency and accountability; to see the picture of the country on gender policy and give an assessment to the responsible authorities.

II. Progress towards Annual targets

Project Indicators	2021 Baseline	2024 Annual Targets	2023 milestone	2023 Actual	Comments
Indicator 1.1. The number of policy recommendations implemented by the government to tackle gender bias and stereotypes and prevent gender-based violence.	1	3	2	2	On track
Indicator 1.2. The number of unusual partners - men judges, police officers, makhalla leaders, media representatives, male political leaders, religious leaders, sportsmen and actors involved in capacity building trainings and other activities to address gender bias and stereotypes, gender-based violence.	10	300	200	215	On track
Indicator 1.3. The number of young promising female leaders trained and successfully graduated from the Regional Camp on leadership, mentorship and gender equality in Central Asia, established by the Regional Women Leaders' Caucus.	25	100	50	N/A	Delayed
Indicator 1.4. The number of young female business and political leaders attended and presented their sustainable and innovative development projects at regional forums and roundtables.	10	40	20	-	Delayed
Indicator 1.5. The number of female leaders from key stakeholders (women in business associations, women in local governance, women in CSO's) trained on gender equality, harassment prevention and gender-based violence.	100	300	200	207	On track

Indicator 1.6. Number of policy recommendations on women in the workforce implemented by the government in line with the Strategy for achieving gender equality in the Republic of Uzbekistan (reforms on labor policy, gender-responsive budgeting to improve women's position in paid and unpaid work are suggested and submitted to the Government).	1	3	2	2	On track
Indicator 1.7. The number of rural women, including people with disabilities, who upgraded their professional, entrepreneurial, digital skills, knowledge of foreign languages, business startup operation skills.	30	500	300	152	On track
Indicator 1.8. The number of rural unemployed women, including people with disabilities, who benefited from Business support programmes (through technical support to start women-led businesses, introduction of courses on skills development, women's personal and professional development).	0	300	100	N/A	Delayed
Indicator 1.9. Availability of the unified methodology for data collection on share of women in decision-making positions in all government agencies and organizations, women's socio-economic participation	Partially	Yes	Yes	Yes	On track
Indicator 1.10. Availability of the special digital tool (web-platform) to consolidate the GBV related data available from different sources.	Partially	Yes	Yes	Yes	On track

III. Narrative quarterly progress report

Indicator 1.1. The number of policy recommendations implemented by government to tackle gender bias and stereotypes and prevent gender-based violence.

The roadmap for public institutions was developed with specific actions to address gender stereotypes, prevent GBV in the workplace and provided to the Gender Equality Committee under the Senate (1). Within the Gender Equality Seal for Public Institutions recommendations on GEWE, GBV prevention mechanisms in public institutions were provided with further assistance in the development of an Action Plan for the Customs Committee (2).

The implementation of the Gender Equality Seal for Public Institutions is ongoing from 2022. After the administrative reforms in Uzbekistan in 2023 the Ministry of Economy and Finance (MoEF) relaunched the GES programme and made commitments. On October 23, 2023, the MoEF relaunched the GES programme to promote women's empowerment and gender equality among public institutions in Uzbekistan. The UNDP organized a high-level round table attended by 50 participants. The capacity building training on Gender Equality Seal implementation was organized for staff of the MoEF on 24-26 October 2023 which was attended by 18 participants.

Indicator 1.2. The number of unusual partners - men judges, police officers, makhalla leaders, media representatives, men political leaders, religious leaders, sportsmen and actors involved into capacity building trainings and other activities to address gender bias and stereotypes, gender-based violence.

To capacitate the parliament to come up with the visionary approach in collaboration with the Senate of the Republic of Uzbekistan and other critical national counterparts (government, CSO, academia, etc.), the UNDP Uzbekistan conducted an ambitious participatory foresight exercise to generate inputs for the upcoming revision of the National Gender Equality Strategy. The National Experts' Group was established. Inputs and insights were collected through collective intelligence workshops in five diverse regions of the country to analyze signals and emulate drivers of change and scenarios.

Indicator 1.3. The number of young promising female leaders trained and successfully graduated from the Regional Camp on leadership, mentorship and gender equality in Central Asia, established by the Regional Women Leaders' Caucus.

The Women Leaders' Caucus of Central Asia was started and chaired by Uzbekistan in 2021. In 2023 the Regional Caucus was led by Kazakhstan. Uzbekistan will chair again in 2026. Considering these facts, it's impossible to realize the activity to reach this indicator. Capacity building activities are available by the support of the UNDP in Uzbekistan. Project focused on capacitating the NWLC based on the lessons learned from the regional caucus.

Indicator 1.4. The number of young female business and political leaders attended and presented their sustainable and innovative development projects at regional forums and roundtables.

