

# UZBEKISTAN:

## Consolidated Multilateral COVID-19 Socio-Economic Response & Recovery Offer



Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.

## List of Acronyms

<b>ADB</b>	Asian Development Bank	<b>MoPE</b>	Ministry of Public Education
<b>AIIB</b>	Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank	<b>MoPSE</b>	Ministry of Preschool Education
<b>ALMP</b>	Active Labour Market Policies	<b>MPTF</b>	Multi-Partner Trust Fund
<b>CEU/CCIU</b>	Confederation of Employers and Chamber of Commerce and Industry	<b>MSM</b>	Men who have sex with men
<b>CMT</b>	UN and IFI Crisis Management Team	<b>NCDC</b>	National Information Analytical Center for Drug Control
<b>CSO</b>	Civil Society Organization	<b>NHRC</b>	National Human Rights Centre
<b>DP</b>	Development Partners	<b>NICU</b>	Neonatal Intensive Care Unit
<b>DPO</b>	Development Policy Operation	<b>NPL</b>	Non-Performing Loan
<b>EBRD</b>	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development	<b>OHCHR</b>	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
<b>ECD</b>	Early Childhood Development	<b>PES</b>	Public Employment Services
<b>ECE</b>	Early Childhood Care and Education	<b>PLWD</b>	People Living with Disability
<b>ELDS</b>	Early Learning Development Standards	<b>PLWHIV</b>	People Living with HIV
<b>EPI</b>	Expanded Programme on Immunization	<b>PPE</b>	Personal Protective Equipment
<b>FAO</b>	United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization	<b>PS</b>	Psychosocial Support
<b>GAVI</b>	The Vaccine Alliance	<b>RC</b>	UN Resident Coordinator
<b>GBV</b>	Gender Based Violence	<b>REC</b>	Republican Education Centre (under MoPE)
<b>GPO</b>	General Prosecutor's Office	<b>SDG</b>	Sustainable Development Goals
<b>HIV</b>	Human Immunodeficiency Viruses	<b>SME</b>	Small and Medium Sized Enterprises
<b>IC</b>	Innovation Centre	<b>SOE</b>	State Owned Enterprises
<b>ICT</b>	Information and Communications Technology	<b>SP</b>	Social Protection
<b>IFC</b>	International Finance Corporation (part of the World Bank Group)	<b>SPRP</b>	Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan
<b>IFI</b>	International Financial Institution	<b>TB</b>	Tuberculosis
<b>IHR</b>	International Health Regulation	<b>TF</b>	Task Force
<b>ILO</b>	International Labour Organization	<b>TVET</b>	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
<b>IMF</b>	International Monetary Fund	<b>UFRD</b>	Uzbekistan Fund for Reconstruction and Development
<b>IOM</b>	International Organization for Migration	<b>UN</b>	United Nations
<b>IsDB</b>	Islamic Development Bank	<b>UNAIDS</b>	United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS
<b>ITC</b>	International Trade Centre	<b>UNCTAD</b>	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
<b>L2CU</b>	Listening to the Citizens of Uzbekistan	<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Programme
<b>LGBTIQ</b>	Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transsexual Intersex Queer	<b>UNECE</b>	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
<b>LMIS</b>	Labour Market Information System	<b>UNESCO</b>	The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
<b>MHSSE</b>	Ministry of Higher and Secondary Specialized Education	<b>UNFPA</b>	United Nations Population Fund
<b>MIFT</b>	Ministry of Investments and Foreign Trade	<b>UNHCR</b>	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
<b>MoC</b>	Ministry of Culture	<b>UNICEF</b>	United Nations Children's Fund
<b>MoEDPR</b>	Ministry of Economic Development and Poverty Reduction	<b>UNODC</b>	United Nations Office on Drugs & Crime
<b>MoELR</b>	Ministry of Employment & Labor Relations	<b>WASH</b>	Water Sanitation and Hygiene
<b>MoF</b>	Ministry of Finance	<b>WB</b>	World Bank
<b>MoH</b>	Ministry of Health	<b>WHO</b>	World Health Organization
<b>MoI</b>	Ministry of Interior		

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## Acknowledgements

The present document is the fruit of cooperation under the multilateral partners' COVID-19 Crisis Management Team (CMT), which was established on 12 March 2020 to enable a coherent and coordinated multilateral response to the crisis. The CMT is chaired by the UN Resident Coordinator and supported by five Task Forces:

- i. Health capacity-building chaired by WHO and Ministry of Health;
- ii. Health procurement co-chaired by ADB, UNDP and Ministry of Investments and Foreign Trade;
- iii. Socio-economic mitigation co-chaired by UNDP and the World Bank;
- iv. Protection and Key Populations chaired by UNFPA, with OHCHR as senior adviser;
- v. Risk communications and community engagement chaired by the UN.

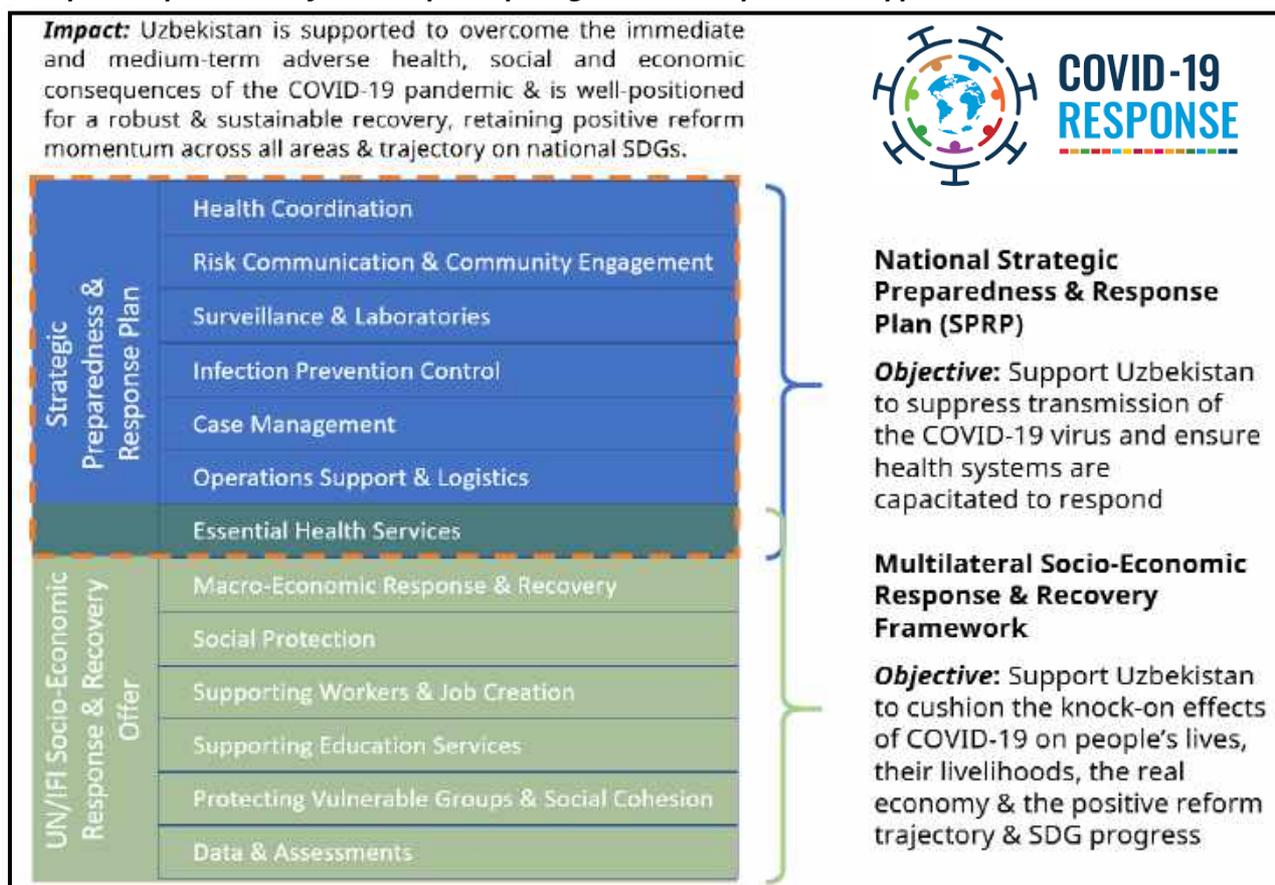
The UN Resident Coordinator guided the overall vision and collaboration on the report, with support from the CMT Task Force chairs and co-chairs: ADB, UNFPA, UNDP, World Bank and WHO. UNDP, as UN technical lead for socio-economic response, and the World Bank, provided the leadership for the report and coordinated inputs for four thematic sections. The health section was steered by WHO, as technical lead for health response. UNFPA led the section on protecting vulnerable groups and social cohesion as well as the related Annex 2. ADB oversaw the section on education.

Multilateral partners participating in the report include six international financial institutions (ADB, EBRD, IFC, IsDB, World Bank, IMF) and sixteen UN entities (FAO, ILO, IOM, ITC, OHCHR, UNAIDS, UNCTAD, UNDP, UNECE, UNESCAP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNODC, WHO).

## I. Introduction

The present report sets out participating multilateral partners' consolidated socio-economic response and recovery offer to the Government of Uzbekistan in addressing the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. It is complementary to the national Strategic Preparedness & Response Plan (SPRP), issued on 19 March and updated on 6 April, which outlines the immediate health priorities, with a specific focus on suppressing transmission of the virus and ensuring health systems are capacitated to respond.<sup>1</sup> It is vital to ensure that the socio-economic response moves forward decisively, in complement to, and in coordination with the ongoing health response.

**Graphic: Impact and Objective of participating multilateral partners' support to Uzbekistan on COVID-19**



**This report is a direct response to a request from Government.** The report is guided by the UN Secretary-General's "Shared Responsibility, Global Solidarity" report, and the associated "UN framework for the immediate socio-economic response to COVID-19" under the overall leadership of the UN Resident Coordinator (RC) with the World Health Organization (WHO) coordinating the health response, and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) taking the technical lead in the socio-economic response. At the same time, the report is also informed by the respective policy decisions of participating IFIs on the COVID-19 response.

**The report highlights ongoing and planned support by participating partners in seven priority areas of the socio-economic response and recovery,** with the overarching aim to cushion the knock-on effects on millions of people's lives, their livelihoods and the real economy, thereby preserving positive reform momentum and progress toward the national Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The document articulates the diversity of the participating organizations' value proposition including financial products, knowledge products and services, technical/in-kind assistance, capacity-building/training and data/assessments. The report is also informed by international human rights obligations, and an

<sup>1</sup> The SPRP is available on the WHO Global Partners' Portal: <http://Covid-19-response.org>

environmental sustainability and gender equality imperative, to support the ambition to build back better.

**Drawing on evolving global experience and the contributing partners' situation analysis in section II, the subsequent seven thematic sections** outline immediate, medium- and longer-term challenges, multilateral partners' concrete deliverables to help address these, as well as outstanding gaps. Each of the thematic sections also features a table highlighting details of the participating partners' value proposition, in five categories (knowledge product/service, training, financial products, in-kind support, other) alongside expected delivery date and, where appropriate, financing amount or indicative budget. It should be noted that these offers comprise a mix of fully new deliverables (with associated new resources) and pre-existing deliverables re-oriented to meet articulated COVID-19 response and recovery priorities. Annex 1 highlights unfunded technical offers relevant to addressing the outstanding gaps, and Annex 2 provides a more detailed overview of protection concerns for addressing the needs of key populations and vulnerable groups.

**Like the national SPRP, the present "Response & Recovery Offer" is a living document** and will be continuously updated as the context evolves and as new data from ongoing assessments emerges, national priorities evolve, and new international resources become available.

**Moreover, as part of the participating organizations' collective commitment to accountability**, brief quarterly updates on progress in implementation will be submitted to Government and other interested stakeholders.

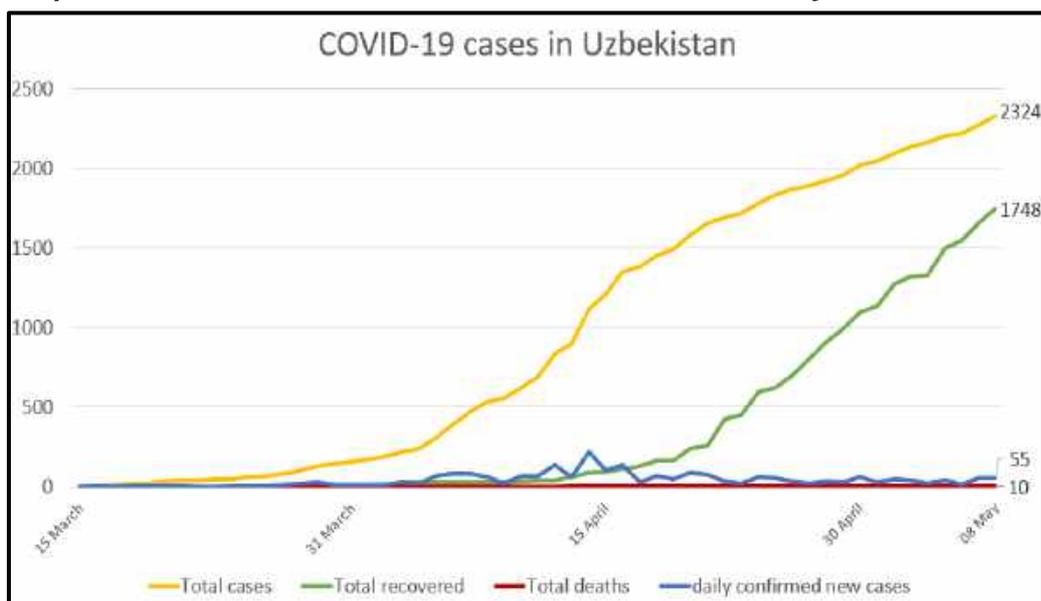
**The multilateral Crisis Management Team will continue to engage regularly with the Republican Anti-COVID Commission on the evolving response**, to ensure international good practice is both appropriately informed by – and informing – Uzbekistan's experience.

## II. Situation Analysis

### EPIDEMIOLOGICAL CONTEXT

**Local transmission of the COVID-19 virus is yet to be contained.** The first confirmed case of the virus was detected in Uzbekistan on 15 March 2020. As of 8 May 2020, there were 2,324 confirmed COVID\_19 cases, including 10 deaths and 1,748 recoveries. Already in January, the authorities moved quickly to ramp up health preparedness, and following confirmation of the outbreak, the Government decided to close learning centers and cancel all public gatherings. Subsequently, more restrictive social distancing policy measures have led to the closure of public transportation, non-essential businesses, and public spaces. Since mid-March, all incoming flight passengers (primarily repatriated Uzbeks) have been subject to rigorous quarantine measures. Uzbekistan has also closed its borders to non-trade entry or exit until at least May 10. Stay-at-home orders, reinforced by restrictions on vehicular traffic, are also in force until that date. At the end of April, the Government began to ease restrictions on certain types of businesses, and in early May, restrictions on private vehicles were eased. Nevertheless, in line with WHO guidance, a range of infection prevention and control measures, including movement restrictions, physical distancing, and disinfection measures, are likely to need to continue over the mid- to longer-term to prevent the uncontrollable spread of infection. This will remain the case while the Eurasian region remains severely affected by the virus.

**Graphic: Confirmed COVID-19 Cases in Uzbekistan as at 8 May 2020**



### MACRO-ECONOMIC IMPACT

**The crisis has progressively disrupted the economy,** to a point where considerable domestic activities are now at a standstill. Beginning with modest supply chain disruptions in February, the global spread of the crisis has had more acute effects on the economy as tighter transport, and travel restrictions eroded trade and tourism. Current estimates suggest that about half of economic activity has been suspended. This may increase following further measures to suspend unauthorized vehicular traffic. Initial estimates are that GDP growth will fall sharply to 1.6 percent in 2020 compared with 5.7 percent projected in January. Exports are likely to fall by at least 10 percent, compared with 2019<sup>2</sup>.

<sup>2</sup> Early trade data for the first quarter suggest that imports have fallen by around 10 percent and exports by about 18 percent compared with the first quarter of 2019.

**Initial estimates from March 2020 are that about 475,000, or 85 percent of small businesses, have been temporarily closed.** If conditions improve in the coming months, modest growth may still be achievable through strong gold and food exports, and via some additional productivity to make up for losses earlier in the year. However, under a downside scenario, with deeper and more prolonged domestic economic disruption, the economy is likely to contract in 2020. Assuming conditions improve by the end of the year, the Government's anti-crisis policy measures and investment buffers are likely to help support a rapid recovery, with modest overshooting in 2021 and a reversion to the medium-term trend of 6 percent projected before the crisis.

**Baseline projections are that per capita income growth will be flat, and that 1.3 percent of the population, or 448,000 people, may already have fallen into poverty as a result of the crisis.** Using the poverty line appropriate for lower middle-income countries (USD3.2 per person per day in PPP terms), poverty is expected to rise in 2020. The World Bank estimates the share of people living in poverty will be 8.7 percent following the outbreak, compared with a projection of 7.4 percent pre-crisis. This could quickly increase if the most disruptive restrictions to economic activity are extended. Many more risk falling into poverty or facing considerable hardship.

