UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND IN UZBEKISTAN
All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.

Human beings are at the centre of concerns for sustainable development. People are the most important and valuable resource of any nation.

The right to development is a universal and inalienable right and an integral part of fundamental human rights.

Advancing gender equality and equity and the empowerment of women, and eliminating all forms of violence against women, are the cornerstones of population and development-related programmes.

Population-related goals and policies are integral parts of cultural, economic and social development, the principal aim of which is to improve the quality of life of all people.

Sustainable development requires that the interrelationships between population, resources and development are fully recognized and brought into harmonious, dynamic balance.

All States and all people shall cooperate in the essential task of eradicating poverty.
8. Everyone has the right to enjoy the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health. All couples and individuals have the basic right to decide freely and responsibly the number and spacing of their children and to have the information, education and means to do so.

9. The family is the basic unit of society and, as such, should be strengthened. It is entitled to receive comprehensive protection and support. Various forms of the family exist.

10. Everyone has the right to education. Education should be designed to strengthen respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

11. The child has the right to an adequate standard of living, health and education and to be free from neglect, exploitation and abuse.

12. Countries receiving documented migrants should provide proper treatment and adequate social welfare services for them and their families, and should ensure their physical safety and security.

13. Everyone has the right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution.

14. States should recognize and support the identity, culture and interests of indigenous people and enable them to participate fully.

15. Sustained economic growth and social progress require that growth be broadly based, offering equal opportunities to all people.
Dear reader,

For over two decades, UNFPA has been actively promoting reproductive health and rights, women’s and young people’s empowerment, as well as population and development programmes in Uzbekistan. Hand-in-hand with the Government of Uzbekistan, we have worked to contribute to the country’s socio-economic development through support of programmes dedicated to healthcare, education, and gender equality.

Since 2005, UNFPA’s mission in Uzbekistan, one of the largest in the region, has implemented projects worth more than USD 19 million that have benefited tens of thousands of people. For many years UNFPA has been the largest donor of modern contraceptives in this country, making it possible for thousands of men and women to plan and sustain healthy families.

Thanks to our enduring partnership with the Ministry of Health, we have considerably contributed to making reproductive health information and services more accessible for people of Uzbekistan. Through our joint work we have improved a number of medical practices related to maternal health, so that every woman in this country can experience safe pregnancy and childbirth.

Our work with young people, which comprises a majority of Uzbekistan’s population, has also yielded great success. Through our partnership with Women’s Committee and other youth organizations, we were able to reach out to more than 30,000 young people with countrywide informational sessions on issues related to healthy lifestyle choices.

Jointly with our partners we have been engaged in the development and promotion of the country’s first ever law on gender equality. On a grassroots level, we are supporting community education on gender equality by training thousands of makhalla advisers in the country.

I welcome you to read this publication that provides a comprehensive overview of UNFPA’s work in Uzbekistan.

Thank you!
UNFPA — Delivering a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe, and every young person’s potential is fulfilled. We are the lead United Nations agency that expands the possibilities for women and young people to lead healthy sexual and reproductive lives.
UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund, is an international development agency that promotes the right of every woman, man and child to enjoy a life of health and equal opportunity. Since its establishment in 1969, the Fund helps Governments, at their request, to formulate policies and strategies to reduce poverty and support sustainable development. It also assists countries to collect and analyze population data that can help them understand population trends. Our ultimate goal is to improve the lives and expand the choices of individuals and couples worldwide.

With programmes in over 150 countries, UNFPA has contributed over $6 billion worth of resources to developing countries. UNFPA supports initiatives that help women, men and young people:

- Plan their families and avoid unwanted pregnancies
- Undergo pregnancy and childbirth safely
- Promote gender equality
- Combat violence against women
- Avoid sexually transmitted infections (STIs) — including HIV/AIDS

UNFPA’s Executive Director, Dr. Babatunde Osotimehin, was re-appointed for his second term in 2014. As the Fund’s leader, Dr. Osotimehin puts forth his vision focusing on improving the lives of women and adolescent girls and continuing the work on ICPD post-20 agenda.
Two global frameworks serve to focus UNFPA’s efforts: The Programme of Action adopted at the International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo (ICPD, 1994) and the Millennium Development Goals, which the international development community committed itself to six years later. These two global frameworks promote the needs for education and health, including reproductive health, as a prerequisite for reducing poverty and sustainable development over the longer term.