Project assisted in improving the concept, operating mechanism and organigram of the National Women Leaders' Caucus for 2023 based on the lessons learned in 2022. Selection of women leaders across the country was carried out in 5 areas (entrepreneurship, IT, media, sport, culture, and science), as well as representatives of the internal affairs and the prosecutor's office to raise and solve the issues of GBV in the regions. 182 women were selected out of 500 applications. Considering that the new members of the National Women Leaders' Caucus were selected for 2023-2024 in September and the above mentioned fact that in 2023 and 2024 Uzbekistan will not chair the Regional Caucus, the activities will be conducted in a different mode in Uzbekistan.

Indicator 1.5. The number of female leaders from key stakeholders (women in business associations, women in local governance, women in CSO's) trained on gender equality, harassment prevention and gender-based violence.

Meeting and discussion with the CSO representatives, makhalla leaders and women activists in Namangan region on informing, increasing knowledge and awareness on toxic masculinity through the behavioral insight

experiment in pilot region was carried out. Moreover, a series of events were dedicated to the discussion of issues and its solutions on harassment and GBV prevention: round-table on March 9 and SDG Dialogue on Gender Equality in Uzbekistan on October 4 (international high-level event). Round table dedicated to the International Women's Day was organized and the results of studies on determining the gender digital divide in Uzbekistan were reviewed. Discussions were held on ways to increase the role of women and girls in society, ways to achieve gender equality by reducing this gap, and the measures to be taken. The participants of the event heard suggestions and recommendations on how to deal with negative gender stereotypes on this topic. The participants exchanged opinions on new approaches, ideas, and initiatives to achieve gender equality by reducing the gender digital gap in Uzbekistan; proposals and recommendations were developed.

The Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Dialogues are a series of high-level forums serving as a platform for key stakeholders – the Government, the UN, development partners, private sector, and civil society, youth – to catalyze thinking and knowledge sharing on Uzbekistan's progress on the 2030 Agenda and the National Sustainable Development Goals. The Dialogue intended to build on the latest data and evidence and facilitate innovative policy solutions to provide hands-on support to the Government of Uzbekistan and the national SDG Coordination Council.

Indicator 1.6. Number of policy recommendations on women in workforce implemented by government in line with the Strategy for achieving gender equality in the Republic of Uzbekistan (reforms on labor policy, gender-responsive budgeting to improve women's position in paid and unpaid work are suggested and submitted to Government).

Two key recommendations were included in the Action Plan for 2024 for the implementation of the National Gender Strategy until 2030 by the Gender Equality Committee of the Senate of the Oliy majlis of Uzbekistan: the appointment of one full-time gender specialist in each ministry and the introduction of gender budgeting practices as a pilot in two ministries.

Indicator 1.7. Number of rural women, including people with disabilities, who upgraded their professional, entrepreneurial, digital skills, knowledge of foreign languages, business startup operation skills.

Series of trainings on Foresight Exercise were conducted in 5 regions of the country: Republic of Karakalpakstan, city of Tashkent, Samarkand, Karshi and Fergana regions. The NGOs, women led organization representatives upgraded their professional skills with new methodology and approach. Total number of participants is 109.

Indicator 1.8. Number of rural unemployed women, including people with disabilities, who benefited from Business support programmes (through technical support to start women-led businesses, introduction of courses on skills development, women's personal and professional development).

Supporting rural women is planned for 2024 via the activities of the NWLC with the coverage of all 14 regions of Uzbekistan, considering the fact that direct and technical support with business programs requires funding.

Indicator 1.9. Availability of the unified methodology for data collection on share of women in decision-making positions in all government agencies and organizations, women's socio-economic participation.

A methodology has been developed for assessing the achieved indicators according to the data and target indicators of the strategy for achieving gender equality until 2030, also including indicators related to women leaders in leadership positions. New indicators and sub-indicators were developed and proposed for qualitative assessment of the implementation of the strategy and gender policy.

Indicator 1.10. Availability of a special digital tool (web-platform) to consolidate the GBV related data available from different sources.

Minimum Viable Product (MVP) of an open and transparent web platform for the monitoring of the National Gender Strategy (NGS) of Uzbekistan was developed. The MVP of a web platform is a dashboard displaying

key metrics and indicators for monitoring the implementation of the NGS. The dashboard will be divided into 4 sections:

Section 1 provides information about the NGS, National Action Plan for 2023 and other necessary documents in line with the strategy.

Section 2 provides information on 8 categories highlighted in the NGS and targets until 2030. For each category, the dashboard will display relevant metrics and indicators and the progress against the targets as stated in the NGS. For example, the percentage of women in leadership positions, the gender gap in education enrollment, number of disabled boys/girls enrolled in school/higher education, number of women in STEM fields, maternal mortality rate, availability of access to transportation/mobile phones, and gender pay gap in the labor force, etc.

Section 3 provides information on the National Action Plan for 2023 with activities within 9 categories. Responsible ministries and organizations will report, and it will be available for users of the web platform.