**In addition, the effect of domestic disruptions on the incomes of the poor and vulnerable will be compounded by rapidly falling remittances,** which predominantly accrue to low-income households. Remittances are likely to see their sharpest fall since independence as: (i) border closures have stopped seasonal migrants from returning to work; (ii) the Russian economy—where most migrants work—is expected to contract in 2020; and (iii) the sharp depreciation of the ruble against the som by nearly 20 percent since 1 January has reduced the purchasing power of migrants. As a result, remittances – which are a vital income source for many of the poorest householders – are projected to fall by over 50 percent<sup>3</sup>, consequently resulting in a significant increase in poverty levels.

**Due to the crisis, the current account deficit is expected to increase in 2020** before narrowing over the medium term as exports and migrant remittances recover. Despite a large increase in gold exports, a substantial decline in exports of natural gas, manufacturing and tourism will sharply lower total exports in 2020. Although imports are unlikely to fall by the same proportion, capital goods (machinery parts and intermediate goods) and consumer imports, which were projected to be high this year, are likely to fall in response to supply disruptions, and postponements of investment and public works activity. Remittances, accounting for 15 percent of GDP, are likely to see their sharpest fall since independence. These factors are likely to increase the current account deficit to 9.4 percent of GDP in 2020 relative to pre-crisis projections of 4.7 percent. The deficit is projected to narrow over the medium term to between 5.0 and 6.5 percent as exports and remittances pick up. With a significant slowdown in portfolio and direct investments projected in 2020, the current account deficit is projected to be financed through a combination of increased development partner assistance in response to the COVID-19 crisis and a drawdown of reserves. The resumption of investment flows is projected to finance the deficit in the medium term, based on the strong increases recorded prior to the crisis.

**Higher inflation in the first half of 2020 is projected to moderate in the second half of the year and over the medium term with easing supply bottlenecks and lower food prices.** Wheat has a high weight in the consumer price food basket, and Uzbekistan depends on imports from Kazakhstan to meet its wheat and flour requirements. As a result, the recent imposition of binding wheat and flour export quotas in Kazakhstan is expected to increase food prices in Uzbekistan in the second quarter of 2020. For example, in April 2020, food prices increased by 3.3 percent compared to March 2020, i.e. much higher increase than in January-March. This price increase is linked to (i) increased purchases of key foodstuffs due to concerns about lockdown, and (ii) food supply interruptions due to movement restrictions. The local wheat harvest in May-June will partially ease market pressures. Although the exchange rate has remained relatively stable since the start of the crisis, any sharp devaluation that may occur also heightens inflationary risks in 2020. This increase, combined with supply and trade disruptions, is

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<sup>3</sup> Remittances this March were estimated to be about 25 percent lower than in March 2019.

expected to drive up average inflation in the first half of 2020. However, there is no shortage of food production in Uzbekistan; global food prices are lower, and the Government has reduced import duties on flour, vegetable oil and some other key imported food. Thus, average consumer inflation for the whole 2020 year is expected to decline to about 13 percent, compared with 15.2 percent in 2019. Inflation is expected to moderate to single digits over the medium term as constraints on monetary policy effectiveness are removed, and as remaining administrative price and tariff controls are liberalized.

**Measures to contain and eradicate the virus, and provide rapid assistance to firms and households, have led to an unexpected surge in government spending at a time when revenues are seasonally low.** The health costs of the crisis are increasing rapidly as hospitalization cases rise and as over 0.3 percent of Uzbekistan's population is being quarantined, isolated, or monitored. Increased procurement of medical supplies and equipment, compensation for frontline medical workers, and the need for additional health infrastructure to provide hospital beds have significantly increased health spending. At the same time, economic disruptions have begun to affect poor and vulnerable households, prompting an immediate expansion of the social safety net for low-income families and dependents of people who are infected or quarantined. This spending surge was not anticipated and comes at a time of seasonally low revenue collections and high expenditures from usual budget activity. Tax collection data for March and early-April 2020 show that revenues are about 20 percent lower than budget projections. The near-total disruption in global financial markets has severely constrained the Government's ability to raise financing through sale of government/public assets.

**The economic impact of the crisis and the cost of anti-crisis measures have created an unanticipated budget financing gap in 2020 and have widened the medium-term deficit.** Based on preliminary estimates, the Government faces a budget financing gap of USD1.6 billion (2.7 percent of GDP) in 2020. Budget revenues are currently estimated to be 0.8 of a percentage point of GDP lower in 2020 than the Government's budget projections. Tax revenues are projected to fall by 2.5 percentage points of GDP. About two-thirds of tax revenue losses are estimated to be from the direct economic impacts of the COVID-19 crisis, and the rest from announced tax relief measures. VAT and non-gold mining taxes are expected to be hardest hit. Budget spending is currently projected to increase by 1.9 percent of GDP to finance the unanticipated surge in health expenditure and economic anti-crisis policies.

**As a result, the budget balance is now projected to be in deficit by 4 percent of GDP.** This is 2.7 percentage points of GDP higher than the deficit projected in the approved government budget, and 4.4 percent higher than projected in June 2019. These estimates are based on the COVID-19 containment measures announced so far, but could significantly worsen with further and more prolonged disruption. The budget balance is projected to remain in deficit over the medium-term as some anti-crisis measures, such as public works projects that would only commence after physical distancing rules are eased, are expected to continue for a few years.

**The post-COVID-19 economic outlook remains vulnerable to downside risks,** including: (i) deeper and more prolonged (than anticipated) health and economic crises from the COVID-19 outbreak; (ii) continued government-directed credit at current levels; (iii) external economic shocks (e.g., from slowdowns in trading partners) impacting domestic economic performance and financial sector stability; (iv) large increases in contingent liabilities arising from a number of planned PPP transactions if contractually linked economic conditions do not materialize; (v) adverse weather conditions; and (vi) the occurrence of a major natural or man-made disaster.

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## SOCIAL AND EMPLOYMENT IMPACT

**As in all countries, the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak on the poorest and most vulnerable has been severe.** While the Government has placed a strong focus on reaching the neediest categories of the population, the outbreak occurred at a time of significant transition of the new Ministry of Mahallas and Family Support which is charged to deliver coordinated assistance to the vulnerable populations in

the community. Compounded by the legacy of a highly fragmented social protection system (acknowledged as such by Government), the new Ministry's capacity to ensure evidence-driven decision-making and to reach the neediest people with targeted support is constrained. Moreover, the absorption of the major national gender machinery, the Women's Committee of Uzbekistan, into the new Ministry, has impeded the ability of vulnerable women to access an important point of contact and immediate support from the state during this very challenging period.

**Of particular concern is the disproportionate impact on vulnerable populations** (people with disabilities, the elderly, people in closed institutions including children) and women, especially women living in difficult situations. The level of demand to a gender-based violence (GBV) hotline service in Uzbekistan increased fivefold in the first week of the stay-at-home orders. Meanwhile, already limited survivor-centered GBV services prior to COVID-19 have been further constrained due to movement restrictions and lack of funding. Frontline healthcare workers (82 percent of whom are women in Uzbekistan) are also under extreme pressure: in a recent UNFPA-supported survey, half of the female healthcare workers reported suffering from anxiety, burn-out and depression.

**Moreover, essential services to people with chronic medical conditions** (TB/HIV, etc.) have been disrupted, and there are anecdotal reports that persons with chronic conditions in quarantine zones are experiencing difficulties in accessing medicines. Socially and economically marginalized groups, including people with disabilities, returning migrants, people living with HIV, people who use drugs, are also experiencing more acutely the impact of the lockdown measures, both from a health perspective as well as socio-economically.

**According to the April 2020 Listening to the Citizens of Uzbekistan (L2CU) survey, a higher share of people report that they are unable to afford basic needs and are without savings.** Those reporting an inability to afford food rose from less than 9 percent to more than 12 percent of the population in April. The share of people who "completely agree" that the prices of bread and flour has increased spiked from 6 percent to 19 percent.

**Employment has fallen dramatically.** According to the recent L2CU survey, the share of households with at least one member actively working fell more than 40 percentage points (from 85 to 43 percent) between March and April. Declines have been largest among the self-employed. The share reporting any self-employment income fell by 67 percent in comparison to the previous month. The share of households reporting any wage income over the preceding 30 days also declined by 16 percent. Lockdown and subsequent economic paralysis caused by the pandemic has been affecting disproportionately those in the informal sector. In Uzbekistan, they represent significant number. Even before the pandemic, the informal employment has been one of the key bottlenecks for sustainable development. In the first half of 2019, the share of employment in the informal sector made up 58.2 percent of the total labour force. This makes about 7.8 million employed informally (mainly in construction, trade, agriculture, tourism, and services), dominated by youth between 18 to 25 years old. Out of them, labour migrants finding jobs abroad totalled 2.5 million, in 2019. This is one of the most hard-hit groups – left with no income, let alone protection or insurance. Further, the lack of comprehensive data leads to limited understanding and input for effective policies targeting informal labour. Even jobs with predominantly formal and female employment are affected, such as education and tourism. With all education facilities closed, many pre-school workers and teachers particularly in private schools and institutions are facing the prospect of losing their jobs and/or income.

**The impact of disrupted migration in both the immediate and longer term is high.** The effect of domestic disruptions on the incomes of the poor and vulnerable will be compounded by rapidly falling remittances, which predominantly accrue to low-income households in Uzbekistan. In addition to reduced remittances, many seasonal workers—estimated to be in the hundreds of thousands—have not been able to return to work due to travel restrictions. Many seasonal migrants have lost their jobs and returned home. According to data from L2CU, in April, the share of households with members currently abroad fell by 22 percent in comparison the same period in 2019 (from 17 to 13 percent). Among those

still abroad, active employment has fallen 18 percent in a single month (from 88 to about 73 percent of migrants). Future migration expectations have fully collapsed. In the first quarter of 2020, the number of respondents with household members considering seasonal migration fell by more than 95 percent over the previous year. In April 2020, there was not a single household reporting anyone considering migration abroad and the share of households receiving any remittances fell by 54 percent compared to the same period the previous year. Among those that did receive remittances, the value of the median transfer fell by 21 percent. Hence, this is one of the most critical transmission channels in the case of Uzbekistan. In the longer term, reduced legal migration options may also increase the risks of irregular migration and human trafficking, further exacerbating socio-economic vulnerabilities.

**Migration disruption has also adversely affected women in agriculture.** Anecdotal evidence suggests that in addition to restrictions imposed by the lockdowns and the limited number of people allowed to perform agricultural works, with many migrants unable to leave the country, women have lost comparative advantage and are being squeezed out by the stay-home male migrants in this sector. This is only one part of the larger female group, disproportionately affected by the pandemic.

**Children's and students' access to education has been adversely affected**, despite robust efforts by the Government to put in place virtual learning options. The nation-wide lockdown means that 1.4 million preschool children, 5.85 million students in general secondary schools, 728,000 students in secondary specialized and professional institutions and 360,000 students in higher education will be studying from home until the 2020 summer holidays.

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## ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

**Addressing the COVID-19 pandemic and protecting people against future threats** requires sound management of hazardous medical and chemical waste; and a clear commitment to “building back better”, creating green jobs and facilitating the transition to a carbon neutral economy.

**Lockdown measures in Uzbekistan, as elsewhere, have led to reduced pressure on the environment**, due to decreased electricity and fuel consumption, including aviation and motor fuel. In turn, environmental benefits were seen in terms of emission reduction of air pollutants; thus, improved air quality in large cities. Relatedly, movement restrictions for about 90 percent of vehicles led to a significant reduction in atmospheric emissions of carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, sulfur oxides, hydrocarbons. It is estimated that the resulting benefits are worth about 4,000 tons of reduced daily emissions daily or 120,000 tons per month. According to Government analysis, atmospheric air pollution (with fine suspended particles PM10 and PM2.5) decreased by an average of 20-30 times in comparison with the pollution in January 2020. As of 7 May, estimates indicate that during six weeks of lockdown, 1.46 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub>-equivalent have been avoided.

**While pollution and greenhouse gas emissions have fallen due to COVID-19 transmission prevention measures**, it will be important to ensure this is not a fleeting change and that the emission and pollution reductions are long-lasting. The big challenge is to ensure that the recovery has a green focus. Analysis of COVID-19 recovery packages shows the potential for strong alignment between the economy and the environment and a 'green route' out of the crisis as also being economically effective. For example, the decades-low global oil price provides an excellent opportunity for Uzbekistan to reduce fossil fuel subsidies and re-direct savings into more sustainable initiatives to build back better, with a strong focus on creating 'green jobs' in environment, climate mitigation and adaptation.

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## NATIONAL RESPONSE STRATEGIES

**The national health response to the crisis is managed by the Special Republican Commission on Developing the Programme of Measures on Prevention of Import and Spread of Novel Type of Coronavirus** in the Republic of Uzbekistan, established on 29 January and chaired by the Prime Minister. WHO has been working daily with the Ministry of Health (MoH) to prepare and respond since January.

**The overarching objective of the initial health policy response is to minimize the transmission of the virus within the borders of Uzbekistan.** Through aggressive measures to “flatten the curve” by restrictive physical distancing and movement restriction measures, the authorities aim to rapidly increase testing, tracing and quarantining in order to isolate infected citizens and prevent the virus from spreading. The Government then intends to widely deploy rapid testing kits to gradually open its borders to increased people transit. Over time, and as further research into the virus provides enhanced treatment and management options, these measures may be further relaxed.

**To complement the Special Republican Commission’s focus on the health response, on 19 March a Republican Anti-Crisis Commission, was established, also led by the Prime Minister, to manage the policy response to the socio-economic aspects of the crisis.** The Commission has been given three objectives: (i) to preserve income and livelihoods, especially for the poorest and most vulnerable; (ii) to prevent long-term damage to the economy; and (iii) to safeguard the economic transition and reform program. Multilateral partners have been engaging with the Commission on a regular basis to provide analysis, policy recommendations and support drawing on emerging global good practice.

**The authorities have so far announced two large anti-crisis packages, comprising financial and regulatory measures, to support the health and economic policy responses.** A first anti-crisis package, budgeted at about USD1 billion, was announced on March 20. Health spending is targeted toward a large scale-up in testing (and acquisition of domestic test-kit production capability), purchasing new health equipment, boosting frontline worker salaries and creating temporary health infrastructure facilities. Social measures include an expansion in the level of low-income allowances and the number of beneficiaries, unilateral extensions of targeted social assistance eligibility periods, measures to expand disability payments for people who are quarantined or infected, regulations to safeguard parents and other caregivers of infected people, provisions to expand unemployment insurance payments, and measures to simplify application and eligibility assessment procedures. Economic measures include a range of tax and expenditure measures to provide both relief and regulatory forbearance for tax and debt payments, and measures to ease cash-flow constraints for businesses. Measures will also provide debt relief and financial support for key State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs), such as the national airline and the main gas exporter. A second anti-crisis package, announced on April 3, seeks to support the economy with a range of tax exemptions, a reduction in import tariffs for medical supplies and food, an extension of deadlines for loan repayments and additional social safety net payments.

**The anti-crisis measures are largely in line with emerging international best practice.** The Government’s health sector response has received endorsement from the WHO and other partners. Its economic policy measures are largely consistent with emerging guidance from international organizations on how countries can best respond to the dual demand and supply shocks to the economy, while safeguarding vulnerable households and economically important firms from the worst effects of the COVID-19 disruption. Some measures, such as the ambitious program of expanded public works, may be more difficult to implement with continued social distancing requirements, but the authorities have expressed a willingness to reallocate resources to other areas to ensure that the anti-crisis measures are supporting a rapid economic recovery post-crisis.

**To address risks of reform reversal, the authorities have committed to transparency in how anti-crisis spending is utilized.** Some measures, particularly the use of fiscal support for SOEs and the significant allocations for subsidized lending and credit to firms and households, are both consistent with emerging international practice but are also measures that the Government is trying to curtail as part of the reform program. To balance the need for these measures with the risks, the Government has committed to the transparent reporting of its anti-crisis expenditure policies. For example, the Government intends to provide transparent fiscal subsidies to SOEs from the anti-crisis package, instead of its historical approach of drawing down resources from the Uzbekistan Fund for Reconstruction and Development (UFRD).

**To date the Government's people-focused response has been met with positive feedback from the population.** The Government has published regular data on the COVID-19 outbreak and has run a commendable public risk communications campaign reinforcing the strong policy response. This includes official social media channels that provide hourly updates and dispel rumors and fake information. Citizen engagement—via formal communication channels and via community institutions—has been critical to the response. Shared citizen-government effort to slow the transmission and enhance the recovery was put in motion. Volunteer citizen groups have teamed up with law enforcement agencies to provide logistical support and care for vulnerable households. The Government has sought support from religious and community leaders to help reinforce physical distancing policies and support the detection and identification of cases.

**The risk of reversing the recent gains in opening up civic space due to the tightened public health related measures, coupled with at times zealous implementation by law enforcement agencies,** can be addressed by ensuring sufficient public oversight, media access and full data and legal transparency. Monitoring access for the Ombudsperson or other oversight mechanisms (such as parliamentarians or civil society representatives) and journalists could also address concerns expressed in social media around the situation in quarantine zones and COVID-19 hospitals.