The UNFPA Strategic Plan 2014–2017 sets out a vision for the changes in the lives of women, adolescents, and youth that UNFPA seeks to bring about based on an extensive analytical and consultative process. It is focused on addressing the unfinished agenda of Cairo, with a particular concentration on sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights.
Uzbekistan, with its population exceeding 30 million, is the most populous country in Central Asia. The country’s population is predominantly young, with children younger than the age of 15 comprising about 40% of the population, and youth under the age of 24 accounting for nearly two-thirds. Since 1993, The Fund has been working closely with the government to advance reproductive and maternal health, improve access to information and services related to family planning and ensure youth-friendly health services.

UNFPA is currently developing its fourth Country Programme, with focus on promoting reproductive health and rights, ensuring full implementation of women’s and men’s rights, opportunities, and responsibilities, and advancing national capacities in using population data for development programmes.
Training on Population Projections for regional branches of Ministry of Economy

Centre for Social and Legal Support of Women and their Families

Support to local authorities on Population and Development issues

Resource centre for young people

Support to perinatal centres

Emergency Obstetric Care

Training on Medical Eligibility Criteria

Cervical Cancer Prevention Programme

Nationwide Computerized Logistics Management Information System on Contraceptives

Republic of Karakalpakstan

Quality Improvement of SRH Services

NUKUS CITY

BUKHARA REGION

Khorezm region

Quality Improvement of SRH Services
At a Glance: Some UNFPA Activities in Uzbekistan

- Tashkent City: 11 Youth Resource Centers in Tashkent Country Office, centralized support to key partners
- Dzizak City
- Samarkand City
- Karshi City
- Kashkadarya region
- Andijan City
- Fergana City
- Namangan City
- Termez City

Kashkadarya region
Fergana region

Country Office, centralized support to key partners
WHAT WE DO

PROMOTING REPRODUCTIVE AND RIGHTS
PROMOTING REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS

WHAT WE DO

TIVE HEALTH
UNFPA plays an important role in strengthening the capacity of the health care system of Uzbekistan, so that it is able to provide high quality services in the area of reproductive and maternal health. We support national efforts on the capacity building of medical personnel, provide essential equipment, ensure safe pregnancy and birth, and improve the quality of emergency obstetric care services. In recent years, we have supported the training of more than 15,000 healthcare providers throughout the country on different aspects of reproductive health and rights.

UNFPA supports national institutions in the developing, upgrading, and introducing clinical protocols and guidelines in the area of reproductive health to conform to modern standards and practices. We provide training to makhalla advisers and through them reach out to communities, to increase awareness of general population on basic reproductive rights.

The Fund works to ensure population access to reliable information, consultancy and other services aimed at the prevention of unwanted pregnancies. UNFPA remained one of the major donors of modern contraceptive methods in Uzbekistan throughout recent years. In 2005–2014 modern contraceptives worth more than USD 8 million were supplied, through UNFPA Global Programme to Enhance RH Commodity Security.

One of our major successes has been establishment of new Contraceptives Logistics Management Information System (CLMIS) in the country. The new system was designed to take into account requests for contraceptives, and use consumption-based needs assessment methodology, unlike the old demographic-based system. It is being gradually computerized through introduction of UNFPA developed CHANNEL software at all level of contraceptive distribution. In recent years, the Government has started to gradually assume full responsibility of contraceptive financing and procurement, which marks a milestone in national ownership and sustainability of efforts.
Promoting Reproductive Health and Rights
The region of Eastern Europe and Central Asia is the only region where HIV epidemic remains on the rise, affecting 1.4 million people in the region, an increase of over 50 per cent since 2001. Access to reliable information and HIV-related services, and fighting AIDS-related stigma has proven to be a key to preventing thousands of new infections, hence UNFPA works hand-in-hand with national partners and UN agencies to support national programmes for the prevention of HIV and STIs.

