

United Nations Development Programme



Country: Uzbekistan Initiation Plan

Project Title: Capacity building of Anti-corruption Agency of Uzbekistan

Expected UNSCDF/CP Outcome(s): By 2025 all people and groups in Uzbekistan, especially the most vulnerable, demand and benefit from enhanced accountable, transparent, inclusive and gender responsive governance systems and rule of law institutions for a life free from discrimination and violence.

Expected CPD Output(s):

Output 1.1: Institutions equipped with effective anti-corruption tools, enabled to expand access to justice and enhance social cohesion

Initiation Plan Start/End Dates: 01.02.2021-31.12.2021

Implementing Partner: UNDP Uzbekistan

Brief Description

The IP seeks to support the recently established Anti-Corruption Agency of Uzbekistan (ACA) with rapid analytical and capacity building support, strengthening the competencies and professionalism of its staff, while in parallel mobilizing donors for long-term and broader development interventions on prevention of corruptions. The ultimate goal is to support ACA become the lead national agency, which will development, coordinate and monitor the national anti-corruption policies, programmes, roadmaps and laws in line with UNCAC, OECD/ACN recommendations as well as other international principles (Jakarta, Kuala-Lumpur, Colombo) governing the role, mandate and independent status of anti-corruption agencies. IP will use the achieved results and knowledge products of current PCEAT project as well as involve close the UNDP IRH and Singapore anti-corruption teams along with international experts from Roster and GPN portal. During IP, the full-fledge prodoc will be prepared in close coordination and consultation with ACA and other stakeholders.

Programme Period:	2021-2025
Atlas Project Number:	<u>00134752</u>
Atlas Output ID:	<u>00126271</u>
Gender Marker:	<u>1</u>

Total resources required	\$ 50,000
Total allocated resources:	\$ 50,000
• Regular 11888	\$ 50,000
• Other:	
○ Donor	_____
○ Government	_____
Unfunded budget:	
In-kind Contributions	_____

Agreed by UNDP: Matilda Dimovska Matilda Dimovska, Resident Representative in Uzbekistan

I. PURPOSE AND EXPECTED OUTPUT

IP output: **Anti-corruption Agency of Uzbekistan is capacitated to develop and coordinate implementation of national anti-corruption policies in compliance with international standards.**

Anti-corruption remains top priority for Uzbekistan. Following the adoption of the Law “On Combating Corruption” in 2017 and implementation of two biennial State Anti-Corruption Programs, 2020 featured the establishment of a new Anti-Corruption Agency, successful pilot testing of anti-corruption compliance system in several key ministries and further expansion of ethics and integrity trainings in the education system.

Establishment of the Anti-Corruption Agency is an important milestone to institutionalize anti-corruption efforts. However, it is critical to ensure that the Agency has strong institutional capacity to carry out its mandates. While the mandates of the Anti-Corruption Agency focus largely on prevention, the Agency will also be able to consider individual complaints, carry out administrative investigation on corruption offences, transfer documentation to law enforcement bodies for decision making on criminal investigations, and study materials related to criminal cases in view of identifying corruption related trends and patterns.

The Government of Uzbekistan acknowledges that major reforms are required to introduce modern and effective mechanisms for the prevention of corruption, to address disclosure of conflicts of interest, as well as asset and interest by public officials. To that end, various laws including Law on Civil Service, Asset Declaration etc. are being developed.

This IP will provide targeted support to the new Anti-Corruption Agency, sustaining broader efforts of the Government of Uzbekistan to ensure compliance with UNCAC and OECD/ACN recommendations. It will also support the donor mobilization efforts to launch a large multi-year project.

This IP adopts whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach that will result in strengthening capacities of government, civil society and private sector to promote anti-corruption reforms in Uzbekistan that will be conducive to creating an environment of zero tolerance to corruption in the society and contribute to decreased levels of corruption in the country.

The IP will contribute to development of the draft Annual National Report on Anti-corruption for 2021 in transparent and participatory manner, providing comparative international expertise and the best practices. IP will also support the initial research activities of ACA on legislative changes and national anti-corruption policies across different sectors. The IP will contribute to specific thematic analytical activities of ACA aimed at situational analysis and suggesting policy, institutional and legislative recommendations for further reforms with sectoral approach, focusing on the industries the most vulnerable to corrupt practices, based on special considerations for achieving SDG 16.

During IP implementation, UNDP will support the capacity of the Anti-corruption Agency as an independent and effective institution in line with the Jakarta Principles for Anti-corruption Agencies and Colombo Commentaries. For this purpose, it will organize webinars, workshops and roundtables with involvement of leading experts from different countries and broader UNDP network.

The IP will support ACA’s staff skills development through learning experiences with leading anti-corruption agencies in foreign countries on the basis of South-South and Triangular cooperation.

The IP will support ACA and involved national stakeholders with development of institutional, technical regulatory framework for anti-corruption screening of legislation and coordinate follow up to ensure implementation of related recommendations. It will also strengthen the capacity of the ACA to function effectively as the Secretariat of the National Anti-Corruption Council as well as its capacity to coordinate the public engagement and CSOs involvement for prevention and awareness raising activities to promote the zero tolerance for corruption in the society.