**Around the world, the COVID-19 pandemic has many implications for civil, economic, political, social and cultural rights.** National responses to the pandemic should be consistent with international human rights standards and address key human rights concerns. Thus it will also be important to decisively address human rights concerns that have been flagged during the initial phase of the response (including for example, issues around access to justice and due process), in order to maintain the overall positive trajectory in Uzbekistan's human rights record in the past three years. A joint lessons learned exercise on the lockdown and quarantine measures, involving civil society, international organizations and national oversight mechanisms could help to address this point, while simultaneously laying the basis for evidence-driven recalibration of ongoing policy approaches.

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## CONCLUSIONS

**The government's anti-crisis package demonstrates a proactive and early approach to safeguarding well-being, incomes, livelihoods and the long-term potential of the economy.** If implemented well, the measures will help sustain the reform agenda by reducing the recovery time needed for people and the economy to recover and emerge more resilient, people-centered, and greener from the associated slowdown.

**Such an approach would protect the impressive gains of last three years on the social and economic front,** as well as conserve and build on Uzbekistan's enhanced record on gender equality, human rights and labour rights. The response is still at an early stage, there are likely to be many challenges along the way as this is a unique crisis that does not have policy prescriptions that guarantee a quick and easy recovery.

**Within the overall framework of national development priorities, including the national economic reform roadmap and the national SDGs,** participating multilateral partners are aligning their efforts and resources to the Government's evolving anti-crisis priorities, with a view to ensure that all efforts contribute to the longer-term development agenda of Uzbekistan. The following key messages have emerged from this joint effort:

- i. **Essential health services:** The greatest challenge in the health sector, beside maintaining the concerted whole-of-government and whole-of-society COVID-19 containment and response effort, is the continuation of essential health services for the population, particularly for the most vulnerable, such as women, children, migrants, elderly and chronically ill. The pandemic also

highlights this importance of continued investments in health system strengthening to be better prepared for the continued low transmission of the COVID-19 virus, and for future outbreaks. Ensuring appropriate support (protective, psychological and financial) to frontline medical workers – over 80 percent of whom are women – will also be an important element of maintaining essential health services during and post-pandemic.

- ii. **Macroeconomic response and recovery:** besides high human costs, the COVID-19 pandemic is severely impacting economic, corporate and financial activity. In a baseline scenario - which assumes that the pandemic fades in the second half of 2020 - the economy is projected to grow by 1.5 percent in 2020 and by 6-7 percent in 2021 as economic activity normalizes, helped by policy support. The risks for even more severe outcomes, however, are substantial. Effective policies are essential to forestall the possibility of worse outcomes, and to limit damage to economy induced by the quarantine. Wide-ranging fiscal, monetary, trade and financial policies, as well as strong international cooperation to support the state budget expenditures, remain essential to safeguard economic and financial stability and, when pandemic is contained, quickly move to actions to restart the economy.
- iii. **Social Protection:** The COVID-19 outbreak is causing an increase in unemployment and poverty levels. New population groups are becoming vulnerable in the face of this unprecedented disruption, and there is a need for better understanding of the actual urgent needs of these groups to be able to address them timely and effectively. This growing demand is compounded by significant pre-crisis social protection coverage gaps. Top priorities include: assessing the needs of all categories of population; supporting the expansion of the existing social protection system in order to ensure coherence between social assistance, labour market and social insurance programs; revision of eligibility and delivery mechanisms making them responsive to current pandemic and future shocks and strengthening the capacity of the system on national and local levels to respond to the urgent and evolving needs of population in medium and long term.
- iv. **Supporting Workers and Job Creation:** External shocks including volatility in commodity prices, disruption to value chains and the fall in remittances set an urgent need for a concerted effort to protect existing and create new jobs for youth, women, labour migrants, informal workers and those displaced because of the pandemic. Moreover, aggregate demand may remain depressed for an extended period. The Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SME) sector that traditionally holds great potential for fast job creation has been hit hard and banks may be unwilling to provide financing due to perceived high risks. However, access to financing is essential to keep supporting jobs and SMEs throughout. Working with companies, but mostly with the financial sector to support heavily affected segments, will be key to economic recovery as diminishing foreign investments and protectionist policies around the globe might emerge as new challenges. Multilateral partners are supporting measures to stabilize the economy by supporting entrepreneurship, employment, and (infrastructure) investments, including in the green economy, to sustain functionality of key economic sectors. The actions range from advisory to financing to help restore the effects of the crisis and maintain the reform momentum. We argue that investments should lead to and promote low carbon business models, as well as a green and digital economy if Uzbekistan is to emerge better out of the crisis.
- v. **Supporting education services:** Since schools abruptly closed due to COVID-19, Uzbekistan's education system has faced systemic challenges to offer high quality public education services during the lockdown. The government mobilized online education within two weeks after school closure and is working to improve the quality of instruction despite significant IT limitations. Participating partners are helping the relevant ministries to learn from other countries to improve their distance learning in the immediate term and get ready for the reopening of schools in the autumn.
- vi. **Protecting vulnerable groups, social cohesion and community resilience:** Global experience shows that social cohesion and strong public confidence are the foundations for an effective all-of-society response to the pandemic. This must be underpinned by a rights-based approach to the response, with a robust gender lens. In building on the current commendable efforts, measures to enhance public oversight, transparency and human rights protection, including

conserving progress on gender equality, will be a critical component of the next phase of the COVID-19 response, in order to build back better, with strengthened evidence-based policy and robust public accountability. This in turn will enhance public support and compliance in likely event that Government needs to continuously recalibrate public health measures (including movement restrictions) throughout the coming months.

- vii. **Assessments and Data:** Traditional assessments and data systems are insufficient to the scale of disruption and the specific challenges caused by the COVID-19 outbreak. Lockdowns, quarantine and other public safety measures have opened gaps in the information available to policy-makers and other stakeholders, including on how the ad hoc social protection measures are meeting assessed needs of vulnerable groups, such as people with disabilities, women, youth, returned migrants, elderly, etc. To effectively respond and hasten recovery, development partners must continue to deploy non-traditional methods and rapid assessments. These include new and repurposed data collection tools, analysis of local and international experience, and focused policy recommendations.

### III. Health First: Protecting Essential Health Services and Systems

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#### MOST SIGNIFICANT CHALLENGES BY TIME-FRAME

**Immediate (Now- 1 month):** Much of the national health system in Uzbekistan has been pre-occupied with preparing and treating COVID-19 patients, and therefore has reduced capacity to provide regular health services (e.g., elected surgeries have been postponed, immunization campaigns for children have been delayed, and vulnerable groups' specific needs have been neglected or put on hold). Regular training of health care workers on non-COVID-19 topics has been delayed due to movement restrictions, lack of capacity, and lack of internet connectivity (particularly in primary health care facilities in rural areas). Procurement of essential medical items, both because of increased needs from the COVID response as well as disruptions in global supply chain, are in acute shortage (for example Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for infectious diseases and invasive medical activities). Similarly test kits and vaccines for preventable diseases such as measles, rubella and mumps, and TB, are in short supply, and drugs for chronic and acute diseases are not sufficiently available or too expensive. Moreover, there is a fear that easing of restrictions will lead to a lack of adherence to physical distancing and other recommended measures by the public.

**Short- to Medium-Term (1-6 months):** Better understanding is needed on the damage the pandemic has had on the national health system through delays or cancellation of health services. Regular monitoring of specialized care facilities, such as children living with HIV in day care centers and residential care institutes remains limited. Immunization campaigns require long term planning and mobility to ensure purchases supplies, train vaccination teams, and schedule regular vaccinations in all parts of the country. The supply of essential medical supplies, including PPE for all types of health workers (e.g., vaccinators, epidemiologists, and stock managers) is likely to remain a challenge in the medium term. The purchase of essential drugs for chronic diseases and the regulation of drug prices will also need medium to long-term planning to ensure they are widely available. Training of all health personnel on infection prevention control (IPC) needs to be done on a continuing basis. Insufficient health system preparedness for continued low-level transmission and preparedness for future COVID-19 outbreaks. Medical data is still gathered by hand at health facilities and collected in paper-based forms. While some facilities collect some of the data also in locally designed health management information system (HMIS), this concerns only a handful of facilities, and by law paper-based forms are still required. Also, while some of the data is subsequently sent by email to higher levels, the system is still paper-based, and lockdown will have resulted in a delay of reporting. A new HMIS is foreseen to be designed for Uzbekistan, but this will likely be delayed due to the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic.

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#### CONSOLIDATED VALUE PROPOSITION BY TIME-FRAME

**Immediate (Now-1 month):** Continuous updating and translation (Uzbek and Russian) and adaptation of global COVID-19 and other guidelines in the areas of risk communication, surveillance and early case investigation, infection prevention control, laboratory diagnostic and analysis, treatment of severe cases, and maternal and child health and antenatal, perinatal and post-natal care during the pandemic. Development of material on immunization, pregnancy, childbirth and breastfeeding for the general population and for distribution on social media platforms. Procurement of PPE, diagnostics certified test kits and reagents for laboratory diagnostic and analysis for all vaccine-preventable diseases, and other non-COVID related medical items. Support in strengthening essential health care services, including maternal, newborn and child health, and support for training of all health care workers in collaboration with the Institute of higher medical education and regional universities. Rapid needs assessment for female health care workers through analysis of responses from the psychological counselling hotline.

**Short Term (1-3 months):** Assessments of all health care facilities in order to strengthen overall health systems, including rapid response teams. Support in developing contingency plans for the 53 Points of

Entry in Uzbekistan, including training health and non-health staff on COVID-19 and other infectious disease detection and handling of suspected cases, contact tracing, and quarantining. Supporting the health sector on procurement of essential medical supplies (e.g. injectable contraceptives), training and use of electronic platforms for disease surveillance and mother and child health, and updating emergency preparedness guidance for immunization programme. Re-programming of existing GAVI grants to ensure continuity of immunization services by providing PPE to more than 4,000 vaccinators, EPI managers, and vaccine stock keepers. Reorganization of vaccines, deliveries and stocks to ensure essential high-quality supplies are available in sufficient quantities. Support to put in place contextualized infection prevention protocols in health facilities, especially primary health care facilities, maternities and neonatal intensive care units (NICU). Mobilization of resources to ensure high quality standards are followed by manufacturers engaged in emergency procurement. Capacity support for media to ensure accurate, responsible and fact-based reporting on COVID-19 and other diseases.

**Medium-Long term (3+ months):** Ensuring ongoing technical assistance for strengthening the health care system through a continuation of training of health care workers, procurement essential health items (e.g., PPE, vaccines, essential drugs, and other equipment), and adequate surveillance systems of infectious disease and laboratory capacity. Ensuring the 'Joint External Evaluation' (JEE) of the International Health Regulation (IHR) implementation (under the Cabinet of Ministers and led by the Ministry of Health) which will allow the country to identify system weaknesses to be better prepared and have increased capacity to prevent and control future outbreaks.

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## CRITICAL GAPS

**Gap 1:** Sufficient supply of essential medical drugs for chronic and other disease, including price regulations so drugs are affordable for everyone, and sufficient procurement of essential medical equipment for primary health care facilities and rural hospitals not serving COVID-19 patients.

**Gap 2:** Thorough assessment of health systems' capacities and development of an action plan to restore a normal health system.

**Gap 3:** Ensuring maintenance of essential health services, especially for vulnerable groups such as women, children, migrants, and those living with chronic diseases.

**Gap 4:** Training of health care personnel to enable them for the provision of quality health care particularly in rural and remote areas.

**Gap 5:** Regular public health communication on other disease prevention and treatment, like Hepatitis B and C, tuberculosis, HIV, drug and alcohol use and national immunization programmes.

**Gap 6:** Sufficient laboratory testing capacity, including equipment, consumables, and trained staff, for other diseases.

**Gap 7:** Sufficiently attractive salaries for health care workers to attract to work in rural and remote areas.

**Gap 8:** Resource mobilization to establish telemedicine and distance learning system for perinatal and pediatric centers and to improve water sanitation and hygiene in health care facilities.

**Gap 9:** Improve maternal and child nutrition by applying a multi-system approach (health, food, education and social protection systems as well as WASH)

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## CONTRIBUTING AGENCIES

ADB, IsDB, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNODC, WHO, WB

No.	Descriptive Title of the Concrete Deliverable to the Government	Delivery Timeframe	Target Date if known	Key Gov't Counterpart	Deliverable Type	Delivering Agency(ies)	Financing Amount / Indicative Budget	Note
1	Support in dissemination of information on sanitary and hygiene among population	a) Immediate (Now-1 mo)	31/03/2020	MOH	1. Knowledge Product/Service	UNICEF	\$ 4,600	Support MoH to dissemination info about sanitary and hygiene practices during COVID-19 by printing posters to be displayed for bazars, markets, etc
2	Support in printing of questionnaire for passengers to trace their location and possible contacts while in country	a) Immediate (Now-1 mo)	31/03/2020	MOH	1. Knowledge Product/Service	UNICEF	\$ 500	Support to MoH to print questionnaire for passengers to trace their locations and possible contacts while in Uzbekistan
3	Update on national guidelines for COVID-19	a) Immediate (Now-1 mo)	31/05/2020	MoH	1. Knowledge Product/Service	WHO	\$ 20,000	WHO is providing updates for national guidelines and will continue so including translation into Russian and Uzbek
4	Development and printing of Interim National Guidelines on antenatal, perinatal and post-natal care during COVID-19	a) Immediate (Now-1 mo)		MOH	1. Knowledge Product/Service	UNFPA	\$ 6,900	
5	Development of training packages for HCW	a) Immediate (Now-1 mo)	31/05/2020	MoH	2. Training	WHO	\$ 20,000	<a href="#">WHO has transformed guidelines into training packages in Russian language</a>
6	National guideline on antenatal, perinatal and postnatal care for maternities during COVID-19 and relevant training and communication materials	a) Immediate (Now-1 mo)		MoH	1. Knowledge Product/Service	UNFPA/WHO	\$ 4,500	Equip maternal health care providers with WHO guidelines on managing pregnancy, childbirth and new born care in the situation of COVID-19 (the interim guideline in Uzbek and Russian development based on WHO recommendations as well as training package (presentations) for Capacity Building) and communication materials for population for distribution through on-line social platforms.
7	Developed videos targeted at children and adolescents living with HIV based on WHO and UNAIDS information and recommendations.	a) Immediate (Now-1 mo)	30/04/2020	MOH	5. Other	UNICEF	\$ 7,000	Disseminating recommended actions for adolescents and young people (incl. adolescent living with HIV) to promote good mental health and community support
8	Procured hand sanitizers, dispensers and disinfection solution	a) Immediate (Now-1 mo)	30/04/2020	MOH	5. Other	UNICEF	\$ 5,000	Procuring hand sanitizers, dispensers and disinfection solutions for perinatal and paediatric facilities in Tashkent

9	Procurement of medical equipment and materials for new hospitals	a) Immediate (Now-1 mo)	15/05/2020	MIFT	3. Financial Product	IsDB	\$ 17,200,000	Contract signed with Chinese company and advance payment transferred from the GoU. IsDB is expecting LC details to issue ICR.
10	Health Component of "Emergency COVID-19 Response Project"	a) Immediate (Now-1 mo)	24/04.2020	MoH	3. Financial Product	WB	\$ 38,000,000	Delivered - see more detail at <a href="https://projects.worldbank.org/en/projects-operations/project-detail/P173827">https://projects.worldbank.org/en/projects-operations/project-detail/P173827</a>
11	Procurement of medical equipment (ICU ventilators and others)	c) Md Term (3-6 mo)	30/07/2020	MOH	5. Other	UNDP	\$ 200,000	Partnering with Coca Cola Foundation to procure urgently needed equipment, incl. ventilators
12	Emergency COVID-19 Procurement	a) Immediate (Now-1 mo)	31/05/2020	MOH	5. Other	UNDP	\$ 4,886,227	Redirected WB loan: Fast-track procurement of urgent medical items. 32 most needed ventilators contracted (first batch 12 units to arrive end May); currently working on supplying urgently needed PPE for health workers, mobile x-rays, oxygen pulsometers, PCR labs
13	Procurement of necessary COVID-19 equipment with budget of an ongoing project in the Aral Sea Region funded by the Government of Japan	a) Immediate (Now-1 mo)	30/04/2020	Council of Ministers of Karakalpakstan	5. Other	UNDP	\$ 128,000	Redirected resources from ongoing project funded by the Gov. of Japan in Aral Sea Region
14	Procurement of PPEs for maternities of Tashkent city	b) St Term (1-3 mo)		MOH	3. Financial Product	UNFPA	\$ 42,900	
15	Funds and procurement services for equipment and supplies	b) St Term (1-3 mo)		MoH	3. Financial Product	ADB	\$ 21,055,000	Contracts signed on 29/30 April for \$19.5 million for ICU ventilators; \$200,000 of the grant is managed by UNICEF for oxygen concentrators and various other equipment and supplies; and ADB will directly procure PPE with the \$1.355 million unless MIFT/MoH recommend other equipment/supplies.
16	Delivery of certified test kits	b) St Term (1-3 mo)	31/07/2020	MoH	4. In-Kind Support	WHO		WHO is supporting UZB with certified test kits since the start of the outbreak and provided training to all 14 provinces on how to use PCR machines for analysing COVID-19 tests. More tests will be supplied
17	Resource mobilization (UNAIDS funds) for procurement of PPEs for maternities of Andijan oblast	b) St Term (1-3 mo)		MoH	3. Financial Product	UNFPA	\$ 30,800	