Section 4 provides information on ratings of all responsible government bodies and organizations implementing the NGS. Measures will be attached to each government body and organization; assessment and accumulated marks will show the rating of the organization in implementation of the NGS and level of gender mainstreaming in their ministry or organization.

IV. Partnerships

The GEP works in close partnership with the Senate of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Commission of the Republic of Uzbekistan on the role of women in society, gender equality and family, and Committee on Women and Gender Equality of the Senate of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan. The Committee on Women and Gender Equality of the Senate of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan is a key co-lead organization in implementing the Gender Equality Seal for Public Institutions programme for the Ministry of Economy and Finance and the Customs Committee (started in 2022).

The following actions were taken for resource mobilization:

- a) a grant from the Embassy of Latvia in the amount of 12,731 US dollars was attracted, which covers the costs of the MVP of the web platform on monitoring the implementation of the NGS.
- b) online and offline meetings were held with the British Embassy Tashkent on the UN Resolution 1325 "Women, Peace and Security" on 7 April 2023 and with Mr. Paul Robbins, Portfolio Manager on 18 April 2023. Project proposal on the activation of women in the political life of Uzbekistan was submitted to the British Embassy Tashkent to the Magna Carta Foundation as well as a similar small grant project on April 19, 2023. It resulted in the allocation of a small grant by the British Embassy Tashkent for the project aimed at increasing the political activity of women in 2024. Project amount is 26,362 USD.

V. Risk and Issues

#	Description	Date identified	IMPACT/PRIORITY	COUNTERMEASURE/MNGT RESPONSE	OWNER	STATUS
1	Difficulties in interagency coordination and delays in project activities	05.2023	Impact on organizational, operational issues such as deadlines, results and products.	The category of risk is organizational. The delays were caused by the change of the focal point of the national partner (May-July 2023). There were delays in communication and discussion of further steps in the implementation of the joint plan for 2023.	PM	Active
2	Personnel changes in national partners	05.2023	Impact on organizational, operational issues such as deadlines, results and products.	The category of risk is organizational. The delays were caused by the change of the focal point of the national partner (May-July 2023). There were delays in communication and discussion of further steps in the implementation of the joint plan for 2023.	PM	Active
3	Changes in legislation	2022-2023	Policy Impact	The progress or trends towards changes in legislation have been monitored and made necessary policy advice (provided proposals for the road maps and action plans on anti-GBV, GEWE), conducted events jointly with the national partner.	PM	Active
4	Insufficiency of funding to deliver results and conduct activities.	2022-2023	Impact on project outputs	There is a constant effort to mobilize resources.	PM	Active

VI. Lessons Learned and Future Plans

High workload of senators and senior officials in their functional responsibilities makes the process of organizing capacity building trainings for them and such types of activities challenging. Also, hiring international experts for trainings and workshops for deputies and senators of the Parliament requires funds. Moreover, according to the new Constitution, elections to both the Lower House and the Upper House of the Parliament of Uzbekistan are expected in 2024, with a reduction in the number of senators from 100 to 65.

Planned activities:

I. Gender biased stereotypes addressed through amending the legislation, raising awareness, and empowering women in leadership.

- I.1. Capacitate the National Women Leaders Caucus to enhance women's political participation.
- I.2. BI experiment. Implement the interventions with local implementing partners, including collection of data and results. Present the results and lessons learned of the behavioral experiments. Develop recommendations on policies and initiatives to further scale up behavioral approaches in changing harmful social norms and stereotypes related to gender equality.
- I.3. Develop an analytical document on increasing the scope and quality of women's participation in political life and leadership in political parties.
- I.4. Assist the Senate in organizing the republican stage of the contest "Gender Equality Activist" (gender champion).
- I.5. Enhance the capacity of the National Women Leaders Caucus, representatives of women's wings of political parties, and Kengashes (local councils) as agents of gender mainstreaming in political life by providing them tools to empower and support women leaders in pilot region (Tashkent city and Tashkent region).
- I.6. Conduct awareness raising events to improve the political and legal culture, to engage more women in the country's political life.
- I.7. Provide a final report and publish the recommendations of Gender Equality Foresight exercise results.

II. Socio-economic conditions and opportunities for women are improved through enhancing their employment opportunities, including STEM initiatives.

- 2.1. Implement the Gender Equality Seal Programme in the public sector of Uzbekistan (MoEF and Customs Committee).
- 2.2. Support the Mobile Legal and Psychological Clinic to ensure the rights of women in remote areas.

III. Gender-disaggregated data on women's public and socio-economic participation, gender-based violence is collected, analyzed, and regularly monitored as a result of developing methodologies for data collection and analysis and creating special digital tools.

- 3.1. Test the MVP of the digital platform for monitoring the implementation of the National Gender Equality Strategy of Uzbekistan. Test the Gender Equality Ranking system of Government Bodies as a part of MVP.

Сертификат завершения

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Подпись

Временная метка

События доставки редактору

Статус

Временная метка

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