This IP will mainstream the gender equality issues as following:

As a contribution to achievement of SDG target 16.5: Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms, 16.6: Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels, and 16.7: Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels, the IP will consult national partners on bringing the gender equality elements into public perception surveys, which can be launched as part of upcoming cooperation with Transparency International

(CPI), setting the transparent budget expenditures and public procurement contracts, which might have impact on vulnerable groups of people, including women.

Within the advocacy on achievement of SDG target 5.5: Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life, the IP will promote jointly with ACA the representation of women in civil service positions through merit-based competitive and open recruitment as well as adoption of new Civil Service Law.

As part of wide promotion of online portal <https://eanticor.uz/head-card>, which allows both women and men whistle-blowers to report on red tape and corruption, the IP will consult ACA on how to collect the gender disaggregated data on complaints and analyse the impact of bribery and corrupted acts on lives of vulnerable people.

Subject to budget available and resources mobilization, the IP will involve gender experts to consult ACA and other decision-makers on specific gender mainstreaming issues in prevention of corruption in public sectors and state-owned enterprises.

Subject to further COVID-19 pandemic and quarantine situations, the IP will support ACA to convene meetings and workshops in regions and gather local women NGOs, CSO and other beneficiaries to voice out their concerns and suggestions into National Anti-corruption Strategy. Where necessary, online communication tools (e.g., Zoom) will be used to outreach these grassroots NGOs, media and bloggers.

II. MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

The project activities will be implemented according to the UNDP procedures for direct implementation (DIM). The project will be implemented by UNDP in close cooperation with Anti-Corruption Agency of Uzbekistan, line ministries, and other national stakeholders.

The Project Board is the group responsible for making by consensus management decisions for a project when guidance is required by the Project Manager (PM), including approval of project plans and revisions. In order to ensure UNDP's ultimate accountability, Project Board decisions should be made in accordance with standards that shall ensure best value for money, fairness, integrity transparency and effective international competition.

Based on the approved annual work plan (AWP), the Project Board may review and approve periodic project plans when required and authorizes any major deviation from these agreed plans. The Project Board ensures that required resources are committed and arbitrates on any conflicts within the project or negotiates a solution to any problems between the project and external bodies. The Project Board, if necessary, will also decide on the reallocation of project budget among its activities based on the respective request made by the Project manager. In addition, it approves the appointment and responsibilities of the PM and any delegation of its Project Assurance responsibilities.

Project Manager has the authority to run the project on a day-to-day basis on behalf of the Project Board within the constraints laid down by the Board. The PM is responsible for day-to-day management and decision-making for the project. The Project Manager's prime responsibility is to ensure that the project produces the results specified in the project document, to the required standard of quality and within the specified constraints of time and cost.

Project Assurance is the responsibility of each Project Board member; however, the role can be delegated. The Project Assurance role supports the Project Board by carrying out objective and independent project oversight and monitoring functions. This role ensures appropriate project management milestones are managed and completed. Project Assurance has to be independent of the Project Manager; therefore, the Project Board cannot delegate any of its assurance responsibilities to the Project Manager.

Direct UNDP Country office Support Services to the Programme Implementation

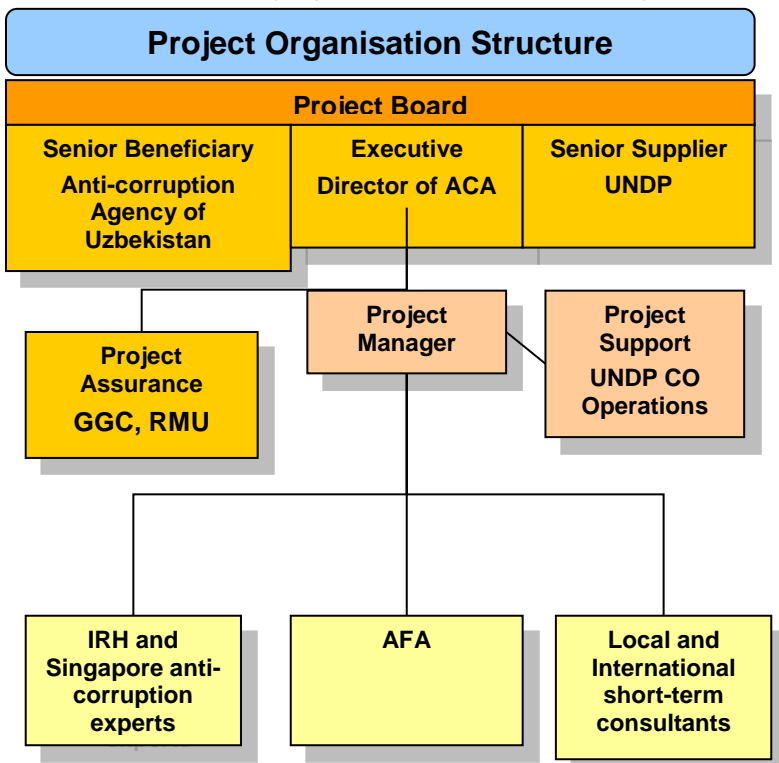
UNDP Country Office will provide the following support services for the project activities:

- Identification and/or recruitment and solution of administrative issues related to the project personnel;
- Procurement of commodities, labour and services;
- Identification and facilitation of training activities, seminars and workshops;
- Financial monitoring and reporting;
- Processing of direct payments;
- Supervision of project implementation, monitoring and assistance in project assessment.