18	Rapid Needs Assessment for female health care workers.	b) St Term (1-3 mo)		MOH	5. Other	UNFPA	\$ 10,400	As a response to the results of an Assessment a psychological counselling help line was launched.
19	Procurement of PPEs for health care facilities	b) St Term (1-3 mo)	30/04/2020	MoH	5. Other	UNICEF	\$ 80,000	
20	Procurement of tests and needed supplies	b) St Term (1-3 mo)	30/04/2020	MoH	1. Knowledge Product/Service	UNICEF	\$ 95,000	
21	Continuity of immunization and essential health care services	b) St Term (1-3 mo)	31/05/2020	MoH	1. Knowledge Product/Service	UNICEF	\$ 800,000	Support MoH in equipping over 4000 vaccinators, stock managers and epidemiologists to ensure safety during vaccination for medical staff and parents
22	Supporting the health services with electronic system on surveillance and patient data,	b) St Term (1-3 mo)	30/04/2020	MoH	1. Knowledge Product/Service	WHO	\$ 200,000	
23	Supporting the development electronic birth and death registration system and pregnant registry	b) St Term (1-3 mo)	30/04/2020	MoH	1. Knowledge Product/Service	UNICEF	\$ 50,000	
24	Procurement of medical equipment	b) St Term (1-3 mo)	30/04/2020	MoH	1. Knowledge Product/Service	UNICEF	\$ 106,000	
25	Training of HCW on COVID-19 aspects	b) St Term (1-3 mo)	31/07/2020	MoH	2. Training	WHO	\$ 100,000	WHO will provide further specialized training on COVID-19 related aspects, according to the needs and requests of MoH
26	Development and broadcasting of the messages about safety measures required for vaccination during COVID-19	b) St Term (1-3 mo)	30/04/2020	MoH	1. Knowledge Product/Service	UNICEF	\$ 4,500	Support MoH in development, broadcasting and dissemination of info for medical staff and parents on safety during vaccination in COVID-19 situation
27	Support in dissemination of WHO advice to journalists (accurate and responsible reporting) to mass media and conduct of workshop	b) St Term (1-3 mo)	20/07/2020	MoH	1. Knowledge Product/Service	WHO, UNRCO, UNESCO	\$ 4,000	UNRCO with support from WHO and UNESCO will deliver tailored workshop on accurate and responsible reporting
28	Assessments of hospitals and PoEs	c) Md Term (3-6 mo)	30/11/2020	MoH	1. Knowledge Product/Service	WHO	\$ 200,000	WHO jointly with MoH will assess selected hospitals and PoEs to give advice on improving performances
29	Resource mobilization for procurement of vital injectable contraceptives	c) Md Term (3-6 mo)		MOH	5. Other	UNFPA	\$ 400,000	

30	Healthcare systems strengthening in response to COVID-19	c) Md Term (3-6 mo)	30/08/2020	MIFT/MoH	3. Financial Product	ADB/AIIB	\$ 200,000,000	The government has requested a new project to strengthen MoH and the Agency for Sanitary and Epidemiological Wellbeing. The specific scope for the project is under discussion.
31	Rapid Assessment of perinatal and paediatric centres on infection prevention and control (IPC)	c) Md Term (3-6 mo)	30/11/2020	MOH	1. Knowledge Product/Service	UNICEF, UNFPA	\$ 20,000	UNICEF and UNFPA jointly with MoH to assess selected perinatal centre and paediatric centres on IPC and update national IPC guidelines for maternities and paediatric centres
32	Strengthen essential health care services for women, children, adolescences and vulnerable families	d) Lg Term (6 mo-longer)		MoH	3. Financial Product	UNICEF	\$ 300,000	Support MoH to improve patronage nurse system and improve new-born health
33	Resource mobilization to renovate water sanitation, hygiene and waste management in health care facilities in remote areas	d) Lg Term (6 mo-longer)			5. Other	UNICEF	\$ 5,000,000	Support to renovate water and sanitation facilities and waste management system in remote health facilities
34	Organization and providing planned in the framework of core HSS and additional HSS projects trainings for Immunization service providers, and General practitioners with COVID-19 updated training course	d) Lg Term (6 mo-longer)		MoH	2. Training	WHO	\$ 181,200	The funds will be addressed to coverage of additional costs related implementation of COVID-19 prevention measures: 1. Each initially planned training courses (both IIP and MLM) will be extended for covering IPC issues; 2. The number of participants will be reduced, and number of trainings will be increased; 3. Each participant and trainer will be provided by necessary PPE
<b>Total</b>							<b>\$ 289,162,527</b>	

## IV. Macroeconomic Response & Recovery

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### MOST SIGNIFICANT CHALLENGES BY TIME-FRAME

**Immediate (Now-1 month):** Guarantee the functioning of essential sectors (infrastructure, food, utilities, etc.) amid ongoing decline in exports, imports, investment; widened budget deficit; closure of SMEs that create 80 percent of all jobs (services, industry, construction are most affected).

**Short-Term (1-3 months):** Prevent excessive economic disruption and provide enough resources for people hit by the crisis amid significantly reduced incomes of population, including via remittances, revenues of private enterprises; increase in food prices and inflation; surge in unemployment; falling profitability and bank non-performing loans (NPLs)

**Medium-Term (3-6 months):** Prevent insolvency of most SMEs, growing banking non-performing loans (NPLs) and private banks problems.

**Long-Term (6 months-):** Prevent bankruptcy of most SMEs and insolvency of private banks.

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### CONSOLIDATED VALUE PROPOSITIONS BY TIME-FRAME

**Immediate (Now-1 month):** Country Economic Update; Policy Framework for Mitigating the Impact of the COVID-19s; COVID-19 Stress Testing for Financial Institutions (webinar and advisory services).

**Short-Term (1-3 months):** Budget support financing operation preparation of the second Development Policy Operation (DPO-2) (USD200 million); Budget support financing preparation of DPO-3 (USD500 million); Support the Government's socio-economic measures in response to COVID-19; Analysis on socio-economic implications and policy response.

**Medium-Term (3-6 months):** Budget support financing disbursement (USD200 million); Budget support operation financing (USD500 million); Systematic Country Diagnostics (part on macro-sectoral policies).

**Long-Term (6 months-):** Systematic country food diagnostics; Studies on regulatory barriers to trade.

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### CRITICAL GAPS

**Gap 1:** Crisis mitigation measures are excessively curtailing economic activity, esp. SMEs/jobs.

**Gap 2:** Need to recommend less disruptive containment measures, ensure that business and trade networks and jobs are preserved for starting recovery later.

**Gap 3:** Budget and income support might be insufficient; jobs may not be preserved for all SMEs.

**Gap 4:** Most subsidized loans are provided to large SOEs; inadequate support to SMEs.

**Gap 5:** Lack of design of highly effective stimulus package for starting rapid recovery; increase in the public debt ratio.

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### CONTRIBUTING AGENCIES

ADB, FAO, IFC, IsDB, WB , IMF

No.	Descriptive Title of the Concrete Deliverable to the Government	Delivery Timeframe	Target Date if known	Key Gov't Counterpart	Deliverable Type	Delivering Agency(ies)	Financing Amount / Indicative Budget	Note
35	Fighting COVID-19: Europe and Central Asia Economic Update, Spring 2020 Edition (Uzbekistan specific section starts on page 79)	a) Immediate (Now-1 mo)	08/04/2020	MOF	1. Knowledge Product/Service	WB		<a href="https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/bitstream/handle/10986/33476/9781464815645.pdf">https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/bitstream/handle/10986/33476/9781464815645.pdf</a>
36	A Policy Framework for Mitigating the Impact of the COVID-19 Crisis	a) Immediate (Now-1 mo)	16/04/2020	MOF, MOEPR	1. Knowledge Product/Service	WB		Already delivered - the Paper is submitted to the Government
37	<a href="#">Development Policy Operation 2 - Supplemental (Budget Support)</a>	a) Immediate (Now-1 mo)	30/04/2020	MoF	3. Financial Product	WB	\$ 200,000,000	Supplemental to the DPO-2 (\$500m) approved in June 2019
38	Disbursement under the Rapid Credit Facility and Rapid Financing Instrument to address external and fiscal financing need arising from the impact of the COVID-19 crisis	a) Immediate (Now-1 mo)	20/05/2020	Central Bank, MoF	3. Financial Product	IMF	\$ 375,000,000	IMF financial assistance under the RCF and the RFI, along with support from other multilateral institutions, will help cover Uzbekistan's fiscal and balance of payments needs and mitigate the impact on its foreign exchange reserves. It will also provide resources to support increased crisis spending for healthcare, social protection, and public support for affected firms and households.
39	Development Policy Operation 3 (Budget Support)	b) St Term (1-3 mo)	15/07/2020	MoF	3. Financial Product	WB	\$ 500,000,000	Continuation of the DPO series
40	COVID-19 Active Response and Expenditure Support (CARES) Program (Budget Support)	b) St Term (1-3 mo)	June	MoF	3. Financial Product	ADB	\$ 500,000,000	
41	Support food security of the country by ITFC	b) St Term (1-3 mo)		MoF	3. Financial Product	IsDB	\$ 50,000,000	The project is approved for production or procurement of grain
42	Analysis on Socio-Economic implications and Government's measures in response to COVID-19	<u>b) St Term (1-3 mo)</u>	07/08/2020	MoEDPR	1. Knowledge Product/Service	ADB	\$ 250,000	Assessment of adopted policy responses and their adequacy for recovery and to build back better.
43	Power Sector Reform Program	c) Md Term (3-6 mo)	30/08/2020	MOF	3. Financial Product	ADB	\$ 200,000,000	Project is in energy sector and the executive agency is MoE, its modality is a policy-based lending--support to the budget managed by MOF.
44	Financial Markets Development Program, Subprogram 1	c) Md Term (3-6 mo)	30/10/2020	MOF	3. Financial Product	ADB	\$ 100,000,000	Project is in finance sector; its modality is a policy-based lending--support to the budget managed by MOF.
<b>Total</b>							<b>\$ 1,925,250,000</b>	

## V. Social Protection

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### MOST SIGNIFICANT CHALLENGES BY TIME-FRAME

**Immediate (Now-1 months):** Increasing unemployment and poverty with at least 448,000 additional people are expected to fall into poverty<sup>4</sup>. Lack of deep understanding of actual urgent needs of different groups of populations (i.e. workers in precarious employment, children, youth, women, Uzbek migrants abroad and informal economy workers, single elderly, people with disabilities etc.) in part due to data gaps. Interruption of vital service provision in view of physical distancing requirements.

**Short-Term (1-3 months):** Insufficient capacity to address the needs of different groups for income security, job retention, employment services and access to livelihoods. Growing demand for these services is compounded by significant pre-crisis social assistance coverage gaps (e.g. 75 percent of eligible low-income families were not accessing low-income family benefits) due to insufficient budget allocation. Decreasing capacity of workers and employers to make social insurance contributions. Unclear eligibility criteria for extension of existing social protection programs to 'new' disadvantaged groups (i.e. there is no mechanism to identify individuals/families in need of cash transfers and social welfare services apart from the mahalla system). Limited unemployment protection schemes.

**Medium-Term - Long-Term (3 - 6 months-):** Social protection system is not shock responsive (e.g. lacks capacity for rapid scale up in the times of crisis, leading to delayed, ad hoc and ineffective social protection measures). Increased demand for social assistance from individuals and households and need to extend coverage to workers in informal employment. Identification of fiscal space for social protection schemes and services, and related challenge of maintaining the budget and capacity to deliver social insurance guarantees. Shrinking labour market and growing unemployment among disadvantaged groups and migrant workers, and lack of support to job retention programs

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### CONSOLIDATED VALUE PROPOSITION BY TIME-FRAME

**Immediate (Now-1 months):** The Development Partners (DP) will support authorities in addressing the immediate needs of population by Providing financial support to increase coverage of low-income family allowances and one-off unemployment benefits. Technical assistance on design of social protection responses, such as expansion of low-income family allowances. Strengthening capacity for social protection and labour market response to COVID-19 (extension of coverage to workers in informal economy). Developing protocols (including remote case management) to ensure continuity of vital social service provision for the most vulnerable population, aligned with the requirement of physical distancing (including coordination of the volunteer initiatives). In order to support better understanding of emerging needs knowledge products listed in the inventory table will be shared with authorities. Participating partners are available if requested to assist the government to develop a Social Protection Response Action Plan.

**Short-Term (1-3 months):** Further support will be provided through Financing the extension of coverage of existing low-income family allowances and unemployment benefits. Expansion of wage subsidies for vulnerable workers can be rapidly launched through the restructuring of the existing project "Strengthening the Social Protection System" if requested by the government. Provision of policy options to strengthen social protection and labour market response, and options for extension of unemployment schemes/insurance to workers in the informal economy. Provision of guidelines for enterprises to adapt working arrangements, and protection measures for workers to comply with occupational safety and health standards. Support to stranded Uzbek migrants in the Russian Federation and Kazakhstan.

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<sup>4</sup> WB's estimates based on L2CU data

**Medium-Term (3-6 months):** Partners will focus on expansion of the existing social protection (SP) system in order to ensure coherence between social assistance, labour market and social insurance programs. Revision of eligibility and delivery mechanisms making them responsive to the current pandemic and future shocks and strengthening the capacity of the system on national and local level to respond to the urgent and evolving needs of population. Roll out of the Single Registry in the country (design, pilot and expansion to other social protection programs). Inclusion of COVID-19 response measures and policies in ongoing tripartite discussions on National Employment Strategy, Supporting the Government in developing SP strategy and Poverty reduction strategy.

**Long-Term (6 months)** Depending on the evolution of the crisis and physical distancing measures, partners will support the Government through the existing interventions aimed at strengthening social protection system including development of social protection strategy, improving shock-responsiveness, and integrated institutional reform. Single Registry roll-out and fine tuning, Labour Market Information System (LMIS) roll out, ALMPs and Social Insurance development, supporting strengthening of Social Work and Services, and Poverty reduction strategy.

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## CRITICAL GAPS

**Gap 1:** COVID-19 related Social Protection Response Action Plan designed by the government, social partners and civil society is needed to contribute to effectiveness and transparency of policy responses. Monitoring of the implementation and gaps would not only focus on short-term ad hoc responses to crisis but also ensure policy coherence in the recovery stage among all the Ministries that are currently in charge of the Social Protection measures (incl. Ministry of Finance (MoF), Ministry of Economic Development and Poverty Reduction (MoEDPR), Ministry of Mahalla and Family Support and Ministry of Employment and Labor Relations (MoELR).

**Gap 2:** Despite the plan to lift restriction and restart economic activity, the kindergartens/schools will remain closed until September, and the increased need for unpaid childcare will disproportionately affect approximately 30 percent female waged employment in private sector. A portion of 69 percent of women in waged employment in public sector, particularly those working in education and social sector will also be affected. Thus, it is expected that more women will be left without income and/or will be pushed into informality. Medium and long-term measures need to address gender disparities.

**Gap 3:** The lack of social protection coverage for informal workers (already vulnerable in normal times) make them particularly vulnerable to shocks. Most of them are neither covered by social insurance or other protection mechanisms associated with formal employment, nor do they qualify for narrow poverty-targeted social assistance schemes; often referred to as the 'missing middle'.

**Gap 4:** COVID-19 related income shocks at the household level, even if temporary, have devastating effects on children, particularly those living in poor households. Reduced household income forces poor families to cut back on essential health and food expenditures, increases risks of child labour, leads to stress, anxiety, higher risk of domestic violence and placement of children in institution-based care.

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## CONTRIBUTING AGENCIES

ILO, IOM, UNDP, UNICEF, WB

No.	Descriptive Title of the Concrete Deliverable to the Government	Delivery Timeframe	Target Date if known	Key Gov't Counterpart	Deliverable Type	Delivering Agency(ies)	Financing Amount / Indicative Budget	Note
45	<a href="#">Living Paper: Social Protection and Jobs Responses to COVID-19</a>	a) Immediate (Now-1 mo)	20/03/2020	MoF/MoEDPR/MoELR	1. Knowledge Product/Service	WB/ILO/UNICEF		Ongoing since March 20, 2020 -- weekly update
46	<a href="#">SP Component of "Emergency COVID-19 Response Project"</a>	a) Immediate (Now-1 mo)	24/04/2020	MOF/MoELR	3. Financial Product	WB	\$ 57,000,000	Delivered - see more detail at <a href="https://projects.worldbank.org/en/projects-operations/project-detail/P173827">https://projects.worldbank.org/en/projects-operations/project-detail/P173827</a>
47	Rapid assessment of the needs of Uzbek labour migrants stranded in the Russian Federation	a) Immediate (Now-1 mo)	22/05/2020	MELR	1. Knowledge Product/Service	IOM		Rapid assessment of stranded migrants affected by the COVID-19, and assessment of their basic urgent needs for food, shelter and non-food items
48	Rapid socio-economic impact assessment on social protection and labour market	a) Immediate (Now-1 mo)	31/05/2020	MoELR/MoF/social partners	1. Knowledge Product/Service	ILO		Assessment focus: 1) Main channels of influence of the global crisis; 2) Review of measures taken in response to COVID-19; 3) Options to stimulate economy and labour demand through economic and employment policies; 4) Options to increase social protection coverage; 5) Assessment of internal and external markets contraction for most vulnerable industries: main findings of enterprises' online express survey.
49	Communication campaign on social protection emergency responses	b) St Term (1-3 mo)	15/06/2020	MoF	1. Knowledge Product/Service	UNICEF	\$ 30,000	
50	Technical Assistance on emergency cash transfer design and other social protection responses	b) St Term (1-3 mo)	15/06/2020	MoF, MoEDPR	1. Knowledge Product/Service	UNICEF	\$ 50,000	Analysis, microsimulations, programme design
51	Adaptation of ILO guidelines for enterprise organizations on organization of work, protection measures for workers, occupational safety and health, etc, during the COVID-19 pandemic	b) St Term (1-3 mo)	30/06/2020	CEU/CCIU	1. Knowledge Product/Service	ILO		
52	Assistance and protection to stranded Uzbek migrants in the Russian Federation and Kazakhstan	b) St Term (1-3 mo)	April - July, 2020	Agency for External Labour Migration, Embassies/Consulates	4. In-Kind Support	IOM	\$ 100,000	Provision of food, NFIs (non-food items, including personal sanitary and hygienic items), and shelter to crisis affected Uzbek migrants stranded in the destination countries. The assistance aid will be delivered to the most vulnerable groups first.