In 2013, within a regional project funded by UBRAF (Unified Budget, Results and Accountability Framework, UNAIDS) and by the resources mobilized from UNAIDS Regional Cooperation Programme UNFPA has started a new wave of activities aimed at HIV prevention among vulnerable groups. Thus, UNFPA regularly trains people living with HIV in sexual and reproductive health and family planning, while also providing training for health workers on better diagnosis and prevention of HIV.

The training has helped a number of HIV-positive men and women learn about reproductive health, and prevention of STIs, as well as possibilities of antiretroviral therapy. As a result, a number of these people were able to build families and give birth to healthy kids.

UNFPA actively works to support HIV/STI prevention among so-called ‘key’ population with high risk of infection. To improve voluntary and confidential counseling and testing services, UNFPA is helping procure the necessary medical supplies, such as HIV and STI rapid tests. It also trains staff of friendly cabinets and Dermatovenerology Institute on integrated management of HIV and STIs. Furthermore, UNFPA has started working with ‘SOS Children Village’ NGO, to improve their social workers’ skills in HIV counseling and voluntary testing.
ENSURING EQUAL RIGHTS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR MEN AND WOMEN

WHAT WE DO

ENSURING EQUAL RIGHT OPPORTUNITIES FOR ME
ENSURING EQUAL RIGHTS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR MEN AND WOMEN
Ensuring Equal Rights and Opportunities for Men and Women

Women play a significant role in the issues of sustainable development and economic wellbeing. Gender equality is one of the fundamental human rights, reflected in the MDGs. UNFPA promotes the equality of rights and opportunities for men and women, and calls for implementing necessary legal and political reforms in this area. In addition, we support collecting gender-disaggregated data and the implementation of initiatives aimed at empowering women and combating gender-based violence.

UNFPA contributes to the development of effective gender-related legislation in the country. With the Fund’s support, a draft law on equality of rights and opportunities for men and women was developed and submitted to national lawmaking bodies for further processing.

UNFPA is committed to supporting the government in its efforts to further promote women’s roles in all spheres of life, with advocacy and capacity-building activities for local experts. With UNFPA’s help, several centres for the social and legal support of women were established in the country. These centres have provided counseling and support for hundreds of women in need, including survivors of trafficking and violence, and their close ones.

In recent years, the Fund provided training on gender-based violence prevention for more than 1,500 professionals from different areas including community leaders, psychologists, and law enforcement officers.
Ensuring Equal Rights and Opportunities for Men and Women
Gulzada Abdullaeva, a middle-aged woman from Kanlikul district of Karakalpakstan, gets a new start in life. A TB sufferer and a mother of three, she has struggled to make ends meet, until in 2013 she received a mini-grant for her small business in livestock breeding. Gulzada has benefited from training on entrepreneurship skills that UNFPA is carrying out for women in the region. With the knowledge and skills she received, the woman was able to come up with a viable business plan, and have a start-up that now provides sufficient income for her family.

Economic empowerment of women is a part of comprehensive Joint UN programme in Aral Sea area, where UNFPA partners with four other UN Agencies and local communities of Karakalpakstan to improve livelihoods of people living in the region. Funded by UN Trust Fund on Human Security, this programme aims to create opportunities for women and girls and support favorable environment for women-led SMEs, among other priorities.