When providing the above support services, the UNDP Country Office will recover the costs for providing Implementation Support Services on the basis of staff workload study and time, allocated by CO staff.. According to the corporate guidelines, these costs are an integral part of project delivery and, hence, will be charged to the same budget line (account in AWP) as the project input itself.

The procurement of goods and services and the recruitment of project personnel by the UNDP country office shall be in accordance with the UNDP regulations, rules, policies and procedures.

The relevant provisions of the Standard Basic Assistance Agreement (SBAA) between the Government of Uzbekistan and the UNDP, signed by Parties on 10th June 1993, including the provisions on liability and privileges and immunities, shall apply to the provision of such support services. Audit of the project will be conducted as per UNDP procedures and requirements.



III. MONITORING

In accordance with the programming policies and procedures outlined in the UNDP User Guide, the project will be monitored through the following:

Within the annual cycle

- On a quarterly basis, a quality assessment shall record progress towards the completion of key results, based on quality criteria and methods as per UNDP POPP. During project

reporting, number of women and men attended trainings and webinars will be reported with gender disaggregation data.

- a Monitoring Schedule Plan shall be activated in Atlas and updated to track key management actions/events

Annually

- **Annual Review Report.** An Annual Review Report shall be prepared by the Project Manager and shared with the Project Board. As minimum requirement, the Annual Review Report shall consist of the Atlas standard format covering the whole year as well as a summary of results achieved against pre-defined annual targets at the output level.
- **Annual Project Review.** Based on the above report, an annual project review shall be conducted during the fourth quarter of the year or soon after, to assess the performance of the project and appraise the Annual Work Plan (AWP) for the following year. In the last year, this review will be a final assessment. This review is driven by the Project Board and may involve other stakeholders as required. It shall focus on the extent to which progress is being made towards outputs, and that these remain aligned to appropriate outcomes.

IV. WORK PLAN

Period: February-December 2021

EXPECTED OUTPUTS <i>And baseline, indicators including annual targets</i>	PLANNED ACTIVITIES <i>List activity results and associated actions</i>	TIMEFRAME				RESPONSIBLE PARTY	PLANNED BUDGET		
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		Funding Source	Budget Description	Amount

<p>Output 1. Anti-corruption Agency of Uzbekistan is capacitated to develop and coordinate implementation of national anti-corruption policies in compliance with international standards.</p> <p><i>Indicators: Number of ACA staff trained on international anti-corruption standards with focus on prevention of corruption.</i></p> <p><i>Baseline:0</i></p> <p><i>Targets: 20 (at least 20% women)</i></p> <p><i>Indicator: Availability of large-scale multi-year project document drafted to support the capacity development of ACA and submitted to donor</i></p> <p><i>Baseline: No</i></p> <p><i>Target: Yes</i></p> <p><i>Indicator: Number of Institutions equipped with effective anti-corruption tools</i></p> <p><i>Baseline: 0</i></p> <p><i>Target: 1</i></p> <p><i>Related CP outcome:</i></p> <p>By 2025, all people and groups in Uzbekistan, especially the most vulnerable, demand and benefit from enhanced accountable, transparent, inclusive and gender-responsive governance systems and rule of law institutions for a life free from discrimination and violence.</p>	<p>1. Strengthening the Institutional and Organizational Capacities of the Anti-Corruption Agency and professional of its staff:</p> <p>1.1. Organize a series of roundtables and workshops on National Discussion of the draft National Anticorruption Strategy.;</p> <p>1.2. Organize a roundtable on Discussion of the draft National Anticorruption Strategy with International Community and Foreign Experts.</p> <p>1.3. Translation of the draft National Anticorruption Strategy into English and Russian.</p> <p>1.4. Provision of the best practices and international practices on prevention of corruption</p> <p>1.5. Arrange interpreters for technical consultations with IRH and UNDP Singapore anti-corruption experts and ACA staff during learning webinars</p> <p>1.6. Organize webinars involving foreign anti-corruption agencies for staff of ACA</p> <p>1.7. Preparation of full-fledge prodoc on capacity development of ACA and organize consultations with relevant stakeholders, decision-makers and donors.</p> <p>1.8. Support ACA in drafting a Law on Anti-corruption agency</p> <p>1.9. Support ACA in reviewing the draft anti-corruption and civil service legislation in line with international standards.</p> <p>1.10. Support other anti-corruption and awareness activities on zero tolerance for corruption as per request from ACA.</p>	X	X	X	X	UNDP, ACA	UNDP	Local consultants, International consultants Event management, Interpreters, Publications DPC	\$ 10,000 \$10,000 \$15,000 \$5,000 \$5,000 \$5,000
TOTAL									\$50,000