53	Wage subsidies for vulnerable workers	b) St Term (1-3 mo)		MELR	3. Financial Product	WB	\$ 20,000,000	<a href="#">If requested by the authorities, additional wage subsidies can be implemented through the restructuring of the Strengthening of Social Protection System Project</a>
54	Inclusion of COVID-19 response measures and policies in ongoing tripartite discussions on National Employment Strategy	c) Md Term (3-6 mo)	15/10/2020	MoELR	1. Knowledge Product/Service	ILO		
55	Poverty Reduction Strategy	d) Lg Term (6 mo-longer)	31/12/2020	MoEDPR	1. Knowledge Product/Service	UNDP, WB	\$ 130,000	Informed by COVID-19 measures and reflective of long term COVID-19 response
56	Single Registry for Social Protection rollout acceleration	d) Lg Term (6 mo-longer)	31/12/2020	MoF	1. Knowledge Product/Service	UNICEF, WB		Accelerate scale up Single Registry of Social Protection and boost its capability for rapid expansion to respond to shocks.
57	UN Joint Programme on Social Protection (with ILO and UNDP, including 20% to COVID-19 response)	d) Lg Term (6 mo-longer)		Cabinet of Ministers, MoF, MoEDPR, MoMFA	1. Knowledge Product/Service	UNICEF, ILO and UNDP	\$ 2,000,000	Support Gov't to strengthen social protection system and making it more shock responsive in short-term crisis response and recovery and long-term system strengthening (policy, institutional and programme levels). Including designing response measures. Objective of the SP strategy design and other interventions is to build back better in short, medium and longer term. Incl. grant elements to the Gov't.
<b>Total</b>							<b>\$ 79,310,000</b>	

## VI. Supporting Workers and Job Creation

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### MOST SIGNIFICANT CHALLENGES BY TIME-FRAME

**Immediate (Now-1 month):** External shocks, including volatility in commodity prices, disruption to value chains, and fall in remittances, require a concerted effort to protect existing and create new jobs for youth, labour migrants and workers displaced because of the pandemic. Outreach and efficiency of the Public Works Programme may remain limited and SMEs allowed to resume operations are currently limited to those in construction, transportation, retail (supermarket chains, groceries, construction materials), and services (deliveries and dry cleaning). Insurance and microfinancing will require support to tackle increased cost of doing business and support in managing supply and demand shocks. Agricultural production needs to be supported in order to ensure food security. Financial institutions should prepare for future challenges and conduct stress testing on their portfolios and balance sheets.

**Short-Term (1-3 months):** Aggregate demand will remain depressed for an extended period. The SME sector that traditionally holds great potential for fast job creation has been significantly impacted by the crisis. Hence, recovery of all the SMEs and their supply chains as well as stimulating private consumption after the quarantine is lifted will be a challenge.

**Medium-Term (3-6 months):** During this crisis, we are likely to see a banking sector unwilling to provide financing due to perceived high risks, while financing is essential for SMEs to stay afloat during the crisis. Banks may also be affected by clients' inability to operate and a subsequent surge in non-performing loans will cause reluctance to extend new and additional financing. Volatility of exchange rates and high depreciation may cause additional disruption. Supporting the financial sector to deliver its financing to the heavily affected sectors, at a time of rising protectionist measures and unprecedented outflow of capital and investments globally, will be key for economic recovery.

**Long-Term (6 months):** New opportunities should be explored to support innovative entrepreneurship and investment in new activities which will help in creating new and better paying jobs, including in areas linked to green growth. Adjustments to Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) systems to new labour skills demand should be supported. By pursuing this longer-term objective, Uzbekistan could further diversify its economy, reduce the size of the informal sector, and strengthen its resilience to future crises. However, formalization of informal sector will remain the major challenge. Moreover, banks may require financial injections.

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### CONSOLIDATED VALUE PROPOSITION BY TIME-FRAME

**Immediate (Now-1 month):** Fast-track restructuring and liquidity needs assessment for distressed SMEs are key components of short-term financial support. Setting up of business clinics will provide advisory to SMEs that were affected by the crisis. Stress testing tools (webinars, consultations) will be key to support local banks capacity to navigate successfully through the crisis. Focus on stronger functioning of public employment services, vocational education, Active Labor Market Policies (ALMP), and a strategic approach to development and management of employers' organizations.

**Short-Term (1-3 months):** Addressing SMEs' short-term liquidity and working capital needs are key short/medium-term goals to maintain jobs. Facilitating trade to support the fast-rising demand for open channels of commerce. Provision of integrated business support for SMEs and start-ups (webinars,

consultations, coaching, seed funding, online video courses on professional and business skills development) and supporting social enterprises to re-orient their operations to production of medical consumables will support SME sector jobs retention and creation. Further, capacity development and guidelines to: i) Public Employment Services (PES) to improve their functions ii) strengthen response of labor market institutions focusing on improved career guidance for unemployed iii) career guidance for youth in PES, PES functional assessment report and guidelines for enterprise organizations on organization of work, protection measures for workers, occupational safety and health, etc., during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Medium-Term (3-6 months):** Provision of financial advisory support to the private sector (incl. to agriculture and agribusiness), introducing curricula to build new skills and entrepreneurial activities, and targeting most vulnerable (youth and women) disruptions to supply chains and concerns over food security. Liquidity to financial institutions and support to the financial sector reform through advisory and capacity building for handling of non-performing assets in a restrictive environment as well as for offering new instruments in support of the private sector will be provided. New tools to advance international cross-border trade by reducing administration in order to maximise the benefits of integrated supply chain management. Provision of liquidity to power operators to support continued supply for businesses and livelihoods.

**Long-Term (6 months-):** Support to economic activity and assistance to create sustainable jobs by pushing for reform, reorienting investments (including for economic diversification), and by providing advisory services (including reskilling/upskilling of women, youth, and informal workers). Provision of new tools for the banking sector and supporting vulnerable regions to support accelerated recovery. These should be complemented by support to adaptive appropriate TVET and mainstreaming digital skills.

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## CRITICAL GAPS

**Gap 1:** Slowing global demand from China and other large trading partners, volatility of commodity prices and reduced remittance inflows due to travel restrictions make the economy vulnerable and in need of investment for modernisation across sectors.

**Gap 2:** Private consumption and investment will continue to be impacted because of containment measures, worsening external conditions, and businesses will be hurt by tight credit conditions.

**Gap 3:** More financial injections may be needed to ensure the stability of the local banking sector in providing access to finance for private businesses that do not enjoy the government support.

**Gap 4:** Modernizing the agriculture sector, improving the performance of agricultural value chains, increasing productivity and efficiency among targeted smallholders, and enabling various actors to increase their investments in profitable value chains will remain major gaps.

**Gap 5:** Smooth transition to a digital economy and services by introducing measures to enhance government capacity to deliver public services more effectively, introduction of PPPs, reforms and innovative instruments to secure future jobs fit for post-COVID-19, and advanced e-commerce among SMEs are needed.

**Gap 6:** A real time data collection and analysis of the TVET system during and after the crisis is needed.

**Gap 7:** Investments in low carbon business models and green economy will be critical during the recovery stage. This requires financial instruments that incentivize climate proof investments (SME-level financial assistance and concessional lending conditional on 'greening'), upskilling programs to build relevant workforce, collaborating with the private sector to build a more resilient workforce, and ensuring health and safety of labour.

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#### **CONTRIBUTING AGENCIES**

ADB, EBRD, FAO, IFC, ILO, IsDB, ITC, UNDP, UNECE, UNESCO, WB

No.	Descriptive Title of the Concrete Deliverable to the Government	Delivery Timeframe	Target Date if known	Key Gov't Counterpart	Deliverable Type	Delivering Agency(ies)	Financing Amount / Indicative Budget	Note
58	COVID-19 Stress Testing for Financial Institutions (webinar and advisory services)	a) Immediate (Now-1 mo)	08/04/2020	Banks	1. Knowledge Product/Service	IFC	\$ 150,000	Ongoing (7 banks participate)
59	COVID-19 Solidarity Package, Phase 1: Resilience Framework - Trade guarantees and cash advances for SME clients of 4 state owned banks.	a) Immediate (Now-1 mo)	30/04/2020	MIFT + 4 SOBs	3. Financial Product	EBRD	\$ 220,000,000	Not a sovereign guaranteed deliverable. Out of the USD 220m total amount, the cash advances part sums up to USD 100m.
60	Trade finance lines to support SMEs through commercial banks	a) Immediate (Now-1 mo)	30/04/2020	MIFT, 8 commercial banks	3. Financial Product	ADB	\$ 367,000,000	Not a sovereign guaranteed deliverable. Note that these lines target both SMEs and Corporates.
61	A series of webinars on public employment services, vocational education, ALMP, strategic approach to organizational development and management of employers' organization, social protection response and informality	a) Immediate (Now-1 mo)	30/04/2020	MoELR/social partners	2. Training	ILO	\$ 10,000	
62	Business Clinic for SMEs and entrepreneurs	a) Immediate (Now-1 mo)	01/05/2020	CCI	1. Knowledge Product/Service	UNDP	\$ 80,000	Consultancy support to affected businesses and entrepreneurs to address imminent business challenges
63	Credit lines for micro, small and medium size enterprises (MSMEs)	a) Immediate (Now-1 mo)	04/05/2020	MoA/UZAIFSA	3. Financial Product	WB	\$ 146,500,000	<a href="#">Component 2.1 of the existing "Fergana Valley Rural Enterprise Development Project"</a>
64	Integrated Business support to SMEs	a) Immediate (Now-1 mo)	15/05/2020	CCI	1. Knowledge Product/Service	UNDP	\$ 221,000	Support to reviving affected and creating new businesses through online and offline technical skills building, financing and business coaching
65	Development of start-ups targeting women and youth	a) Immediate (Now-1 mo)	15/05/2020	CCI	1. Knowledge Product/Service	UNDP	\$ 217,000	Support to initiating and developing start-ups through Start-up Initiatives Programme
66	Updating PES functional assessment report	a) Immediate (Now-1 mo)	25/05/2020	MoELR	1. Knowledge Product/Service	ILO	\$ 25,000	Updating the first assessment report with latest research - more focus on crisis response and coordination with social policies, including further exploring synergies between Employment and Public Works Fund

67	Access to online community platform dedicated to e-commerce professionals ecomConnect.org	a) Immediate (Now-1 mo)	30/05/2020	CCI	2. Training	ITC		Users will benefit from immediate resources to help with COVID-19 response and learn new skills through free resources, such as online courses, tools, guidelines, video tutorials, live webinars and Q&A sessions.
68	Seed funding to the SMEs and start-ups to launch and accelerate business	a) Immediate (Now-1 mo)	31/05/2020	CCI	4. In-Kind Support	UNDP	\$ 517,500	Support in reviving affected and creating new businesses by providing seed funding
69	Agricultural cooperatives development	a) Immediate (Now-1 mo)	31/05/2020	CCI, MoELR, MIFT, MoC	1. Knowledge Product/Service	UNDP	\$ 200,000	Support to agricultural cooperatives in rural areas that target unemployed and poor families
70	Skills development for youth NEET and entrepreneurs	a) Immediate (Now-1 mo)	31/05/2020	CCI, MoELR, MIFT, MoC	1. Knowledge Product/Service	UNDP	\$ 80,000	Online courses on entrepreneurship, trade, IT, working professions
71	Knowledge and experience sharing with the ministries of education	a) Immediate (Now-1 mo)	30/07/2020	MHSSE, MoPE	1. Knowledge Product/Service	UNESCO		UNESCO connects ministries of education under one platform to enable exchange of national experiences through online webinars and meetings.
72	Policy paper on addressing the needs of informal labour	a) Immediate (Now-1 mo)	28/04/2020	MoF, MEPR	1. Knowledge Product/Service	UNDP		Note on experience and approach of other countries as well as recommendation on addressing the needs of informal labour
73	Functional analysis of the Public Works Fund under MoELR	b) St Term (1-3 mo)	30/06/2020	MoELR	1. Knowledge Product/Service	ILO	\$ 30,000	Multidimensional diagnosis of with recommendations for PWF response methods and skills basis to support effective crisis response and encourage local economic development for job creation, and for coordination between transitory social protection measures, ALMPs and PWF to increase workers employability and transit to permanent jobs.
74	Adaptation of Fair recruitment guidelines to national context considering the impact of COVID-19 on labour force	b) St Term (1-3 mo)	30/06/2020	MoELR	1. Knowledge Product/Service	ILO	\$ 15,000	To ensure fair recruitment during seasonal agricultural work
75	Crisis response - Working Capital Solution	b) St Term (1-3 mo)	01/07/2020	Ipak Yuli bank	3. Financial Product	IFC	\$ 30,000,000	
76	Trade finance to support SMEs through commercial banks	b) St Term (1-3 mo)	01/07/2020	MIFT, 3 commercial banks	3. Financial Product	IsDB	\$ 30,000,000	LoF will be extended by ITFC, member of IsDB Group

77	Concept Note for situational rooms for career guidance for youth in PES	b) St Term (1-3 mo)	15/07/2020	MoELR	1. Knowledge Product/Service	ILO	\$ 10,000	
78	Production and distribution of protective masks	b) St Term (1-3 mo)	30/07/2020	Silk Association	5. Other	ITC	\$ 30,000	First batch of protective masks, distribution network, and kit to get them produced by more artisans
79	Support to farmers and owners of household plots in Bukhara and Kashkadarya regions for Food security through boosting of agricultural production.	b) St Term (1-3 mo)	31/07/2020	Ministry of Agriculture	4. In-Kind Support	FAO	\$ 200,000	Support is expected to be provided through providing to farmers and owners of household plots in Bukhara and Kashkadarya regions resources (seeds, saplings, seedlings, fertilizers, etc.) according their needs.
80	Capacity building of the Ministry of Mahalla and Family Affairs to support the most vulnerable groups, especially informally employed and unemployed women and youth.	b) St Term (1-3 mo)	31/07/2020	Ministry of Mahalla	1. Knowledge Product/Service	UNDP	\$ 400,000	Programmes targeting informally employed to be developed and implemented
81	SME surveys	c) Md Term (3-6 mo)	30/09/2020	MIFT	1. Knowledge Product/Service	ITC	\$ 15,000	Assess SMEs training and other capacity building needs in e-commerce and challenges faced due to COVID-19; assessment of training needs of women entrepreneurs
82	COVID-19 Solidarity Package, Phase 2: Vital Infrastructure Support Programme - Liquidity support to power and utility companies	c) Md Term (3-6 mo)	30/09/2020	MIFT + MinEnergy	3. Financial Product	EBRD	\$ 100,000,000	Sovereign guaranteed deliverable in line with Presidential Decree of 22 April 2020
83	Advisory services and capacity building activities to facilitate Uzbekistan's Accession to the WTO	c) Md Term (3-6 mo)	01/10/2020	MIFT	1. Knowledge Product/Service	ITC	\$ 602,522	For a member in the process of accession, the Accession process can itself form part of the recovery plan post COVID-19. WTO accession will require Uzbekistan to amend several its laws and regulations, including in areas related to Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) regulations, technical barriers to trade, and intellectual property. These reforms would reduce technical barriers to trade, and thus, facilitate and streamline imports, including of medicines, ventilators, masks, sanitizers and other protective equipment (PPE).
84	SME advisory and trainings	c) Md Term (3-6 mo)	01/10/2020	MIFT/CCI	2. Training	ITC	\$ 200,000	Develop and deliver dedicated training modules and coaching services on export management in crisis time

85	Facilitate and simplify cross-border procedures for exporting and importing essential goods, in particular those key to combat and recover from COVID-19.	c) Md Term (3-6 mo)	01/10/2020	MIFT/Customs	5. Other	ITC	\$ 150,000	Improve transparency, predictably and efficiency of cross-border procedures to enhance traders' compliance, reduce time and cost of shipments and ease the import / export of products required to cope with / recover from the COVID-19 crisis
86	Partial Credit Guarantee for micro, small and medium size enterprises (MSMEs)	c) Md Term (3-6 mo)	15/10/2020	MoA/UZAIFSA	3. Financial Product	WB	\$ 20,500,000	<a href="#">Component 2.2 of the existing "Fergana Valley Rural Enterprise Development Project"</a>
87	Credit lines for small and medium size enterprises (SMEs)	c) Md Term (3-6 mo)	31/10/2020	MIFT, 3 commercial banks	3. Financial Product	ADB	\$ 40,000,000	Not a sovereign guaranteed deliverable. SME Credit lines will be channelled through commercial banks
88	SME Development Program	d) Lg Term (6 mo-longer)	30/11/2020	MOF	3. Financial Product	ADB	\$ 100,000,000	Project is in finance sector; its modality is a sector development program with policy-based lending component (\$50 million --support to the budget managed by MOF).
89	Advisory services to facilitate Uzbekistan's Accession to the WTO	d) Lg Term (6 mo-longer)	31/12/2020	MIFT	1. Knowledge Product/Service	UNECE	\$ 9,000	Study on the readiness of Uzbekistan to implement the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (SDG 17.10) and study and recommendations on the harmonization of border-crossing procedures in Central Asia
90	Use of key features of eTIR to minimize the spread of COVID-19 and facilitate transboundary movements of goods	d) Lg Term (6 mo-longer)	31/12/2020	MIFT	1. Knowledge Product/Service	UNECE	\$ 60,000	Short term, eTIR would minimise physical contact in customs offices and establish green lanes to speed up transport of food and pharmaceuticals. Long term, TIR Convention would accelerate recovery of economies hit by the COVID-19 pandemic.
91	<a href="#">Unprogrammed funds under "Fergana Valley Rural Enterprise Development Project"</a>	d) Lg Term (6 mo-longer)		MoA/UZAIFSA	3. Financial Product	WB	\$ 14,500,000	<a href="#">Out of the \$200 million project fund, \$14.5 million has been reserved for unforeseen activities, and can be deployed for COVID-19 specific responses.</a>
<b>Total</b>							<b>\$ 1,071,722,022</b>	

## VII. Supporting Education Services

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### MOST SIGNIFICANT CHALLENGES

**Immediate (Now-1 month):** Since schools abruptly closed due to COVID-19 Uzbekistan's education system faces significant challenges, such as lack of tools to enable learning during emergencies, weak ICT infrastructure, lack of resources for using high-tech tools to organize learning and assessment processes, lack of online/video teaching-learning materials and remote extracurricular activities, lack of remote process for school transfer/final exams and university entrance exams, and lack of teachers' skills to deliver distance/online lessons.