Karakalpakstan is one of the poorest regions in Uzbekistan, where increasing unemployment, low productivity in agriculture and outdated infrastructure are coupled with deteriorating ecological and health situation caused by the consequences of drying out of the Aral Sea. Women suffer the worst consequences of the crisis, with basic social infrastructure being scarce in many communities, including clean water, gas and electricity. Traditionally, the burden of house chores, upbringing of children and care for the elderly is mostly on women’s shoulders, so women in these communities often bear the worst consequence of the crisis. Health issues among women, such as TB and anemia, are widespread. In addition, incomes are limited, as reduced water flow has ceased the once developed local income sources, including fishing and harvesting.

Hence the Programme seeks to improve the livelihoods of population, by helping with basic infrastructure in target districts, including access to clean water and gas, and also providing new income generation opportunities by developing farming, local handicrafts and tourism sites. With UNFPA’s support the programme also improves the capacities of primary healthcare facilities on reproductive health issues.

Within the programme, UNFPA joined hands with local governments to bring economic empowerment to around 200 women like Gulzada. UNFPA trained women in gender and reproductive rights, social entrepreneurship, socially-responsible business and provided hands-on support in developing business plans. As a result, several women were able to receive business start-up grants from local microfinance projects.

“I feel more confident about my own and my kids’ future now, — says Gulzada as she speaks about the camels she is breeding. Thanks to the programme for helping those most in need — the women living in rural areas, where the choices for making enough income to raise children are so limited”.

ENHANCING OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN IN ARAL SEA AREA
WHAT WE DO

LINKING POPULATION, WELLBEING, AND DEVELOPMENT
WELLBEING
UNFPA’s work on population is central to the goals of the international community to improve living standards and achieve sustainable development. Population dynamics, including growth rates, age structure, fertility and mortality, migration and more, influence every aspect of human, social and economic development. Other core areas of UNFPA’s work, including reproductive health and women’s empowerment, powerfully influence population trends.

Linking population factors to the designing of national development programmes is especially important in Uzbekistan, which has the biggest population in Central Asia with over 30 million people, according to recent estimates.

Another important factor that the country faces in recent years is external labour migration. Despite the government’s efforts to curb human trafficking, especially trafficking targeting women, it remains a serious problem.

Thus, UNFPA supports Uzbekistan in improving the capacity of the government at the central and local level to collect, analyze and use population data for the formulation of socio-economic development strategies and to promote understanding of the linkages between population issues and development.

UNFPA works with administrations of Karakalpakstan, Khorezm and Bukhara provinces to improve knowledge and skills of senior officials to analyze and use population information for decision making in the areas of health, education and social protection. UNFPA also supported development of user-friendly database of population and socio-economic indicators to be used by provincial officials in their daily work.

The Fund also facilitates population-based surveys to help the Government collect statistics on important population aspects, such as gender, family composition, reproductive behavior, migration and others. In addition, the Fund supports the training of local demography experts to ensure their access to international best practices in this area.
LINKING POPULATION, WELLBEING AND DEVELOPMENT
Statistical data about growth, movements, structures and living conditions of a country’s population is vital for relevant policy formulation, planning and implementation.

Over the past two decades, UNFPA has been supporting the government in obtaining such data through small-scale thematic surveys, to foster sound, evidence-based policymaking. Since 2010, five surveys have been conducted covering tens of thousands people of the capital city and the regions. The surveys ranged from analyzing family relations in times of transition to access to reproductive health services and awareness on health issues.

Thus, in 2009–2010 UNFPA and Uzbekistan’s Social Research Institute under the Cabinet of Ministers joined hands to conduct a nationwide survey that has become the first in quite a while to look at the issues of family, reproductive choices of young people, family budgets and distribution of incomes, as well as roles of men and women in family-related decision-making. Covering 2,200 households involving almost 3,330 families, it has become among the firsts to explore the sensitive issue of gender-based violence and analyze the typical causes and ways of settling family conflicts.

The survey also demonstrated that the importance of family as a social institution did not diminish with the breakdown of the old system and the transition to new economy model. It has also demonstrated an interesting generational gap in perceptions regarding reproductive behaviors of couples. The younger generation thinks that ideally a family should have 2 children, as compared to 3–4 children preferred by older respondents (30 years old and up). This shift in outlook may be the result of changing socio-economic conditions leading younger families to view “less as more”.