**Short-Term (1-3 months):** Need for developing learning recovery plan when schools/pre-schools reopen, including safe school/preschool guidelines, and development of curricula reforms for improving the quality of teaching, learning materials, and capacity of teachers in distance education methods.

**Medium-Term (3-6 months):** Enhancing the system's ability to provide education during emergencies, development of Early Childhood Care and Education (ECE)/Early Childhood Development (ECD) practices, effective use of distance learning, implementation of a learning recovery plan when schools/pre-schools reopen, and need to develop psychological and psychosocial support to parents and children.

**Long-Term (6 months-)** Need for development of a long-term distance learning strategy with introduction of more advanced in distance learning tools, including reforming the curricula and teaching methods.

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### CONSOLIDATED VALUE PROPOSITION

**Immediate (Now-1mo):** Provision of knowledge products/services and advisory support in assessing needs and proposing recommendations on strategic planning to ensure learning continuity through distance learning. Production of materials to support extracurricular activities and risk mitigation measures for kids and parents during the lockdown.

**Short-Term (1-3mo):** Improving the institutional framework for distance learning, the quality of teaching-learning materials, and increasing teacher's capacity in distance learning. Facilitating extracurricular activities for kids and parents support through development of knowledge products to guide parents in distance learning process and render psychological support.

**Medium-Term (3-6mo):** Assistance to the Ministry of Public Education (MoPE) and Ministry of Preschool Education (MoPSE) in developing learning recovery approaches, development of MoPE's integrated distance education and monitoring and evaluation/assessment platform. Developing and introducing alternative education delivery systems for ECE and general secondary education continuity.

**Long-Term (6mo-)** Assistance to MoPE and MoPSE will focus on enhancing the education system's ability to provide education during emergencies, learning recovery and facilitation of safe environment and risk communication when schools/pre-schools reopen, introduction of blended learning into education process. MoPSE will also be assisted in studying the ECE practices in emergencies, development and introduction of distance learning platforms for ECE/ECD.

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### CRITICAL GAPS

**Gap 1:** Support for establishing ICT infrastructure, including procuring necessary equipment and devices for distance learning, student/teacher training to use distance-learning and teaching skills and tools

**Gap 2:** Online/real-time teacher feedback and support arrangements for students during video-lessons, and support in developing and introducing efficient support channels/tools and interactive feedback training for teachers.

**Gap 3:** Online mentoring for teachers and educators to support distance learning activities, methodologies, and pedagogy.

**Gap 4:** Deeper Psychosocial Support (PSS) programming to address needs of teachers, learners, and parents coping with education demands as a result of COVID-19.

**Gap 5:** Future skills for high school graduates – provision training support to improve students’ digital literacy and acquiring various distance learning skills.

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## **CONTRIBUTING AGENCIES**

ADB, UNICEF, UNODC, WB

92	Recommendations to Continued Learning with EdTech Solutions	a) Immediate (Now-1 mo)	24/04/2020	MoPE	1. Knowledge Product/Service	ADB		Already delivered: Summary note was shared with MoPE for review and feedback
93	Education Systems' Response to COVID-19 Guidance Note	a) Immediate (Now-1 mo)	12/03/2020	MoPE	1. Knowledge Product/Service	WB		Already delivered: This brief includes information on the impacts of the COVID-19 on schools, students and families; links to helpful resources on monitoring and responses; and a compilation of country systems' responses to the pandemic.
94	Remote Learning and COVID-19 Guidance Note	a) Immediate (Now-1 mo)	19/03/2020	MoPE	1. Knowledge Product/Service	WB		Already delivered: Brief on the use of educational technologies at scale across an education system as a result of massive school closings in response to the COVID-19 pandemic
95	Brief on high-stakes school exams and university entrance examinations during COVID-19	a) Immediate (Now-1 mo)	14/04/2020	MoPE	1. Knowledge Product/Service	WB		Already delivered: Summary of country response examples on exit and entrance examinations
96	Anticorruption Non electronic Game "Integrity"	a) Immediate (Now-1 mo)		MoPE	1. Knowledge Product/Service	UNODC ROCA	\$ 2,000	UNODC translated into Russian and Uzbek the Integrity game will allow the children, who are staying home to learn about becoming citizens that act with, and integrity.
97	"Anti-corruption" Video with Teachers Guide	a) Immediate (Now-1 mo)		MoPE	1. Knowledge Product/Service	UNODC ROCA	\$ 1,000	Teachers' guide to accompany the animated video on corruption. This video and guide for teenagers to critically engage in understanding the meaning and impact of corruption, and other acts linked to corruption. Shared in Uzbek and Russian for inclusion in online education tools
98	Table Game "Labyrinth"	a) Immediate (Now-1 mo)		MoPE	1. Knowledge Product/Service	UNODC ROCA	\$ 1,000	Online Preventing violent extremism through education material in Uzbek and Russian
99	Non electronic Game "CyberStrike"	a) Immediate (Now-1 mo)		MoPE	1. Knowledge Product/Service	UNODC ROCA		The goal of Cyberstrike is to collectively prevent and survive cyber-attacks by communicating and working together with the teammates. Such games are important in lockdown when people stay at home higher need to stay safe online.
100	Brochure "Respect Women"	a) Immediate (Now-1 mo)		MoPE	1. Knowledge Product/Service	UNODC ROCA	\$ 1,000	Brochure on prevention violence against women intended for different stakeholders translated into and disseminated through different channels.

101	Enhanced education system-level response to the pandemic: Rapid Assessment of Education sector needs & strategic response plan development	a) Immediate (Now-1 mo)	20/04/2020	MoPE; MoPSE & State Inspection	1. Knowledge Product/Service	UNICEF		Already delivered: (i) a rapid assessment of education sector needs during COVID-19; and (ii) response strategy plan based on the assessment. The assessment also drew from global experiences and best practices. The Strategic Plan was delivered to the Ministries and shared with other stakeholders in the third week of April 2020.
102	Advisory/consultancy support to MoPE to improve the distance learning, develop online learning assessment systems and build teachers capacity	b) St Term (1-3 mo)	05/06/2020	MoPE	1. Knowledge Product/Service	ADB	\$ 75,380	Four specialists (2 international and 2 national) for STEM and EdTech. Current status: recruitment of consultants is ongoing with anticipated mobilization in late May-June 2020.
103	Pamphlet "Information on parenting during COVID-19"	b) St Term (1-3 mo)	20/04/2020	MoPE	1. Knowledge Product/Service	UNODC	\$ 2,000	Electronic "Information on parenting during COVID-19" with recommendations and info on improving communication and building better relationships between parents and children ,in Uzbek and Russian shared to over 100,000 teachers, psychologists and interested specialists
104	Education Continuity: Information and Communication materials developed and broadcasted /published	b) St Term (1-3 mo)	30/06/2020	MoPE, MoPSE	1. Knowledge Product/Service	UNICEF	\$ 10,000	Already delivered: (i) #LearningAtHome (and #FunAtHome), a 15-day social media campaign to guide parents on care and learning opportunities for children from home; (ii) A poster campaign to support distance learning. Posters are published on MoPE website, TV and telegram channels.
105	Knowledge Management & M&E: Sharing information from international best practices & capacity building for current response & future pandemics	b) St Term (1-3 mo)	30/06/2020	REC, MoPE, MoPSE, SISEQ	1. Knowledge Product/Service	UNICEF		Compiling lessons learned from international best practices in distance learning and emergency crisis management to share with government.
106	Knowledge management & learning: Supporting the Essay writing and creative art event for students	b) St Term (1-3 mo)	30/06/2020	SISEQ	4. In-Kind Support	UNICEF	\$ 5,000	Support SISEQ to organize an event for children to unleash critical thinking and creative work on issues around the pandemic; using materials to develop socio-emotional support programmes. The best entries will get prizes and inform competency-based curriculum.
107	Improvements to MoPE's online education platform	c) Md Term (3-6 mo)		MoPE	3. Financial Product	ADB	\$ 3,000,000	Pending results of ADB consultants' assessment (row 2), ADB will develop a grant project.

108	Learning Continuity and Recovery Approaches, and Enhancing the System's Emergency Response Capacity	c) Md Term (3-6 mo)		MoPE	5. Other	WB	\$ 4,000,000	Support activities to (i) ensure learning continuity to the highest extent during the closures of general secondary education schools because of the COVID-19 pandemic, including current/future shutdowns; (ii) recover learning when schools reopen as well as ensuring that general secondary education schools are healthy and safe environments; and (iii) strengthen education system's emergency response capacity. The proposal is being discussed and no financial commitments have been made as of May 5, 2020.
109	Supplementary materials to address COVID-19 response including psychosocial support for parents and children	c) Md Term (3-6 mo)		MoPE	1. Knowledge Product/Service	UNODC	\$ 2,000	Supplementary materials for COVID-19 response including psychosocial support for parents and children, promoting youth engagement for COVID-19 response and mitigation of consequences, possible stigma, discrimination and violence against girls / women in lockdown.
110	Education continuity through Alternative / Distance Learning: (i) Financial support to Republican Education Centre (REC) under MOPE to prepare alternative education delivery systems; and (ii) technical support to REC to enhance content and pedagogy of distance learning programmes	c) Md Term (3-6 mo)	30/05/2020	Republican Education Centre (REC) under MoPE	3. Financial Product	UNICEF	\$ 30,000	Target is to reach at least 5 million school children through television lessons (out of 6.2 million school children). Number reached out through Online Maktab Telegram Channel: 84,000 subscribers & 2.6 million views daily (as on 25 April 2020). Telegram Channel of the MOPE: 80,000 subscribers & 250,000 views daily; 5,000 video lessons (Russian, Uzbek and Karakalpak) planned
111	Education continuity through Alternative / Distance Learning: Capacity building of Experts in Republican Education Centre (REC) to design and implement distance learning programme	c) Md Term (3-6 mo)	30/05/2020	REC	2. Training	UNICEF	\$ 5,000	Support REC on curricular reforms, teaching-learning materials and enhancing pedagogy; building capacity in distance learning. Outputs: (i) Report on content and pedagogy of video lessons and recommendations for improvement; (ii) Report of international expert on the capacity development of experts in REC; and (iii) number of REC experts trained in distance learning activities. Around 150 Teachers /Methodologists benefiting from regular webinars

112	Early Childhood Education (ECE) continuity through Alternative / Distance mode: Support development of print and broadcasting materials for early childhood education (TV and online platforms)	c) Md Term (3-6 mo)	30/07/2020	Innovation Centre (IC), MoPSE	3. Financial Product	UNICEF	\$ 20,000	Support to MoPSE's expert team developing broadcasting materials for early childhood education (TV and online platforms) based on preschool curriculum ("Ilk Qadam") and Early Learning Development Standards (ELDS). Technical support to improve the content and presentation of online/broadcast materials.
113	"The Zorbs" video series for primary school children included into curricula during online lessons (Uzbek, Russian and English versions)	d) Lg Term (6 mo-longer)		MoPE, Academy of General Prosecutors Office	1. Knowledge Product/Service	UNODC ROCA	\$ 5,000	Translation and dubbing of Zorbs video series into Uzbek (educational tool and set of animated videos that covers issues related to justice, cybercrime, human rights, gender and integrity, now available to students in Uzbek, Russian and English on YouTube.
114	School Re-opening: Safe Operations & Risk Communication	d) Lg Term (6 mo-longer)	30/09/2020	MoPE, MoPSE	1. Knowledge Product/Service	UNICEF	\$ 20,000	Developing safe school /preschool guidelines based on review of existing DRR-SB materials and international best practices and C4D messages. Work with MOPE and MOPSE on: (a) School re-opening policies and plans; (b) Physical distancing measures for re-opening; (c) Establishing Safe school /WASH protocols; (d) establishing staff work and attendance policies; and (e) Policies and plans for school premises in emergencies
115	School Re-opening: Remedial education/ Learning	d) Lg Term (6 mo-longer)	30/09/2020	REC under MOPE	1. Knowledge Product/Service	UNICEF	\$ 20,000	Support REC/MoPE in planning for remedial education to compensate compromised learning during school closure and distance learning, including (a) Plan for remedial lessons during initial days of school re-opening; including learning assessment; (b) Preparation of condensed lessons – by grade and subject – to catch up the curricular areas imparted through television lessons; and (c) Preparation of teacher guidelines to support remedial teaching.
116	Knowledge Management & M&E: Study and documentation on the reach out and impact of distance learning programme	d) Lg Term (6 mo-longer)	30/09/2020	REC	1. Knowledge Product/Service	UNICEF	\$ 8,000	Rapid survey to study the progress/impact of emergency response programmes. The survey maps students' and parents' knowledge, attitude, practice and satisfaction of distance learning programmes. Results will be used to inform revision of video lessons and planning new ways to present lessons. The rapid survey will be carried out in May, draft results expected in June.

117	Knowledge Management & M&E: Study and documentation on the ECE practices during emergency and use of distance learning programme	d) Lg Term (6 mo-longer)	30/09/2020	MoPSE	1. Knowledge Product/Service	UNICEF	\$ 7,000	Rapid survey to study ECD/ECE during the lockdown to understand students and parents' Knowledge, Attitude, Practices related to ECD practices and engaging children. Results will be used to inform C4D strategies related to ECD/ECE. The survey will be carried out in May, draft results expected in June.
118	Knowledge Management & M&E: Developing digital platforms and adopting digital tools to monitor ECD/ECE development	d) Lg Term (6 mo-longer)	30/07/2020	IC under MOPSE	5. Other	UNICEF	\$ 15,000	Support MoPSE to: (a) establish an ECE / preschool education Platform for lessons on ECE, particularly for children with Special Needs; (b) adapting the UNICEF regional Information system and mobile application (parenting app) to children's growth and development
<b>Total</b>							<b>\$ 7,229,380</b>	

## VIII. Protecting Vulnerable Groups, Social Cohesion and Community Resilience

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### MOST SIGNIFICANT CHALLENGES

**Immediate (Now-1 month):** Elevated risk of COVID-19 transmission amongst high risk and vulnerable population groups, such as the elderly<sup>5</sup>, persons in correctional facilities and pre-trial detention centers and other closed institutions, and front line service providers including medical personnel, who are predominantly women, and law enforcement officers). Interrupted justice system restricting timely provision of due process and legal services due to restriction of movement of legal practitioners, disruption of appeal mechanism, lack of an alternative service delivery model, and restriction of the right to appeal. Challenges in ensuring psychological and physical wellbeing in official quarantine facilities, especially in absence of oversight mechanisms.

**Short-Term (1-3 months):** Constrained capacity of social service ministries, especially the newly established Ministry of Mahalla and Family Support to ensure coverage, continuity, quality, equity and accessibility of basic social services to the most vulnerable populations: persons in correctional facilities, pre-trial centers, psychiatric hospitals, adolescents leaving specialized correctional facilities, vulnerable families, pregnant and lactating mothers, children without parental care, people with disabilities or chronic diseases, elderly, rural women, people living with HIV, people with drug disorders, survivors of gender-based violence, human rights organizations and activists, survivors of human trafficking, and refugees and stateless people (hereafter, 'vulnerable groups').

Insufficient public oversight of COVID-19 response measures. Restrictions on the necessary functions of journalists, ombudspersons, legal practitioners, civil society, media and human rights activists. Collection of human rights indicators specific to the COVID-19 response to ensure international human rights obligations inform national response strategy.