UNFPA involves a wide range of partners in designing, conducting and analyzing of surveys, and plans to engage in researching on various other topics, including adolescents’ health, early marriages and others.

For UNFPA, and a number of national institutions, the surveys like this fill an important gap in statistics on family-related matters in Uzbekistan, including gender-related data. The results are used in the design of national programmes, and fine-tuning of UNFPA's own interventions.
WHAT WE DO

WORKING WITH ADOLESCENT AND YOUTH
UNFPA promotes young people’s preparedness for family life and their access to reproductive health information and services. The Fund supports national institutions in developing and integrating courses on healthy lifestyle choices that address sexual and reproductive health and HIV/AIDS prevention issues for secondary schools, colleges, lyceums and universities.

UNFPA supports the Ministry of Health in integrating the practice of youth-friendly health services in primary health care across the country. With the Fund’s help, a number of legal documents on providing confidential youth friendly services were adopted in Uzbekistan.

UNFPA has been supporting the peer-to-peer education approach, striving to promote a healthy lifestyle among young people, and increase their awareness in issues of sexual and reproductive health and rights, HIV/AIDS, stigma and discrimination against people living with HIV, gender equality, and drug abuse. Thousands of young people throughout the country participated in training courses and informational sessions.

Working with Women’s Committee UNFPA supports nationwide initiative of this organization called ‘Orasta Yoshlar’ ('diligent youth’) that is aimed at promotion of healthy lifestyle among young people. UNFPA provides critical input in this initiative through transferring peer-to-peer teaching technique to young activists of ‘Orasta Yoshlar’. In addition, the Fund helps establish youth informational centres throughout the country, to support educational sessions that young people carry out.

In order to respond to the actual needs and interests of young people, UNFPA created the Youth Advisory Panel, which consists of young people and members of youth NGOs. The panel’s objective is to provide feedback on development and implementation of UNFPA youth-related activities and advise on their improvement. The practice of the youth panel helps to ensure that UNFPA shifts from working for young people, to working in partnership with young people across all youth related areas.
HELPING YOUNG PEOPLE LEARN ABOUT REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

Said Aliyev from Tashkent is only 15 years old. Yet, he is already one of champion young volunteers to spread the word on healthy lifestyle and HIV prevention. On this photo, Said is informing his peers during training for adolescents in Tashkent.

Said is part of UNFPA-supported ‘Orasta Yoshlar’ educational network. Building on its long experience of peer-to-peer education techniques, UNFPA started supporting this nationwide volunteer network in 2013. It has joined hands with Women’s Committee to support the activities of the network and establish information and resource centers where young people like Said could come together, exchange ideas and organize training sessions for their peers. In all, 11 centers were opened and equipped by UNFPA in each district of Tashkent and 12 throughout the Republic, one in each region.

The initiative promotes young people’s awareness on issues like sexual and reproductive health, general hygiene, healthy lifestyle and gender equality. Topics like adolescents’ reproductive health, prevention of HIV and other sexually-transmitted infections, equality of men and women, marriage in young age and others are sometimes difficult to discuss with parents or teachers, hence the peer-to-peer approach serves as good complement to formal education on healthy lifestyle and family.

In 2013–2014, UNFPA has organized over a dozen of such courses, having trained some 200 volunteers as peer educators in Tashkent only. In all, volunteers throughout the country have organized somewhat 300 activities in their communities, reaching out to about 22,000 young people with information on reproductive health and HIV prevention. These activities ranged from peer education sessions, seminars and trainings to media publications, and theatre performances for broad public.

“I feel happy and proud to share the things I know with my peers. Young people need to have access to knowledge, somewhere that they don’t feel shy asking about sensitive topics. This will better equip them to make important decisions in their life”, says Said.
HOW WE WORK

DURING ITS ALMOST TWO DECADES OF EXPERIENCE IN UZBEKISTAN, UNFPA HAS ESTABLISHED CLOSE PARTNERSHIPS WITH MANY DEVELOPMENT STAKEHOLDERS SUCH AS GOVERNMENT BODIES, CIVIL SOCIETY REPRESENTATIVES, ACADEMIA, THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY.

UNFPA aims at improving capacities of local institutions and raising the knowledge of policy and decision-makers on population and reproductive health issues. Our programmes are supported with communication and advocacy efforts to foster an environment for policy dialogue and achieve positive behavioral change.

UNFPA works in cooperation with other United Nations agencies and local communities to raise awareness and mobilize the support and resources needed to achieve its mission. We are fully committed to a more effective, coherent, and better coordinated United Nations system that ‘delivers as one’, which is the essence of the ongoing United Nations reform process.
The United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UN-DAF) serves as a platform for designing UNFPA’s programmes in Uzbekistan, along with the Fund’s own strategic plan, key international agreements and development policies.

UNFPA is also a member of several UN Theme Groups that were created for better synergy between individual agencies. Some examples of UNFPA’s joint work with UN Agencies include:

- UNFPA and four other UN Agencies together implement a Joint UN Programme “Sustaining Livelihoods in the Aral Sea Region”. Funded by the UN Thematic Trust Fund on Human Security, this programme aims to help more than 130,000 people of Aral Sea disaster area to reduce poverty, improve healthcare and environment, and strengthen governance.

- UNFPA and World Health Organization work on introducing and implementing the ‘Beyond the Numbers’ initiative in the country. Since 2009 the agencies have cooperated within the framework of a joint project that targets the introduction of a maternal mortality audit and ‘near miss case review’ methodologies in maternal hospitals. The methodology was introduced in eight provincial maternal hospitals. The work of the National Committee on Near Miss Case Review was also supported.

- UNFPA and UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) work on improving the quality of maternal health care services with a focus on emergency obstetric care. For the last three years the agencies have partnered on implementing the Effective Perinatal Care training course nationwide.

UNFPA also actively cooperates with other development partners working in Uzbekistan, such as GIZ (German Federal Enterprise for International Cooperation), USAID (US Agency for International Development), the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, and many others. Our joint activities mostly target improvement of quality of reproductive health services and access of population and particularly young people to reproductive health related information, including HIV prevention issues.
Programme Expenditures by Areas, 2005-2014

- Adolescents and Youth: $2,300,000
- Reproductive Health: $6,523,500
- Gender Equality: $1,447,000
- Population and Development: $1,447,500

Dynamics of Programme Expenditures, 2005-2014 ($)

- 2005: $953,000
- 2006: $970,000
- 2007: $904,000
- 2008: $1,200,000
- 2009: $1,000,000
- 2010: $1,150,000
- 2011: $1,100,000
- 2012: $1,235,000
- 2013: $1,605,000
- 2014: $1,600,000
UNFPA Uzbekistan programme expenditures, 2005–2011

11 718 000 $ —

Contraceptives Supply in 2005–2014, through Global Programme of RH Commodity Security

8 205 000 $ —

In total 2005–2014*

19 923 000 $ —

*Of this, USD 755,000 are mobilized by Country Office through partnership programmes in 2012–2014
CREDITS

Photographs by:

Cover page: Komila Rakhimova (3), Dmitriy Shmakov.


Design and layout: Kirill Yarovenko, Andrey Kholmatov

Coordinated by: Aziza Askarova, UNFPA

© UNFPA Uzbekistan publication, Tashkent, 2014
UNFPA Country Office
14, Makhmud Tarobiy Street, 10090
Tashkent, Uzbekistan

tel.: +99871 120-68-99
   +99871 281-58-81/83
fax: +99871 120-68-97

Office Hours: 09.00–18.00, Monday–Friday

website: www.unfpa.uz

Like’ us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/UNFPA.Uzbekistan