**Medium-Term (3-6 months):** Ensuring continued and prioritized delivery of basic social services and social protection to the vulnerable populations, especially those with combined effect of increased economic difficulties. Ensuring equitable social service delivery and social protection, including the prevention of corruption in public procurement and distribution of social assistance including medical supplies.

**Long-Term (6 months-):** Ensuring continuation of governance, civil society and rule of law reforms with special attention to vulnerable groups. Adequately addressing capacity challenges to deal effectively with needs of growing number of people in vulnerable situations as a result of increased economic hardship and long-term socio-economic impact of the COVID-19 crisis.

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### CONSOLIDATED VALUE PROPOSITION

**Immediate (Now-1 month):** Providing international guidelines and expertise to prevent and respond to COVID-19 and protect the most vulnerable populations and frontline service providers, including human rights protection, access to justice and social inclusion, and protection, services and resources for the most vulnerable groups, including women [see above list].

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<sup>5</sup> The available age disaggregated statistics on confirmed COVID-19 infection in Uzbekistan however suggest that the elderly population were not amongst the cohort of the most affected.

**Short-Term (1-3 months):** Supporting comprehensive national gender-based violence prevention and response during the COVID-19 period. Supporting inclusive social dialogue to increase awareness as well as public buy-in to COVID-19 response measures. Capacity-building for increased community resilience, participation and equitable service delivery, using technology to strengthen referral pathways, psychosocial support especially for most vulnerable populations through the Ministry of Mahalla and Family Support, Ministry of Public Education, service providers/practitioners and government statutory bodies (e.g. family specialists, guardianship inspectors, social workers, women's shelters etc.). Better targeting of vulnerable groups and evidenced-based social assistance, through strengthened use of data collection tools and platforms, such as U-report and various social studies and surveys. Capacity-building of law enforcement personnel engaged in lockdown measures to ensure protection of human rights, increase public trust and accountability and social cohesion. Technical assistance to and capacity-building of Parliamentary and government oversight bodies and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to monitor and assess impact of the national response on vulnerable groups, to reduce corruption in social service delivery, and enhance the alignment of policy measures to international human rights obligations while bolstering public confidence.

**Medium-Term (3-6 months):** Broad national consultation with civil society on lessons and experiences of the national COVID-19 response, aimed at strengthening social cohesion and building consensus for the social and economic recovery plan, and continued public health measures.

**Long-Term (6 months-):** Continue supporting the ongoing reforms to strengthen civil society and state oversight bodies such as the Parliament and the Ombudsperson, considering lessons and experiences learned during COVID-19 response. Continue supporting ongoing public sector reforms and build capacity and accountability of relevant Ministries which have mandates for social service delivery adapted to COVID-19 response and recovery.

Monitoring and collection of human rights indicators against the UN's ten thematic indicators developed to support national and international efforts towards a human rights-based policy response to the crisis, as well as an early warning tool.

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## CRITICAL GAPS

**Gap 1:** Insufficiently robust oversight mechanisms for public monitoring of lock-down measures and overall COVID-19 response to ensure the protection of the most vulnerable populations and human rights protection.

**Gap 2:** Capacity gaps of the newly established Ministry of Mahalla and Family Support, law enforcement, and prison services.

**Gap 3:** Timely, reliable and disaggregated data remains scarce for evidence-based programme planning and an improved targeting of vulnerable populations.

**Gap 4:** Mitigating negative impact on human rights implications for civil, economic, political, social and cultural rights of the COVID-19 pandemic response.

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## CONTRIBUTING AGENCIES

IOM, OHCHR, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNODC, WHO

119	Support to early recovery and inclusive social services to vulnerable populations	a) <b>Immediate (Now-1 mo)</b>	31/12/2020	Ministry of Economy, Ministry of Mahalla and Family Affairs	1. Knowledge Product/Service	UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, IOM, UNODC	\$ 1,000,000	Multi-partner trust fund (MPTF) for women, migrants, children, returnees, elderly, disabled, etc.
120	Policy advocacy on Human Rights, Protection, Key Populations, Leave No One Behind and anti-stigmatization	a) <b>Immediate (Now-1 mo)</b>	30/06/2020	Republican Commission	1. Knowledge Product/Service	UNCT, NGOs		Staff time (policy briefs, analysis, translation of guidelines, creating platform for dialogues, etc.)
121	Support to comprehensive national GBV prevention and response during COVID-19 period	a) <b>Immediate (Now-1 mo)</b>	31/12/2020	Gender Commission, Ministry of Mahalla and Family Affairs	1. Knowledge Product/Service	UNFPA (All GBV TF members)	\$ 50,000	GBV assessment, GBV Shelters, hotlines, telegram channel of 'no to violence', prevention message, training, coordination
122	Support service delivery for certain vulnerable populations such as families repatriated from armed conflict zones, children leaving closed facilities and those staying in residential care institutions.	a) <b>Immediate (Now-1 mo)</b>	31/12/2020	Ministry of Public Education, Ministry of Mahalla and Family Affairs	1. Knowledge Product/Service	UNICEF	\$ 100,000	Training, social work and case management, development of services to targeted vulnerable families, etc.
123	Support to policy advocacy and prevention of COVID-19 for vulnerable populations, especially people in prison and closed institutions including children, GBV survivors, people using drugs and PLWHIV	a) <b>Immediate (Now-1 mo)</b>	31/12/2020	Ministry of mahalla and family affairs, ministry of justice, GPO, MOH	1. Knowledge Product/Service	UNODC	\$ 10,000	Policy briefs, guidance notes and training
124	Collect COVID-19 related information through youth participant using U-report	a) <b>Immediate (Now-1 mo)</b>	31/12/2020	Youth union	1. Knowledge Product/Service	UNICEF		Survey
125	Awareness raising campaign to prevent spread of the crisis	a) <b>Immediate (Now-1 mo)</b>	30/06/2020	Mahalla, Ministry of Construction, Ministry of Water Recourses	1. Knowledge Product/Service	UNDP	\$ 95,000	Development of communication products to prevent spread of COVID-19, involvement of local communities, media, front line public workers and local authorities in comms campaign

126	Providing expert and technical support to the Government of Uzbekistan in order to strengthen civic engagement, public control and its interaction with the society in response to COVID-19, with a focus on people with disabilities and individual human rights activists.	a) Immediate (Now-1 mo)	31/12/2020	Public Chamber under the President of Uzbekistan, Oliy Majlis, Ombudsman, NHRC	1. Knowledge Product/Service	OHCHR	\$ 5,000	Training activities and expert support
127	Providing for the UN and OHCHR guidelines and materials on human rights in time of COVID-19 and other emergency situations.	a) Immediate (Now-1 mo)	31/12/2020	NHRC, GPO Academy, Supreme Judicial Council	1. Knowledge Product/Service	OHCHR	\$ 5,000	As part of on-line and in-person courses for state officials, incl. judges, prosecutors and lawyers
128	Development of practical guidance on law enforcement response to the COVID-19 emergency in terms of enforcement of emergency legislations and directives while upholding human rights, treatment of vulnerable groups, detection and risk mitigation measures	a) Immediate (Now-1 mo)	17/04/2020	Law enforcement agencies	1. Knowledge Product/Service	UNODC	\$ 10,000	Tools ready for used and online training programmes to be promoted to mitigate social consequences of COVID-19 in a health and human rights perspective to prevent transmission to first line LE and duty of care
129	Translation into Russian and local languages and printing of available resources to address COVID-19 for drug users, people in prisons and health providers involved in drug dependence treatment and HIV prevention	a) Immediate (Now-1 mo)	30/04/2020	Law enforcement agencies, ministry of health, NCDC	1. Knowledge Product/Service	UNODC	\$ 10,000	Documents translated
130	UNODC LE Response to COVID-19	a) Immediate (Now-1 mo)	30/06/2020	MOI	1. Knowledge Product/Service	UNODC	\$ 10,000	Guidance note shared, translated, training to start
131	Using social media for risk communication on COVID-19	b) St Term (1-3 mo)	30/05/2020		1. Knowledge Product/Service	UNODC	\$ 5,000	Corporate tools developed and disseminated
132	UNODC Thematic Brief on gender-based violence against women and girls COVID-19	b) St Term (1-3 mo)	31/07/2020	mahalla and ministry of justice, GPO	1. Knowledge Product/Service	UNODC	\$ 5,000	Briefs translated and circulated. Trainings to start
133	Technical Note: COVID-19 and Children Deprived of their Liberty - Protecting children deprived of liberty during the COVID-19 outbreak	b) St Term (1-3 mo)	31/07/2020	mahalla and ministry of justice, GPO	1. Knowledge Product/Service	UNODC		Guidance notes ready. Training can be delivered.
134	Setup helplines on child rights violations and mental health	b) St Term (1-3 mo)	31/12/2020	Child Rights Ombudsman, Ministry of Public Education	1. Knowledge Product/Service	UNICEF	\$ 40,000	Trainings, helpline, collaboration with UNICEF and specialists from Kazakhstan, development of guidelines, elaboration of referrals

135	Development of selected localized human rights indicators relevant to COVID-19	b) St Term (1-3 mo)	01/06/2020	NHRC/OMBUDS/Civil society organizations	1. Knowledge Product/Service	OHCHR	\$ 5,000	Selection and development of COVID-19 human rights indicators with partners to inform Government and UNCT polices and program delivery
136	Monitoring, collection, and inclusion on human rights indicators into INDEX database	c) Md Term (3-6 mo)	01/08/2020	NHRC/Ombuds/Civil society organizations/Prosecutor General/StatCom	1. Knowledge Product/Service	OHCHR	\$ 10,000	
137	Elaboration of distance-based data collection tools on the MICS basis	c) Md Term (3-6 mo)	31/12/2020	State Committee on Statistics, other relevant ministries	1. Knowledge Product/Service	UNICEF	\$ 1,200,000	Elaboration and collection of household heads/members phones for further distance-based surveys
138	Support civil society participation and measures to strengthen public control, including in addressing corruption within economic stimulus interventions in the public health and other sectors	c) Md Term (3-6 mo)	31/12/2020	GPO	1. Knowledge Product/Service	UNODC	\$ 30,000	Guidance note, capacity development
139	Urban safety governance assessment in COVID-19 context to identify immediate safety and security needs of local communities and assess availability and access to services	c) Md Term (3-6 mo)	31/12/2020	GPO	1. Knowledge Product/Service	UNODC	\$ 100,000	Training, assessment, data collection, safety planning support
140	Mobilizing youth for social cohesion to mitigate social consequences of COVID-19	c) Md Term (3-6 mo)	30/06/2020	Youth Union	1. Knowledge Product/Service	UNODC	\$ 20,000	Incorporate COVID-19 response in the Joint UN initiative on Youth for social harmony in Fergana valley -PBF
141	Support populations at risk to human trafficking due to COVID-19	c) Md Term (3-6 mo)	31/12/2020	NatComm on Anti-Trafficking; Internal affairs	1. Knowledge Product/Service	UNODC	\$ 10,000	Policy and response paper including training
142	Digitization of communities (mahallas)	d) Lg Term (6 mo-longer)	31/12/2020	Ministry of Mahallas and Family Affairs	1. Knowledge Product/Service	UNDP	\$ 300,000	Support in providing software, hardware, capacity development to mahallas
<b>Total</b>							<b>\$3,020,000</b>	

## IX. Evidenced based decision-making: Data and Assessments

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### MOST SIGNIFICANT CHALLENGES BY TIME-FRAME

**Immediate (Now-1mo):** Assessments of impacts require rapid tailored analysis and traditional in-person data collection techniques have been disrupted due to movement restrictions. Moreover, key data and analysis methods needed for the current pandemic were not in place prior to the crisis. New approaches to communication (both among officials and with the public) are required.

**Short-Term (1-3mo):** Shortage of assessment and monitoring experts. Data disruptions will be increasingly binding. Information and analysis relating to targeting and identification of the most vulnerable and affected populations is limited. Lack of short-term data collection and other “quick fixes” are not in place to improve the effectiveness and specificity of the crisis response. Adapting remote data collection methods need to be strengthened.

**Medium-Term (3-6mo):** Systems monitoring and evaluation, a fundamental component to guide the recovery phase, are not yet in place. These systems should be robust to adapt to expansion and contraction of movement restrictions and allow for timely adjustments.

**Long-Term (6mo-):** Long-term recovery projects, re-prioritization, and exit from crisis response should be in place. The existing statistical system provides a strong foundation but uses outdated systems, non-standard measurement concepts, and is labour intensive. Rapid roll-out of electronic data collection and modern methods to improve detailed information available to policy-makers and the public are a high priority.

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### CONSOLIDATED VALUE PROPOSITION

**Immediate (Now-1mo):** Surveys of global and local policy measures and recommendations for policy makers. Guidance for officials in adapting policies and activities (law enforcement, prisons, migration officials, banks, mahalla officials, statistics agency). Monitoring impact through alternative and crisis-adaptive systems (L2CU, mahalla surveys, stand-alone reports identifying vulnerable populations and locations).

**Short-Term (1-3mo):** Labour market impact assessments and policy recommendations for response measures. Recommendations for targeted support to vulnerable groups (migrants, elderly, low-income families, unemployed, people with chronic disease) and costing of recommendations. Monitoring of risk factors, including price fluctuations.

**Medium- to Long-Term (3-6mo plus):** Recommendations on recovery programs, supporting employment and sustainable social assistance. Recommendations regarding barriers to trade and remittances.

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### CRITICAL GAPS

**Gap 1:** Identifying and addressing job loss among informal workers, given that such activities are not registered and have limited ways in which to prove that they were previously informally employed. Programs to support informal workers struggle with adequately supporting people who generally have

limited access to the social safety net. Policy makers also are often reluctant to provide such support, as there can be program leakage concerns in the absence of formal documentation.

**Gap 2:** Assessing low-income/poverty rates as existing monitoring/measurement systems are not adapted to the current situation. In such a situation, many people may fall into poverty but may be missed by social assistance and other programs.

**Gap 3:** Preventing a sharp rise in long-term unemployment. Data systems and information on permanent job loss are delayed and by the time systematic information is available to policymakers, many people will have been living with much reduced income or without income at all. However, effective planning and forecasting can improve the expected impacts of COVID-19 related disruptions and enable actions to reduce the duration and severity of the unemployment.

**Gap 4:** Effectively managing price and cost of living increases. Prices for staple and imported goods may rise in the current environment, while incomes are falling for many people, which may lead to food insecurity and an increase in poverty. A challenge in the current environment is that many policies do not account for diverging drivers of rising cost of living and provide for narrow sector-specific responses.

**Gap 5:** Mitigating the impact of sudden drop in remittance income. It is challenging to establish which households have lost remittance income, and to estimate its impact which disproportionately affect areas reliant on remittances.

**Gap 5:** Effective support to entrepreneurs and small business. Absence of detailed information about small businesses' activities and establishments, makes it challenging to mount a policy response.

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#### **CONTRIBUTING AGENCIES:**

FAO, ILO, UNDP, UNECE, WB

No.	Descriptive Title of the Concrete Deliverable to the Government	Delivery Timeframe	Target Date if known	Key Gov't Counterpart	Deliverable Type	Delivering Agency(ies)	Financing Amount / Indicative Budget	Note
143	FAO's Big Data tool on food chains under the COVID-19 pandemic	a) Immediate (Now-1 mo)	01/04/2020	Ministry of Agriculture	1. Knowledge Product/Service	FAO		<a href="#">Open-access tool analyses daily information on impact of pandemic on food and agriculture, value chains, food prices, food security and measures, providing facts to build national decisions.</a>
144	<a href="#">L2CU Condensed Data Update</a>	a) Immediate (Now-1 mo)	30/04/2020	StatCom/MoEDPR/MoF	1. Knowledge Product/Service	WB		The L2CU panel survey provides a monthly monitoring tool on key measures of wellbeing including employment, wages, social assistance, food security, migration, remittances, and a new module specific to COVID-19 concerns.
145	Rapid socio-economic impact assessment on businesses	a) Immediate (Now-1 mo)	04/05/2020	CERR/MoEDPR	1. Knowledge Product/Service	UNDP	\$ 38,000	High-frequency survey of enterprises to identify a) impact of crisis, b) countermeasures adopted by businesses, c) effectiveness of Government policies
146	Rapid socio-economic impact assessment on communities (mahallas)	a) Immediate (Now-1 mo)	04/05/2020	Ministry of Mahalla	1. Knowledge Product/Service	UNDP	\$ 70,000	High-frequency survey to identify vulnerabilities at community level
147	Mahalla-level Shock Risk Index	a) Immediate (Now-1 mo)	31/05/2020	StatCom/MoEDPR/MoF	1. Knowledge Product/Service	WB		Risk ratings of economic impacts and need of social support at the mahalla level.
148	Rapid assessment of cost of temporary cash benefits (ensuring income security) for workers in informal economy	b) St Term (1-3 mo)	30/06/2020	MoELR	1. Knowledge Product/Service	ILO		
149	Survey on impact of COVID-19 on fundamental labour rights in the cotton sector and related value chains	b) St Term (1-3 mo)	30/06/2020	MoELR	1. Knowledge Product/Service	ILO		Income from cotton harvesting is highly significant for nearly 2 million cotton pickers, many of who are poor rural women. Activity to inform the Gov't on welfare and human rights impact on a sizable portion of the general population.
150	Mahalla Leaders Survey (L2CU COVID-19 Add-on Module)	b) St Term (1-3 mo)	15/07/2020	StatCom	1. Knowledge Product/Service	WB		Add-on module to the existing L2CU high-frequency survey
151	Mobile Engage	b) St Term (1-3 mo)	31/07/2020	MinMahalla	1. Knowledge Product/Service	WB		SMS-system for two-way communication with implementing officials in SP & related activities
152	Statistics on remittances	d) Lg Term (6 mo-longer)		National Statistical Committee	1. Knowledge Product/Service	UNECE	\$ 10,000	Capacity building on measuring migration and remittances and the presentation of data on SDG Dashboard help to monitor and get a better understanding of these critical flows.
<b>Total</b>							<b>\$ 118,000</b>	

## Annex 1: Unfunded offers relevant to address key challenges and gaps

No.	Descriptive Title of the Concrete Deliverable to the Government	Delivery Timeframe	Area	Key Gov't Counterpart	Deliverable Type	Delivering Agency(ies)	Financing Amount / Indicative Budget	Note
1	Studies on regulatory barriers to trade (undertaken upon request).	d) Lg Term (6 mo-longer)	Job Creation	MoEDPR	1. Knowledge Product/Service	UNECE	\$ 150,000	UNECE studies on regulatory and procedural barriers to trade assist countries to harness trade (and integration into regional and global value chains) as a tool to achieve the SDGs. COVID angles: 1. Trade will take a centre stage in the economic rebuild after the crisis. 2. COVID-response requires resisting the temptation to resort to protectionism measures.
2	Fostering productive capacities for structural economic transformation	c) Md Term (3-6 mo)	Job Creation	Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations, Investment and Trade/ Ministry of economy/ Agriculture/Labour	1. Knowledge Product/Service	UNCTAD in partnership with UN-ESCAP	\$ 150,000	Based on country specific Productive Capacities Index (PCI), UNCTAD, in partnership with UN-ESCAP, can assist Uzbekistan in building economic resilience and launching recovery process UNCTAD can also help Uzbekistan in placing productive capacities at the centre of its domestic trade and development policies through operational tool or manual as the basis for long-term growth and development. (i)UNCTAD's Productive capacities index (PCI) for evidence-based policy making, and (ii) operational manual to place productive capacities at the centre of trade and development policies of Uzbekistan for economic resilience building and accelerated recovery from the bout of Covid-19
3	Mitigating potential negative impacts of COVID-19 on social cohesion and human rights in Uzbekistan	d) Lg Term (6 mo-longer)	Social Cohesion	Ombudsperson Office, NHRC, MoI	1. Knowledge Product/Service	UNDP (lead), UNODC, OHCHR	\$ 1,000,000	The project aims to address challenges to social cohesion by increasing trust in government institutions and law enforcement agencies, building better communication and response capacity, creating channels for civic engagement including through building civil society oversight and community capacities. Institutional and professional capacities of national human rights institutions, CSOs and duty-bearers are enhanced to ensure continuity of services for vulnerable populations in compliance with human rights standards during and after COVID-19 outbreak as well as recovery period.

4	Unleashing young people's and vulnerable communities' creativity and innovation through strengthening adaptive capacity for addressing the economic and food insecurities in the exposed communities of the Aral Sea region, in light of the COVID-19 pandemic	d) Lg Term (6 mo-longer)	Job Creation	Ministry of Economic Development and Poverty Reduction of the Republic of Uzbekistan (main partner); Council of Ministers of the Republic of Karakalpakstan (main partner);	1. Knowledge Product/Service	UNDP (lead), UNFPA, FAO	\$ 2,900,000	The programme will address the development crisis caused by the Aral Sea drying, which is further exacerbating due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It will support the youth and at risk communities most vulnerable to economic hardship and social disruption through (i) protecting small enterprises and vulnerable workers in the informal economy through skills building and promoting locally generated innovative start-ups; (ii) preserving access to food for rural population (with strong focus to women and youth) through introducing effective agriculture practices at the household levels; and (iii) promoting social protection through improving access to basic services (ensuring continuity and quality of water) and enabling digitalization of communities. All proposed activities will be gender equality imperative.
5	Investing in a resilient future for Karakalpakstan by harnessing the talents of youth and improving water, sanitation, hygiene and nutrition during and after COVID-19	d) Lg Term (6 mo-longer)	Social Cohesion	MoPE, MoH.at national and Karakalpak levels; Council of Ministers of the Republic of Karakalpakstan, Youth Union; Min of Innovative Development	1. Knowledge Product/Service	UNICEF (lead), UNODC, UNFPA	\$ 6,937,233	The aim of the joint project is to strengthen human capital and the resilience of youth in Karakalpakstan in the face of the health and socio-economic consequences of COVID-19 by expanding opportunities for participation and social innovation skills development. Equally it aims to address the immediate needs of vulnerable populations, including youth, in terms of safe and clean schools and health care facilities, and other health and nutrition needs in four districts (Muynak, Takhtakupir, Kungrad, and Bozatau). The comprehensive and integrated programme will address immediate needs through constructing sanitation facilities, improving access to safe water, hygiene and sanitation promotion activities, micronutrient supplementation, health and education. Harnessing the potential of young people, the joint programme will invest in skills development and engage young people as active citizens and agents of positive change in their lives, communities and the region, to overcome the consequences of COVID-19 and build a resilient future for Karakalpakstan.

6	Leaving no one behind from universal health coverage in Republic of Karakalpakstan	d) Lg Term (6 mo-longer)	Health	MoH; MoH Karakalpakstan	1. Knowledge Product/Service	WHO	\$ 2,608,564	The overall goal of this project is to support the Ministries of Health of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Republic of Karakalpakstan to conduct comprehensive health system assessment with focus to COVID-19 and establish an action plan to fill identified gaps, to establish operational AMR strategy, to ensure access of population of the dedicated pilot districts to universal access to Hepatitis C case management and free of charge treatment, improving the coverage of vaccine-preventable diseases and enhancing of the training capacity of the educational institutions.
<b>Total</b>							<b>\$ 13,745,797</b>	

## Annex 2: Overview of priority vulnerable groups

The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbates vulnerability and inequality. It increases the risk of further exclusion of marginalized population groups, while they are the most affected. A strong and sustained social and economic recovery from the pandemic requires policies, plans and measures taken to mitigate, prevent and respond to the pandemic through a lens of Leaving No One Behind (LNOB) and an active participation of the citizens especially the vulnerable population groups

Population Groups	Challenges	Proposed Mitigating Actions	Focal UN Agency
<b>People directly affected by COVID-19</b>			
People with COVID-19 infection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expensive treatment</li> <li>Stigmatized because perceived as risking others</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Universal access to free and quality health care</li> <li>Psychosocial support</li> <li>Public awareness raising</li> </ul>	WHO
People in quarantine (other than medical institutions and home)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mobile phones confiscated</li> <li>Living conditions</li> <li>Mental and physical health</li> <li>Stigmatized because perceived as risking others</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Oversight of quarantine facilities utilizing existing mechanisms</li> <li>Channel for complaints</li> <li>Facilities to ensure mental and physical health</li> <li>Standard operating procedures for protecting women and children and population with special needs and care</li> <li>Update quarantine regulations in line with Human Rights obligations.</li> <li>Hygiene items for women</li> </ul>	OHCHR, UN agencies with programmatic capacities
<b>Service Providers especially Front-Line Workers (especially women)</b>			
Health care providers  Total: 620,700 healthcare workers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lack of protection, exposed to risk of Covid19</li> <li>Burn-out</li> <li>Lack of complaint mechanism and whistleblower protection</li> <li>Subject to abuse and harassment</li> <li>Family unattended to</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PPE and hygiene products</li> <li>Mechanism / capacity on infection control for non-covid19 facilities</li> <li>Effective complaints mechanism</li> <li>Financial incentives and Mandatory health insurance</li> <li>Psychosocial support</li> </ul>	WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA
Other service providers/ frontline workers for the COVID-19 response (including law enforcement)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lack of protection</li> <li>Burn-out</li> <li>Family unattended to</li> <li>Insufficient information and training guidance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PPE</li> <li>Financial incentives</li> <li>Social support to families</li> </ul>	IFIs, Agencies with protection mandate

Population Groups	Challenges	Proposed Mitigating Actions	Focal UN Agency
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Guidance on code of conduct and training on prevention of violence, exploitation, and corruption</li> </ul>	
<b>Other Vulnerable Populations</b>			
<p>Children in all types of residential care institutions (care centres, in quarantine facilities and in treatment of COVID-19)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased risk of transmission</li> <li>Restricted communication with families</li> <li>Increased risks of violence and abuse</li> <li>Interrupted schooling and lack of meaningful pastime for children</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Awareness raising among staff and children</li> <li>PPE and hygiene items</li> <li>Separate quarantine zone for children at risk</li> <li>Opportunities to communicate with family</li> <li>Assign a staff member to up-date families on wellbeing of children</li> <li>Psychosocial support, home / tele-schooling and hobbies</li> <li>Access to internet and IT devices, electricity supply, TV sets to most vulnerable families</li> <li>Compensate online tools and Internet tariffs to families</li> </ul>	<p>UNICEF, UNESCO</p>
<p>Elderly and pensioners</p> <p>In total, Uzbekistan has nearly 3,3m pensioners in 2018, and 103,100 were working pensioners</p> <p>(Refer to 3 detailed policy briefs on elderly)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased risk for transmission in nursing homes</li> <li>Limited ICT skills for accessing internet-based services</li> <li>Lack of opportunity on visiting pensioners by relatives and related transfer of products</li> <li>Waiting time for standard food support set from government can be long (3-4 days)</li> <li>Restrictions on volunteers providing assistance</li> <li>Lack of high-quality emergency and planned medical care for other diseases</li> <li>Restrictions on going outside can adversely affect the physical, medical and psychological state</li> <li>Receiving pensions through bank cards challenging</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Food supply at elderly homes</li> <li>Digital skills programme for elderly</li> <li>Encourage business to subsidize ICT equipment and Internet tariffs for elderly</li> <li>Give access to volunteers and CSOs</li> <li>Standardize food assistance in line with nutrition recommendations</li> <li>PPE, capacity development for nursing homes</li> </ul>	<p>UNDP, UNFPA</p>
<p>Persons living with disability</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information on COVID-19 does not sufficiently take people living with disability into consideration</li> <li>Restrictions in movement</li> <li>Caretakers/relatives may not be able to visit PWD due to movement restrictions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Analyze data available at Mahalla level to target social assistance</li> <li>COVID-19 related materials in forms accessible by PLWD</li> <li>Financial and material support to disability organizations, CSOs</li> </ul>	<p>All agencies</p>

Population Groups	Challenges	Proposed Mitigating Actions	Focal UN Agency
People living with HIV, TB and other chronic medical conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Disrupted supply to ARV due to lockdown</li> <li>People living with medical conditions cannot travel take tests to determine medicine doses</li> <li>Limited sources for TB &amp; cancer specific medicine</li> <li>Limited access to needed services and infection diagnostics and treatment</li> <li>Loss of work and income</li> <li>Stigma and discrimination keeps PLWH in self-isolation even when they need help</li> <li>No data on PLWHIV, in quarantine and isolation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Share and use of data</li> <li>Wide involvement of communities and CSOs</li> <li>Stockpile medication</li> <li>PPE to PLWHIV</li> <li>Maintain operation of health facilities including and access to supply during lock-down</li> <li>Pool of social taxi services for health care workers</li> <li>Free shipping for people living with cancer or TB</li> <li>Social allowances</li> </ul>	UNAIDs, co-sponsor agencies
Stateless persons, Refugees, asylum-seekers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Those without legal status reluctant to approach authorities and medical facilities</li> <li>Loss of jobs and income generating activities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Documentation and regularization of status</li> <li>Non-penalization for illegal entry and stay</li> <li>Universal access to social support and medical treatment</li> </ul>	UNHCR
People living in closed institutions (prison, correctional institution, specialized educational institutions, transit centers for minors)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased risk of transmission</li> <li>Lack of information</li> <li>Family visits called off</li> <li>Restricted communication</li> <li>Increased risks of violence</li> <li>Further marginalization of vulnerable groups</li> <li>Interrupted schooling and vocational classes for children</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Release children from closed facilities after a thorough assessment of family situation and conditions</li> <li>Moratorium on new admissions in penitentiary / closed institutions.</li> <li>Awareness raising for staff and inmates</li> <li>PPE and hygiene items</li> <li>Psychosocial support</li> <li>Increased oversight of all facilities by the Prosecutor General's Office and the Office of Ombudsperson</li> <li>Advocate for non-discrimination in provision of healthcare to vulnerable groups in detention</li> </ul>	UNODC, UNICEF, OHCHR
Women vulnerable to domestic violence and abuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased domestic violence due to lock-down</li> <li>Increased risk to survivors for transmission in shelters</li> <li>Risk of harassment, abuse and exploitation in quarantine</li> <li>Reduced access to multi-sectoral services</li> <li>Lack of sustained financing for shelters (both gov. and CSOs)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Awareness raising and protection materials for shelters</li> <li>Public funding for CSO managed GBV shelters</li> <li>Hotlines for survivors &amp; safe refuges, exempting survivors from lock-down measures</li> <li>GBV prevention messaging and public awareness raising</li> <li>Virtual psychosocial and legal services</li> <li>Online briefings for police/national guards, social workers to implement GBV referral pathways</li> </ul>	UNFPA, UNDP

Population Groups	Challenges	Proposed Mitigating Actions	Focal UN Agency
Key Populations (Drug users, Sex Workers, LGBTIQ, MSM, etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduced income</li> <li>Increase risks of exposure to COVID-19</li> <li>Increased risk of scrutiny and maltreatment by police</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>On-line psychological support</li> <li>Provision of necessary treatment</li> <li>Inclusion in social protection scheme</li> <li>Awareness raising, information sharing on complaint mechanisms and hotlines</li> <li>On-line skills building</li> <li>Capacitate law enforcement on human rights and protection</li> </ul>	UNODC, UNAIDs, WHO, UNFPA, UNDP
Migrants (150,000 returned home due to COVID-19)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Travel restrictions limit ability to go home</li> <li>Loss of jobs, reduced remittances</li> <li>High risk to abuse, including trafficking, criminal recruitment, smuggling etc.</li> <li>Foreign nationals (migrants) stranded</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>'Patent breaks' to host countries</li> <li>Evaluation for the most vulnerable groups, protection and assistance</li> <li>Tax/credit breaks</li> <li>Alternative income-generating activities</li> </ul>	IOM
People in extreme poverty, including Lulis/Roma	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>More limited income opportunities</li> <li>Stigmatized by local population</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prioritized social protection programme</li> </ul>	UNDP, UNICEF, IFIs
Communities in Enclaves <b>More data needed</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Access to food, services, etc.</li> </ul>	<i>MORE DATA NEEDED</i>	
Homeless people <b>More data needed</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Access to food</li> <li>Law enforcement approaches</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Shelters and free food, health services</li> </ul>	
<b>Other Affected Professions</b>			
People in low-income, seasonal, temporary contracts, in service sector, transport (particularly in rural areas), teachers of private education institutions or of specialized schools, farmers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Forced to close or restrictions heavily reduce clients</li> <li>Loss of jobs and income, lack of insurance coverage, profession not covered by labour code</li> <li>Transport limitations between cities and between rural areas and cities</li> <li>Women squeezed out of rural labour due to returned migrants</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Social allowances, vouchers or payroll compensation</li> <li>Zero rate loans to employers to compensate payroll burden and losses</li> <li>Car stickers and PPEs for logistics services in rural areas</li> </ul>	UNDP, IFIs, ILO, FAO, UNICEF

Population Groups	Challenges	Proposed Mitigating Actions	Focal UN Agency
Deputies at national and local level, defense lawyers, judges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transport restrictions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Telecommuting facilities for judges</li> <li>• Car stickers and PPE for MPs (both Parliamentary and Local Council) and defense lawyers</li> </ul>	UNDP, OHCHR
Journalists & media workers (approx. 10,000 workers)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transport restrictions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grant car stickers and PPE to journalists and media workers</li> </ul>	UNDP, OHCHR

**Some systematic measures recommended that will impact vulnerable groups positively**

- Promote active citizen participation and community engagement during lock-down to build unity and solidarity
- Convert Human rights monitoring mechanisms and system into virtual space with active participation of human rights activists
- Generate, share and use timely and reliable COVID-19 related data for evidence-based plans and response and improve public accountability
- Create infrastructure and facilitate access by the poor: diversify external Internet traffic, reduce tariffs for citizens, increase Internet speed, improve quality of e-services quality foster digital economy in Uzbekistan and generate digital skills of the population
- One-time compensation package of social allowances should be offered for those vulnerable professions, who:
  - Are not working in state-owned enterprises and public/government sector;
  - Do not have labour contracts, signed as per Labour code provisions;
  - Are self-employed as sole entrepreneurs, except for food, delivery, courier, import and pharmacy sectors, and whose business halted;
  - Are self-employed in informal sectors (ad hoc job seekers, domestic migrants, “mardikors”)
  - Lost jobs due to dissolution or bankruptcy of private small and micro-firms after 1 April 2020
- Create Single register and hotline and internet portal for affected professions to report and be register for future policy making decisions and distribution of social protection programmes/benefits